



The following constitutes the agenda for the FY2027 Budget Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of Walker County, Georgia held at 9:00 a.m. on June 11, 2026

FY 2026 BUDGET WORK SESSION - Day 3

1. Invocation & Pledge

2. Chairwoman Teems will Call to Order the FY2026 Budget Session

Chairwoman Angie Teems called to order the Budget Session of the Board of Commissioners held at the Commissioners Office, 101 S. Duke Street, LaFayette, Georgia at 9:00 AM on June 11, 2025.

3. Clerk to Establish Attendance of Board Members

The following were present: Chairwoman Teems, Commissioner Brian Hart, Commissioner Mark Askew, Chief Financial Officer Christian Roach, Deputy CFO, Aneta Barton, Chief of Staff Dakiya Porter and County Clerk Lisa Richardson. Other guests signed in at the meeting as well. Please see the attached sign in sheet.

4. Presentations:

5. Tax Assessor's - 9:02 a.m. - 9:12 a.m.

- 5.1. **Terry Gilreath - Chief Appraiser/Chief Assessor for Walker County**
- 5.2. Terry is responsible for managing property evaluations and property tax assessments across the county
- 5.3. Board Secretary Angela Ward attended to support the Tax Assessors Office.
- 5.4. A request for new vehicles was made; however, it was clarified that these acquisitions would be financed through SPLOST funds rather than the office's operating budget.
- 5.5. The office requested a 5% salary increase to remain competitive with neighboring counties of comparable size. It was highlighted that salary adjustments are necessary for talent retention, as other counties are actively recruiting Walker County's trained personnel.

6. Recess - Break

- 6.1. The Board called a recess at 9:19 a.m.
- 6.2. The meeting called back in session at 9:22 a.m.

7. Walker County Tax Commissioner - 9:23 a.m. - 9:39 a.m.

- 7.1. **Sharon Evans Tax Commissioner**
- 7.2. CFO Roach reported an overall budgetary decrease for the department, primarily driven by staffing modifications. While postage and supply costs saw a marginal rise, the total operating expenses remained lower than in the previous cycle.
- 7.3. Tax Commissioner Sharon Evans, who succeeded Carolyn Walker, addressed the Commission regarding facility challenges resulting from water damage. She requested that the upcoming renovation prioritize enhanced ADA compliance for the benefit of both employees and the public.
- 7.4. Regarding the Flintstone facility (Rossville/Fairview Office at 2012 McFarland Gap Road), it was noted that the current structure was intended to be temporary and requires significant modernization if it is to remain permanent. A nearby vacant lot was identified as a potential site for future procurement.
- 7.5. These remodeling efforts will be funded through insurance and SPLOST allocations; consequently, they are not reflected in the department's operating budget.

8. Walker County Sheriff's Department 9:42 a.m. - 10:37 a.m.

- 8.1. **Sheriff Steve Wilson not in attendance**
- 8.2. Captain Chris Anderson will present for Sheriff Wilson
- 8.3. Chief Financial Officer Roach provided a comprehensive overview of several Walker County Sheriff Office departments, noting a total proposed budget of \$13.76 million.
- 8.4. Captain Anderson presented data regarding the detention center's organizational structure and inmate statistics for 2025 and year-to-date 2026, calculated on a calendar year basis.
- 8.5. Additionally, the presentation covered Court Services activities for 2025 and 2026 YTD, specifically detailing civil processes received and served, alongside an update on security operations across the Superior, State, Magistrate, Juvenile, Probate, Drug, and Wellness courts.
- 8.6. Annual incidents, including 911 calls, patrols, and traffic-related matters, averaged 46,000.
- 8.7. The FY 2027 Budget Proposal reflects a 10.6% rise, totaling an increase of \$1,389,800.00, with salary and benefits comprising the majority.
- 8.8. Law Enforcement Administration: Requested a 16% increase to \$1,737,700.00, covering a 4% COLA, fuel, and vehicle maintenance.
- 8.9. Criminal Investigations: Proposed a 17% increase to \$1,527,400.00 to fund two vacancies, a 4% COLA, and forensic software previously grant-funded.
- 8.10. Vice - Drug Task Force: Requested a 2% increase to \$203,800.00 for COLA and overtime.
- 8.11. Uniform Patrol: Requested an 11% increase to \$3,573,000.00 for salary adjustments, filled vacancies, UAV software, and equipment like duty gear and K9 supplies.
- 8.12. Jail Operations: Proposed a 9% increase to \$4,377,200.00 to address medical expenses, food, and staff vacancies.
- 8.13. CHAMPS/SRO/SSO: Requested a 20% increase to \$500,700.00 for personnel costs and educational materials.
- 8.14. Training: Proposed a 19% increase to \$126,900.00 for firing range improvements and salary adjustments.
- 8.15. Special Detail Services (S.O.G): Requested a 10% increase to \$44,500.00 for general materials.
- 8.16. Sheriff Office and Buildings: Requested a 4% increase to \$197,000.00 for utilities and repairs.
- 8.17. Court Services: Proposed a 19% increase to \$1,315,700.00 for personnel and operating supplies.
- 8.18. Bailiffs: Requested a 37% increase to \$10,000.00 for part-time staffing.

9. Walker County Clerk of Superior Court - 10:38 a.m. - 11:17 a.m.

- 9.1. **Carter Brown, Clerk of Courts for Superior, State and Juvenile Court**
- 9.2. The CFO outlined a proposed FY 2027 budget of \$1.4 million, representing a 19% increase. This budget includes the Board of Equalization.
- 9.3. Mr. Brown presented his operational plan, which includes filling two personnel vacancies. He proposed a full restoration of archiving and file organization efforts, which have been deferred for a decade. A critical priority is the archiving of Real Estate records, involving scanning, indexing, and multi-location backups. This initiative is estimated at \$125,000.00, plus \$15,000.00 for staff overtime.

- 9.4. The operational requests also include:
- 9.4.1. Transitioning to new open-shelf file organizers at a cost of \$35,000.00.
 - 9.4.2. Modernizing the record storage area, including the restroom and breakroom, for \$10,000.00.
 - 9.4.3. Engaging an external CPA firm for a comprehensive internal financial audit at \$12,000.00.
 - 9.4.4. Preparing for criminal e-filing with a minimum annual cost of \$15,000.00.
 - 9.4.5. Allocating \$100,000.00 to maintain office operations during courthouse renovations, which may require relocating staff.
 - 9.4.6. Conducting a technological overhaul (cost TBD).
 - 9.4.7. Increasing the training budget by \$1,600.00 to address evolving technological needs.
 - 9.4.8. Preparing for the potential requirement of the AOC Case Management system, which would necessitate two new staff members at a cost of \$100,000.00.
- 9.5. Regarding compensation, salaries have been adjusted previously; therefore, the current plan only includes a 3% COLA with no additional increases.

10. Recess - Break

- 10.1. The Board took a recess at 11:17 a.m.
- 10.2. Meeting back in session at 11:30 a.m.

11. Magistrate Court - 11:30 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

- 11.1. **Absence of Judge Sheila Thompson**
- 11.2. Cindy Hollingsworth reported that caseloads are anticipated to rise, necessitating translation services. Additionally, new ordinances are expected to generate further cases and fees, with an adjustment date set for Jan 1, 2027 .
- 11.3. Chief Financial Officer Roach confirmed that the proposed budget will account for the salaries of a part-time judge and a part-time clerk.
- 11.4. A cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 4% is planned.

12. Probate Court - 11:35 a.m. - 11:51 a.m.

- 12.1. **Judge Christy Anderson**
- 12.2. Chief Clerk Shannon Alters in attendance
- 12.3. The Probate Court manages various responsibilities, including will validation, executor appointments, asset inventory, property appraisals, and creditor notification. They also handle estate sales, family disputes, guardianships, marriage and divorce records, intergovernmental agreements (IGA), and firearms permitting.
- 12.4. CFO Roach detailed a budget increase of \$67,800.00 over the previous year, which incorporates a 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).
- 12.5. Additional budget items include funding for translation services, expanded training, and Ante Litem fees.
- 12.6. The proposal requests supplemental funding for Law Library maintenance and pension benefits. It was noted that Trustee Certification has been obtained, with work currently underway for Defined Benefit Certification.
- 12.7. The department has requested a total increase of 15%, which covers the 3% COLA and the transition to defined benefits.

13. Lookout Mountain Circuit Court - 11:52 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

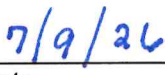
- 13.1. Jad Johnson's Chief Public Defender for the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit (LMJC)
- 13.2. He serves as the lead public defender for the circuit, which includes Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, and Walker counties in Georgia
- 13.3. CFO Roach noted a proposed budget of approximately \$449,000.00, representing an increase of about \$37,000.00.
- 13.4. Costs for this service are shared among the counties, with rates scaled according to county size; Catoosa and Walker contribute the largest shares.
- 13.5. The net budget increase is requested to facilitate the hiring of an additional attorney. The Chief Public Defender aims to achieve full staffing to effectively manage the current caseload. Although a position was previously cut to reallocate funds for competitive talent retention, the office now seeks to restore and fill that role.
- 13.6. To improve operational efficiency, the goal is to have attorneys and staff dedicated to specific counties.

14. Adjourn

- 14.1. Chairperson Teems adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.



Angela Teems
Chairwoman/CEO
Walker County Georgia



Date

Minutes prepared by: Walker County County Clerk, Lisa Richardson

As set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992, Walker County does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and will assist citizens with special needs, given proper notice. Please contact the Office of the County Clerk for assistance prior to each meeting. We can be reached at 706-638-1453.

FY2027 Budget Work Session - Day 1

Walker County Commissioners Office
101 South Duke Street, LaFayette, GA. 30728

June 11, 2026

9:00 AM

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present/Absent</u>
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Commissioner Blakemore	Absent
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Commissioner Askew	Present
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Chairwoman Teems	Present
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Commissioner Hart	Present
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Commissioner Wilson	Absent
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Sign In Sheet