York County
County Council
Minutes
March 21, 2025

Council Workshop | **York County Government Center** | **12:00 PM**

6 South Congress Street
York, SC 29745

Call to Order
Christi Cox, Chairwoman

New Business

1. Introduction and FY 26 Budget Update

County Manager, Josh Edwards, opened the meeting with the budget plan moving forward and reminded Council of the FY25-FY27 Strategic Plan goals:
Grow Economic Opportunities
Grow Responsibly
High Performing Organization
Premier Parks
Safe Community
Quality Infrastructure
Mr. Edwards explained to Council members the council responsibility and the staff's responsibilities.
Assistant County Manager, Kevin Madden, presented the FY26 revenue projections:
FY26 County Wide value of a mill is up approximately 5% to $1,970,000
FY26 unincorporated value of mill is up approximately 6% to $1,166,000
Budget Director, Trish Startup presented to Council the draft FY25 Capital Projects Quarterly Report. Ms. Startup explained that once the report is finalized it would be placed on the website for the public to view.

2. Discussion regarding FY 26 Capital Improvement Projects

Assistant County Managers David Garner and Tom Couch presented the FY26 CIP requests for the following departments:

- Sheriff's Office
    - Firing Range Tower - $300,000.00
- Public Safety Communications
    - Uninterruptible power supply replacement (FY29) $425,000.00
    - Paging system - fire and EMS - $975,000.00

- Engineering
    - CBP Greenway construction - $3,062,885.00
    - Moss Justice Booking - (FY26) $1,200,000.00, (FY27) $15,300,000.00, (FY28) $11,500,000.00
    - Coroner's Office - (FY26) $3,000,000.00, (FY27) $4,000,000.00
    - Animal Services Facility - (FY26)$3,300,000.00, (FY27) $13,500,000.00, (FY28)$3,200,000.00

Also, presented were the FY26 Capital Maintenance requests:

- Uninterruptible power supply batter replacement
- DSS HVAC Replacement
- Historic Courthouse HVAC Replacement
- County Roads Resurfacing and Pavement Preservation
- Facility Condition Assessments of Multiple County Facilities
- MJC Domestic Waterline Replacement
- York Health and Clemson Building HVAC Replacement Study & Design
- Law Enforcement Training Center Water Heater Replacement
- Emergency Operations Center Interior Improvements
- Emergency Operations Center Roof Replacement
- Legal/ROD Fire Alarm Replacement
- Coroner's Office HVAC Replacement
- Permit Center Modification
- Voting System Battery Replacement
- AV Replacement

Totals: $8,140,500.00

3. Discussion regarding key FY 26 budget areas:

    - Utilities
    - Fire & Sheriff Updates

Assistant County Manager, Kevin Madden reported on the Utilities Improvements and Future Goals:
Goal 1: Leak Repair Work Order Issues:

- December 2024 - Almost 300 outstanding open water leak repairs/workorders (some close to 12 months in arrears)
- Staff developed better workflow processes using a two-prong approach, having one crew working assigned leaks based on neighborhoods with the highest concentration of leaks, while two crews work assigned leaks based on oldest dates.
    - Required 10-hour work days for leak repair crews for one month
    - Subcontracted out 40 of the oldest leaks to a local plumbing company

- Status: currently at 95 outstanding open water leak repair workorders. The goal is to have all leak repair work orders 30 days or newer by the end of June 2025. At that point, a new goal will be established to ensure continuous improvement.

Goal 2: Customer Service:

- Poor customer service with regard to leak repair status and billing issues
- Staff worked to develop a better approach to efficiently handling customer-driven work orders. Had meetings with GIS/IT to change the redundancies associated with entering customer work requests by hand and increase customer interactions.
- Status: This process is about 85% completed and will be implemented by the end of April 2025.

Future Goals of Utilities Department:
•Create dedicated water and sewer divisions to focus on primary utility functions. Have better lanes for staff to function inside, creating expertise and accountability, allowing for more quality control with growth.
•Develop Asset Management Plan (AMP) with current Inventory Specialist/ General Manager/ Director and future Inspection Department. Utilize existing software if possible to Inventory, Assign Values, and Rate Consequences of Failures (COF). This plan would be used by future leadership and engineering to determine capital improvements and to develop the best management practices in maintenance. The AMP would be a useful tool when applying for matching grants and assigning capital project funds for the future.
•Partner with Planning/Design and Economic Development for future water/sewer needs in the county. Set up regular meetings about the current and anticipated goals of these departments to establish future needs to include on capital plans.
•Build a standalone Water and Sewer Facility to house Admin, Engineering, Inspection, Customer Service, and Water/Sewer Superintendents' Offices. Potential Drive-Through Window for payments along with a supply yard for piping, aggregate, and common parts.
•Use engineering studies to develop a comprehensive 10-year capital improvement plan that will be reviewed semi-annually and changed according to county needs.
•Develop a comprehensive 10-year in-house asset replacement plan that would coincide with the CIP. This plan would grow and shrink depending on staff knowledge, funding, CIP progress, etc.
•Be the best water and wastewater utility in the state of South Carolina!!!

Assistant County Manager, David Garner reported on York County Fire Service:
• Current Operations and Level of Service – Administrative Support/Training – 2
• Financial oversight, Ordering, Check request, training schedule/coordination – Suppression (Squads) – 6
• M-F 7am-4pm coverage throughout the county w/ 3 squad units of 2 personnel – Investigations (Fire Marshal) – 6
• Fire Inspections, Code Enforcement, Fire Investigations – Prevention – 2
• Hydrant testing/maintenance, Public Outreach, Equipment Ordering – Shop – 6

• Maintenance (100+ apparatus), Spec/Ordering Apparatus

County Fire Assistance Programs
Equipment Replacement Program – 85+ county owned apparatus provided and deployed throughout York County – Governed by York County Fire Service Policy Manual p.13-14
• Direct Assistance – 60% Base Funding – Level for all departments – 10% Residential – Percentage of total residences in the fire district – 10% Population – Percentage of total population in the fire district – 10% Property Value – Percentage of total property value in fire district – 10% Commercial Buildings – Percentage of commercial buildings in the fire district
• Equipment Allotment Funds – Each Fire Department receives a $20,000 allotment to be used towards approved firefighting equipment

Fire Tax Districts

District	Millage	CAP	Millage Request	Millage Value	*Additional Revenue	Budget Amount
Bethesda	3.9	10	3.9	$34,000	$5,000	$137,600
Flint Hill	10.0	10	10.0	$268,000	$78,000	$2,758,000
Lesslie	4.9	5	4.9	$81,000	$38,000	$434,900
Newport	4.6	5	5	$127,000	$18,000	$653,000
Oakdale	5.0	5	5	$18,900	$7,000	$101,500
Riverview	9.5	10	10	$86,000	$20,500	$880,500
Bethel	4.0	10	5	$378,600	$33,000	$1,926.000

Operating Expenses (York County)
FY2023 - $3,693,759
FY2024 - $3,791,376
FY2025 - $6,460,200
FY2026 - $5,187,820 (Requested

Direct Funding to FDs (Fire Millage)
FY2023 - $1,957,668
FY2024 - $3,470,332
FY2025 - $2,782,837
FY2026 - $3,669,324 (Requested)

Total Fire Funding
FY2023 - $11,057,696
FY2024 - $13,263,966
FY2025 - $15,247,677
FY2026 - $15,748,695 (Requested)

FY2026 and Beyond
• FY 2026 – Millage adjustment to 6.8 mills (9.7% increase)
• FY24 & FY 25 stayed at 6.2 mills
– 2 Additional FTEs to create a 4th squad unit

– Direct Assistance & Equipment Allotment funded at current levels
– Capital Equipment (Firetrucks) = $2,105,000
• 2 Pumper/Tankers, Squad, Service Truck, Brush Truck
• Dependent on next year's pricing
• Growth of a Mill
– 3.89% Annual Increase
– 7.4 mills by 2029 to maintain current LOS
– 9.2 mills by 2030 to implement a 5-year vision
• 3-year Plan & Future Needs
• Expanded/increased level of service
• Fire Maintenance facility expansion and additional personnel (fleet continues to increase in size). 2 more bays and 1 staff added
• Investigations & Prevention must grow with population and development trends. 2 staff added
• Continued expansion of squad program with an eventual migration to strategically positioned 24/7 operations 2 addt. squads (4 staff)
• Apparatus Replacement Program
• Rising costs have slowed the replacement schedule (3-year outlook)
• Equipment Allotment: Eventual increase to $30,000
• Direct Assistance • Municipal limitations and unincorporated York County
• Millage Rate
• 3-year sustainable millage rate w/o significant expansion
• Growth and expansion of services noted above will require millage adjustment and/or restructuring of the system

EMS

EMS Service Providers
– Piedmont Medical Center, River Hills EMS, Fort Mill EMS
• Response Time Criteria (Maximum Avg Piedmont)
– Eastern: 12 minutes
– Clover/Lake Wylie: 18 minutes
– Western: 20 minutes
– City of York: 12 minutes
• York County 5-year plan
– Continued prolonged response times in Lake Wylie/Clover/Western York County
– Adequacy of existing EMS contracts
– Expansion of agreements, providers, and/or County EMS system

Sheriff Tony Breeden addressed Council regarding a request to allow a 5% pay increase for current Law Enforcement Offices (Road and Detention). Sheriff Breeden stated that increasing ranges 5% will make the York County Law Enforcement starting salaries more competitive with other local law enforcement agencies.
The sheriff also requested that the Justice & Public Safety Committee review several ordinances that need modifications.

4. Council Discussion

- Council Committee Roundtable

At this time, Council members held a general discussion of various topics.
Council Chair, Christi Cox reviewed the Council's Committee assignments.
Chair Cox stated that the Boards & Commission ordinance review would be referred to the Justice & Public Safety Committee, the Animal Control Facility would be referred to the Public Works Committee, and the Justice & Public Safety Committee would also be reviewing law enforcement ordinances.

Council member Andy Litten requested that staff determine if all the District 2 discretionary funds have been dispersed and checks cleared.
Mr. Litten also asked if the County had any control over the Library Board and if the Library actually has a need for additional buildings.
Management informed Council that the Library needs to conduct an evaluation to determine the need.

Executive Session

Matters for consideration following Executive Session

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Karen M. Brogdon, Clerk to Council