

AGENDA  
PUBLIC HEARING  
4:30 P.M.  
June 2, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget
3. Adjourn

**Board of Commissioners of Candler County**  
**Public Hearing**  
**June 2, 2025**  
**4: 30 P.M.**

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The Board of Commissioners of Candler County held a public hearing on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 4:30 p.m., in the Commissioners' boardroom at 1075 East Hiawatha Street, Suite A, Metter, Georgia. The public hearing was held for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning the FY2026 budget proposed County Maintenance and Operations and Special Revenue budgets for the 2026 fiscal year. Those attending the meeting were Candler County Commission Chairman, Brad Jones; Candler County Commissioners David Morales, Jonathan Williamson and Tre' Ross; Candler County Administrator, Bryan Aasheim; Candler County Attorney, Kendall Gross; Candler County Clerk, Kellie Lank.

Guest attending the called meeting included Candler County Sheriff, John Miles; EMA Director and Sheriff's Captain, Justin Wells; Sheriff's Deputies, Miguel Aviles and Stanley Slater; EMS Director, Xavier Winkler, IDA Director Hannah Mullins and IDA Chairman Dustin Durden. Citizens Curtis and Fronnie Barlow, Anne H. Childs and Jerri Goodman representing the Metter Advertiser.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the public hearing to order at 4:31 p.m.

**Discussion of the 2026 Fiscal Year Budget (Exhibit A)**

Chairman Jones invited all attendees to speak and offer comments on the proposed FY2026 budget. However, only two individuals, Ann H. Childs and Dustin Durden, chose to address the Board. Both asked questions pertaining to the budget, while no other attendees offered remarks or inquiries.

During the budget discussion, the County Administrator provided a detailed overview of how departmental and constitutional officer budget requests are compiled and evaluated, mainly for the newly elected board members. Particular attention was given to the Extension Office, where the bulk of salary costs had already been agreed upon, and only a modest increase was requested by Suzannah Lanier, Candler County Extension Coordinator/4-H Youth Development Agent. Much of the discussion centered around the future of the AmeriCorps position, as funding changes at the federal level may prevent rehiring. Mrs. Lanier suggested exploring a work-based learning student as an alternative, while commissioners debated the cost and value of such positions, including student wages and productivity. Ultimately, they agreed to retain the \$3,000 in the budget for now and reassess next year.

A comprehensive review of general fund revenues followed, with updated figures based on year-to-date collections. Administrator Aasheim highlighted modest growth in several areas, such as the timber tax and penalties and interest, while acknowledging uncertainty in others like state court fines and property not on digest. LOST revenues were conservatively projected, and potential revenue from the future FLOST referendum was excluded due to its uncertainty. Overall, Administrator Aasheim presented a General Fund budget of \$11,692,601, reflecting an

18.73% increase, largely due to jail-related costs, but balanced against adjusted revenue estimates to maintain a small surplus.

The Special Service District (Fund 270) was reviewed as well, showing balanced revenues and expenditures totaling approximately \$1,540,600. Key budget items included garbage collection, zoning salaries, and a proposed dedicated code enforcement position. Concerns were raised about animal control services and their cost-effectiveness, with the County Administrator noting possible future restructuring.

Finally, discussions acknowledged upcoming challenges related to IT and building maintenance, along with personnel compensation. Although no broad COLA was included, market-based adjustments were considered. The demolition of the old jail was deferred, with FEMA and general fund support anticipated in the next fiscal year.

With no further comments, Chairman Jones ended the hearing at 4:55 p.m.

  
Kellie Lank, Clerk

  
Chairman Brad Jones

## Exhibit A

Candler County  
FY2026  
County Budget Summary

PROPOSED BUDGET - ALL FUNDS					
Fund #	Division #	Operating Funds	FY25 REVENUE	FY25 EXPENDITURES	Over/(Under)
100	1100	Legislative		\$ 95,420	
	1300	Executive		\$ 273,756	
	1400	Elections		\$ 132,438	
	1510	Administration		\$ 463,101	
	1514	Board of Equalization		\$ 6,550	
	1535	Information Technology		\$ 206,628	
	1545	Tax Commissioner		\$ 300,583	
	1550	Tax Assessor		\$ 297,115	
	1565	Public Buildings		\$ 275,460	
	2150	Superior Court		\$ 256,100	
	2180	Clerk of Court		\$ 379,392	
	2300	State Court		\$ 148,014	
	2400	Magistrate Court		\$ 36,000	
	2450	Probate Court		\$ 170,192	
	3300	Sheriff's Office		\$ 1,885,682	
	3326	Detention Center		\$ 998,243	
	3700	Dispatch		\$ 256,169	
	3600	Emergency Medical Service		\$ 1,577,954	
	3700	Coroner		\$ 40,620	
	3920	Emergency Management Agency		\$ 83,673	
	4200	Roads & Bridges		\$ 1,398,159	
	4530	Solid Waste (Landfill)		\$ 527,652	
	5550	Family Connections		\$ 131,250	
	7130	Agricultural Resources		\$ 112,508	
	7450	Code Enforcement		\$ -	
	7460	Recreation		\$ 275,430	
	8000	Debt Service		\$ 25,000	
	9000	Other Services		\$ 1,339,512	
		<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 11,692,601</b>	<b>\$ 11,692,601</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
270	270-4520	Garbage Collections		\$ 637,000	
	270-7450	Code Enforcement		\$ 70,352	
	270-7410	Zoning		\$ 44,000	
		Industrial Authority		\$ 140,995	
		Airport Authority		\$ 37,842	
		Animal Control (Metter)		\$ 88,416	
		Fire Protection (Metter)		\$ 460,000	
		Library		\$ 61,395	
		Other Unincorporated Services		\$ 600	
		Contingencies		\$ -	
		<b>Special Service District</b>	<b>\$ 1,540,600</b>	<b>\$ 1,540,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
		<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	<b>\$ 13,233,201.0</b>	<b>\$ 13,233,201.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Fund #		Special Revenue Funds	FY26 REVENUE	FY26 EXPENDITURES	
205		Law Library	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
212		DATE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
215		E-911	\$ 421,500	\$ 421,500	\$ -
230		American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
250		LMIG	\$ 1,115,462	\$ 1,115,462	\$ -
321		2018 SPLOST	\$ 682,538	\$ 682,538	\$ -
322		2024 SPLOST	\$ 2,402,710	\$ 2,402,710	\$ -
335		T-SPLOST	\$ 2,674,003	\$ 2,674,003	\$ -
360		Jail Construction Fund	\$ 9,106,770	\$ 9,106,770	\$ -
601		Health Care Internal Service Fund	\$ 1,161,822	\$ 1,161,822	\$ -
		<b>Total Special Revenue Funds</b>	<b>\$ 17,564,804</b>	<b>\$ 17,564,804</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$ 30,798,005</b>	<b>\$ 30,798,005</b>	<b>\$ -</b>