

Chowan County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 16, 2026

Chowan County Public Safety Center

305 West Freemason St.

Edenton, NC 27980

6:00pm

This meeting was recorded. A copy of the recording is in the clerk's server meeting file labeled February 16, 2026.

Present: Chairman Bob Kirby, Commissioners Larry McLaughlin, Ron Cummings, Ellis Lawrence, Tray Taylor and Tony Shaffer.

Commissioner Chris Evans was absent.

Staff present County Manager Kevin Howard, Finance Officer Cathy Smith and Board Clerk Susanne Stallings.

Regular Meeting

Chairman Kirby called the regular meeting to order and led the pledge, he then offered the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Public Comment

Chair Kirby opened the floor for public comment.

Apostle Vonner Ford, 202 Mexico Rd. Edenton stated that Cynthia Gilliam also donated time for her to speak. She stated that she was there to speak about the Martin Luther King Jr. program and the false narrative about the program message/sermon for the past two years. She stated the program is a sacred commemoration rooted in history and struggle, faith and the ongoing pursuit of social justice. She stated Dr. King was a pastor who spoke from pulpits and addressed issues such as poverty, politics, war, voting and other issues. She stated to not speak on modern day issues would be to silence the very message that Dr. King lived and died for. She stated that an individual did not agree with the message. She noted that attendance at these events is voluntary. She stated attendees are there as guests. She stated that black churches are centers for civic engagement, civil rights, education and community advocacy. She stated this is historical fact. She stated to suggest that they not commemorate Dr. King without addressing present day injustices would be to reduce him to a quote on a poster. She stated their celebration is not about division but remembrance, reflection and responsibility. She stated that is the role of black clergy. She stated she is open to any discussion that shows error in their message. She stated that to be offended by a message about oppression but to be insensitive to oppression is not to honor Dr. King.

Angela Taylor 131 Colony Dr. Edenton stated that Pamela Taylor and Shakeria Holley have yielded their time. She stated she is the Chair of the Rev. Dr. King Jr. commemoration celebration. She said that the committee is determined to honor Dr. King's legacy. She stated it would be unjust to change the programming because it is not funded by local government. She stated that item #4 on the agenda "George Lewis will provide the Board with suggestions for enhancing the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration to include a partnership between the County, Town and School System to hold future celebrations at the new John A. Holmes High School." She stated collaboration with boards that do not contribute financially or materially to the observance risks diluting the integrity of the committee and introducing bureaucracy will shift away the true purpose of the celebration. She stated the ceremony must remain a platform for honest reflection. She stated that Dr. King's legacy is about inspiring action when faced with adversity. She stated if the tone of the speaker challenges status quo it is because the work of overcoming is not finished and the journey towards injustice is incomplete. She referenced a deeply offensive incident involving the President of the United States. She noted AI was used to impose the faces of former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle on apes. She stated there was no accountability for this act. She stated that the President did not apologize and the video remained online for 12 hours. She stated these actions are reminders that African American people continue to face discrimination and oppression and these realities must be recognized or addressed. She asked what the issue with the current committee is and what needs to be enhanced. She stated her father, the late James Taylor served on the Chowan County Board of Commissioners for numerous years. She stated he was an advocate for the African American community. She stated he served to advance justice and contribute to the well being of the community. She stated he taught her to speak truth with integrity and never waiver in the pursuit of injustice. She stated the support in the room speaks volumes about the movement and a community that refuses to remain silent. She stated that until racism is eradicated, the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday celebration will continue to serve as a catalyst to empower people and advance economic and social justice.

Pastor Rudy Ford 202 Mexico Rd. stated he is the pastor of New Life Ministries, and his concern is the concern for the changing of how the celebration is handled or getting rid of the celebration. He said celebrating the day is crucial because it directly addresses ongoing racial inequality. Economic disparities, and social injustices. He stated the celebration is a call to action for community service, unity and a continued commitment to fulfilling his vision. He said combatting modern inequity, while progress has been made, issues like police brutality, systemic racism and economic injustice persist. He stated the struggle for civil rights is not over. He stated this celebration ensures the continued awareness of Dr. King's leadership and inspires future generations to stand up to against inequality in all settings.

Jerald Perry, Edenton NC stated he agreed with all of the previous speakers. He stated he wanted to point out that he was the chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration for over 25 years. He stated the celebration is dear to him and the project is worthwhile. He stated he did not see the need to make changes and anyone who wishes to provide input and serve can join the committee. He provided copies of his certificates for his work with the committee.

Alice Hines 503 Chowan Trail stated she was in agreement with the speakers regarding the MLK committee. She stated she was there to speak on the confederate monument placement at the Veterans Memorial. She stated she is there to request the County and town to withdraw the plans

for erecting the monument at the proposed site. She asked that the County take alternative solutions that do not promote divisiveness. She stated that Veterans monuments honors those that have protected and served the nation. She stated that confederate monuments celebrate rebellion and protection of slaveholder rights. She stated that most confederate monuments were built between 1890-1920 (well after the Civil War ended) to reinforce Jim Crow laws. She stated that this is revisionist history that downplays slavery and portrays the confederacy as historic. She stated locating the monument on the County Courthouse grounds is regressive. She stated that these buildings were placed at these sites to tell black and brown people to stay in their place. The Edenton monument was moved in the 1960s in an effort to interrupt the push for civil rights. She stated that most people in Chowan do not support these views, the lost cause is still alive and well. She stated that other communities in NC have found places allowed under the laws that allow respectful placement of monuments. She asked the Board not to re-erect the monument and find a nice resting place for the confederate monument.

Valerie Batts 308 E King St. stated as we think about Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and the Confederate monument are related. She stated that the fact it is still being debated today in 2026 speaks to the unfinished legacy of Dr. King. She provided a quote from Dr. King from 1968 “The decade of 1955 to 1965, with its constructive elements, misled us. Everyone, activists and social scientists, underestimated the amount of violence and rage Negroes were suppressing and the amount of bigotry the white majority was disguising.” She stated her work for 45 years has been about helping us recognize a critical flaw. She stated in November 2025, as a child of a WWII Veteran, when she thinks about the confederate monument there at the Veterans memorial. She stated her father would want her to speak up. She provided the clerk with a petition that asks the Board to find a different place for the confederate monument. (A copy of the petition is in the meeting file labeled February 16, 2026.)

Vicki Sherbs 420 Captains Cove Unit C Edenton provided the Clerk with a written copy of her remarks a copy is in the meeting file labeled February 16, 2026. Ms. Sherbs stated that she is a resident of both the County and Town. She stated she was there to speak on Item #4 on the agenda. She asked how the item got on the agenda, do ordinary citizens get to come up with agenda items or are the Commissioners interested in taking over the Martin Luther King Jr. Day from the folks who have been managing it for many years. She asked why this has become a priority. She stated she would love to know the answer to this question. She stated it seems there are members of the community that feel the speakers at the recent event were a bit fiery. She stated that Dr. King was a bit fiery, enough to get himself assassinated during his relentless march toward freedom and justice. She stated she was concerned that any attempt by the commissioners to produce an MLK Day celebration will be an attempt to water down Dr. King’s message or to “whitewash it” to make it more palatable for the most privileged of white folks. She stated that everything about Dr. King’s movement was to make people feel uncomfortable. She stated that uncomfortable can be a good condition if it moves us to be better people living in a better world. She implored the Commissioners to take no action on tonight’s agenda item #4.

Kristy LaLonde 330 Sandy Ridge Rd. stated she wanted to speak on the Dr. King celebration, it has been thoughtfully planned for many years by a dedicated committee. She stated that what the committee has built is a tradition that reflects the voice culture and experience of the community. She stated she appreciates collaboration, but it is important that this celebration has been sustained by the dedication of the committee with no agency or county funding. She stated that the committee has built trust and understands the history and significance. She stated Dr. Kings

legacy calls for unity. She stated if there is to be broader support she encourages it to take form in support and partnership by offering resources, space and assistance while allowing the committee to guide the celebration. She asked that the MLK celebration remain under the leadership of the existing committee. She stated she attended this year's celebration and did not find anything offensive and if anyone found anything offensive or uncomfortable she implores them to look deep within themselves and be the change they want to see.

Jacqueline Hardy-Lassiter 123 W Hicks St. stated she wanted to share her concerns about item #4 on the agenda. She stated she did not understand the why behind this request. She said she does not understand why this is before the Commissioners and Town Council and why this was not presented to the committee first. She stated she could not understand why anyone would attend the celebration and come out with divisive language. She stated she has come to understand when this term is used, it is actually about the uncomfortability of the truth of the experiences of black people concerning white people. She asked what gives anyone the right to belittle or change what really happened. She stated the truth of what we know makes us free. She stated that when she comes into the Town there is a billboard that states white supremacy or racism does not live here and that needs to be rechecked. She stated that racism is costly to everyone. She stated she loves Edenton. She asked everyone to look in the mirror and feels there has to be something different for our future. She stated she does not understand what it is about the truth that scares you. She stated all we can do is stop the repeat of the history we have come through.

Chair Kirby asked if anyone else wished to speak, there were none.

Consent Agenda

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and may be enacted by one motion. If a County Commissioner requests discussion on an item, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separate

- a. Minutes
Minutes of the January 20, 2026, Meeting.

Commissioner McLaughlin moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Chair Kirby noted the next item on the agenda is that George Lewis will provide the Board with suggestions for enhancing the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration to include a partnership between the County, Town and School System to hold future celebrations at the new John A. Holmes High School. Mr. Lewis provided the Board with a copy of his written statement, a copy is in the meeting file labeled February 16, 2026.

Mr. Lewis stated that he is in full agreement with the comments from this evening. He stated his comments are about the importance of the County recognizing this event. He stated he was speaking as a private citizen not the Board of Education and he was not here as a spokesperson for any organization that he is an active member including the NAACP local chapter. He stated he is a supporter of the First Amendment. He stated the right to speak freely includes the right to

say things that others may disagree with. He stated that as a soldier he has defended these freedoms. He stated he is grateful for protection for religious liberty to allow faith communities to speak on moral and public questions without fear of unequal treatment. He stated he has shared his thoughts with people who agree and disagree with him. He stated his purpose was not to win an argument but to contribute honestly and respectfully. He stated that for more than 40 years he has served in nonpartisan public service. He has taken part in and helped organize MLK Day celebrations in many places around the world. He recognized Ms. Angela Taylor and the members of the MLK celebration committee for several years, often without the broader support from the County and citizens. He stated this year's program included many moments of beauty, patriotism and respect that were worthy of honoring Dr. King's life and work. He stated that he was troubled by divisive words and tones used during this year's celebration. He stated that over the past two years keynote messages have, in his view, and those of others, missed the mark on Dr. King's lessons for us. He stated the result is that many have felt alienated from participating. He stated he was not there to accuse or chastise any individual. He stated he had chosen to forgive those whose remarks stirred his concern and prompted him to write an op-ed shortly afterwards. He stated that regardless of party position or background, we should recoil from language that demeans or dehumanizes anyone. He stated that rhetoric that divides or degrades, including the vile rhetoric against President Obama or previous presidents. He stated that Dr. King taught that people should be judged by the content of their character not the color of their skin. He stated that humiliation and name-calling have no place in the pursuit of opportunity to engage openly. He stated that now, with black history month and upcoming Lent season is the time when people search their hearts and set aside division. He referenced Nicole Elliott's Marcus Jackson Project in Edenton that brings people together. He stated he hopes this spirit of widening the circle (referenced by Ms. Elliott) is the spirit that shapes Chowan's observance of MLK Day. He stated he is not asking for control. He was asking for leadership, not partisan politics but stewardship and partnership. He provided examples of what he imagines for a MLK celebration weekend that includes students learning and leading in schools, service projects, music and storytelling, scholarships that invest in future teachers, public service. He stated perhaps the gathering could be in the new high school auditorium. He stated he recently attended a prayer vigil at Shalom International Church where he was reminded that even painful moments can bring people together. He stated that with the leadership of the Commissioners, they can ensure that MLK reflects the very best of who we are. He asked the Commissioners to restore and elevate the County's celebration of Dr. King's legacy in a way that invites every citizen to participate eagerly in unity gratitude and hope.

Chair Kirby asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Taylor asked how this item got placed on the agenda for that evening.

Board Clerk Susanne Stallings stated that Mr. Lewis spoke to the Chair. Any Commissioner may request that an item be placed on the meeting agenda. The procedure at the beginning of the meeting to approve the agenda allows the board to vote to remove an item from the agenda which would require a majority vote. She stated this item was put on the agenda by the Chair.

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr. Lewis if he presented this to the MLK committee.

Mr. Lewis stated he spoke with members of the NAACP committee about his concerns. He stated this year he went to the program anticipating seeing a change. He stated that this year

comments were racist and demeaning to everyone in attendance, black and white. He stated he shared his comments with others and hoped in their connections that his concerns would be shared. He stated he did not have a direct connection with the committee and stated he did not fault the committee for the comments. He stated the program was beautiful.

Ms. Taylor stated that the NAACP is separate from the MLK committee.

Mr. Lewis stated he thought the MLK program was a Chowan County committee. He stated he did not understand this event was separate and this is about the County's celebration.

Commissioner Shaffer asked if there was a group of organizations that worked on this celebration prior to COVID.

Ms. Taylor stated that the previous Town Manager, Anne-Marie Knighton, worked with the committee in the past.

Mr. Lewis stated he has nothing but praise for those that carry this through. He stated his concern is that the County is not supporting this event financially or with facilities or advertising to bring the whole community together.

Commissioner Taylor stated the County has never supported the MLK celebration and it has always been under the committee.

Commissioner Lawrence stated that he has been in education for about 50 years and traveled the world. He stated that there were things he dealt with in 1965-66, Mr. Lewis could not have a clue what that was like for him. He stated he was NC A&T when the National Guard shot bricks out of the walls with students in the building. He stated that Mr. Lewis could not know about that. He stated Mr. Lewis' feelings do not have a grip on what he has experienced because Mr. Lewis has not experienced these things. He stated the former Commissioner Mr. Taylor is the reason he is currently a commissioner. He stated that Mr. Lewis may have a good heart, but he cannot have a feeling for what these constituents are talking about. He asked if Mr. Lewis is aware that there were local black pilots that flew for President Ronald Reagan. He named Malachi Parson, Donald Pierce, Clarence McCleave who were all from Edenton. He stated that some of the black history would have to be lived to be understood.

Mr. Lewis stated he agrees that people need to know this history and these names and that this needs to be a county celebration. He stated this information needs to be passed on. He stated he doesn't want to wash it over, but he wants everyone to see it. He stated the way it is treated now; few people do not know about it because few participate because they see an event that is not inclusive. He stated he hopes to restore inclusivity.

There being no further comments, the Board moved on to the next agenda item.

Bleacher Repair – DF Walker High School Gym

Mr. Howard stated that the Board has been provided with a quote to repair the bleachers in the DF Walker High School gym using parts from the bleachers that are being removed from the John A. Holmes High School Gymnasium. The cost for this repair will be paid using remaining ARPA funds.

Commissioner McLaughlin asked if the company had looked at the bleacher in a complete way.

Mr. Howard stated that the bleachers from the high school would be taken over to the Walker Gym and the systems would be checked to ensure everything is in good working order.

Commissioner McLaughlin asked for clarification on the courtside bleachers. He then moved to approve the quote for the repairs as presented.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Bennett's Millpond RFP

Mr. Howard stated that the project was originally put out for bids on in January 2025. In February of that year, the Board reviewed the two bids received and requested that the RFP be amended so that the bids received were for more specific scope of work. Included in the Board packet is a new RFP for 2026. The Board will review and consider approval of the revised RFP for Bennett's Millpond before putting the project out for bid.

Commissioner McLaughlin recommended the RFP allow for screws to be used on the decking.

Mr. Howard stated he would update this if the contractors recommended screws.

Commissioner McLaughlin moved to approve the RFP as presented. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Soil and Water Annual Report

Jacob Peele and Celeste Maus provided the Board with the annual report from Soil and Water. A copy of the presentation is in the meeting file labeled February 16, 2026.

Commissioner McLaughlin discussed statewide farmland preservation initiatives.

Ms. Maus and Mr. Peele provided the information regarding the process noting that if a landowner chooses to participate the agreements are legally binding.

Sheriff's Office Trucks

Mr. Howard stated that the Sheriff has three trucks that were part of the Enterprise lease program and are at the end of their leases. The County is interested in purchasing one of the trucks for Soil and Water. The purchase price of the 2023 Chevrolet truck which has 64,000 miles on it is \$23,000. Based on the agreement with Perquimans County for Soil and Water operations, Chowan would pay half of the purchase price and Perquimans would pay the other half. Chowan's portion for the purchase is \$11,500. The cost of this purchase will be paid using remaining ARPA funds.

Commissioner Shaffer moved to approve the purchase as presented contingent on Perquimans County approving their portion of the purchase. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Jail Replacement Options

Mr. Howard stated that over the past 2-3 years the Board has discussed the need for a new county jail. The County has looked at various options for replacement of the existing Chowan County Detention Center (Jail). Options that have been explored included the construction of a new jail, construction of a new regional jail with neighboring counties, as well as joining existing local regional jails. Mr. Howard provided the Board with estimated costs for each option. He noted the following:

- Current County Jail Budget \$1,165,820
- Cost to join Albemarle District Jail (ADJ) \$1,485,178, he noted there is currently space available and no new construction is required for Chowan to join ADJ. He noted this cost estimate does not include the costs for transport of Chowan inmates for court.
- Cost to buy in with Bertie Martin \$1,066,910 (he noted this cost estimate is based on Bertie Martin receiving state funding for capital costs for expansion. He stated that Bertie Martin will not move forward with Chowan joining if they do not receive these funds).
- Construction of a Regional Jail with Gates and Washington Counties \$2,040,823. He noted that Gates and Washington Counties have opted to not move forward on this option.
- Cost to construct a new jail in Chowan County \$2,857,157, this is the annual cost, construction costs were estimated to be around \$25 million.

Mr. Howard stated he is requesting the Board consider approval to allow him to begin negotiations with ADJ. He stated he did not believe building a new jail is a viable option. He noted another concern about the Bertie-Martin proposal is that that jail is in a different judicial district from Chowan and ADJ.

Commissioner Lawrence asked Mr. Howard's recommendation is to go with ADJ.

Mr. Howard stated that he feels that ADJ is the better option for Chowan and noted it is in the same judicial district as Chowan County. Mr. Howard noted this cost is estimated to be around \$325,000 more than what the County is currently spending in its jail budget. He noted the cost estimate for construction of a new jail was done two years ago and is expected to be more now than previously estimated. He noted that there are holding cells at the Courthouse and the Public Safety Center to allow staff to hold inmates on court dates noting that inmates would not be held overnight at the Public Safety Center.

Sheriff Edward Basnight stated that he will need to retain detention officers to monitor inmates that are being held for court. He noted that the County is responsible for the transport of inmates. He noted there are three cells at the courthouse and two at the Public Safety Center. He noted that the cells will only have benches and not beds as they are not intended for overnight housing.

Chair Kirby noted that the Board that governs ADJ will have a say in this agreement as well and that legislative approval is also needed.

Mr. Howard stated that the State will have to amend the charter that created ADJ. He noted that Gates was invited to join ADJ and if they decide to join, the cost for Chowan County will

decrease. He noted that \$279,733 is the buy in cost for ADJ annually and after 15 years this amount will not be charged to Chowan.

Commissioner Taylor asked what will happen to Chowan’s detention offices.

Mr. Howard stated they will be offered positions with ADJ, and some may be retained to monitor inmates on court dates and for transport.

Commissioner Shaffer stated that the costs for transition are also needed.

Mr. Howard stated that the Sheriff budget will need around \$300,000 to cover the salaries of the officers retained in Chowan and to cover the costs for the purchase of a van.

Chair Kirby noted this will be on the retreat agenda for February 25th and will be discussed in more detail.

Appointment

Trillium Health Resources Regional Advisory Board

Chair Kirby noted that the current appointee had to resign from the Board for personal reasons. North Regional Director Bobbie Lowe has recommended the Board consider the appointment of Claire Mills to fill the vacant seat on the regional board.

Commissioner McLaughlin moved to appoint Claire Mills to the vacant seat.

Commissioner Shaffer noted he is on this Board and concurs with the nomination.

Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Financial Items

Finance Officer Cathy Smith presented the following:

Current Fiscal Year Budget Amendments

BA2026-038

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
Inspections			
11-4350-121-00	Salaries - Regular		(1,500.00)
11-4350-126-00	Salaries - PT		1,500.00
	Balanced	-	-
Justification:			
<i>To amend the 2026 budget for Building Inspections to include part-time salaries for coverage of vacation for a FT employee.</i>			

BA2026-039

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
Tax Admin			
11-3346-105-00	Attorney Fees/Suit Costs	10,062.48	
11-4140-199-00	Prof Fees - Legal Cost		10,062.48
	Balanced	10,062.48	10,062.48
Justification:			
<p><i>To amend the 2026 budget for Tax Administration to include additional revenue and expense for legal fees on foreclosures. Current revenue is \$10,062 over budget.</i></p>			

BA2026-040

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
Register of Deeds			
11-3418-415-00	*Preservation/Automation	570.71	
11-4180-298-00	*Dept Supplies - Auto/Pres		190.24
11-4180-440-00	*Contr Svcs - Automation/Pres		190.24
11-4180-511-00	*C/O - Auto / Pres		190.23
Sheriff's Office			
11-3431-232-00	*Sheriff Donations	125.00	
11-4317-440-00	*Donation - Expense		125.00
11-3431-240-00	*Project Lifesaver	(100.00)	
11-4317-298-00	*Project Lifesaver		(100.00)
11-3431-243-00	*KIDS & COPS	1,660.00	
11-4317-443-00	*KIDS & COPS Expense		1,660.00
Animal Shelter			
11-3438-894-00	*Donations - Chowan	605.00	
11-3438-894-01	*Donations - Gates	97.70	
11-3438-894-02	*Donations - Perquimans	685.32	
11-3438-894-03	*Donations - Other	2,248.00	
11-4381-600-00	*Donation - Expense		3,636.02
11-3438-895-00	*Adoption - Chowan	125.00	
11-4381-441-00	*Contr Svcs - Spay/Neuter		125.00
Cooperative Ext:			
11-3495-370-00	*AG Program Fees Discretionary	775.00	
11-4953-440-00	*Ag Program Fees Discretionary		775.00
11-3495-378-00	*4-H Fees Discretionary	1,665.00	
11-4953-448-00	*4-H Fees Discretionary		1,665.00
Recreation			
11-3612-487-00	*Recreation Donations	800.00	
11-6130-299-01	*Donations - Dept Supplies		800.00
Senior Center			
11-3616-533-00	*Reg Fees - Trips	8,173.00	
11-4268-312-00	*TRIPS - Senior Citizens		8,173.00
11-3616-533-01	*Registration Fees Activities	197.00	
11-4268-299-01	*Activities - Dept. Supplies		197.00
11-3616-535-04	*Silver Sneakers	756.00	
11-3616-535-06	*Renew Active	363.00	
11-4268-352-02	*Healthways		1,119.00
11-3616-535-01	*Donations - Fitness	148.95	
11-4268-352-01	*Donations - Fitness		148.95
DSS			
12-3531-230-14	*DSS Special Events	246.00	
12-5310-450-00	*DSS Special Events		246.00
	Balanced	19,140.68	19,140.68
	Total Discretionary Income Received FYE 2026	288,153.25	
Justification:			
	<i>To amend the 2026 budget to include Discretionary income for January 2026.</i>		

BA2026-041

Account Number	Account Description	Revenue (Inc+/Dec-)	Expense (Inc+/Dec-)
Animal Shelter			
11-4381-121-00	Salaries - Regular		(250.00)
11-4381-125-00	Cell Phone Stipend		250.00
	Balanced	-	-
Justification:			
	<i>To amend the 2026 budget for Animal Shelter to include cell phone stipend for new employee.</i>		

Commissioner Lawrence moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Financial Report

Finance Officer Cathy Smith provided the Board with financial reports for December 2025. A copy of the report is in the meeting file labeled February 16, 2026.

External Board/Committee Report

Commissioner Shaffer reported on the DSS Board noting the Board is monitoring the potential impacts from HB1. He noted this will be discussed at the retreat in more detail.

Commissioner McLaughlin reported on the Senior Center Advisory Board noting his appreciation for Maintenance staff for their quick response and remediation of a moisture issue in the fitness room. He noted that the building exterior will need to be sealed but he is confident that staff are addressing this issue.

Commissioner Lawrence reported that the Airport Board has a new Manager. He noted that repairs continue at the airport.

Manager's Report

Mr. Howard noted that he did not have any additional items to report on.

Timely and Important Matters

There were none.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Commissioner Cummings moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chair Kirby asked for all in favor, the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Bob Kirby, Chair

Susanne Stallings, Clerk