

DECEMBER 8, 2025

REGULAR SESSION

The LaGrange County Council met in Regular Session on Monday, December 8, 2025 at their meeting room, County Office Building, 114 W. Michigan Street, LaGrange, Indiana 46761, at 8:30 a.m., with the following present: Council Members, Karen S. Eagleson, Ryan J. Riegsecker, Michael G. Strawser and James R. Young; and LaGrange County Auditor, Kathryn Hopper. Mr. Harold D. Gingerich appeared virtually. Mr. Jeffrey L. Brill and Mr. Jeffrey A. Campos were absent. Mr. James R Young brought the meeting to order and led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

INSURANCE BOND:

Mr. Jim Young presented the following blanket bond Ordinance for consideration:

**LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-12-08-A**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A BLANKET BOND AND CRIME INSURANCE AND SETTING MINIMUM AMOUNTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICIAL BONDS.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code (“IC”) 5-4-1-18(a), IC 5-4-1-20(b), IC 36-7-14-7(c), and IC 36-10-3-16(a), various elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, commission members, and certain contractors of a county government (collectively, “County Representatives”) are required to respectively file and maintain in place an individual public official surety bond (“Surety Bond”) during each year of their service;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 5-4-1-8, the respective Surety Bonds must be approved in writing by the officers designated therein before the Surety Bonds can be filed;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 5-4-5-2 and IC 5-4-1-20(d), the respective county must generally pay for the Surety Bonds out of its general fund;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 5-4-1-18(b), the fiscal body of a county may by ordinance authorize the purchase of a blanket bond on behalf of the County Representatives that includes aggregate coverage sufficient to provide the coverage amounts specified (“Blanket Bond”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 5-4-1-18(d), the fiscal body of a county may by ordinance authorize the purchase of a crime insurance policy on behalf of the County Representatives that: (i) provides coverage for their criminal acts or omissions; (ii) is endorsed to include their faithful performance; and (iii) includes sufficient aggregate coverage in their specified coverage amounts (as stipulated, “Crime Insurance Policy”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 5-4-5-5, notwithstanding any limit to the purchase of a Blanket Bond or Crime Insurance Policy with respect to those County Representatives required to file a Surety Bond, the bond or policy must cover, where feasible, all County employees;

WHEREAS, pursuant to and in accordance with IC 5-4-1-18(e), the fiscal body of a county must fix various bond amounts, subject to Indiana State Board of Accounts (“SBOA”) override;

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 36-2-3-2, the LaGrange County Council (“Council”) is the fiscal body of LaGrange County, Indiana (“County”); and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to amend Ordinance 2015-11-09, which previously authorized the purchase of a Blanket Bond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LAGRANGE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

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SECTION I – NAME

The name of this ordinance is the “Blanket Bond Purchase Authorization Ordinance.”

SECTION II – RECITALS

The Council hereby incorporates the foregoing recitals, including all defined terms, into this ordinance and find them to be true, accurate, and correct.

SECTION III – BOND AMOUNTS

A. Default Amounts. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Surety Bonds to be procured by the County Representatives shall be in the following respective amounts:

| Officer | Bond Amount |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Treasurer | \$300,000.00 |
| Circuit Court Clerk | \$90,000.00 |
| Auditor Sheriff | \$30,000.00 |
| Recorder Surveyor Coroner Assessor Redevelopment Commissioner | \$15,000.00 |
| Prosecutor | \$8,500.00 |

B. Interpretation. The amounts of the Surety Bonds described in Subsection (A) for the Treasurer, Circuit Court Clerk, and Sheriff are hereby deemed to equal \$30,000.00 for each \$1,000,000 in receipts of the respective officer's office during the then-previous fiscal year. Should the amounts required under this subsection not match such a ratio with respect to any given fiscal year, the Auditor shall promptly advise the Council of the same.

C. Miscellaneous Representatives.

1. Cash Handlers. For County Representatives not listed in Subsection (A) whose official duties include receiving, processing, depositing, disbursing, or otherwise having access to at least \$5,000.00 in County funds per year, their Surety Bond shall equal \$5,000.00.
2. Catchall. For all other County Representatives not otherwise described in Subsection (A) or (C)(1), no Surety Bond shall be required.
3. Determination. The Auditor may determine the identity of the County Representatives described in this subsection.

D. Automatic Adjustment. Notwithstanding Subsections (A) through (C), to the extent that the minimum or maximum amount or a ratio of a Surety Bond required by applicable law has been increased or decreased

compared to the amount authorized by this ordinance, the amount of the change shall be deemed added to the amounts required under this ordinance.

E. SBOA. Notwithstanding anything in this section to the contrary, the Surety Bond amounts set by this section are subject to further modification as may be prescribed by the SBOA.

SECTION IV – BLANKET COVERAGE

- A. Authorization. The Auditor is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to purchase both a Blanket Bond and Crime Insurance Policy with coverage in the amounts of the respective Surety Bonds on behalf of all those persons who would otherwise be required to file a Surety Bond; provided, however, that the blanket bond need not cover County Representatives who are third-party agents.
- B. Scope. Any Blanket Bond and Crime Insurance Policy should cover, where feasible, all County employees for whom a Surety Bond is not required in an amount equal to the minimum amount required by this ordinance for any other County Representative.
- C. Sureties.
 1. The surety on any Blanket Bond or Crime Insurance Policy must be a duly authorized corporate surety company authorized to do business in the State of Indiana.
 2. The Blanket Bond and Crime Insurance Policy purchased under this section may be purchased collectively or piecemeal from various sureties in order to maximize the value or coverage to be obtained overall.
- D. Third-Party Representatives. Before any contract has been entered into with any prospective third-party County Representative who would be required to purchase a Surety Bond under this ordinance if the contract is executed, the Auditor may direct the County Attorney, subject to any veto by the Commissioners, to require the County Representative to purchase a reasonable amount of crime insurance, as determined by the Auditor, providing an insurance policy certificate that names the County as an additional insured.
- E. Materiality. The Auditor may increase the amount of coverage of any Blanket Bond or Crime Insurance Policy purchased under this ordinance to the extent that the Auditor deems the excess coverage in accordance with and prudent under the County's materiality policy.
- F. Advance Approval. To the extent that any officer who is responsible for approving the form of any instrument purchased under this ordinance has any reasonable requirements with respect to the form or language of the instrument, those requirements shall be communicated to the Auditor in advance of the purchase as much as is reasonably feasible.
- G. Notice. The Auditor shall advise County Representatives to the extent that a Blanket Bond or Crime Insurance has been purchased on their behalf so that they can more accurately determine their legal duties under applicable law.

SECTION V – REPEAL OF PRIOR LAW

- A. Repeal. Ordinance 2015-11-09, which was adopted on November 9, 2015, is hereby repealed in its entirety.
- B. Ratification. Pursuant to IC 36-1-4-16, all disinterested actions previously taken by the County prior to the adoption of this ordinance with respect to the purchase of any blanket bond and/or crime insurance policy are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved in their entirety to the extent that the actions otherwise conform to this ordinance.
- C. Continuance.

1. To the extent that the provisions contained in this ordinance substantially restate the provisions of a prior ordinance or resolution, the provisions shall not be deemed a new enactment of the original provisions, but rather shall be deemed to be the continuation of the original provisions.
2. The express or implied repeal or amendment by this ordinance of any other ordinance or part thereof does not affect any rights or liabilities accrued, penalties incurred, authorizations made, or proceedings begun prior to the effective date of this ordinance. Those rights, liabilities, authorizations, and proceedings are continued, and penalties shall be imposed and enforced under the repealed or amended ordinance as if this ordinance had not been adopted.

D. Revival Prohibited. The express or implied repeal or amendment by this ordinance of any other ordinance or resolution or part thereof shall not be construed to revive any former ordinance, resolution, section, clause, or provision.

SECTION VI – MISCELLANEOUS

A. References.

1. Except where a specific version or edition is given, reference to another section of this ordinance or to another law, document, fund, department, board, program, public servant, or public office, shall extend and apply to the same, as may be subsequently amended, revised, recodified, renamed, reappointed, or renumbered from time to time.
2. Reference in this ordinance to a law, document, fund, department, board, program, public servant, or public office, either generally or by title, without reference to another jurisdiction, shall be construed as though it were preceded or followed, as appropriate, by the words “(of) LaGrange County (Indiana).”
3. Should a provision of this ordinance require any action to be performed which, by law, an agent or deputy may do instead of the principal, the requirement is satisfied by the performance of the action by the authorized agent or deputy.

B. Claims Barred. This ordinance is intended only to improve the internal management of the County. Notwithstanding anything in this ordinance to the contrary, nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to: (i) create any new legal duty, right, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable against the County; nor, (ii) waive or diminish any existing right, protection, immunity, defense, or limitation on liability that may apply to the County or any of its elected or appointed officials, employees, agents, or representatives under any law or regulation.

C. Conflicts. No part of this ordinance shall be construed to conflict with any applicable local, state, or federal law, and all reasonable efforts should be made to harmonize the same.

D. Severability. Should any section or part thereof of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, nor any other portion thereof, and for this purpose the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

E. Promulgation. The Auditor is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take all action necessary or proper to authenticate, record, publish, promulgate, and/or otherwise make this ordinance effective.

F. Codification. To the extent a substantive change in meaning does not result, the codifier of ordinances may omit the Name, Recitals, Repeals, Miscellaneous, and Adoption sections of this ordinance from the official code, may renumber, reorder, or reorganize any section of this ordinance, may stipulate definitions, and may alter references to and within this ordinance as appropriate.

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G. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mrs. Karen Eagleson seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER UNENCUMBERED FUNDS TO THE “RAINY DAY FUND” PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 36-1-8-5.1

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, explained that the Council has the option of transferring unencumbered funds to the Rainy Day Fund at the end of the year. She presented the following Resolution for consideration:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12-08

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER UNENCUMBERED FUNDS TO THE “RAINY DAY FUND”
PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 36-1-8-5.1.

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-8-5.1 permits an Indiana county to establish a Rainy Day Fund to receive transfers of unused and unencumbered funds under said Indiana Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said statute, an Indiana County Council shall make a finding that the proposed use of the Rainy Day Funds is consistent with the intent of the fund before making an appropriation therefrom; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said statute, in any fiscal year an Indiana county may not transfer more than **ten percent (10%)** of its total budget for that fiscal year to the Rainy Day Fund; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said statute, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance may not reduce the actual or maximum permissible levy of an Indiana county as a result of a balance in the Rainy Day Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

Therefore, effective this date, the LaGrange County Council approves the transfer of \$1,500,000.00 of unused and unencumbered funds from 2025 in the County General Fund to the “Rainy Day Fund”.

The “Rainy Day Fund” shall be subject to the same appropriation process as other funds that receive tax money. The LaGrange County Council hereby intends to utilize its decision-making power regarding fiscal affairs and set priorities for all allocation and expenditure of the “Rainy Day Fund” as deemed necessary to best serve the residents of LaGrange County.

Adopted and Resolved this 8th day of December, 2025.

Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

TRANSFER RESOLUTION

Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to approve the end of year transfer Resolution. Mr. Mike Strawser seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE

Mrs. Jenny Landez, Human Resources Director, explained that the Coroner’s office is recommending a change for the Deputy Coroner for calls made on holidays. The following Amendment to the Salary Ordinance were presented:

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AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2026

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED THAT the following changes be made in the LaGrange County Salary Ordinance for the year 2026:

REQUESTED

1000-0007 COUNTY GENERAL - CORONER

1000.10502.00000-0007 Deputy Calls

Up to \$500.00/Per
Holiday Call-Out

See attached guidelines

Effective: 01/01/2026

Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to approve the Coroner's amendment. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously. Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

Mrs. Jenny Landez, Human Resources Director, explained that the Parks Department is recommending a position change for the Nature Interpreter to Event Planner. The following Amendment to the Salary Ordinance were presented:

AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2025

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED THAT the following changes be made in the LaGrange County Salary Ordinance for the year 2025:

REQUESTED

1219 PARK AND RECREATION

1219.10610.00000.0000 Event Planner

Up to \$2,140.38/ biweekly

If position still qualifies for FLSA Salary Exempt Status
Job title change – From Event Planner/Nature Interpreter to Event Planner

Effective: 12/08/2025

AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2026

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED THAT the following changes be made in the LaGrange County Salary Ordinance for the year 2026:

REQUESTED

1219 PARK AND RECREATION

1219.10610.00000.0000 Event Planner

Up to \$2,204.59/ biweekly

If position still qualifies for FLSA Salary Exempt Status
Job title change – From Event Planner/Nature Interpreter to Event Planner

Effective: 01/01/2026

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Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to approve the Parks Department amendments. Mr. Mike Strawser seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Jim Young presented the following Ordinance of Additional Appropriations:

ORDINANCE OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget, now THEREFORE:

Sec 1: Be it ordained by the LaGrange County Council, LaGrange, Indiana, that for the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

| | <u>REQUESTED AMOUNT</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>8107 20.526 COUNCIL ON AGING BUS</u> 8107-55114-0000 Grant Distribution | \$60,350.00 |
| <u>8124 93.354 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS COOPERATIVE</u> 8124-30113-0000 Contract Services | 100,000.00 |
| <u>8700 20.205 BRIDGE 49</u> 8700-30140-0000 Professional Services | 70,000.00 |
| <u>8705 20.205 BRIDGE 49 R.O.W.</u> 8705-30140-0000 Professional Services | 25,000.00 |
| <u>9125 COUNCIL ON AGING – TRANS GRANT</u> 9125-55114-0000 Grant Distribution | 387,177.00 |
| <u>9151 JDAI – COMM CORRECTIONS 25/26</u> 9151-30129-0000 Methodist Ministries | 50,000.00 |
| <u>9162 COMMUNITY CROSSINGS</u> 8162-40610-0000 CCMG 2024 600 W & 675 W | 1,481,540.93 |

Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to approve the Parks Department amendments. Mr. Mike Strawser seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS

Mr. Jim Young read the following Resolution to Transfer Funds:

| | <u>DECREASE</u> | <u>INCREASE</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>COUNTY GENERAL – SHERIFF</u> | | |

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| | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1000-10521-0005 Sgt. Detective | 50,000.00 |
| 1000-13601-0005 Transport Officers | 50,000.00 |
| 1000-13700-0005 Jail Officer | 50,000.00 |
| 1000-41200-0005 Parking Lot Resurface / Paving | 150,000.00 |
| 1000-13401-0005 Jail Corporal | 8,000 |
| 1000-40005-0005 Equipment | 8,000 |

COUNTY GENERAL- ASSESSOR

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1000-10404-0008 Deputy | 11,979.07 |
| 1000-10613-0008 Part Time | 11,979.07 |
| 1000-20019-0008 Office Supplies | 1,271.16 |
| 1000-40011-0008 Furniture | 1,271.16 |

COUNTY GENERAL – PURDUE EXTENSION

| | |
|----------------------------------------|--------|
| 1000-30246-0011 Travel / Mileage | 100.00 |
| 1000-15001-0011 Extra Hours / Overtime | 100.00 |

COUNTY GENERAL – ELECTON

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1000-13011-0062 Absentee Voter Board | 2,880.00 |
| 1000-13201-0062 Precinct Board | 1,300.00 |
| 1000-13301-0062 Traveling Board | 790.00 |
| 1000-30519-0062 Legal Services | 5,480.00 |
| 1000-40005-0062 Equipment | 10,450.00 |

COUNTY GENERAL – COMMISSIONERS

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1000-15301-0068 Unemployment | 5,217.00 |
| 1000-30016-0068 Insurance Bldg Etc. | 5,217.00 |
| 1000-15301-0068 Unemployment | 174.20 |
| 1000-30140-0068 professional Services | 4.95 |
| 1000-30306-0068 Consultant – Budget & TIF | 169.25 |

COUNTY GENERAL – PUBLIC DEFENDER

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1000-34000-0271 Case Management (Tabled from 11/10/2025) | 2,000.00 |
| 1000-30205-0271 Cir. Ct PD – McNaughton | 5,000.00 |
| 1000-40105-0271 Office Furniture & Equip | 7,000.00 |

COUNTY GENERAL – GIS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1000-10221-0753 Scanning Tech | 500.00 |
| 1000-20019-0753 Office Supplies | 500.00 |

Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to approve the Resolution to Transfer Funds. Mrs. Karen Eagleson seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

LEGAL CLAIMS

Mrs. Karen Eagleson presented the October 2025 legal claims in the amount of \$28,206.38 from Beers Mallers. Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to approve the legal claims. Mr. Mike Strawser seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

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MINUTES

Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to approve the October 14, 2025 and November 10, 2025 regular session minutes. Mr. Mike Strawser seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

INSPIRATION MINISTRIES

Andrew Foster, President of Inspiration Ministries, requested funds for a grant opportunity. Mr. Jim Young recommended a \$500.00 commitment contingent on the grant approval. Mrs. Karen Eagleson made a motion to contribute \$500.00 contingent on the grant approval. Mr. Mike Strawser seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to adjourn and meet on any subsequent day necessary to carry on the business of the Board. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and, upon roll call vote, it carried unanimously.


Jeffrey L. Brill


Jeffrey A. Campos


Karen S. Eagleson

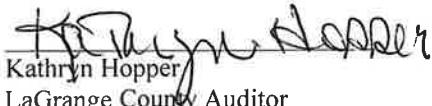

Harold D. Gingerich

ABSENT
Ryan J. Riegsecker


Michael G. Strawser

ABSENT
James R. Young

ATTEST:


Kathryn Hopper
LaGrange County Auditor

