

Budget Meeting – March 12, 2026

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 3:00 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, Connie Orr and Natasha Williams. Board absent Jacob Nelms. Also, present Manager Brady Cody, Finance Director Stacy Carpenter and Clerk Kim Crisp.

1. Chair Smith called the budget meeting to order.
2. Chair Smith asks Manager Cody to proceed with the budget discussions. Manager Cody stated that he and Director Carpenter did a budget analysis to give the board context of where we stand at this time. Manager Cody stated that our new revenue is \$22,286,277.00 and our old expenditures were \$24,114,774.00 which leaves us with a deficit of \$1,828,497.00. Manager Cody stated that after cuts have been made, we are looking at a \$800,000.00 deficit so the board will need to decide which options to take. Manager Cody stated that he will continue going through each budget and the board can make cuts as necessary to make up the difference. Manager Cody stated Director Carpenter designed a new approach to the departmental budgets which has been very helpful to the department heads and this approach will continue forward with any changes that are made to their budgets.
3. The board discussed Department 511 Dispatch. Manager Cody stated that raises were recommended by the department head, but he did take those out as directed by the board.
4. The board discussed Department 515 Courts. Manager Cody stated that the new expense for this budget was new software mandated by the state but unfunded.
5. The board discussed Department 526 Emergency Management.
6. The board discussed Department 527 Paramedicine. The board discussed possible billing for these services. The board discussed the charting software and would like further discussion to see if the other departments could use the same software.
7. The board discussed Department 602 EMS. The board discussed the MOU's with Swain and Blount and Monroe County Tennessee due to the heavy ambulance calls in these areas.
8. The board spoke with Frank Kline with NC Forest Service and stated that his budget would be discussed next week.
9. The board discussed Department 573 Vehicle Maintenance. Manager Cody stated that the salary is a little higher for the new personnel, but he uses his own tools and has more expertise with our Transit and EMS vehicles.
10. The board learned that the Sheriff's Department would like to surplus the side by side to purchase another vehicle.
11. The board discussed Department 575 Sanitation. The board discussed the sanitation sites.
12. The board discussed the sanitation billing and some business that are behind in payments.
13. The board eliminated Department 600 Project Management.
14. The board discussed future dates for budget meetings and agreed to meet Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>; Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
15. The board discussed holding public hearings for budget discussions.
16. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

\_\_\_\_\_ Meggan Smith, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Jacob Nelms, Member

\_\_\_\_\_ Connie Orr, Member

\_\_\_\_\_ Natasha Williams, Member

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board