

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday August 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were President Ricky Harcrow, Shane Wootten, Brent Rhodes, Ron Saferite, and Lester Black.

The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow who also delivered the invocation. Mr. Wootten led the Pledge.

It was moved by Mr. Wootten, seconded by Mr. Rhodes with all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented in written format.

Road Department

Maintenance Update:

Mr. Young reported that crews have been hauling chert, mowing roadways and patching in all four (4) Districts. He also reported that some bush cutting has been attempted but the bush cutters are broken down. He stated that he is checking with the State on used equipment with low hours.

Personnel

Mr. Young requested the Commission approve the transfer of Roger Byrd from Revenue/Solid Waste/Animal Cruelty Officer to the Road Department (D4).

Mr. Black made a motion to approve the personnel change, a second was made by Mr. Saferite, with all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Engineer

FY2027 Rebuild AL County Transportation Plan

County Engineer, Ben Luther presented the Rebuild AL Transportation Plan to account for the estimated FY2027 Rebuild funds. The proposed amount for the fiscal year is 1.5 million which is \$375,000.00 for each District to utilize for paving

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve the proposal, a second was made by Mr. Saferite, with all members voting affirmatively, motion carried to adopt the following Rebuild County Transportation Plan for 2027 (Full Plan in Office of County Engineer):

District 1:				Total Est	Total CRAF
1	754	1.88	Bituminous Treatment JG from SR-75 to CR-781 (plus 3 connector roads)	\$80,629.00	\$80,629.00
2	779	0.68	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-754 to Dead End	\$29,574.00	\$29,574.00
3	886	0.52	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-134 to CR-371	\$27,566.00	\$27,566.00
4	780	0.50	Bituminous Treatment JG from SR-75 to Dead End	\$23,474.00	\$23,474.00
5	222	0.50	Bituminous Treatment JG from SR-75 to Spruce Street	\$23,474.00	\$23,474.00
6	614	1.12	Bituminous Treatment G from CR-89 to Dead End	\$24,476.00	\$24,476.00
7	783	0.93	Bituminous Treatment G from CR-776 to CR-782	\$20,456.00	\$20,456.00
8	782	0.95	Bituminous Treatment G from CR-788 to CR-776	\$18,236.00	\$18,236.00
9	788	1.03	Bituminous Treatment G from SR-75 to CR-776	\$24,027.00	\$24,027.00
10	618	1.70	Triple Layer Bituminous Treatment from CRs-89/604 to the Fort Payne City Limits inside Desoto State Park	\$103,088.00	\$103,088.00
Totals				\$375,000.00	\$375,000.00

District 2:				Total Est	Total CRAF
11	3	2.20	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-23 to CR-58	\$119,738.00	\$119,738.00
12	359	2.10	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-3 to CR-23	\$114,207.00	\$114,207.00
13	356	2.83	Bituminous Treatment JG from SR-227 to CR-393	\$141,647.00	\$141,055.00
Totals				<u>\$375,592.00</u>	<u>\$375,000.00</u>

District 3:				Total Est	Total CRAF
14	835	2.06	Bituminous Treatment JG from SR-35 to south end of road embankment failure repair	\$149,423.00	\$149,423.00
15	79	1.35	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-220 to CR-758	\$69,340.00	\$69,340.00
16	230	1.47	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-226 to CR-243	\$66,652.00	\$66,652.00
17	80	1.00	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-55 to CR-79	\$48,344.00	\$48,344.00
18	309	0.82	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-255 to end of DGB	\$34,851.00	\$34,851.00
19	656	0.27	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-107 to end of Dead End	\$12,819.00	\$6,390.00
Totals				<u>\$381,492.00</u>	<u>\$375,000.00</u>

District 4:				Total Est	Total CRAF
20	508	0.99	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-511 to CR-899	\$54,075.00	\$54,075.00
21	880	0.94	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-114 to CR-675	\$53,818.00	\$53,818.00
22	674	0.69	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-120 to CR-143	\$33,419.00	\$33,419.00
23	674	0.87	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-143 to Dead End	\$36,854.00	\$36,854.00
24	477	0.68	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-48 to Dead End	\$32,960.00	\$32,960.00
25	683	0.62	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-27 to CR-1023	\$26,039.00	\$26,039.00
26	665	0.53	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-120 to Dead End	\$25,457.00	\$25,457.00
27	509	0.56	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-72 to Dead End	\$21,950.00	\$21,950.00
28	601	0.43	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-607 to CR-485	\$15,626.00	\$15,626.00
29	501	0.35	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-502 to CR-560	\$11,712.00	\$11,712.00
30	496	0.27	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-27 to CR-121	\$9,616.00	\$9,616.00
31	676	0.15	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-85 to CR-675	\$8,431.00	\$6,855.00
32	685	1.42	Bituminous Treatment G from CR-116 to SR-75	\$34,001.00	\$34,001.00
33	Bailey Ave.	0.30	Bituminous Treatment JG from CR-47 to Dead End	\$12,618.00	\$12,618.00
Totals				<u>\$376,576.00</u>	<u>\$375,000.00</u>

Total CRAF Funding - \$1,500,000.00. Total estimates \$1,508,597.00.

Sheriff Personnel:

Chief Deputy Brad Edmondson requested the Commission accept the following personnel changes:

- Accept the resignation of Deputy Seth Butler
- Accept the resignation of Zach Aldridge
- Transfer Jay Allen-Tovar from Jail to FT Deputy (to replace Zach Aldridge)
- Hire Danny Bryan PT SRO at Valley Head (to replace Tim Rector)
- Hire Robert Rollins FT SRO at Geraldine (to replace Nick Hester)

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve the personnel changes with a second from Mr. Black, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Jail Personnel:

Chief Carl White presented a request for the following personnel changes:

- Accept Andrew Crowder's resignation on Delta shift
- Hire Charlie Serrano to replace Andrew Crowder
- Move Sgt. Eddie Jones from Charlie shift to Alpha shift to replace Sgt. Clay Jackson who's going to the academy
- Move Sgt. William Baez from Bravo shift to Charlie shift replacing Sgt. Eddie Jones
- Promote Joshua Farmer to Bravo shift Sgt. replacing Sgt. William Baez
- Hire Abbigail Phillips, who was working part time, for a full-time vacant position on Charlie shift
- Accept Sgt. Ashley Hudson's resignation
- Move Robert Matthews from Administration to the Delta shift Sgt. position left vacant from Ashley Hudson resigning
- Move Ravyn Turner from Charlie shift to Delta shift

Mr. Wootten made a motion to accept the personnel changes, with a second from Mr. Rhodes, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Guardian RFID Scanning System

Chief White also presented the implementation of a cloud-based system that would be used in the jail to replace the use paper logs. It features facial recognition which would increase efficiency. This would be a 3-year contract (cost approximately \$20,000/year to be paid from Federal Inmate Fund and/or Special Jail Fund).

A motion was made by Mr. Saferite, seconded by Mr. Black, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried to purchase the RFID Scanning System.

EMA

Invitation to Bid-District 2 Tower

EMA Director, Michael Posey requested approval from the Commission to allow Lee Moore with the 911 Consultants to release the bids for the District 2 Tower site.

It was moved by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Wootten with all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to release the bid for the District II Tower site.

Northeast AL Water, Sewer & Fire Protection District Board Appointment

Commission President Harcrow reported that the Northeast Alabama Water Board had made a request for Mr. Danny Richey be appointed to fill a vacancy due to a recent resignation on their board.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to accept this appointee, with a second from Mr. Wootten, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

County Administrator, Matt Sharp presented an offer from Nextran to trade 12 of our used Mack trucks with 12 new ones. The transaction will require the payoff of Lease #039 to Huntington Bank (formerly Cadence Bank) by Nextran and refunding through the Bank of Ozark.

Mr. Saferite made a motion to approve this transaction and adopt the following resolution authorizing the financing of this equipment. A second was made by Mr. Black, with all members voting affirmatively, motion carried:

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF AN
EQUIPMENT LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH BANK OZK***

WHEREAS, the governing body (the "Governing Body") of DeKalb County, Alabama (the "Lessee"), acting for and on behalf of the Lessee hereby finds, determines and adjudicates as follows:

1. The Lessee desires to enter into an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement, including the Lease Schedule and Exhibits attached thereto, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit "A" (collectively, the "Agreement") with Bank OZK (the "Lessor"), for the purpose of leasing with an option to purchase the equipment as described therein for the total cost specified therein (the "Equipment").

2. It is in the best interest of the public purposes of the Lessee that the Lessee lease with an option to purchase the Equipment pursuant to and in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

3. It is necessary for the Lessee to approve and authorize the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Governing Body for and on behalf of the Lessee as follows:

Section 1. The Agreement, including the Lease Schedule and Exhibits attached thereto, in substantially the same form as attached hereto as Exhibit "A" by and between the Lessor and the Lessee is hereby approved and Matt G. Sharp (the "Authorized Officer") is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Lessee.

Section 2. The Agreement is being issued in calendar year 2026.

Section 3. Neither any portion of the gross proceeds of the Agreement nor the Equipment identified in the Agreement shall be used (directly or indirectly) in a trade or business carried on by any person other than a governmental unit, except for such use as a member of the general public.

Section 4. No portion of the rental payments identified in the Agreement (a) is secured, directly or indirectly, by property used or to be used in a trade or business carried on by a person other than a governmental unit, except for such use as a member of the general public, or by payments in respect of such property; or (b) is to be derived from payments (whether or not to the Lessee) in respect of property or borrowed money used or to be used for a trade or business carried on by any person other than a governmental unit.

Section 5. No portion of the gross proceeds of the Agreement are used (directly or indirectly) to make or finance loans to persons other than governmental units.

Section 6. The Authorized Officer is further authorized for and on behalf of the Governing Body and the Lessee to do all things necessary in furtherance of the obligations of the Lessee pursuant to the Agreement, including execution and delivery of all other documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the transactions contemplated thereby in accordance with the terms and provisions thereof.

Section 7. The Lessee desires to designate the Agreement as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" of the Lessee, as defined in Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"). The aggregate face amount of all tax-exempt obligations (excluding private activity bonds other than qualified 501(c)(3) bonds) issued or to be issued by the Lessee and all subordinate entities thereof during the current calendar year is not reasonably expected to exceed \$10,000,000. The Lessee and all subordinate entities thereof will not issue or enter into in excess of \$10,000,000 of tax-exempt obligations (including the Agreement, but excluding private activity bonds other than qualified 501(c)(3) bonds) during the current calendar year, without first obtaining an opinion of nationally recognized counsel in the area of tax-exempt municipal obligations acceptable to the Lessor that the designation of the Agreement as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" will not be adversely affected.

Following the reading of the foregoing resolution, Mr. Saferite moved that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Mr. Black seconded the motion for its adoption. The President put the question to a roll call vote and the result was as follows:

Mr. Wootten	Voted:	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Rhodes	Voted:	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Saferite	Voted:	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Black	Voted:	<u>Yes</u>

The motion having received the affirmative vote of all members present, the declared motion carried and the resolution adopted, this 11th day of August, 2026.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Matt G. Sharp

Matt G. Sharp, Administrator

Ricky Harrow

Ricky Harrow, President

Budget Update
Mr. Sharp presented a preliminary FY2026-27 budget update for review. It is an approximate 2% increase from this current year. Mr. Harcrow announce that a final budget will be presented for vote at a special meeting in September. The FY27 Budget is estimated to be approximately \$29.7M.

Commission President Harcrow notified the audience that the next meeting would be September 8, 2026. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to adjourn. The President declared no objections, and ordered the meeting adjourned.

Ricky Harcrow, President

Shane Wootten, Commissioner District I

Brent Rhodes, Commissioner District II

Ron Saferite, Commissioner District III

Lester Black, Commissioner District IV