

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING 28, 2026 @ 5:00 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
Kerney Hair	Commissioner
Mel Powell	Commissioner
Michael Pomirko	County Manager
Jeff Wessel	Sheriff
Lucas Allison	Cordele Dispatch

Call to Order

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

Invocation: Lucas Allison

Pledge of Allegiance: All present

1. Sheriff Office Vehicle Fleet

Chairman Jamie Handley called the meeting to order and introduced the first agenda item regarding the Wilcox County Sheriff's Office vehicle fleet. The discussion focused on developing a sustainable plan to maintain vehicles in good condition while establishing a structured replacement cycle based on age and mileage.

County Manager Michael Pomirko presented a comprehensive packet to the Board outlining vehicle purchases since 2020, along with a proposed budget strategy for future fleet replacement. He noted that additional details would be discussed later but highlighted a worksheet showing the current fleet and a replacement formula.

The analysis assumed an average usage of 25,000 miles per year per vehicle. Under a seven-year replacement cycle (175,000 miles), the County would need to replace approximately two vehicles per year at an estimated cost of \$130,000 annually. Under an eight-year cycle (200,000 miles), the replacement rate would decrease to approximately 1.75 vehicles per year.

Chairman Handley raised several potential funding opportunities to help offset costs, suggesting the Sheriff explore revenue-sharing or reimbursement options for vehicles used in:

- State prison patrol
- Solar farm patrol
- School resource officer (SRO) services

He noted that contributions from partner agencies benefiting from these services could help reduce the financial burden on the County.

Mr. Pomirko then presented a detailed budget proposal aimed at addressing the fleet replacement issue. His recommendation included reallocating funding from a currently vacant position now filled toward vehicles and equipment, supplemented by additional County contributions. This approach would allow for the annual purchase of one fully equipped vehicle.

He further proposed entering into a three-year lease beginning in September 2026 for three new vehicles. Under this plan:

- The County would fund the first vehicle,
- The Sheriff's Office would cover the second payment in FY2027,
- The County would seek funding for the third payment in FY2027.

This strategy would enable the acquisition of three vehicles initially and an additional three vehicles by FY2028, resulting in six new vehicles over a two-year period with staggered annual payments.

Sheriff Wessel expressed concern about staffing levels, noting the size of the County and the need for additional personnel. He stated that the department currently operates with a fleet of 14

vehicles but should ideally have 15. He also highlighted limited staffing, with only one deputy assigned to the night shift and one to weekend coverage.

Vice Chairman Clay Reid suggested that municipalities might help offset coverage costs; however, Sheriff Wessel indicated that such arrangements were not currently applicable to his agency.

The Board reached a consensus for the Sheriff to further explore the following options to reduce fleet-related expenses:

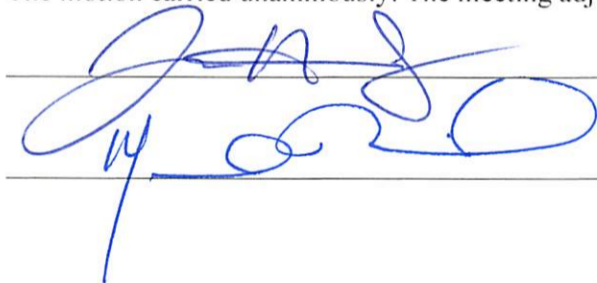
- Engage with the Wilcox County School System regarding potential funding for School Resource Officer vehicles.
- Evaluate implementing hourly reimbursement agreements with Wilcox County State Prison and solar energy projects for vehicle usage, supported by formal contracts.
- Assess the feasibility of using alternative, lower-cost vehicles in place of trucks while maintaining durability and longevity.
- Explore contractual agreements with the City of Abbeville in the event of reduced municipal police services.
- Consider agreements with other municipalities lacking dedicated law enforcement but requiring assistance.
- Evaluate the purchase of a transport van to reduce mileage on patrol and administrative vehicles and generate long-term savings.

Chairman Handley concluded the discussion by encouraging continued exploration of these options to address the growing challenges associated with fleet maintenance and replacement.

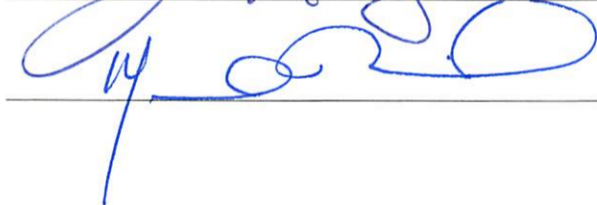
Sheriff Wessel acknowledged the Board's direction and agreed to investigate these potential solutions to help offset costs and maintain the fleet effectively.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Clay Reid made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kerney Hair seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



CHAIRMAN, JAMIE HANDLEY



COUNTY MANAGER, MICHAEL POMIRKO