

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETINGS
JULY 22, 2025**

The Richland County Board of Commissioners met on July 22, 2025 at the Richland County Courthouse with Commissioners Tim Campbell, Terry Goerger, Nathan Berseth, and Rollie Ehler. Commissioner Perry Miller was absent. Others included Administrative Personnel Fossum and South.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Sedler highlighted the following regarding his preliminary budget for 2026:

Most areas of the budget have stayed the same or have minimal changes. Did not include Flex Funding in revenue. 1.5 million projected from Prairie Dog in 2026.

Capital Expenses – kept at \$120,000, will need sand salt shed

Overtime – no change

Gravel crushing – had cushion for 2026, Commission instructed to remove

Sedler stated that everything in his budget for 2026 is being slated for CR1, no other projects are planned at this time. The department is fully staffed.

SHERIFF

Ammunition – increased \$300 due to additional staff

Dues – increased \$300 due to additional staff

Phone – increased from \$8000 to \$14000, due to MDT and pucks

Special Deputy – decreased \$1500 as department is fully staffed

Uniforms – decreased \$900, extra on hand

Highway Shop – increased \$200 as overbudget on fuel

Physicals – increased \$600, fully staffed

Training – decreased \$6700, will go to Bismarck instead of Fargo

Overtime – decreased by \$5000 as department is fully staffed

SRT – increased \$1000 due to maintenance on armadillo

Water Rescue – increased slightly for equipment & maintenance

Requests for 2026:

Drone program budget line - \$16,500 (not included in preliminary budget)

Capital outlay – 2 vehicles (included in preliminary budget)

Salaries - move two Deputies in the Drug Unit to Investigator C42 salary (included in preliminary budget)

The Board of Commissioners instructed Sheriff Ruhl to use his miscellaneous budget for drone related expenses.

CORRECTIONS

Steve Gjerdevig highlighted the following regarding his 2026 budget:

Overall budget - increased \$100,000 due to food & medical costs

Salaries - increased, one new deputy

Would like new van for 2026, did not include in budget

The department currently has one vacancy

COMMUNICATIONS

Jill Breuer and Tracy Hansen were present. Breuer highlighted the following in her preliminary budget:

Maintenance – decreased \$30,000, 5-6 yr maintenance cycle

OT – increased due to projections, training takes 6 months. - \$26,000 is from holiday pay

Removed request for additional FTE

Overall budget is about \$3000 more than last year

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Kayla Carlson and Kenzie Kahler were present. Carlson reported that she prepared the Public Health budget using 5 mills. Carlson stated that her budget for 2026 is approximately \$630,000 compared to \$920,000 in 2025 and \$960,000 in 2024; which she estimated to be a 35% reduction.

Unspent grant funding was discussed. Carlson stated that staff time will be coming out of the unspent grant dollars in 2026 as she does not anticipate additional funding coming in. The Commission asked Carlson if there is a time frame that the grant funds need to be used by. Carlson stated that the state does not specify when the money needs to be used by but has clear guidelines about what it can be used for.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

John Anderson highlighted the following in his preliminary budget:

gas/electric – decreased, new HVAC system more efficient

Service Master – no change
supplies – no change
capital outlay LEC - \$25,000 for cast iron
garbage – switching to T & G Sanitation
overall budget decreased by \$26,000

GENERAL BUDGET

Fossum reviewed the 3% cap calculation used to determine maximum levy for the county. The maximum levy amount is \$11,288,892. The preliminary budget is currently sitting at 95.77 total mills. Fossum has not yet received Soil Conservations budget. Fossum prepared the preliminary budget with a 1.5% cost of living increase and no step on the scale.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.

ATTEST: _____
Sandy Fossum
Auditor/Administrator

_____ CHAIRPERSON
Tim Campbell
Board of Richland County Commissioners