

STATE OF MAINE
County of Lincoln
2026 Budget Advisory Committee
Workshop
October 17, 2025, 9AM

Present:

Commissioners:
William B. Blodgett, Chair
Evan Goodkowsky

County Employees:
Carrie Kipfer, County Administrator
Michelle Richardson, Finance Director
Wendy Nowell, Executive Assistant

Budget Committee Members:
Brent Hallowell, Whitefield
Reuben Mahar, Waldoboro
Karen Paz, Newcastle
Kenneth Rayle, Boothbay Harbor
Richard Powell, Nobleboro
Michael Thayer, Waldoboro

Commission Chair, William Blodgett, opened the meeting at 9:02 AM by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Finance Director, Michelle Richardson, discussed the significant changes to the 2026 budget compared to the 2025 budget and will review each department individually.

Commissioner Blodgett asked for nominations for the 2026 Budget Chair: Richard Powell nominated Brent Hallowell, seconded by Reuben Mahar; no other nominations were presented;
6 - 0 approved.

Court Security

Total estimated revenue is **\$ 171,855.00**. Motion to approve by Karen Paz; second by Richard Powell; **6-0 vote Approved.**

Total requested expenditures are **\$ 212,740.00**. Motion to approve by Karen Paz; second by Kenneth Rayle; **6 - 0 vote Approved.**

Emergency Management Agency

Total estimated revenue is **\$ 0.00** due to no anticipated MEMA or Federal reimbursements at this time.

Total requested expenditures are **\$ 355,364.00**. Motion to approve by Richard Powell with the understanding that we receive grant funds to offset the \$62,500 EOP expense; second by Brent Hallowell; **3- 3 vote Failed.**

Motion to approve **\$ 417,864.00** Kenneth Rayle, second by Karen Paz; **4 - 2 vote Approved.**

District Attorney

Total requested expenditures are **\$ 507,655.00**. Motion to approve by Michael Thayer; second by Karen Paz; **2- 4 vote Failed.**

Motion to approve total expenditures of **\$1.00** made by Reuben Mahar, seconded by Richard Powell;
5-1 vote approved.

Administration

Total requested expenditures are \$ 927,139.00. Motion to approve expenditures of \$922,639.00 with reducing the consultant line by \$4,500.00 made by Brent Hallowell, second by Kenneth Rayle; 6 - 0 vote Approved.

County Buildings

Total requested expenditures are \$ 590,795.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Karen Paz; 6 - 0 vote Approved.

TBRJ Assessment

Total requested expenditures are \$ 2,420,839.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Michael Thayer; 6 - 0 vote Approved.

Jail Transport

Total estimated revenue is \$ 315,319.00. Motion to approve by Richard Powell; second by Kenneth Rayle; 5 - 0 vote Approved (Brent Hallowell absent).

Total requested expenditures are \$ 923,163.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Karen Paz; 6 - 0 vote Approved.

Communications

Total estimated revenue is \$ 77,000.00. Motion to approve by Michael Thayer; second by Brent Hallowell; 6 - 0 vote Approved.

Kenneth Rayle left the meeting at 11:10 AM.

Total requested expenditures are \$ 2,725,616.00. Motion to approve for \$2,413,965.00 reducing the wages and benefits lines by a total of \$120,651.00, the capital expenditures line by \$26,000.00 (generator) and \$165,000.00 (tower) by Richard Powell, second by Brent Hallowell; 5- 0 vote Approved.

Registry of Deeds

Total estimated revenue is \$ 465,000.00. Motion to approve by Karen Paz, second by Reuban Mahar;

4- 0 vote Approved (Michael Thayer absent).

Total requested expenditures are \$ 285,161.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell, second by Karen Paz; 4-0-1 vote Approved (Michael Thayer abstain)

Registry of Probate,

Total estimated revenue is \$ 175,000.00. Motion to approve by Karen Paz; second by Richard Powell; 5- 0 vote Approved.

Total requested expenditures are \$ 319,667.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Karen Paz; 5- 0 vote Approved.

Sheriff's Department

Total estimated revenue is \$ 349,691.00. Motion to approve by Richard Powell; second by Brent Hallowell; 5 - 0 vote Approved.

Total requested expenditures are \$ 5,337,323.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Richard Powell; 5- 0 vote Approved.

LCRPC (Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission)

Total estimated revenue is \$ 108,100.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell, second by Richard Powell; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

Total requested expenditures are \$ 491,834.00. Motion to approve by Karen Paz; second by Brent Hallowell; **5- 0 vote Approved.**

Recycling

Total estimated revenue is \$ 208,000.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Karen Paz; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

Total requested expenditures are \$ 678,575.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Richard Powell; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

Employee & Retiree Benefits

Total estimated revenue is \$ 22,761.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Karen Paz; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

Total requested expenditures are \$ 111,540.00. Motion to approve by Karen Paz; second by Brent Hallowell; **5- 0 vote Approved.**

Tedford Shelter

Total requested expenditures are \$ 12,663.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Karen Paz; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

County Navigator

Total requested expenditures are \$ 166,177.00. Motion to approve by Richard Powell, second by Brent Hallowell; **5- 0 vote Approved.**

Lincoln County Historical Association

Total requested expenditures are \$ 18,000.00. Motion to approve by Michael Thayer; second by Brent Hallowell; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District

Total requested expenditures are \$ 35,290.00. Motion to approve by Karen Paz; second by Brent Hallowell; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension

Total requested expenditures are \$ 54,375.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Richard Powell; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

ElderCare Network

Total requested expenditures are \$ 50,000.00. Motion to approve by Reuben Mahar; second by Brent Hallowell; **2- 2 vote failed (Richard Powell abstaining).** Karen Paz modified the motion to approve for \$25,000, seconded by Michael Thayer; **4-0 vote Approved (Powell abstaining).**

Merrymeeting Adult Education

Total requested expenditures are \$4,267.00. Motion to approve by Michael Thayer; second by Reuben Mahar; **4- 0 vote Approved (Karen Paz absent).**

Insurance

Total requested expenditures are \$ 115,000.00. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell; second by Richard Powell; **5 - 0 vote Approved.**

Contingency

Total requested expenditures are \$ **95,000.00**. Motion to approve by Michael Thayer; second by Richard Powell; **5 - 0 vote Approved**.

Michael Thayer left the meeting at 1:15 PM.

Capital Improvement and Reserve Funding

Total requested expenditures are \$ **1,607,581.00**. Motion to approve by Brent Hallowell, second by Karen Paz; **4 - 0 vote Approved**.

It was moved by Karen Paz and seconded by Brent Hallowell to adjourn at 1:35PM; **4 - 0 vote Approved**.

ATTEST:


Wendy Nowell, Executive Assistant