

## Budget Meeting – March 10, 2026

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for a budget meeting. Board present, Meggan Smith, Lynn Cody, Jacob Nelms and Natasha Williams. Board absent Connie Orr. Also, present Manager Brady Cody, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter, and Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Chair Smith called the meeting to order.
2. Chair Smith asks Manager Cody to begin the budget discussions. Manager Cody stated that he had spoken with Moseley Architects and Withers Ravenel regarding the Justice Center. Manager Cody stated that the last communication they had was in October 2025. Manager Cody stated that he reiterated the multiphase approach for the Justice/Jail Center, stating that the board wanted to make sure that the architects were on the same page. Manager Cody stated that this multiphase approach had not been discussed with them, the Jail was the number one priority they thought. Manager Cody stated that they will be sending a revised contract to the county and scale the project back as mandated by the board. Manager Cody stated that he would speak with Attorney Coward on the land transaction and has been speaking with the survey company to obtain all of that information. Manager Cody stated that he did tell them that the board wanted the building to be nice but not elaborate and the Justice Center needed to be built in a way that the additions could be added on in the future. Manager Cody stated that the goal is to have a footprint of what the facility could look like with all phases completed. Manager Cody stated that he will be speaking with the Clerk's Office to determine the true number of offices needed for the courts. Manager Cody stated that they will provide a preliminary cost for the jail along with the cost of the Justice Center with the Justice Center being the main priority. Manager Cody stated that they would like to build the Justice Center with the money that is available without going into debt. The board all agreed. The board discussed Brandon Lovin's new building and how nice this building was, the completion was quick so they would like to see if this type build would be possible.
3. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(6) for privileged or confidential information, attorney client privilege, personnel and contracts. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go back into open session as stated. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Chair Smith asks for a motion to make changes to Department 501 as stated due to personnel changes. Chair Smith made the motion as stated. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
6. Manager Cody discussed the EDC Small Business Grants for \$12,000.00 annually and the Mountain West Partnership funds for \$19,008.00 annually. The board agreed not to fund the EDC Small Business Grants this year due to the major cuts for the other departments. The board agreed to continue the Mountain West Partnership as stated.
7. Manager Cody stated that the Register of Deeds personnel changes were discussed and these changes will become effective once certification is completed. Manager Cody stated that these changes will be approved with the budget adoption.
8. Manager Cody discussed Department 495 Building Inspections and stated that the main change was contracted services for the ECO King Inspections. Manager Cody asks if the board would like to review the building inspection fees. The board agreed that the fees needed to be reviewed and possibly raised. The board stated that a stricter policy needed to be set for those who do not obtain a permit prior to building.
9. Manager Cody stated that in Department 500 Public Buildings, one of our workers will be retiring. Manager Cody stated that this department is very proactive in saving money and they were able to make cuts to this budget.
10. Manager Cody stated that the hiring freeze will remain in place but in the event of a vacancy they will refill those positions which are listed in the budget.
11. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cody seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Meggan Smith, Chair, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Natasha Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board