MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2026 @ 5:10 PM HELD AT THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE OF THE WILCOX COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

Those present for the meeting were as follows:

Jamie Handley	Chairman
Clay Reid	Vice Chairman
Jowan Johnson	Commissioner
Kerney Hair	Commissioner
Mel Powell	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager
Lucas Allison	Cordele Dispatch
Rusty McCall	McCall & Associates
Bruce Green	Mayor City of Abbeville
Penny Harris	Councilwomen City of Abbeville

Call to Order
Chairman Jamie Handley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. McCall & Associates – Design Firm Proposal Presentation

Chairman Jamie Handley called the meeting to order and introduced the first item of business: a presentation from **McCall & Associates**, a design firm that submitted a proposal for the new jail project.

Chairman Handley asked Mr. Rusty McCall to elaborate on the contents of his proposal and discuss prior projects he has completed for other agencies. Chairman Handley also referenced the previous jail construction project and inquired about changes in the construction market since that time. Mr. McCall stated that he prefers to be straightforward in his approach and acknowledged that his proposal cost is higher than some competitors due to the quality of work his firm delivers.

Discussion included consideration of the land size required for a future Jail/Sheriff's Office site and the importance of long-term planning. Mr. McCall presented a conceptual drawing from a project in Pike County where he is currently working with the Sheriff on future planning initiatives.Additional discussion centered on the Request for Proposal (RFP). Mr. McCall expressed disagreement with certain milestones outlined in the RFP, as well as the identified approximate 30-bed facility size. County Manager Michael Pomirko informed Mr. McCall that he prepared the RFP to ensure the process was conducted properly and emphasized the importance of maintaining a competitive bidding process rather than selecting a firm without due diligence.

Mr. Pomirko further highlighted the importance of selecting a design firm that can guide the County effectively based on experience. He advised all paties not to focus solely on specific bed count numbers but to remain mindful of budget constraints and the significant operational costs associated with a larger facility.Board members also asked questions regarding Mr. McCall's prior jail projects and his relationship with the architect who prepared the previous set of county plans. Mr. McCall explained that he was previously in a business partnership with Mr. Glenn Gregory, but they later parted ways professionally. He also discussed his involvement with Wilcox County in 2017, where he provided assistance based on his previous jail project experience.

Additional minor questions were addressed, providing the Board with further clarification and insight into the proposal submitted by McCall & Associates.

2. Health Care Coverage – July 1, 2026 (Mark III)

County Manager Michael Pomirko requested that this item be moved to the next workshop meeting due to Cindy Tanner's absence.

Mr. Pomirko stated that the intent of the discussion was to introduce a new healthcare coverage option for the Board's consideration, effective July 1, 2026. Further discussion will occur at the subsequent workshop meeting.

3. City of Abbeville – Fire Mutual Aid Agreement

Councilwoman Penny Harris and Mayor Bruce Green addressed the Board regarding a proposed fire mutual aid agreement with the **City of Abbeville**.

Councilwoman Harris stated that the County's proposed $5,000.00 contribution was agreeable; however, she requested that the Board consider a future adjustment based on call volume. She indicated she would track fire calls during 2026, distinguishing between county-related and city-related calls. If the data reflects a significantly higher number of county-related calls, she would request that the County consider increasing its contribution.

Vice Chairman Clay Reid thanked Mayor Green and Councilwoman Harris for attending and emphasized the positive impact of SPLOST revenues on both county and municipal projects. County Manager Pomirko provided a copy of the SPLOST report, noting that revenues are currently outperforming initial projections, thereby benefiting all parties through additional funding for capital improvement projects.

Mr. Pomirko also discussed additional services provided by the County that support city operations. He cited the increased operational costs of Dodge E-911, noting that collection fees did not fully cover expenses, resulting in the County paying approximately $50,300.00 without requesting additional funds from the municipalities. He further referenced the countywide communications system utilized by first responders, which is fully maintained by the County at no cost to the city.

Mr. Pomirko stated that his goal in the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is to identify and acknowledge essential services that often go unnoticed until needed. He emphasized the significant cost of maintaining the communications infrastructure, noting that municipalities simply connect into a system maintained entirely by the County.

The Board agreed to proceed with the current arrangement and review the agreement after one year to evaluate call volume data and any potential additional costs.

Adjournment

Commissioner Mel Powell made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jowan Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

_____ CHAIRMAN, JAMIE HANDLEY

_____ COUNTY MANAGER, MICHAEL POMIRKO