

MARCH 9, 2026

REGULAR SESSION

The LaGrange County Council met in Regular Session on Monday, March 9, 2026, 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, Jeffrey L. Brill, Jeffrey A. Campos, Karen S. Eagleson, Ryan J. Riegsecker, Michael G. Strawser, and James R. Young; and LaGrange County Auditor, Kathryn Hopper. Mr. Harold D. Gingerich was absent. President, Mr. Jim Young brought the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A moment of silence was held in honor of George Bachman.

COMMUNITY CORRECTION GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Brett Hays, Executive Director of the Northeast Indiana Community Corrections, presented a request to apply for a grant for the Community Correction program for 2027. Mr. Hays informed the Council that the grant application is for funding a full-time probation officer and a Drug Court coordinator for LaGrange County. Mr. Jeff Campos made a motion to approve the grant application as presented. Mr. Jeff Brill seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

LAGRANGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – ANNUAL UPDATE

Mrs. Sherri Johnston, LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation Chief Executive Officer, presented an update for the LaGrange County Economic Development Commission.

LAGRANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, informed the Council that the LaGrange County Community Foundation has \$42,879.00 available to grant in 2026 from the endowment fund. Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to authorize the grant funds to be distributed to the county. Funding will be used for countywide ambulance services. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2025

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:

8102 WIC

8102.10015.00000.0000 Peer Counselor

REQUESTED

Up to 10 hours/ week
Up to \$15.30/ hour

- WIC is no longer paying the Peer Counselor out of 8104. Needs to come out of 8102. Effective with the new fiscal grant year 10-01-2025-2026.

Effective: 10/01/2025

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AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2026

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

<u>8102 WIC</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>
8102.10015.00000.0000 Peer Counselor	Up to 10 hours/ week Up to \$15.30/ hour

- Was being paid from 8104. WIC Grant has stopped 8104 and is now being paid from 8102.

Effective: 01/01/2026

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 for the Calendar year 2026; and

WHEREAS notice was duly given to the public in accordance with IC 6-1.1-18-5(a) and IC 5-3-1-2(b) for a public hearing on a proposed additional appropriation and a public hearing was held on the date advertised;

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

	<u>REQUESTED AMOUNT</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL - COMMISSIONERS</u>	
1000-15200-0068 Health Insurance	1,000,000.00
<u>1170 LIT PUBLIC SAFETY</u>	
1170-40904-0000 Pagers for Vol Fire Depts 2026	125,429.43
1172 MAJOR MOVES	
1172-40512-0000 Highway Garage 2026	10,344,952.00
1206 LOCAL HEALTH DEPT TRUST ACCT	
1206-20104-0000 General Supplies	99.50

Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to approve the Ordinance, with the exception of the Major Moves fund request, until a joint session can be held. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS

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

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	<u>DECREASE</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
<u>1000-0313 BUILDING MAINTENANCE</u>		
1000.30618.0313 Disposal Service	65.70	
1000.15001.0313 Extra Hours/ Overtime		65.70
<u>1152 EMERGENCY PLAN / RIGHT TO KNOW</u>		
1152.20013.0000 Haz-Mat Supplies	5,577.00	
1152.40017.0000 Haz-Mat Equipment		5,577.00

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND TO THE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Mr. Jim Young presented the following Resolution for consideration:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03-09

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND TO THE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND.

WHEREAS, the County has appropriated funds in County General for the payment of health insurance claims and costs associated with the self-funded health insurance plan;

WHEREAS, the regular process of moving appropriated funds from County General to the Health Insurance fund each month during the payroll process is insufficient to cover all the costs of the self-funded health insurance plan at this time;

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

Therefore, effective March 9, 2026, the LaGrange County Council approves the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the County General Fund to the Health Insurance Fund.

Adopted and Resolved this 9th day of March, 2026.

Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to approve the Resolution to Transfer Funds and Resolution to Transfer Funds from County General Fund to the Health Insurance Fund. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

LEGAL CLAIMS

Mr. Jim Young presented the legal claims in the amount of \$47,289.00 for January 2026 from Beers Mallers. Mr. Jim Young made a motion to approve. Mrs. Karen Eagleson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to approve the February 9, 2026 regular session minutes. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PARKS ANNUAL REPORT

Mary Franke, Director of Parks, presented the annual report for the Parks Department. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to approve the annual report. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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SHERIFF PURCHASE REQUEST

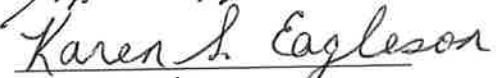
Mr. Tracy Harker, LaGrange County Sheriff, requested to use \$11,800.00 out of Commissary Funds for Tech 84 Annual Service Agreement. Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Jeff Campos seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

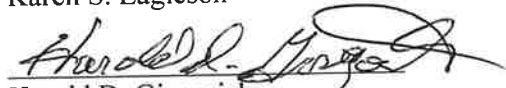
ADJOURNMENT

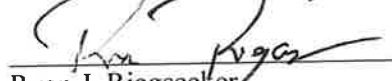
There being nothing further to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Mike Strawser made a motion to adjourn and meet on any subsequent day necessary to carry on the business of the Board. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.


Jeffrey L. Brill


Jeffrey A. Campos


Karen S. Eagleson

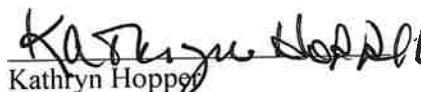

Harold D. Gingerich


Ryan J. Riegsecker


Michael G. Strawser


James R. Young

ATTEST:


Kathryn Hopper
LaGrange County Auditor