

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETINGS
JULY 21, 2026

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on July 21, 2026 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, Rollie Ehler, Tim Campbell, and Perry Miller. Others included Administration Personnel Fossum and South, State's Attorney Kummer, Jesse Sedler, Donnie Witt, Sheriff Ruhl, Steve Gjerdevig, Mike Larson, John Manstrom, Jay Townsend, and Daily News Reporter Manisha Reddy.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler highlighted the following regarding his preliminary budget for 2027:

Drain tile - \$750,000

Chip seal - \$1,000,000

Capital expense – \$200,000 salt shed

\$2.6 million in funding for 1st phase ethanol plant expansion; \$3.5 million will be needed to complete. Sedler said chip seal would have higher priority than drain tile, if one needed to be postponed.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Budget is mostly unchanged from 2026.

Capital expense - \$180,000 for new roof LEC

Garbage service – decreased by \$1000

Commissioners asked Fossum to have John get a quote for patchwork instead of new roof.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following were highlighted for 2027:

1 FTE – Additional Dispatcher – roughly \$60,000 with benefits

Travel – increased \$1500 – for staff when they get snowed in and conference travel

National Convention travel expenses were discussed.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The following were highlighted:

Public Health

Additional .4 FTE for Corrections Nurse

Home Health

Capital expense - \$40,000 new vehicle (Carlson said this could be removed if necessary)

Projected revenue for 2027 is \$26,000 vs \$35,200 projected in 2026. Fossum gave update from Carlson regarding difference in projections.

Unspent grant funds were discussed.

The department has proposed contracting with a mid-level Nurse Practitioner to come into the Jail vs taking them to the clinic every time they have an issue. Steve Gjerdevig was receptive to the idea.

GENERAL BUDGET

Fossum gave numbers regarding possible salary increases for employees and the approximate cost of each.

Health insurance premiums will increase in 2027; increase is not known yet. Fossum plugged 20% for budgetary purposes.

Commissioner Campbell proposed a 5-minute recess.

The meeting recessed at 10:38 A.M. and readjourned at 10:43 A.M.

SHERIFF

Requests for 2027:

2 additional Deputies

New tasers; budgeted half in 2027 and half in 2028; the current ones are out of date and will not be supported after December.

Capital expense - \$160,000 – body cams, in car cameras

The Board of Commissioners advised moving all new tasers to the 2027 preliminary budget, instead of splitting between two years.

CORRECTIONS

Jail expenses were discussed in detail. The possibility of contracting with Wilkin County was discussed. The Board of Commissioners asked Sheriff Ruhl and Auditor Sandy Fossum to form a committee to look into jail finances further.

Fossum to prepare a revised budget to present at the next Commission Meeting on August 4, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 P.M.

ATTEST: _____

Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____CHAIRPERSON

Terry Goerger
Board of Richland County Commissioners