



LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

T. PAGE THARP GOVERNMENTAL BUILDING

102 STARKSVILLE AVENUE NORTH, LEESBURG, GEORGIA 31763

Friday, May 23, 2025 AT 9:00 AM

T. Page Tharp Building

Kinchafoonee Room

WWW.LEE.GA.US

MEETING MINUTES

Budget Workshop

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Luke Singletary, Chairman, District 2

Chris Guarnieri, Vice-Chairman, District 4

Dennis Roland, Commissioner, District 1

Billy Mathis, Commissioner, District 3

George Walls, Commissioner, District 5

COUNTY STAFF

Joey Davenport, Co-Assistant County Manager

Heather Jones, Co-Assistant County Manager

Kaitlyn Good, County Clerk

Jimmy Skipper, County Attorney

The Budget Committee of the Lee County Board of Commissioners met in a budget workshop on Friday, May 23, 2025. The meeting was held in the Kinchafoonee Room of the Lee County T. Page Tharp Governmental Building in Leesburg, Georgia. Those present were Commissioner Chris Guarnieri and Commissioner Luke Singletary (via Microsoft Teams). Staff in attendance were Co-Assistant County Manager Joey Davenport, Co-Assistant County Manager Heather Jones, and County Clerk Kaitlyn Good. Budget Committee Chairman Guarnieri called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. NEW BUSINESS

A) Discussion of the proposed District Attorney's Office departmental budget.

District Attorney Lewis Lamb and Miles O'Quinn were present on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. Mr. Lamb summarized that while this year's budget request is for approximately \$225,000.00 in the proposed budget, only approximately \$172,666.00 was approved. The majority of the request is for basic operating expenses. The state does not pay for operating expenses and only provides funding for a few of the employees. Mr. Lamb added that the amount of work and caseload across the circuit (serves six counties) requires many employees. Their office also performs services for Lee County Magistrate Court. All counties served received a request for an increase in funding, with the amount of funding being determined by caseload.

Those present were provided with supplemental materials, such as the department's proposed budget and funds budgeted from the other counties within the circuit. Mr. Lamb stated that he understands he may not get the entire amount requested and would accept an 8% increase. Commission Chairman Luke Singletary stated that this department had received budget increases nearly every year recently and asked for further explanation as to why additional funds were needed. A meeting similar to this was held last year around this time as well. Mr. Lamb stated the office is trying to make up for loss of the VOCA Grant and ARPA funding as well as provide a basic COLA to employees. Mr. Lamb added that had his department received the funding asked for last year, he wouldn't be needing to request so much this year.

Commission Chairman Luke Singletary stated that he understood the needs of the department and wished to have some time to speak with Commissioner Guarnieri and Co-Assistant County Manager/ Finance Director Heather Jones to decide on further action.

B) Discussion of 2025-2026 health insurance plan renewal.

Chad Slaughter of Marsh McClennan Agency presented on the healthcare renewal and provided a handout that included claims through March 2025 and renewal proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. In FY2024-2025 there was one (1) lasered employee, seven (7) claimants with costs over \$100,000.00, a total of net paid claims of \$2,414,715.00, and approximately \$1,352,266.00 paid by reinsurance. This year was driven by several large claims. Of the claims over \$100,000.00, five (5) were in the Platinum plan and two (2) were in the Gold plan. Current employee and family enrollment includes: 48 employees on the Platinum plan, 97 employees on the Gold plan, and 42 employees on the Silver plan.

The following vendors provided proposals for healthcare for FY2025-2026: Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, Swiss Re, and Symetra. With the given proposals, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield was determined to still be the best option for healthcare. Mr. Slaughter stated that there was not an increase in contributions last year and healthcare costs are rising. Anthem will be moving to being all digital for Explanation of Benefits, insurance cards, and all claim documentation,

The committee will recommend the following to the Board of Commissioners: A 15% increase in employee contribution for Platinum plan members, a 10% increase for Gold plan members, and a 10% increase for Silver plan members. Know the Costs and telehealth services with Healthiest You will also remain as is for FY2025-2026.

C) General review and discussion of the proposed FY2025-2026 Board of Commissioners budget.

No further review or discussion of the FY2025-2026 Board of Commissioners budget was conducted.

3. **PUBLIC FORUM**

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK