

The Brooks County Board of Commissioners met for Special Called Meeting/Work Session on Monday, June 29, 2026, at 4:15 p.m., at the Brooks County Administration Building, Commissioners Chambers, located at 610 South Highland Road, Quitman, GA. Commissioners present were: Mrs. Myra Exum, Chairman; Mr. James Maxwell, Vice Chairman; Mr. Patrick Folsom; Mr. Willie Cody; and Mr. Lee Larko. Others present were Mr. Buddy Johnson, County Administrator; Ms. Patricia Williams, County Clerk; Ms. Kim Daniels, Human Resources; Ms. Janice Jarvis, Finance Director; and Mr. Jason Kemp, County Attorney; and various residents.

I. PUBLIC HEARING - NONE

II. CALL TO ORDER

A. Prayer/Pledge – Mr. Larko led all in attendance in prayer and pledge of allegiance.

The agenda was adjusted to move Presentations, Item #4 ahead of Topics for Discussion, Item #3.

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Opioid Prevention Analyst for South Health District – Jessica Arnett – Provided an overview of opioid-related data in Brooks County (2019-2024): 17 drug overdose deaths, 7 opioid deaths, 201 ER overdose visits, and 43 opioid ER visits. Ms. Arnett presented proposed projects: Resource Hubs consist of lockboxes with naloxone, fentanyl strips, flyers. QR Code Program enables discreet access to naloxone/fentanyl strips. Educational Tools consist of simulation goggles for opioid/drug impairment. Social Media Campaign is locally produced videos/commercials involving community members to counteract misinformation, especially about vaping. Budget Estimates details cost breakdown for boxes, supplies, and campaigns.

Commissioners discussed optimal locations for resource hubs, e.g., Dollar General, Food Lion, and high traffic youth areas. Explored collaboration with local schools for video production to reduce costs and sought more granular overdose data with law enforcement input to strategically place resources. The Board will review and assess the proposal and available opioid funds.

IV. TOPICS FOR MOTION/DISCUSSION

1. FY2026-2027 Final Budget Adoption – Finance Director and County Administrator presented the final budget for FY2026-2027. Budget overview:

- General fund: \$17,488,544 (7% increase)
- Other funds: \$4,157,136 (4.5%)
- Total budget: \$21,670,680 (with \$25,000 added to contingency fund for flexibility).
- Public hearing previously held; there were no objections received.

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adopt the FY2026-2027 Budget for \$21,670,680, plus \$25,000 added to contingency, Mr. Cody seconded. The budget was adopted unanimously.

2. 2026-2027 Health Insurance Renewal – TBR (Formal Action Needed after Discussion) –

Administrator Johnson presented the health insurance renewal with TBR, stating that the premiums to increase by \$280,000, attributed to prior claim settlements and expected rate adjustments. Administrator recommended moving forward, the numbers are in the budget and no bidding is required. Mr. Cody motioned to approve the health insurance renewal with TBR for 2026-2027, Mr. Folsom seconded.

3. SGRC Contract – AAA-2027-20 – Senior Center with Congregate and Home Delivered Meals

The contract with SGRC for nutrition services for FY2027 was presented for renewal for congregate and home delivered senior meals; there are no substantive changes. The contract was approved for renewal for FY2027 on the motion by Mr. Larko and seconded by Mr. Maxwell.

4. Bid – Road Department Maintenance Contract – Only one bid received from James Warren & Associates (JWA). The bid met all requirements. The amount of the bid was same for FY2025 (\$1,697,000), with a 2% increase totaling \$1,730,940; added ASE-certified mechanic support (\$74,386.12); three-year contract with a fourth-year renewal option, contingent upon the contract and Attorney review. Total bid amount \$1,805,326.12 includes \$74,386.12 for mechanic services. The bid was awarded to JWA for a three-year contract with a fourth-year renewal option, 2% annual increase, and mechanic services for \$1,805,326.12, on the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Cody.

5. Engagement Letter – Law Firm – Fire Truck Purchase Case – The Board approved to enter into an engagement letter with Conn Law, LLC regarding a fire truck antitrust lawsuit; with no upfront cost to the county. Mr. Larko made the motion to move forward and enter into the engagement letter with Conn Law, LLC, and Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion.

6. Planning Commission Member – Linda Gosier – Term Expiring June 30, 2026 – Planning Commission board appointment discussed. Current member wishes to continue serving on board. Commissioners asked the Clerk to reach out to previous applicants and to include them on the agenda for July 6th meeting.

7. DFCS Board Member – Nick Hampton – Term Expiring June 30, 2026 - DFCS board appointment was discussed. Current member wishes to continue serving on board. The application will be included on the agenda for July 6th meeting.

8. Resolution – Technology Fee – Superior Court – County Attorney presented a drafted resolution to add a technology fee to court filings, mirroring existing Magistrate Court practice. Resolution will be reviewed and formally approved at next meeting, pending confirmation from Clerk of Superior Court.

9. GDOT – Beasley Road Project – Bridge Replacement – Discussion – GDOT and Governor’s office awarded \$2,890,000 for bridge replacement Beasley Road at Carroll Tributary in Brooks County; with no local match required from the County. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to accept the awarded amount for the bridge replacement project from GDOT for Beasley Road at Carroll Tributary, Mr. Larko seconded the motion.

10. FLOST Referendum – The Board discussed placing a new 1% sales tax (FLOST) on the November ballot. The 1% tax will offset property taxes for all landowners and businesses. The distribution method was discussed whether it will be by the digest percentage. No action was taken; awaiting further input; and will be on the July 6th agenda for formal approval.

11. Venue Restrictions or Regulations – Discussion – Administrator Johnson presented the growing concern over unpermitted event venues selling alcohol and charging admission without proper approvals. Mr. Johnson proposed making special events a special exception under zoning, requiring planning and Board review. County Attorney Kemp stated to make it a special exception under the zoning ordinance, it must be sponsored by a commissioner; Mr. Larko accepted the sponsorship and made a motion to approve the special exception under the zoning ordinance, seconded by Mr. Folsom.

12. Ordinance Codification Review – The drafted codification has been reviewed; noted need to update meeting day language and expect further amendments after publication. The Board will further address at the July 6th meeting.

13. Stanley Road Closure/Abandonment – The Board discussed a request to close Stanley Road that was submitted by Mr. Jason Rex during the November 2025 regular meeting. This topic was tabled by the Board for further review during the June 1st meeting. The school bus and community use was noted by the Board. The Board will address this item at the July 6th meeting.

14. Opioid Funding Request – Board of Health – Board will discuss during the July 6th meeting.

15. Van Quotes – Extension Office – (Formal Action after Discussion) – Extension Office, Michasia Dowdy, CEC/ANR Agent, submitted three quotes for a van.

1. Langdale Ford, Valdosta, GA	\$63,908
2. Wade Ford Fleet, Smyrna, GA	\$63,900
3. Wood Folsom Auto Group, Canton, GA	\$63,429

After review and discussion, the Board approved the purchase from Langdale Ford for \$63,908 on the motion by Mr. Folsom, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. Although Langdale Ford was slightly higher priced the Board’s decision was based on local service convenience. The funds are budgeted.

16. Data Center Ordinance – Specific Direction from Board of Commissioners – Discussion – A Moratorium is currently in place. Administrator stated to the Board that the ordinance should contain what they want and do not want; it is their decision how it is laid out. He suggested the Board put on paper their desired criteria for what they want and submit it to him over the next week. Once that is complete, a template can be created and a committee formed. Will add to agenda for July 6th meeting.

V. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & DEPARTMENTS

A. Brooks County Finance Department – Janice Jarvis, Finance Director – Reported that the Finance Department will begin closing out the fiscal year and get ready to start on the audit. Ms. Jarvis will confirm continued engagement with CKH; seek a new quote for annual audit services; and obtain an Audit Firm Engagement Letter.

B. Brooks County 911/EMA – LaToya Hampton, Director – Director Hampton presented activities/projects for June 2026.

- Calls for May were 2415.
- June calls as of today is 2042.
- Interview on Wednesday with potential new hires.

Brooks County EMA

- June 1, 2026, Highway 122 and 333 diesel spills as well as sod and bricks.
- June 2, 2026, went back to check the spill, called EPA again because it was not cleaned up correctly.
- June 7-9, 2026, Department of Education Training in Savannah.
- June 15-21, 2026, severe weather week for the county with severe thunderstorms and Code activated for citizens.
- Check for \$1,000 received from United Way for warming shelters. Check was delayed but delivered to Janice and emailed Mike Smith with United Way thanking him.
- Weather advisory for citizens to stay cool and hydrated due to extreme temperatures.
- Water given to safety personnel in all departments to stay hydrated.
- Bethlehem Church – the state wants a copy of the clean up and picture of the marker for their records being that it was the only historic building that was damaged and destroyed by both Idalia and Helene Hurricanes.
- Recognition from FEMA in reference to cleaning, and restoration of the county after Hurricane Helene. Received an award and challenge coin.

C. Brooks County Fire Department Report – Chief Weeks – Chief Weeks provided a report for June 2026 for projects/activities.

- Received 114 calls for service from May 26, 2026, through June 29, 2026.
- No structure fires, no vehicle fires, 10 brush/outside fires, 14 fire alarms, three controlled burns; 3 powerlines down; there were 32 medical calls, six vehicle accidents, four extrications, 24 cancellations/nothing found; and 18 trees were down.

Structure Fires - NONE

Training: Driver training 14 hours and water source training 12 hours.

Update: We have completed our hose testing, hydrant testing and painting for this year.

Morven: Nothing new

Employee Update: We are in the process of reviewing applicants to hire for two full-time and three part-time positions.

D. Brooks County Public Works Department Report - Kyle Christian - Project Manager – Provided the Road Department report for June 2026:

- During the month of June, the Road Department received 43 work orders and completed 46 work orders. It was a busy month with all the rain. We had a lot of trees that came down and needed to be cleaned up.
- **District 1:** Graded roads, added material where it was needed to fix washouts, built up roads, cleaned ditches and culverts, removed trees; busted beaver dams. We repaired the bridge at Hempstead Road installing new boards. We installed a new pipe on Beaty Road; harvested 34 loads of sand from Bourquine Road.
- **District 2:** Built up roads, graded roads, removed fallen trees, busted beaver dams; cleaned ditches and culverts. We harvested a total of 40 loads of sand from Wheeler Road and Union Church Road.
- **District 3:** Graded roads, cleaned ditches and culverts, removed fallen trees, busted beaver dams; and repaired potholes. We repaired potholes on County Road 78 and repaired a driveway on Price Road.
- **District 4:** Built up roads, graded roads, clean ditches and culverts, filled potholes, repaired driveways, removed trees and debris; busted beaver dams; and added materials where needed to fix washouts. We repaired potholes on Old Coffee Road, Peach Street, Tesse Trail, Hitch Street, Pine Forest Drive, and Parkview Circle.
- **District 5:** Graded roads, busted beaver dams, cleaned ditches and culverts, repaired potholes, removed trees; and added materials to roads. We harvested 43 loads of sand from Roundtree Road, Stanley Road, and Haddock Road. We repaired potholes on Snow Avenue and Hickory Head Road. We repaired a driveway on Renfro Road.
- We are continuing to clean out ditches and existing pipes as well as installing new pipes where needed and helping water to flow when it rains. We are also harvesting sand and reusing it in areas that need it. We will continue to keep Brooks County beautiful one road at a time.

VI. FORMAL ACTION REQUESTS – Commissioners Discussion with Action - None

VII. WORK SESSION & NEW BUSINESS

- Regular Meeting Agenda Review – July 6, 2026 – The Board reviewed/discussed the agenda for the upcoming meeting. Formal actions to be added to the agenda:
 - Planning Commission Board Appointment

- DFCS Board Appointment
- Technology Fee Resolution for Clerk of Court
- FLOST IGA
- Ordinance Codification
- Stanley Road Closure/Abandonment
- Data Center Ordinance
- Opioid Funding Request – Board of Health

Administrator Johnson - Updates (Community and Commissioners)

□ **Commissioners Matters**

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5

Madam Chair reminded everyone of the upcoming July 4th event at 6pm on the Courthouse grounds with entertainment, food, and a laser light show.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting on the motion by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Mr. Folsom at 6:17pm.

Mrs. Myra Exum, Chair

Mr. James (Buddy) Johnson, County Administrator

Ms. Patricia A. Williams, County Clerk