



DeKalb County Government

178 Sams Street
Decatur, GA 30030

Meeting Minutes - Draft

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Commissioner Ted Terry (Chairperson)

Commissioner Michelle Long Spears

Commissioner Chakira Johnson

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

10:30 AM

1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur, GA 30030
(BOC Multi-Purpose Room, 5th Floor)

Special Called Meeting

Attendance: Commissioners T. Terry, C. Johnson, M. Long Spears, N. Massiah, M. Davis Johnson

Present 3 - Chairperson Ted Terry, Commissioner Michelle Long Spears,
and Commissioner Chakira Johnson

Meeting Started At:

I. MINUTES

2026-0407 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the February 18, 2026, Special Called Finance, Audit,
and Budget Committee
**MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by
Michelle Long Spears, that this agenda item be Approved. The
motion carried by the following vote:**
Yes: 3 - Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Long Spears,
and Commissioner Johnson

II. DISCUSSION

FY2026 Budget Discussion

Clerk of Superior Court

Voter and Elections

Other Departmental Budget Requests

Questions/Comments:

Clerk of Superior Court

- requests 4 positions for \$304,027
- additional comments provided by COO Williams & Clerk DeBerry regarding the need for the positions
- Question TT: Director Sigler are the Clerk's projections the same as your revenue projections?
- response provided by Director Sigler
- Question TT: is the \$304,027 prorated from the grant or is it an annual cost?
- Clerk DeBerry: it's an annual cost; additional comments provided by the Clerk's Office
- Commissioner Terry requests the amount of County revenue for 2025 from the Clerk's Office
- \$13,196,630 was last year's County portion of revenue for 2025; the 2026 estimate is \$12.6M; additional comments provided by Clerk DeBerry
- comments provided by Director Sigler regarding the budget adjustment and revenue projections

Voter and Elections

Other Departmental Budget Requests

Category	Proposed (Original)	Amended (New)	Variance
Total Revenues	\$612,116,598	\$634,739,547	+\$22,622,949
Total Expenses	\$582,891,771	\$607,665,758	+\$24,773,987
Reserves	\$108,002,346	\$105,851,308	-\$2,151,038

- information provided from COO Williams, OMB Director TJ Sigler regarding documentation shared from the CEO for amendments to the FY26 budget

Highlights:

- Revenue Generation: A projected \$22.6 million increase from the proposed one-half mill General Fund millage rate.
- Housing Office: An initial \$12 million investment for 2026.
- Minimum Wage: A \$2 million cost across all funds to increase the minimum wage to \$19 per hour.
- WorkSource DeKalb: An additional \$1.9 million investment.
- Departmental Adjustments: Specific items like the \$780,000 LifeLine contract and the \$1.4 million for MedCura Health.
- Question TT: could you provide more information on the MedCura appropriation?
- response provided by COO Williams
- comments provided by Commissioner Johnson regarding impact to the community
- Question CJ: is there a timeframe on when that would be operational?
- response provided by COO Williams

- Question TT: the funding might be used to purchase a new unit
- comments provided by Commissioner Massiah regarding the needs of Grady Healthcare
- comments provided by COO Williams regarding the 1/2 mill increase to address housing affordability and establish a new Housing Office; discussed long term strategy to issue bonds to establish housing assistance programs
- additional information provided by Chief Housing Officer Dr. Ferguson
- Question TT: could you speak about this annual investment and how that would be leveraged for even more investment?
- response provided by Dr. Ferguson regarding utilizing the housing investment bond to reinvest in the system; the County will issue bonds that will generate \$155 million per year, and \$1 billion in revenue over 8-10 years; and preserve over 10,000 housing units
- information provided by Director Sigler regarding the impact on the county budget as a result of the housing investments
- comments provided by Commissioner Johnson regarding the importance of investing in housing
- comments provided by Commissioner Massiah regarding enhancements of federal funding
- Question RP: how does this investment impact the County's bonding capacity?
- response provided by Dr. Ferguson
- Question RP: we may need to have conversations on housing types, square footages; that is the type of information you will come back to discuss correct?
- response provided by Dr. Ferguson regarding the zoning rewrite
- comments provided by Commissioner Terry regarding the importance of bond funding to catalyze investment in the County
- comments provided by Commissioner Patrick and transit oriented development
- Question MLS: if we vote on the budget now and don't include funding for the 1/2 mill tomorrow, how does that impact your operations?
- response provided by Dr. Ferguson
- Question MLS: do you have the funding in the budget to prop up the office for 2026?
- response provided by COO Williams regarding the Administration's spending plan and subsequent requests for bond funding
- comments provided by Commissioner Long Spears regarding the impacts of the millage rate increase
- Question MLS: when will the affordable housing fund kickoff?
- response provided by Dr. Ferguson regarding 4th quarter of 2026
- additional comments provided by Director Sigler
- Question MLS: is there a specific funding request for the housing investment bonds and unhoused assistance?
- response provided by Director Sigler
- comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson regarding the federal focus on housing
- comments provided by Commissioner Massiah
- COO Williams discussed the \$2.5M workforce and economic development request
- Question TT: what is the increase for summer youth program and its impact?
- response provided by COO Williams
- COO Williams discussed the proposed increases in Arts, Voter Registration, tire recycling program, LifeLine animal project contract, two paralegal positions for dog court case facilitation, food security initiatives, creation of a community inclusion manager within CEO's office

- Question CJ: regarding food security will we also be looking at existing food pantries in the community and leveraging them? Regarding the community inclusion manager I think that's a really good idea. Additional comments provided by Commissioner Johnson
- Question MLS: regarding the funding for two paralegal positions to facilitate court dog cases, I would like to gain a greater understanding of the interdepartmental coordination
- comments provided by Director Fullum, County Attorney Phillips
- MLS: I would like to add an investigator to investigate these animal crimes in a future budget amendment
- Question TT: could you discuss the strategy in the ERPS committee to see how the investigator should look?
- response provided by COO Williams regarding a future presentation with Animal Services, Police, and Solicitor's office to show how that coordination would work
- comments provided by Commissioner Massiah regarding possibility of including an advocate added to assist for the animal court cases and coordinate with key stakeholders
- additional comments provided by Attorney Phillips
- Commissioner Terry requests Central Staff to coordinate discussion of the Animal Services Apparatus
- comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson and COO regarding the opportunity to leverage support in various locations of the county for food assistance
- Question TT: could you provide more information on the timing of the arts program?
- response provided by COO Williams
- Question TT: what if we had a set aside per commission district for arts specific programming and allocations?
- comments among the committee regarding programmatic options for commissioner funding in the future
- comments provided by Commissioner Massiah; requests clarity on the type of programming and arts
- Question CJ: for voter request, do we need to increase security for the elections?
- response provided by COO Williams
- comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson regarding an upcoming presentation in the OPS Committee

- Discussion of District Attorney Boston budgetary request
- Updated proposal:
 - Requests enhancement of \$380,836 in the FY2026 budget
 - 5 positions (2 in operations, 1 for digital forensics, 1 in HR, 1 receptionist)
 - Reduction in ask to only 1 position for digital forensics unit
- Question TT: is the \$380,836 for this year?
- response provided by DA Boston
- comments provided by Commissioner Massiah
- comments provided by Commissioner Davis Johnson

- Discussion of public safety and workforce investments
- additional information provided by Chief Carter regarding \$4.6M for salary adjustments
- Question CJ: has the Fire Union been involved in these conversations?
- response provided by Chief Carter
- Question NM: do we still have the need for additional fire trucks?

- response provided by Director Fullum
- Question TT: what are the main departments affected by the minimum wage increase?
- response provided by COO Williams
- Question CJ: is there a COLA increase budgeted?
- response provided by COO Williams
- Overview from COO Williams of all other budget adjustments
- Question CJ: when will we receive the CIP?
- response provided by Director Sigler
- Commissioner Long Spears requests the list of libraries included in phase one of the library landscape transition plan
- Question MLS: regarding the internship program for Wellness, is the request enough to support an internship program?
- response provided by Commissioner Terry
- Question MLS: regarding Superior Court, the original request was for \$254,000 for software and equipment. Could the Board reconsider including the full \$254,000 in their initial request?
- response provided by COO Williams
- Question MLS: regarding the interfaith community request, is that an additional \$75,000?
- response provided by Chief Padrick
- Question MLS: could you provide more information on the Fire Department salary adjustments?
- information provided by Director Haynes regarding the Fire Department salaries
- Question MLS: how many arborists will this take us to?
- response provided by COO Williams
- Question MLS: regarding soccer in the streets, what is that for?
- response provided by Commissioner Terry
- Question NM: what is the cost for hazard pay for officers/firemen per person?
- response provided by COO Williams
- Question NM: I was anticipating seeing a deputy chief of staff position for the Board of Commissioners
- comments provided by COO Williams
- Question NM: regarding legal support, I did not see that under the Board of Commissioners
- comments provided by COO Williams, Commissioner Terry
- Question NM: will there be a shift in communications for DCTV since that funding is adjusting?
- response provided by COO Williams
- CJ: motion to approve budgetary adjustments from Clerk of Superior Court, District Attorney, include substitute within budget for Fresh on DeK program

Second MLS

Vote: yes unanimous

III. AGENDA ITEMS

Purchasing & Contracting

2026-0258

Commission District(s): All

REN - Contract Nos.: 2000484, 2000485 and 2000486, Guns, Ammunition, and Accessories (1st Renewal Option of 5 Options to Renew): for use by the Departments of Police Services and the Marshal's Office. This contract consists of purchasing through the competitively let SWCs for Guns, Ammunition and Accessories. This request seeks to ratify a previously provided contract term increase. This request also seeks to exercise the 1st renewal option through January 7, 2027. Awarded to: Gulf States Distributors, Inc., Dana Safety Supply Inc. and Precision Delta Corporation. Total Amount Not To Exceed: \$150,000.00.

MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 3/10/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Johnson

- Information provided by Chief Padrick
- Question TT: will the Marshall be using this contract as well?
- Marshall Richardson: yes
- Question CJ: is the expectation to put this back out to bid?
- Chief: not necessarily for this contract

2026-0293

Commission District(s): All

CO - Change Order No. 1 to Contract No.: 2000472 Prosecutor Case Management Software Services (Sole Source): for use by the Office of the Solicitor-General. This contract consists of the provision of the PROSECUTORbyKarpel® (PbK) case management system including installation, companion services and annual subscription. This request seeks to increase the contract's funds for the purposes of data extraction to the newly integrated PbK system. Awarded to Karpel Computer Systems, Inc., dba Karpel Solutions. Amount Not To Exceed \$32,000.00.

MOTION was made by Chakira Johnson, seconded by Ted Terry, that this agenda item be Recommended for approval. to the Board of Commissioners, due back on 3/10/2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Chairperson Terry, Commissioner Long Spears, and Commissioner Johnson

- Information provided by COO Williams, Director Butler of Purchasing & Contracting
- CJ: motion to approve

Meeting Concluded At:
