

1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2
3 **April 1, 2026**

4
5 The regular meeting of the York County Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 4:30
6 PM at the York County Government Building in Alfred.

7
8 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

- 9
10 Richard R. Dutremble
11 Richard Clark
12 Robert Andrews
13 Donna Ring
14 Justin Chenette

15
16 **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** None

17
18 County Manager Greg Zinser, Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss, Facilities
19 Director Rick deRochemont, EMA Director Art Cleaves (via Zoom), EMA Deputy Director Megan
20 Arsenault, District Attorney Kathryn Slattery, YCDA Office Manager Jennifer Kern, Register of Deeds
21 Nancy Hammond, Deputy Register of Deeds Wendy Caiazzo, Sheriff William King, Deputy Chief Jeremy
22 Forbes, Jail Administrator Lori Marks, RTC Director Roger Hooper and Finance Director Lori Lemieux
23 were present at the meeting.
24

25 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

26
27 **ITEM**

28
29 **1. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

30 None.

31
32 **2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

33
34 a. Commissioners' meeting of March 4, 2026

35
36 Commissioner Clark had two changes to the March 4, 2026, minutes. Line 39 remove the extra \$ and line
37 97 change he to she.

38
39 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2026, as amended.**

40 **Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

41 **Motion carried 4:0 with Commissioner Chenette abstaining**

42
43 b. Commissioners' meeting of March 18, 2026

44
45 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2026, as presented.**

46 **Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**

47 **Motion carried 5:0**

48
49 **3. TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

50 a. Warrants to be approved on March 18, 2026, in the amount of \$2,799,257.19

51
52 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated March 18, 2026, in the**
53 **amount of \$2,799,257.19. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
54 **Motion carried 5:0**

55
56 b. Warrants to be approved on March 25, 2026, in the amount of \$1,665,204.34

57
58 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the warrant dated March 25, 2026, in the**
59 **amount of \$1,665,204.34. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
60 **Motion carried 5:0**

61
62 **4. TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

63 None.

64
65 **5. NEW BUSINESS**

66
67 a. Deputy County Manager/HR Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss to present new hires/transfers:

- 68 i. To seek hiring approval of Jayme Lappin in the position of Reserve Public safety
69 Instructor II in the Regional Training Center office with an effective date of April 13,
70 2026.

71
72 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Jayme Lappin in the position of**
73 **Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the Regional Training Center office with an effective date of**
74 **April 13, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
75 **Motion carried 5:0**

- 76 ii. To seek hiring approval of Steven Langelier in the position of Reserve Public Safety
77 Instructor II in the Regional Training Center with an effective date of April 13, 2026

78 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Stevem Langelier in the position of**
79 **Reserve Public Safety Instructor II in the Regional Training Center office with an effective date of**
80 **April 13, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
81 **Motion carried 5:0**

- 82 iii. To seek hiring approval of Emily Dewitt in the position of full time Finance Generalist in
83 the Finance Office with an effective date of April 21, 2026

84 Commissioner Ring inquired whether the position was salaried or hourly. Director Hutchins-Corliss
85 responded that it is an hourly position replacing an employee who transitioned to another role within the
86 Finance Department. Commissioner Ring also asked if this position received 41 days of PTO which
87 Director Hutchins-Corliss confirmed.

88
89 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Emily Dewitt in the position of full-**
90 **time Finance Generalist in the Finance office with an effective date of April 21, 2026.**
91 **Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
92 **Motion carried 5:0**

93 iv. To seek hiring approval of Dr. Mark D. Lim in the position of Reserve Medical Director in
94 the York County Recovery Center with an effective date of April 2, 2026.

95 Discussion ensued regarding the position also overseeing the jail medical services. The position was
96 amended to the reserve York County Medical Director as opposed to reserve Medical Director in the York
97 County Recovery Center.

98 Commissioner Clark asked where the funding for the position would come from. County Manager Zinser
99 replied that the funds are already budgeted in the current fund and are also included in the proposed
100 budget, utilizing existing funds designated for this type of position.

101 Commissioner Ring asked what department the position falls under. County Manger Zinser replied it is
102 under the Regional Recovery Center.

103 Commissioner Chenette asked for clarification on the reserve portion of the position compared to a
104 regular position. Director Hutchins-Corliss explained that the individual would initially be used as a
105 consultant to assist with setting up the recovery center and the jail. He also asked whether the position
106 was intended to become full-time. County Manager Zinser explained that the role is not expected to be
107 full-time, even once the system is fully implemented. The position is anticipated to require approximately
108 5 to 15 hours per week, depending on workload, transitioning from policy drafting and development for
109 the jail and recovery center to ongoing medical and supervisory oversight as required for such programs.

110 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Dr. Mark D. Lim in the position of**
111 **York County Medical Director with an effective date of April 2, 2026. Commissioner Andrews**
112 **seconded the motion.**
113 **Motion carried 5:0**

114 v. To seek hiring approval of Shawn Sanborn in the position of full time Patrol Deputy in the
115 Sheriff's office with an effective date of April 6, 2026

116 Commissioner Ring asked whether the rehire included a signing bonus. Director Hutchins-Corliss
117 responded that there is no signing bonus for a rehire and that the individual must be hired under the
118 previously approved policy, at Step 5. Director Hutchins-Corliss noted a recent change to the corrections
119 sign-on bonus practice, stating that any employee who resigns and is rehired within one year will no
120 longer be eligible for a sign-on bonus. She explained that this policy was not in effect at the time of the
121 most recent hire but will apply moving forward.

122
123 **MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the hiring of Shawn Sanborn in the position of**
124 **full time Patrol Deputy in the Sheriff's office with an effective date of April 6, 2026. Commissioner**
125 **Andrews seconded the motion.**
126 **Motion carried 5:0**

127 b. To Begin FY 2027 budget review

128 i. County Manager Zinser to give overview and review administration budgets
129

130 County Manager Zinser provided an overview of the proposed county budget, noting that commissioners
131 did not have initial questions or comments. Commissioners have had the budget for approximately one
132 week and are generally familiar with its structure, costs, and revenues.
133

134 The proposed budget reflects an overall increase of approximately 9.18% over the prior year, with a
135 projected tax impact increase of 9.99%. The County Manager stated that, while not ideal, the increase
136 compares favorably to those seen in other cities and towns and is on the lower end of current budget
137 trends.
138

139 Key cost drivers in the budget include energy costs and, most significantly, the funding of the Recovery
140 Center and the Training Center, which represent the largest impacts. The budget proposes only one new
141 position, a Facilities Technician in the Facilities Department, to begin in January 2027. All other changes
142 reflect a combination of increases and decreases across departments. Wages, benefits, and certain training
143 expenses have increased, as expected.
144

145 Reviewing the Supplemental section, the County Manager explained the proposed county assessments
146 based on the 2026 state valuations, which are ultimately sent to municipalities. He emphasized the
147 importance of understanding valuation changes, as they directly affect how the tax burden is distributed
148 among towns. This year, valuation shifts and municipal revaluations mean some towns will pay a larger
149 share than in prior years.
150

151 The proposed budget represents a \$2.463 million increase in county taxes. The budget remains under the
152 LD 1 limit, which would technically allow for an increase of up to 15.61% based on current assessments.
153 Significant valuation increases were noted, including a \$635 million increase in Saco, resulting in a larger
154 share of the county tax burden for that city. Similar upward valuation shifts were noted for Kittery and
155 Biddeford. The County Manager reported having spoken with Saco's City Manager, who indicated their
156 municipal budget increase was roughly in line with the county's proposal at that time.
157

158 County Manager Zinser concluded by inviting high-level questions from the board and outlined the plan
159 to proceed with department-by-department budget reviews, beginning with the Sheriff's Office, followed
160 by administrative budgets as time permits.
161

162 Commissioner Ring expressed disappointment that, as of April 1, the County was reviewing the budget
163 without having received the FY25 audit. She stated that receiving the audit prior to the budget process had
164 been her past experience and felt strongly that the absence of audited financial information limited the
165 commissioners' ability to fully evaluate the budget.
166

167 County Manager Zinser responded that the audit was submitted the previous night to the Federal Audit
168 Clearinghouse to meet the required federal deadline. He indicated that the general fund audit should be
169 available for commissioner review in the coming weeks. He explained that the delay is largely due to a
170 shortage of auditors statewide and regionally, noting that this situation is not unique to the County. The
171 audit process began in November, and the timeline is driven by auditor availability, ongoing questions,
172 testing, and internal control reviews, rather than a fixed completion date. He stated there is little leverage
173 to accelerate the process and acknowledged the frustration, emphasizing that the issue has become the
174 norm rather than an exception.
175

176 The County Manager also noted that RHR Smith's work has been thorough and of good quality, and he
177 had no concerns with their performance. He explained that the County had only one response during the
178 last audit bid process and cautioned that rebidding could risk receiving no proposals. The audit is a sizable

179 engagement, costing approximately \$50,000, and the limited auditor pool has impacted many
180 municipalities and counties.

181
182 Commissioner Chenette asked about expectations and timelines communicated to the auditor. County
183 Manager Zinser explained that the audit process involves multiple stages, fieldwork, follow-up questions,
184 testing, and reviews, and does not operate on a guaranteed timeline. Commissioner Dutremble added that
185 widespread auditor retirements over recent years have contributed significantly to current delays and that
186 similar backlogs are occurring elsewhere.

187
188 Commissioner Ring raised concern about the designation of surplus without an audit being finalized.
189 Commissioner Dutremble responded that adjustments or corrections can be made if audit results differ
190 from preliminary figures. County Manager Zinser added that all financial information reflected in reports
191 is already in the County's system and would ultimately align with the audit, and staff can provide detailed
192 reports or answer questions as needed in the interim.

193
194 County Manager Zinser concluded by reiterating that the County met the federal audit deadline, which is
195 critical from a compliance standpoint, particularly given the volume of federal funds administered by the
196 County.

197
198 ii. Major Lori Marks to present the jail budget

199
200 County Manager Zinser introduced Jail Administrator Lori Marks and provided a high-level overview of
201 the proposed jail budget. He reported that the county assessment for the jail is projected to increase by
202 approximately 7%, while the overall jail budget reflects a more moderate increase of 5.7% over the prior
203 year.

204
205 He explained that staffing levels are being budgeted consistent with prior years and in accordance with
206 the collective bargaining agreement, with no significant changes in positions. Revenues for the jail are
207 generally stable, with some increases and reductions offsetting one another, resulting in no major revenue
208 shifts overall.

209
210 County Manager Zinser highlighted that cost increases occur primarily outside of wages and benefits,
211 noting rising expenses for computer software, propane, electricity, inmate medical care, and food services.
212 He emphasized that these increases are largely driven by higher commodity and energy costs, rather than
213 operational changes.

214
215 He then turned the presentation over to Jail Administrator Lori Marks to review the jail budget in detail.

216
217 Jail Administrator Lori Marks thanked the commissioners and offered to review the jail budget either line
218 by line or by focusing on areas requesting increases. She stated that there are four primary areas where
219 increases are requested, noting that many other costs, such as utilities and insurance, are largely outside
220 departmental control due to external market increases.

221
222 Administrator Marks explained that requested increases are largely driven by inflation and rising
223 commodity costs, similar to the prior year. The key requested increases include:

- 224
- Food Service: Increased due to higher overall food prices.
 - Inmate Supplies: Increased to reflect inflation and higher supply costs; Administrator Marks
225 noted ongoing efforts to control costs by researching alternative vendors and options.
- 226

- 227 • Uniforms and Safety Equipment: Increased due to higher costs for required equipment and
228 uniforms.
- 229 • Food and Beverage: A small increase requested to cover limited staff-related events such as
230 Corrections Week, a holiday gathering, and providing food during audits or Department of
231 Corrections inspections.

232
233 County Manager Zinser clarified that the food and beverage line item is listed as Line 50325 on the first
234 page of the budget.

235
236 County Manager Zinser further explained an increase in computer software expenses (Line 50362), noting
237 that it reflects implementation of the new Motorola Records Management System, which will also appear
238 in the Sheriff's Office budget. He stated that the system was the result of a year-long bid process and
239 represents good value for its cost, providing a substantial upgrade from the county's previous system.

240
241 Commissioner Ring asked about a 7% increase shown under department head wages and whether a
242 standard cost-of-living adjustment was included. County Manager Zinser explained that non-union
243 employees are budgeted for a 4% cost-of-living increase, and that the apparent 7% reflects how wages are
244 calculated across both fiscal and calendar years, including step and longevity adjustments. He noted that
245 the budget uses a daily rate calculation, meaning actual increases vary depending on hire date, step
246 increases, and timing within the fiscal year. Finance Director Lori Lemieux and County Manager Zinser
247 confirmed that this methodology is applied consistently across all departments and explains variations
248 seen in wage lines.

249
250 Commissioner Chenette asked about the pre-employment screening budget, noting that only
251 approximately \$1,000 had been spent to date despite a \$16,000 budgeted amount. He questioned whether
252 the full amount was expected to be spent and whether screening services could be shared with the County
253 to avoid duplication.

254
255 Jail Administrator Lori Marks explained that the jail's hiring process operates somewhat independently
256 due to its unique staffing challenges. She noted that certain screening tools previously used, such as
257 polygraphs and mental health evaluations, had not been utilized over the past year due to staffing
258 shortages and operational constraints. She stated that the department is now considering implementing
259 new or alternative screening tools, which would likely result in increased costs in the upcoming fiscal
260 year.

261
262 County Manager Zinser clarified that hiring is handled through Human Resources, but jail staff are
263 subject to additional considerations not applied to general fund employees. He explained that traditional
264 screening tools such as polygraphs and psychological exams are costly and have not reliably predicted
265 future performance. The County is instead discussing with the union a new approach involving periodic,
266 random integrity-based reviews of correctional officers throughout the year. He compared the concept to
267 random drug screening and stated that this approach may be more effective in addressing issues
268 proactively. Costs associated with this new process are reflected in the budget request.

269
270 Commissioner Ring asked about a proposed \$140,000 increase in food service costs and whether it was
271 contractual. Administrator Marks explained that food service operates on a sliding-scale contract based on
272 a per-meal cost, which fluctuates with inmate population levels. Lower inmate counts result in higher per-
273 meal costs. She reported an average weekly cost of approximately \$12,500 for inmate meals, assuming
274 current trends continue.

275 Administrator Marks reported that the average daily inmate population has recently been lower, averaging
276 approximately 155 inmates, compared to prior levels closer to 190. County Manager Zinser noted that this
277 decline could negatively impact costs in future years.

278
279 Commissioner Chenette asked about a 20% increase in inmate supplies and whether that increase
280 reflected anticipated inmate population growth. Administrator Marks clarified that inmate supplies
281 include required items such as hygiene products and paper goods, not food or clothing, which are separate
282 line items. The increase reflects higher supply costs rather than inmate growth.

283
284 Commissioner Dutremble asked about state revenue projections, noting uncertainty in final figures.
285 County Manager Zinser stated that revenue assumptions were kept flat due to uncertainty, describing
286 projections as conservative. He noted pending legislation that could increase jail funding by adjusting the
287 base amount and tying increases to CPI, which would be a significant benefit if approved.

288
289 When questioned by Commissioner Ring, County Manager Zinser also discussed boarding revenues from
290 Oxford County, stating the County is conservatively estimating those revenues. Administrator Marks
291 explained that Oxford County inmates typically average 15–20 inmates, occasionally up to 50, and while
292 not a major driver of costs, they help offset per-meal food expenses. Costs associated with housing
293 Oxford inmates are covered through a daily boarding rate.

294
295 Commissioner Chenette asked about employee training and development expenditures, noting lower
296 spending to date compared to the budgeted amount. Administrator Marks explained that the majority of
297 training costs are related to Maine Criminal Justice Academy training for new hires, with additional
298 training occurring as opportunities or promotions arise. She noted there is no fixed training template, and
299 expenses vary year to year.

300
301 The discussion concluded with acknowledgments and no further questions.

302
303 Commissioner Clark expressed concern about the small font size and poor readability of the budget
304 documents. County Manager Zinser explained that additional requested details, including year-to-date
305 figures, have required more columns, which compresses the layout. Commissioner Clark requested that
306 future budget documents be presented in a larger font. County Manager Zinser acknowledged the issue
307 and noted that expanded page formats or larger paper may be needed to balance readability with added
308 detail.

309
310 iii. Sheriff William King to present budget

311
312 Sheriff King thanked the commissioners and emphasized that his department kept budget requests to a
313 minimum, recognizing other financial pressures facing the county. He noted that most line-item increases
314 and decreases are contractual or unavoidable operational changes.

315 Key points included:

- 316 • Computer Software: A major cost driver is the new Flex system replacing IMC, budgeted at
317 \$55,900.
- 318 • County Vehicle Maintenance: Requested an increase to \$35,000, citing a consistent pattern of
319 exceeding this line in prior years and the need for a more realistic allocation.
- 320 • Equipment & Technical Hardware: A 37% increase reflects the need to replace outdated cruisers
321 and body cameras.
- 322 • Minor Equipment: Adjustments in this line are primarily contractual.
- 323

324 Sheriff King concluded by inviting questions and noted that the Chief Deputy was present to assist.
325

326 Commissioner Ring raised concerns regarding the Sheriff's request to purchase seven additional vehicles,
327 noting that several vehicles are currently not in service. She cited inventory showing six 2026 vehicles
328 and two 2025 vehicles parked and not yet deployed, with only two 2025 vehicles recently placed into
329 service. Commissioner Ring stated that approving additional vehicles would result in approximately 15
330 vehicles requiring upfitting, with setup costs exceeding \$10,000 per vehicle. She expressed concern about
331 vehicles with low mileage (under 70,000 miles) remaining idle for extended periods and suggested this
332 year may present an opportunity for cost savings to taxpayers by delaying additional purchases.
333 Commissioner Ring also questioned whether the cost of vehicle upfitting contributes to overruns in the
334 county maintenance budget.
335

336 Sheriff King responded that the department follows a long-standing vehicle replacement and rotation plan
337 that has proven effective. He emphasized that maintaining spare vehicles prevents service interruptions
338 caused by accidents or mechanical failures, including the possibility of multiple vehicles being taken out
339 of service simultaneously. He noted that law enforcement vehicles experience significantly greater wear
340 than personal vehicles, and that 70,000 miles of police use is not comparable to typical civilian driving.
341 Vehicles generally require replacement after approximately 100,000 miles due to the demands of police
342 operations. Sheriff King urged the Commissioners not to abandon the established rotation, stating that
343 doing so could result in vehicle shortages in future years.
344

345 County Manager Zinser provided additional clarification, noting that vehicle purchases approved in a
346 given budget year are typically delivered a year or more later, meaning vehicles currently arriving were
347 approved in a prior cycle. He explained that the County maintains a successful vehicle resale program,
348 with retired vehicles sold at auction and proceeds deposited into the Sheriff's vehicle reserve fund. These
349 funds are generally sufficient to cover the cost of upfitting new vehicles, reducing budgetary impact. He
350 further stated that the Sheriff's maintenance budget has increased primarily due to rising insurance
351 deductibles associated with frequent accidents, particularly deer strikes, which now carry a deductible of
352 approximately \$2,500 per incident. A new budget line has been established to track vehicle repair
353 insurance deductibles, estimated at approximately \$50,000 annually. Having spare vehicles allows
354 uninterrupted service while damaged vehicles are repaired. County Manager Zinser noted that the County
355 has previously agreed to a practice of purchasing seven vehicles per year, which supports fleet stability
356 and operational readiness.
357

358 Commissioner Ring asked whether the County currently has contracts in place with all labor unions.

359 County Manager Zinser confirmed that contracts are in place and noted that the Fraternal Order of Police
360 (FOP) contract was front-loaded. He stated that the two-year contract value totaled a 13% increase, which
361 included the previously approved increase.
362

363 Commissioner Ring asked specifically about the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). County Manager
364 Zinser clarified that the current COLA for the FOP is 4%. When asked about Corrections, he stated their
365 increase is believed to be 3% or 4%, though the exact structure may vary by contract year, and he offered
366 to provide confirmation.
367

368 Commissioner Ring then raised a separate concern regarding the listing of Andrew Buckland as a Reserve
369 Court Security Officer, stating he was not hired for that role and believed he had previously served as a
370 Reserve Corrections Officer. She stated she was unaware of any reserve court security officers and
371 expressed concern that corrections training differs significantly from court security or law enforcement
372 duties.

373 County Manager Zinser responded that the Board had approved a policy several years ago allowing
374 reserve officers within the Sheriff's Office to perform any reserve function for which they are properly
375 trained and qualified, including corrections, deputy, or court security roles. He stated that as long as
376 training standards are met, reserves may serve in those capacities. He acknowledged he would need to
377 locate the specific policy for confirmation and offered to follow up.
378

379 Commissioner Ring requested to review the policy if it exists, noting her concern about role transfers and
380 training distinctions. County Manager Zinser reiterated that he would look into the matter and provide
381 additional information.
382

383 Commissioner Chenette requested clarification regarding two budget line items. First, he asked about the
384 Weapons and Munitions line, noting that there were no FY25 actual expenditures and inquired whether
385 this was a newly created line item in the FY26 budget.
386

387 County Manager Zinser clarified that while the line item itself is new, the expense is not. He explained
388 that weapons and ammunition costs were previously charged to a different budget line, which was
389 consistently overspent. The creation of the new line item was intended to better track those costs,
390 particularly in response to increased ammunition prices.
391

392 Commissioner Chenette also asked for clarification on the "Other Miscellaneous Supplies" line item.
393 County Manager Zinser stated that staff would review that line item and provide a breakdown of the
394 expenses included, after which the information could be discussed further.
395

396 Commissioner Dutremble reviewed the vehicle inventory and noted that more than 20 vehicles show over
397 50,000 miles. Based on his experience, he stated that vehicles sitting idle may reflect higher effective
398 wear and mileage than reported. He referenced the previous budget year when the Budget Committee
399 reduced vehicle purchases from seven to six, noting that the long-standing intent of purchasing seven
400 vehicles annually has been to avoid fleet shortages caused by breakdowns.
401

402 Sheriff King added that the department is actively recruiting and currently has several vacancies. He
403 stated that newly acquired vehicles will be assigned to incoming personnel, supporting operational needs.
404

405 Commissioner Ring provided historical context, stating that for many years the Sheriff's Office operated
406 under a five-vehicle rotation. Due to budget constraints, the rotation was later reduced to three vehicles
407 per year, creating a backlog. She noted that the increase to seven vehicles annually was implemented as a
408 means of catching up, not expanding fleet size. Commissioner Ring stated that the department now
409 appears caught up, with approximately 21 positions requiring vehicles, of which 16 are frontline patrol
410 officers. She emphasized she supports fully equipping frontline staff but questioned whether the
411 seven-vehicle rotation remains necessary.
412

413 County Manager Zinser disagreed with some of the position and vehicle counts, explaining that as union
414 contracts and internal cost allocations change, the County will be purchasing vehicles and charging
415 internal rental costs, which must be accounted for in the rotation. He acknowledged that resale income
416 contributes to costs but clarified that the County must front the purchase costs before those revenues are
417 realized over time. He also stated that a formal, consistent vehicle rotation did not exist in earlier budgets,
418 and that adoption of the current methodology required significant discussion and approval due to prior
419 fleet management challenges.

420 Sheriff King added that the established rotation proved effective during the COVID-19 period, noting that
421 while other jurisdictions struggled to maintain operational vehicles, the County remained adequately
422 equipped.

423
424 iv. District Attorney Kathryn Slattery to present budget

425
426 District Attorney Slattery presented the District Attorney's Office budget, noting that overall increases are
427 modest. She reported an increase in the Legal Research line item due to contractual costs. She also noted
428 a significant reduction in postage expenses resulting from increased use of online and electronic
429 processes.

430
431 She stated that software and software maintenance costs have increased slightly, but emphasized that
432 aside from these items, the office is not requesting any major new expenditures and is focused on
433 maintaining status quo operations.

434
435 District Attorney Slattery also acknowledged the efforts of staff, noting that the office relocated to a new
436 facility three years ago, which required significant adjustment. She stated that the office is now
437 undergoing another major transition with the implementation of electronic court filing (e-file). She
438 described the transition as a substantial change in workflow and commended staff for their dedication and
439 adaptability during the process.

440
441 District Attorney Slattery concluded by expressing appreciation for her staff's efforts and indicated her
442 willingness to answer any questions.

443
444 Commissioner Chenette questioned the relationship between a reported increase in overtime expenditures
445 (approximately 150%) and a decrease in staff wages and asked whether the office is adequately staffed or
446 compensating for vacancies through overtime.

447
448 District Attorney Slattery stated she was not prepared to provide a detailed explanation at that time. She
449 noted the office has experienced prolonged understaffing due to long-term absences and ongoing
450 recruitment challenges. Several positions remain vacant, and overtime has been necessary to ensure
451 required work continues.

452
453 Commissioner Clark asked whether the decrease in general wages was attributable to staffing losses or
454 the hiring of new employees at lower pay rates.

455
456 District Attorney Slattery responded that the office has had several significant retirements in recent years.
457 She indicated that replacement staff were hired afterward and deferred further details to County Manager
458 Zinser.

459
460 County Manager Zinser thanked the District Attorney for her patience during the prolonged heating repair
461 issues at the Biddeford office. He expressed concern with the county's reliance on leased space and noted
462 the county does not own the Biddeford building, limiting control over maintenance and repairs.

463 County Manager Zinser stated the county takes pride in maintaining its owned facilities but does not have
464 the same control or responsiveness when subject to a landlord. He characterized the Biddeford office as a
465 marginal and problematic long-term solution, citing the heating system outage that has persisted for
466 approximately two months.

467 County Manager Zinser explained that county staff have provided supplemental heaters and continued
468 coordinating repairs, which are now scheduled for completion on April 8, weather permitting. He noted
469 landlord scheduling and weather delays have prolonged the repair timeline.
470

471 He further explained that under current law, the county is unable to purchase property outside of Alfred,
472 which prevents acquisition of land or buildings in Biddeford. He referenced prior discussions regarding
473 the modernization of county government and the need to consider legislative changes that would allow
474 the county to purchase property closer to the courthouse.
475

476 Commissioner Dutremble asked how the county acquired other properties it owns.
477 County Manager Zinser responded that county-owned properties are located in Alfred, where land
478 ownership is permitted. He explained the historical legislative limitations related to the courthouse
479 relocation and requested assistance from county attorneys in identifying any potential legal remedies or
480 legislative solutions.
481

482 Commissioner Ring asked about the significant reduction in postage expenses.
483

484 District Attorney Slattery explained that the office previously mailed discovery materials but has
485 transitioned to providing electronic links, resulting in substantially lower postage costs.
486

487 District Attorney Slattery reported she met with the York County Children's Advocacy Center prior to the
488 meeting. She stated the CAC is operating under new leadership with new forensic interviewers, the
489 facility improvements are complete, and interviews resumed during the week of March 9. She reported
490 operations have returned to normal and expressed confidence in the current staff and direction.
491

492 v. EMA Deputy Director Megan Arsenault to present budget
493

494 EMA Deputy Director Megan Arsenault reported that the proposed EMA budget includes some increases
495 but remains largely stable despite significant accomplishments since the last budget cycle. These include
496 expanded community outreach, continued mitigation and coastal resilience initiatives, and development
497 of special teams, including the newly established Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

498 Since the prior budget season, EMA added 65 new special team members, primarily volunteers with some
499 paid reserve staff. These teams were activated 79 times in 2025. To support these efforts, EMA is
500 requesting increased funding related to special teams, reserve accounts, reserve employees, and
501 equipment maintenance.

502 Deputy Director Arsenault also noted recent changes at FEMA and confirmed an anticipated \$100,000+
503 reduction in one federal grant in future performance periods. In response, EMA has begun succession
504 planning to protect core positions. As part of that effort, the budget includes a request to shift one EMA
505 Division Coordinator position from Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding to county
506 funding, while continuing to maximize federal grant usage where possible.

507 Commissioner Chenette asked whether the current budget included any anticipated dredge-related costs
508 and expressed concern about potential unfunded obligations if federal or state support does not
509 materialize.

510 Deputy Director Arsenault confirmed that no dredge-related expenses are included in the proposed budget
511 and that the county is currently relying on grant opportunities rather than county funds.

512 County Manager Zinser provided extensive background, stating that the dredge program is a large-scale
513 and complex undertaking enabled primarily through federal disaster (Category B) funding. He explained
514 that the original assumptions about dredge operations changed significantly, and that without federal
515 funding, the county currently lacks resources to operate or further develop a dredge program. County
516 Manager Zinser stated there is no dedicated dredge funding in the budget and described the costs as
517 potentially reaching tens of millions of dollars, including substantial engineering and permitting expenses.

518 County Manager Zinser emphasized that future progress would depend on continued federal funding,
519 including a pending DHS funding bill that could provide administrative resources. He stated that if the
520 Board wished to pursue a formal county role, additional staffing and budgetary commitments would be
521 required.

522 Commissioner Chenette asked whether municipal user fees were expected to offset dredge costs and
523 whether anticipated revenues should be reflected in the budget.

524 County Manager Zinser clarified that charging municipalities was originally discussed by a proposed
525 dredge authority, not as a county initiative. Due to federal funding requirements and lack of a viable
526 external entity, the county retained responsibility. He noted that prior dredge projects in Wells, Saco, and
527 Old Orchard Beach exceeded \$5 million, with significant engineering costs, and that municipal
528 willingness to fund future dredging remains uncertain.

529 Commissioner Chenette stated that strategic analysis is needed to understand what funding is being
530 pursued for routine erosion maintenance versus long-term beach stabilization and to identify any funding
531 gaps. She suggested additional board-level discussion or subcommittee review.

532 County Manager Zinser agreed, stating future conversations should begin with municipalities to assess
533 willingness to commit funding. He cited Barnstable County as an example of a dedicated dredge program
534 funded annually but emphasized that municipal participation would be essential.

535 EMA Director Arthur Cleaves outlined a phased approach:

- 536 • Phase 1: Category B disaster response work (budget neutral)
- 537 • Phase 2: Dependent on CDS grant funding for engineering
- 538 • Phase 3: Potential long-term solutions, including an intergovernmental agreement with the Army
539 Corps of Engineers and possible local taxation to support ongoing maintenance

540 Cleaves noted efforts to pursue 10-year permitting to streamline future dredge work.

541 In response to questions, County Manager Zinser and Cleaves confirmed there are no anticipated county
542 costs to store the dredge, with the Town of Wells providing free storage and maintenance support at this
543 time.

544 Commissioner Clark stressed that dredging services cannot continue without clear municipal buy-in and
545 financial commitment. He stated that the county should not assume unilateral responsibility for projects
546 that primarily benefit individual communities.

547 Commissioner Chenette agreed, noting that some municipalities already budget for beach nourishment
548 and suggesting a follow-up meeting with Saco, Old Orchard Beach, and Wells to evaluate future
549 commitment and partnership.

550 County Manager Zinser concluded that discussions with participating municipalities are anticipated over
551 the coming months, particularly if additional grant funding is secured.

552 Commissioner Chenette stated that upcoming discussions with municipalities will be important as towns
553 are currently developing their budgets. She noted that without clear communication, municipalities may
554 not set aside funds for future dredge work, potentially missing an opportunity to plan for anticipated
555 costs.

556 County Manager Zinser responded that municipalities should be planning for dredge-related costs
557 regardless of county involvement. He suggested an initial collaborative step could include municipalities
558 contributing toward funding a staff position to reduce the burden on EMA and support coordination
559 efforts. County Manager Zinser emphasized that EMA staff continue to actively pursue additional CDS
560 grant requests and maintain regular communication with the federal delegation. He stated that if new
561 funding is secured, the county would likely allocate resources to hire a position to help manage and
562 advance the program, which would also support future discussions with municipalities once funding is
563 available.

564 Commissioner Dutremble commented that he had originally been lobbied to support the dredge program
565 with assurances that state legislation and funding would follow. He noted that an initial funding
566 expectation of approximately \$760,000 did not materialize and expressed concern that promises were
567 made without follow-through. He stated this underscores the need for effective project management and
568 realistic funding commitments.

569

570 vi. Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond to present budget
571

572 County Manager Zinser expressed appreciation for the work of the Deeds Department and for his working
573 relationship with the Register and Deputy Register. He noted that the county is reducing some archival
574 support previously associated with Paige, who continues to assist on a limited basis. Paige is currently
575 helping Andrew O'Neill, Records Management Specialist, coordinate with the Maine State Archives and
576 address matters related to an executed Memorandum of Understanding.

577 County Manager Zinser stated that Andrew O'Neill is expected to provide an update to the Board in May
578 regarding ongoing archival work. He noted that the transition is progressing as planned and that there
579 were no significant issues to report at this time.

580 Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond reported that her department is not requesting any major budget
581 increases and stated that current staffing levels are working well. She noted that upgrades are being
582 planned to support improvements to the department's database, with associated equipment costs to be
583 funded through the Preservation Account, resulting in no impact to the operating budget.

584 Hammond highlighted work completed during the past fiscal year related to the Fraud Commission,
585 including the development of a public informational pamphlet providing guidance on fraud concerns and
586 resources. She noted the pamphlet has been well received.

587 Hammond also discussed recent legislation affecting revenue, including implementation of the real estate
588 transfer "mansion tax," which is expected to increase revenues. She reported that the state had
589 temporarily retained an additional 0.8% of the county's transfer tax, which is expected to end at the close
590 of the current fiscal year. A proposal to make that increase permanent was unsuccessful, and the county is
591 anticipated to receive its full 10% share by the end of 2027.

592 County Manager Zinser thanked Hammond for her assistance during the legislative session, particularly
593 regarding LD 2124, noting that the bill ultimately shifted funding responsibility to the state's general fund
594 rather than impacting county funds. He stated that the bill passed and described the outcome as favorable.

595 Budget Clarification

596 Commissioner Ring raised a question regarding an apparent discrepancy in the elected official salary
597 figures, noting inconsistencies when calculating totals for different portions of the fiscal year.

598 County Manager Zinser acknowledged the concern and stated that staff will review the figures to
599 determine whether an error exists.

600 Discussion ensued regarding the open house series offered by the Register's office.

601 vii. Facilities Director Rick deRochemont to present budget

602
603 County Manager Zinser introduced Facilities Director Rick deRochemont and noted that the proposed
604 facilities budget reflects rising operational costs, including electricity and other commodities necessary to
605 keep county buildings functioning. County Manager Zinser also stated that the budget includes a
606 proposed increase in Director deRochemont's base pay to bring it more in line with other department
607 heads, citing the scope and responsibility of his work.

608 Director deRochemont explained that most increases in the facilities budget are largely beyond
609 departmental control and are driven by higher costs for utilities, electrical supplies, cleaning supplies, and
610 general maintenance. He noted additional needs associated with operating the training center now that it
611 has been in use, as well as preparations for a new building expected to come online later in the year. He
612 emphasized that the apparent overall increase is not attributable to one specific item.

613 County Manager Zinser highlighted concerns about fuel and electricity costs. He noted that the county
614 used its heating fuel allotment earlier than usual this season and anticipates increased costs going forward.
615 Electricity costs were described as significantly higher with limited ability to mitigate them. County
616 Manager Zinser also referenced ongoing plumbing and mechanical issues at the courthouse, including

617 recent pump failures impacting the geothermal system, noting that some repairs may be covered by
618 reserves but warrant long-term planning.

619 Commissioner Ring asked about a \$37,500 increase in heating repair costs.

620 Director deRochemont clarified that the increase applies to the two newer buildings; not the courthouse.
621 He explained that the new, all-electric buildings require quarterly preventive maintenance on numerous
622 individual units and air exchangers, resulting in higher service costs compared to traditional rooftop
623 systems.

624 County Manager Zinser added that vendor costs, filters, and materials have increased overall and that
625 recent courthouse pump repairs were separate and not included in the cited increase.

626 In response to questions, County Manager Zinser explained that certain operational maintenance costs—
627 such as elevator inspections, water systems, and septic—were intentionally centralized in the facilities
628 budget for clarity, while utilities like electricity for the training center are billed directly to that
629 department to better track true operating costs.

630 Commissioner Chenette asked whether there were any anticipated facilities expenses related to the pantry
631 building included in the budget.

632 County Manager Zinser responded that routine operational costs for the pantry building are handled
633 within the facilities budget and that recent renovations have been completed, including new flooring,
634 paint, and donated freezers and coolers. He stated there are no major capital repairs included in the
635 current budget.

636 Director deRochemont confirmed that the facilities budget covers routine maintenance only and does not
637 include major upgrades such as roofing or large system replacements.

638 County Manager Zinser noted that preliminary, high-level discussions are underway regarding a potential
639 future food hub project, which could involve replacing the existing building. He emphasized these
640 discussions are very preliminary and long-term.

641 County Manager Zinser stated that the budget includes a request for an additional maintenance position to
642 address increased workload associated with expanded facilities. He noted that while one position has been
643 proposed, additional staffing may be needed in the future and that the current request reflects a phased
644 approach to growth.

645 County Manager Zinser emphasized the importance of maintaining county buildings to a high standard
646 and ensuring they are welcoming and well cared for. He stated that the exterior condition of county
647 facilities reflects the quality of internal operations and expressed strong support for funding building and
648 grounds maintenance.

649 County Manager Zinser highlighted the value of the grounds maintenance position, noting that building
650 appearance is an important county asset. He explained that while full funding for these positions is
651 warranted, the proposed budget reflects a measured approach by spreading costs where feasible. He

652 acknowledged concerns raised about compensation and staffing commitments and stated that these roles
653 represent significant responsibilities that merit appropriate pay.

654 viii. Administration Budget Overview and Discussion

655
656 County Manager Zinser introduced the administration budget and highlighted key factors contributing to
657 changes. He explained that a notable increase in general wages reflects the transfer of the position held by
658 Rachel from the Lehman Way Fund to the General Fund, noting the move was a housekeeping correction
659 rather than a new cost. He also noted that a Finance Compliance Specialist position will be funded for six
660 months by the General Fund and six months by ARPA.

661 County Manager Zinser clarified that an apparent increase in department head wages was the result of a
662 position reclassification or movement, not a percentage-based pay increase. Associated increases in FICA
663 and Medicare were described as mandatory and tied directly to payroll changes.

664 He reported that legal expenses are projected to increase due to ongoing and anticipated needs, including
665 medical and insurance-related legal matters requiring specialized counsel. Audit services were also
666 identified as a significant expense, now shown as a separate line item due to cost and transparency
667 considerations.

668 Overall, County Manager Zinser stated that the administration budget reflects internal reallocations rather
669 than expanded staffing or new programs, with payroll adjustments aligned to existing compensation
670 policy.

671 MEDATS Payroll Clarification

672 Commissioner Ring asked for clarification regarding positions listed under the MEDATS IT Director and
673 whether those were state employees.

674 County Manager Zinser clarified that the listed MEDATS positions are county employees whose salaries
675 are 100% reimbursed through MEDATS. He explained that the county manages payroll and employment
676 administration on MEDATS' behalf, receives full salary reimbursement, and charges MEDATS an
677 additional \$40,000 annually to cover administrative costs and potential liability exposure.

678 Treasurer Budget

679 County Manager Zinser noted that the Treasurer's budget line was reset to \$500 in accordance with
680 county policy, in anticipation of a possible leadership change. He explained that the amount is included
681 regardless of whether future changes are determined by referendum.

682 Public Agencies and Scheduling

683 County Manager Zinser stated there are no changes to funding for public agencies, noting these are
684 longstanding statutory or policy-based contributions, including those required under the County
685 Extension Act.

686 He reviewed the meeting schedule, noting a meeting planned for the following Wednesday with flexibility
687 to schedule additional sessions as needed prior to Budget Committee review.

688 Medical and Dental Insurance Discussion

689 County Manager Zinser reviewed projected medical and dental insurance increases, warning that
690 utilization rates—particularly associated with county and jail operations—are significantly higher than
691 average. He advised the Board to anticipate continued cost increases.

692 Commissioner Ring commented that if insurance costs increase substantially, non-union employees
693 should potentially be required to contribute a higher share of premiums, noting perceived disparities.

694 County Manager Zinser responded that benefit levels are the result of collective bargaining agreements
695 and that comparing union and non-union benefit costs is complex due to trade-offs in retirement, wages,
696 and other benefits. He stated that the county has, in prior years, absorbed additional costs through side
697 agreements when feasible and is open to doing so again at the Board's direction. He emphasized that any
698 adjustments should be considered carefully within the broader bargaining framework.

699 c. Approval and acceptance of Forfeited Assets – ADDENDUM AGENDA ITEM

700
701 **MOTION: Commissioner Ring moved that now comes the County of York, Maine, by and through**
702 **its legislative body, the York County Board of Commissioners, and does hereby grant approval**
703 **pursuant to 15 M.R.S.A. § 5824(3) & § 55826(6) to the transfer of 50% of the above captioned**
704 **Defendant(s) in Rem #1, namely \$1,229.00 U.S. Currency, or any portion thereof, on grounds that**
705 **the York County Sheriff's Department did make a substantial contribution to the investigation of**
706 **this or a related criminal case.**

707 **WHEREFORE, the York County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve of the transfer of**
708 **the Defendants in Rem, or any portion thereof, pursuant to 15 M.R.S.A. § 5824(3) & § 55826(6) by**
709 **vote of the Commissioners on or about April 1, 2026. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion.**
710 **Motion carried 5:0**

711 **6. OLD BUSINESS**

712
713 None.

714
715 **7. TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT**
716 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR**
717 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR**
718 **NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION**
719 **WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF**
720 **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**

721
722 a. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) Personnel matters - leave of absence
723 extension

724
725 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)**
726 **(A) to consider a leave of absence extension request. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
727 **Motion carried 5:0.**

728
729 **Motion: Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Andrews**
730 **seconded the motion.**

731 **Motion carried 5:0**
732
733 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to approve the request for an extension of a leave of absence**
734 **for a period until May 30, 2026. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
735 **Motion carried 5:0**
736
737 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

738 None.
739
740 **9. ADJOURN**
741
742 **Motion: Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.**
743 **Motion carried 5:0**
744
745 Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.
746
747 Respectfully Submitted,
748
749 Patricia Murray
750 Executive Assistant to the County Manager
751

DRAFT

February 5, 2026

Dear Mr. Zinser,

Since 1965, York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC) has worked to create economic opportunity and advance social equity for York County's most vulnerable residents. Each year, we serve approximately 17,000 individuals through a broad range of services including Head Start and Early Head Start, WIC, fuel assistance, weatherization, financial coaching, free tax preparation, transportation, and outreach. We also operate Nasson Health Care, a federally qualified health center that provides integrated primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services to over 7,500 patients each year.

The individuals and families we serve often face complex challenges that extend beyond health care alone. Our work is guided by a Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) framework, which highlights the importance of integrating health and social services to achieve positive outcomes. Notably, only 20% of health outcomes are determined by access to health care, while 40% are influenced by socioeconomic factors such as income, education, and employment. Secure jobs, stable housing, and access to nutritious food are essential for good health, which in turn supports employment and social stability. SDOH strategies are also crucial for advancing health equity.

YCCAC is uniquely positioned to provide this integrated support. As both a Community Action Agency and a Community Health Center—one of fewer than twenty such organizations nationwide—we offer not only medical care but also services that address transportation, financial support, housing resources, and other key SDOH factors.

The \$20,000 we are requesting will be used to sustain and expand our transportation services, which are a lifeline for older adults and Veterans in York County. These services are crucial for ensuring access to medical care, social services, and community resources, thereby promoting health, independence, and social inclusion. Your support will directly impact the lives of those who rely on us for safe, reliable, and affordable transportation.

The need for these services is significant and growing. According to the most recent ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) report from the United Ways of Maine, 41% of York County households cannot afford a basic survival budget. This includes 73% of single female-headed households with children and 58% of seniors. Access to affordable care and economic support services is critical for these families in your community.

While our federally funded programs serve individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, many of our services—such as transportation, care at Nasson Health Care, and financial education—are available to all York County residents, regardless of income, and are reliant on community funding. Our efforts are strengthened by partnerships with municipalities and nonprofit organizations throughout York County and Maine, ensuring our clients receive the most appropriate supports.

We collaborate with organizations including homeless shelters, school districts (McKinney-Vento), housing authorities, and General Assistance offices. Our Outreach workers, who have been embedded in communities for over two decades, are familiar with local resources and partners.

YCCAC also operates a robust referral system, allowing our staff to connect clients to internal programs such as fuel assistance, WIC, and Head Start; and external agencies such as DHHS, Child Development Services, Help Me Grow Maine, Maine Families, TANF, SNAP, SSI, Caring Unlimited, Pine Tree Legal, community food pantries, York County Shelter Program, and more.

Thank you for your consideration of our funding request. Your partnership makes a tangible difference in the lives of York County residents. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 207.459.2930 or Thomas.reinauer@yccac.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Reinauer".

Tom Reinauer, Director of Transportation

Transportation Services Supporting Older Adults (65+) and Veterans in York County

Submitted by: York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC) – Transportation Program

Amount Requested: \$20,000

Purpose of Request

To support essential, community-based transportation services for York County residents, with a specific focus on Veterans and older adults aged 65+. This funding will ensure access to medical care, social services, and community resources. YCCAC provides call-ahead, scheduled services with our agency vehicles in 13 communities (our York County Transport program), along with our volunteer driver service that runs throughout York County.

Program Overview

YCCAC provides safe, reliable, and affordable transportation across York County, ensuring that the county's most vulnerable residents can access critical services. Our programs help reduce social isolation, support aging in place, and improve health outcomes by addressing transportation barriers.

We offer:

- Demand-response/scheduled rides
- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation through our regional broker
- Veteran-specific transportation coordination
- Volunteer driver transportation

These services are heavily utilized by older adults and Veterans, many of whom have fixed incomes, limited mobility, or chronic health conditions.

Population Served: Older Adults (65+) and Veterans

Older Adults (65+)

York County continues to age at one of the fastest rates in Maine. Many older adults:

- Live independently and rely on our services to age in place
- Lack access to a personal vehicle
- Need transportation to dialysis, cancer treatment, primary care, or pharmacy services
- Experience social isolation without reliable transportation

Veterans

York County has a significant Veteran population with specialized needs:

- Many Veterans rely on YCCAC for access to VA appointments in Portland, Togus, and local clinics
- Some face limited mobility, service-connected disabilities, or income constraints
- Transportation removes barriers to accessing health services, rehabilitation programs, and community resources

Community Need and Impact

Equity & Access

Limited transportation disproportionately affects:

- Low-income older adults
- Rural residents
- Veterans with disabilities
- Individuals with chronic illness

For these populations, YCCAC Transportation often provides the only means to access:

- Lifesaving medical care
- Grocery shopping
- Social connection
- Community participation

Program Demand

In our last fiscal year (11/1/24 – 10/31/25), YCCAC provided 48,399 demand-response and volunteer driver trips throughout York County. Total ridership for all services was 78,564. Demand continues to increase due to:

- Growth of the 65+ population
- Expanded Veteran healthcare programming
- Rising vehicle repair and fuel costs
- Increased medical appointment frequency for chronic illnesses, such as cancer care and dialysis

Even a modest funding increase helps us prevent trip denials and maintain consistent service countywide.

How will York County's funding be utilized?

The cost for operating our York County Transport services is \$219,355. Federal funding covers 50% of eligible operating expenses, so transit providers need to cover the remaining 50% through a combination of other means such as state funding, municipal funds, advertising, contract revenue, and fares.

The \$20,000 contribution from York County Government will directly support:

Operational Costs

- Fuel costs for medical and essential trips
- Driver wages and scheduling support
- Vehicle maintenance and repair
- Costs associated with serving long-distance trips in the more rural areas of the county

Service Stability

This funding ensures:

- No interruptions in service for medically essential rides
- Reduced wait times and increased trip availability
- Continued ability to serve remote communities throughout York County

Expected Outcomes

With this funding, YCCAC anticipates:

- 5,000 one-way trips provided to older adults and Veterans
- Increased access to medical and mental health services
- Enhanced ability for older adults to age in place
- Improved Veteran access to VA and community-based care
- Reduced social isolation and increased community engagement

This investment directly improves the health, safety, and independence of York County residents.

Conclusion

YCCAC Transportation is an essential mobility lifeline for older adults and Veterans in York County. A \$20,000 investment will strengthen our capacity to deliver safe, reliable transportation and ensure equitable access to care and community resources across the entire county. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

For Your Attention In Your Executive Capacity:

June includes Men's Health Month (MHM) and Men's Health Week (MHW), with Men's Health Week recognized by Congress and observed annually through Father's Day (**June 15–21, 2026**).

In recognition of these awareness periods, the Men's Health Network (MHN) **respectfully urges you to issue a proclamation naming June as Men's Health Month** and to encourage **year-round attention to the health and well-being of boys and men** in your community.

Men's Health Month highlights the importance of prevention, early intervention, and health-seeking behaviors beginning in boyhood and extending across the lifespan. Boys and young men often face early health risks that go unaddressed, contributing to poorer outcomes later in life. Men overall continue to experience higher rates of preventable illness and premature death, resulting in the **Lifespan Gender Gap**, with **men dying on average nearly six years earlier** than women.

This widening gap is driven in part by "Deaths of Despair," including suicide, substance use, alcohol-related disease, and homelessness, which disproportionately affect men. These outcomes are compounded by stigma around help-seeking, limited access to mental health care, gaps in insurance coverage for male-specific preventive screenings, and persistent barriers faced by underserved communities.

MHM was established in 1994 through the efforts of MHN, alongside Congressional passage of Men's Health Week, sponsored by Senator Bob Dole (KS) and Congressman Bill Richardson (NM), and signed into law by President Clinton as Public Law 103-264.

As Congressman Richardson noted:

"Recognizing and preventing men's health problems is not just a man's issue. Because of its impact on wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters, men's health is truly a family issue."

— *Congressional Record*, May 24, 1994, H3905

To support community engagement, we coordinate the national "Wear Blue" campaign and provide free online event planning, digital media toolkits, and educational resources for men's health: (WearBlueforMensHealth.com), (mhnHealthZone.com), (MensHealthMonth.org).

Thousands of organizations nationwide participate in MHM / MHW, promoting the health and well-being of boys, men, fathers, and families. MHN also convenes health awareness events and briefings for policymakers, medical associations, and community leaders to elevate men's and boys' health as a public health priority.

By issuing a MHM proclamation, you help reduce stigma, build empathy, and reinforce the importance of prevention and early support. We respectfully ask you to encourage healthy behaviors, regular screenings, and help-seeking, and to affirm that improving men's health strengthens families and communities.

Proclamations will be displayed in Congress and shared publicly. A sample proclamation is enclosed for your convenience.

PLEASE SEND PROCLAMATIONS TO:

Men's Health Network

P.O. Box 77476

Washington, DC 20013

Thank you for your leadership in promoting health and well-being. Additional copies may be shared with your Congressional delegation. We also invite you to participate in **Wear Blue Day on Friday, June 19, 2026**, and share photos using **#ShowUsYourBlue**.

Sincerely,

The Men's Health Network Team

Men's Health Month – Men's Health Week

P.O. Box 77476 | Washington, DC 20013 | 202.543.MHN.1 | Info@MensHealthNetwork.org

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Men's Health Month is part of an ongoing international effort to educate men, boys, and their families about the importance of preventive health screenings, early detection, and healthy lifestyles; and

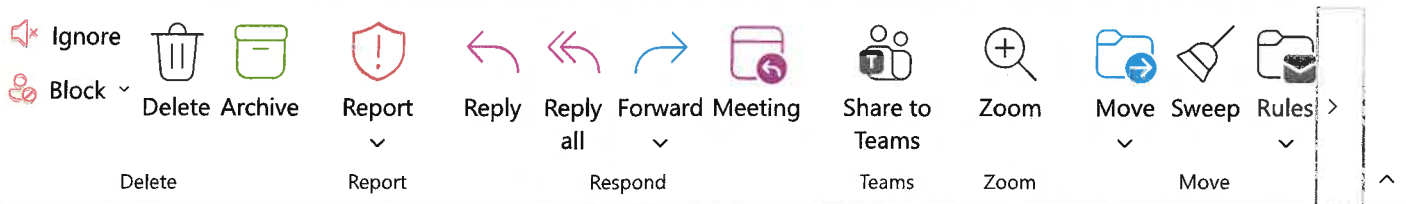
WHEREAS Nationwide, men have a life expectancy that is approximately six years shorter than that of women and experience higher rates of chronic disease, including diabetes, obesity, cancer, heart disease, and premature mortality; and

WHEREAS Men's Health Month provides an opportunity to recognize the mental and physical health needs of men and boys, while encouraging fathers and caregivers to serve as positive role models through preventive care, healthy living, and help-seeking behaviors; and

WHEREAS The growing epidemic of "Deaths of Despair," including deaths related to suicide, substance use disorders, alcohol misuse, and homelessness, underscores the urgent need to raise awareness of unrecognized and undiagnosed depression, mental stress, and emotional distress among boys and men; and

WHEREAS The centerpiece of Men's Health Month is National Men's Health Week, a special awareness period passed by Congress and signed into law on May 31, 1994, and observed annually through the efforts of Men's Health Network to build health empathy, recognition, and understanding of the unique health needs facing men and boys.

NOW, THEREFORE I, <<NAME>> of <<CITY/STATE>> do hereby proclaim June 15 – 21, 2026 as Men's Health Week in <<CITY/STATE>>



Fw: ALS Awareness Month Proclamation Request

GZ Gregory T Zinser



To: Patricia A Murray

Thu 4/2/2026 11:53 AM

From: Heidi Soper <Heidi.Soper.81389394@advocacymessages.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 4:39 PM

To: Gregory T Zinser <gtzins@yorkcountymaine.gov>

Subject: ALS Awareness Month Proclamation Request

Dear Gregory,

My name is Heidi, and I am a constituent from Wells, ME. I am writing to you as someone personally impacted by ALS.

ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), often known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, is a progressive and terminal disease that affects mobility, speech, and ultimately the ability to breathe. It impacts not only the person diagnosed but entire families and communities.

I respectfully request that you officially recognize May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month.

An ALS Awareness Month proclamation or resolution would:

- Help educate the public about the realities of this devastating disease
- Honor individuals and families living with ALS
- Recognize caregivers and healthcare providers
- Demonstrate our state’s commitment to supporting those impacted

Public recognition from state leaders brings visibility to ALS and reminds families like mine that we are seen and supported.

The ALS Association works in communities across our state to provide care services, equipment, advocacy, and research support. An official proclamation would strengthen these efforts and raise awareness statewide.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this request. I would be honored to provide additional information or participate in any recognition event.