



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Wednesday, May 28, 2025
Minutes

Officials Present: Chairman John Kemp, Vice Chairman Joey Rowell, Councilman Chris VanGeison and Councilman Joe Arzillo

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, Kimberly Burgess, Lisa Wagner, James Iwanicki, Danny Lucas, Chief Russell Wells, and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.

1. Call to Order of the Jasper County Council Meeting by Chairman Kemp

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order. The Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was listed on the agenda for the records as follows: *In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, notification of the meeting and the meeting agenda were posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting on the County Council Building at a publicly accessible place, on the county website, and a copy of the agenda was provided to the local news media and all person's or organizations requesting notification.*

The Pledge to the Flag was given and the Invocation was given by Councilman Rowell

Motion to approve the agenda: Councilman

Second: Councilman

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Jasper County FY 2025-2026 Budget

• **Clerk of Court – R. Keith Horton**

Clerk of Court Horton discussed his budget requests, transparency in the Clerk of Court's Office, and using funds frugally but still maintaining a good court system. Some of the topics he discussed were:

- Title IV Funds
- Family Court collections and number of cases
- New positions, personnel and staff numbers
- Civil Court
- Previous case load that was left when he took over
- Audit Service
- COLA
- Computer Equipment

- Office Supplies
- Travel
- Contract Labor
- Disc Storage
- Vehicle request
- Security

He also noted that they were no longer able to use their 2nd Courtroom for Family Court. He stated that they were currently using the Council Chambers and mentioned that the request for an additional person was due to this reason. He finished his review of his budget request and thanked Council for their consideration.

• **Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Malphrus**

Sheriff Malphrus discussed his overall budget noting items that were included in the County FY2025-2026 Budget. Sheriff Malphrus also discussed and explained that when he discussed today hiring a Deputy that this cost was all inclusive in the amount of \$127,000.00 to \$130,000.00, which included all of the following:

- Salary
- Benefits
- Equipment
- Vehicle

He also provided a handout to the Council for his New Personnel Budget Request, which is attached as Attachment "A" (this information on the handout includes salaries but does not include fringe benefits).

- County Administrative Campus and their personnel requests.
- Courthouse Campus and their personnel needs.
- Magistrate Court and their personnel needs and concerns
- Additional metal detectors in the Administrative Bldg. and Courthouse
- Weapons and equipment for offsite staff
- County Administrative Campus
 - He noted that this included the 2 personnel that were in place on January 21, 2025, for the Administrative Building. He noted that with these positions they can further provide 2 Deputies in the Main Courthouse, 1 Deputy in Magistrate Court and 1 Supervisor alternating between the locations as needed,
- Traffic Team and their personnel requests.
- Patrol Division and their personnel requests.
- School Resource Officer.
- Special Victim's Investigator.
- Narcotics Investigator.
- Crime Scene Technician

Mr. Fulghum noted at the conclusion of the Sheriff's Budget Review that Ms. Burgess was prepared to give a quick overview, that she had passed out a hard copy, and was prepared to review the changes. Chairman Kemp noted that when we have people coming in, Ms. Burgess was separating them out and they didn't have to go through the full package to find each division. She noted that when it is done this way that Council could see the revenue included for that department. She noted that there were changes from the first reading to the upcoming second reading on June 4th. She also discussed the Cherry Point tax revenue and noted that they

took millage down to 31 and that budget change amount. She discussed property taxes, auto taxes, watercraft and that budget change amount. She discussed items such as the Local Option Sales Tax; FILOT; Cash Carry Forward; Debt (including special revenue bonds, debt and interest; payoff of the 2014 series; and grant awards were also discussed. Other items on the pertaining to the budget were also reviewed and addressed.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Rowell

Second: Councilman VanGeison

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

For more information on this meeting please go to our YouTube Channel for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCJIA . There are also Closed Captions available for all County Council videos. Just click the "CC" button to follow along.

Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



John A. Kemp
Chairman



Jasper County Sheriff's Office

Chris Malphrus | Sheriff

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New Personnel Budget Request

County Administrative Campus

We are requesting 6 new personnel to provide security for the County Administrative Campus. This includes the 2 personnel that were put in place on January 21, 2025, for the Administration Building. With these positions we can further provide 2 Deputies in the main Courthouse, 1 Deputy in Magistrate Court and 1 supervisor alternating between those locations as needed. There will also be collateral duties of patrolling the outlying offices in the area, to include Probate and Information Technologies.

The salary for these positions is \$ 367,698.24 (not including fringe benefits)

Traffic team

Here we are requesting 4 personnel to start a Traffic Enforcement Team. This team will be responsible for traffic enforcement throughout Jasper County. During Sheriff Malphrus' campaign and engagement in community meetings, it has been brought to his attention that the dangers of travel in the County are a top priority for the citizens. This team will focus on enforcing traffic laws throughout the County and zeroing in on the areas with higher levels of citizen complaints and fatalities to help restore safety to the motoring public. Where this team is not intended as a revenue source, historically these teams bring in enough revenue to fully fund their expense plus.

The salary for these positions is: \$ 246,267.84 (not including fringe benefits)

Patrol

This is the backbone of any law enforcement agency. The patrol team is the front-line division that has the highest level of interaction with the public. This team carries the burden of the day-to-day calls for service from the citizens of the County. With the population rising, as more people are moving to Jasper County the need for more officers will increase. To keep pace, we are requesting an additional 12 deputies to this team. This will add 3 deputies per shift to patrol and service the County.

The salary for these positions is: \$ 710,760.96 (not including fringe benefits)

School Resource Officer

This School Resource Officer position is requested to assist with the various Charter and Private schools in need. There are several of these throughout the County that either do not qualify for grants or cannot afford to supply a full-time position. We would like to add an SRO that would travel to these locations to help ensure the safety of the children and staff.

The salary for this position is: \$ 59,230.08 (not including fringe benefits)

Special Victim's Investigator (ICAC)

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). The Sheriff's Office currently has over 50 pending ICAC cases in need of investigation. With the current workload of the Detective staff, this is an area that needs a dedicated investigator to be properly looked at. This position would focus on these crimes aimed at children and help bring justice to those involved.

The salary for this position is: \$ 65,301.60 (not including fringe benefits)

Narcotics Investigator

Currently the Sheriff's Office is operating a 3-man narcotics team. To help gain control of the narcotic problems of the County, we are asking for 1 additional Deputy to be dedicated to this team, assisting with the investigations, and enforcing drug laws across the county.

The salary for this position is: \$ 59,230.08 (not including fringe benefits)

Crime Scene Technician

Currently the Sheriff's Office does not have a dedicated crime scene technician. This position is vital in the ever-evolving science driven world of forensics in which we live. This Deputy would be responsible for responding to major crime scenes, gathering the evidence, and seeing it through to completion of the case. We are looking to add 1 dedicated Deputy for this position.

The salary for this position is: \$ 59,230.08 (not including fringe benefits)

Total requested for new personnel \$ 1,567,718.88 (not including fringe benefits)