

Budget Meeting – March 5, 2026

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. for a budget meeting in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC. All board was present. 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 begin the discussion. Manager Cody requested that the board go into closed session to discuss privileged or confidential information and personnel.
3. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go into closed session G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(6) for privileged or confidential information and personnel. Commissioner Williams made the motion to go into closed session as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
4. Chair Smith asks for a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Williams made the motion as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
5. Manager Cody began the budget discussions for the departments and began with Department 410 Governing Body. Chair Smith stated that the board is asking all the departments to make cuts and she would like to propose cutting the board meeting pay. Chair Smith stated that the commissioners are allowed insurance, a stipend and per meeting pay and felt that they should make an effort to take a pay decrease. The board discussed the amount of meeting pay per commissioners. Chair Smith stated that by cutting the meeting pay this shows the public that we are being team players when we are asking others to cut. The board discussed limiting the number of meetings per month. The board discussed cutting board meeting pay in half. The board agreed that cutting the meeting pay from \$50.00 to \$25.00 would result in a savings to the county.
6. Manager Cody discussed Jones County being similar in size to Graham County and will bring comparisons of budget items to the board for review.
7. The board discussed garbage and possible charges for short term rental versus residential. Commissioner Orr stated that she received a complaint about the main center being nasty and toxic due to the standing water and asked that the fencing be removed. Commissioner Orr stated that it looks worse now than it did when he first came on board. Manager Cody stated that they are trying to mitigate the issues, he has applied for grant funding to assist with the upgrades, which include the drainage issues. Manager Cody stated that most of the water comes from across the street. Manager Cody stated that there was a shortage of gravel, but more has been ordered for the site, the only problem, the gravel sinks into the ground rather quickly due to the drainage issues. Manager Cody stated that they are also discussing moving the site to the impound area which would take the cans off the main road.
8. Manager Cody discussed Department 430 Election Board. Manager Cody stated that raises had been requested but he did not add raises to any budget.
9. Manager Cody discussed Department 420 Administration. Manager Cody stated that one position in 420 has been moved to another department due to a vacancy which decreased this budget and they will not backfill for this position.
10. Manager Cody discussed Department 440 Finance. Manager Cody stated that this budget is straightforward with the biggest expense being the audit. Director Carpenter stated that they had hoped that three budgets would get completed but she was not expecting that outcome at this time, so she budgeted for two next fiscal year.
11. Manager Cody discussed Departments 450 Tax Assessor and 455 Tax Collector. Manager Cody stated that NCACC has agreed to come to our county and do an assessment of these departments to streamline processes. Manager Cody stated that the NCACC Staff are retired Tax Assessors and Tax Collectors who can provide experienced recommendations. Manager Cody stated that the current collector is leaving in June. The board all agreed to the assessment from the NCACC.
12. Chair Smith asks that Manager Cody contact Moseley Architects and have them attend the next budget meeting to discuss the Justice Center site and proposed building.
13. Manager Cody stated that our NCACC Consultant would like to meet with the board at the next meeting as well and our Auditor TD Hill would be joining them.
14. Chair Smith asks for a motion to continue this budget meeting until March 10th at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Williams made the motion to continue the budget meeting as stated. Commissioner Orr seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

Meggan Smith, Chair, Graham County Commissioner

Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

Natasha Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board