



Minutes
Public Safety Committee
February 26, 2026 10:00 a.m.
Emergency Operations Center, Room 207

STAFF PRESENT: Commissioners Allison Watters and Mike Burnes. Jamie McCord, John Blalock, James Womack, Chris Fincher, Rick Flanigen, Gene Proctor, Alisha Burnes, Katheryn Walters, Mark Wallace, Tom Ewing, Brad Roberson, Jamie Stone, Clete Bonney, Troy Brock, Amy Dawkins and John Bailey.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Adam Carey

Call to Order

Commissioner Watters called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Public Participation

Review Minutes from Previous Meeting

The committee approved the minutes from the Dec. 18, 2025 meeting through common consent.

Order of Business:

I. P.A.W.S.

Director Katy Walters reported that calls for service are up significantly. She also reported returns to owners are at 15.1% compared with the national average of 3%. That percentage is a direct result of the microchipping and other programs, she reported. Walters also reported that they have a commitment from a vet to do the low-cost spay and neuter offerings twice a month.

II. Coroner

Coroner Gene Proctor reviewed the submitted data report and commented that fentanyl overdoses had declined significantly, however methamphetamine overdoses had increased significantly. He also reported that implementing practices like regular glove changes had decreased the amount of accidental fentanyl contact by first responders significantly.

III. Emergency Management

Deputy EMA Director Chris Fincher requested that the committee recommend the transfer of a 2005 Ford Expedition from Rome Fire Department to EMA for use by a volunteer to the Board of Commissioners to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

Fincher also informed the committee that the deadline for a FEMA funding opportunity related to Hurricane Helene is approaching rapidly on March 15. The proposed request would total \$1.4 million for 10 generators at six different locations.

He also discussed with the committee about a funding opportunity from the Office of U.S.



Senator Warnock, with a deadline of March 3, 2026, for \$1 million which would be spent on E-911 improvement and cameras for the Sheriff's Office and Police Department.

Fincher also told the committee about the addition of a podcast studio at the Emergency Operations Center for use in educational/informational purposes. He thanked men at the Floyd County Prison for doing much of the work and donating a table for the studio.

IV. E-911

Alisha Burnes with E-911 reviewed the data report and said that calls for service were up in January when compared with the same period of time in 2025. She also told the committee that E-911 is preparing for Dispatcher Week in April.

V. Fire Department

Division Chief Jamie Stone reviewed stats for the Fire Department and Fire Marshal. Chief Stone also reported that the department has added drones with thermal imaging capabilities for search and rescue as well as wilderness fire operations.

Division Chief Bonney reported that the department is doing renovations on Station 10 on Wax Road and Station 6 on Burnett Ferry Road. Bonney also reported that Engine 1 and Engine 10 prebuild will begin in April and is expected to be completed in November 2026. A new boat arrived in January 2026 and will eventually go to Station 4.

Deputy Chief Roberson reported that the department is fully staffed, however the department is seeking an administration assistant.

Chief Brock reported that the department is conducting an impact study because of the large amount of development taking place on the Hwy. 411 corridor. The large amount of growth, he said, will certainly affect fire operations and planning ahead is essential to determine if there will be an additional fire station to serve that area.

VI. Metro Task Force

Assistant Chief Ewing reviewed the Metro Task Force and noted that the K-9 unit attached to the task force has been doing a great job at finding drugs, especially marijuana.

VII. Floyd County Police Department

Chief Wallace reported that there are six vacancies in the police department and that they are looking at several potential candidates to fill those positions. He also reported that Capt. Shea Hovers is beginning his K-9 training which will mean that he could potentially train future K-9s for the department.



VIII. Prison / Work Release Center

IX. Sheriff's Office / Jail

James Womack with the Sheriff's Office reviewed the submitted data report and said the Sheriff's Office continued to provide security for early voting and everything has gone smoothly.

X. Floyd BOE

Chief Safety and Security Officer Rick Flanigen said that he appreciated the professionalism of the Fire Department during recent bus wreck and Police Department as they put together a committee to comply with provisions put in place by HB 268.

XI. Cave Spring Police Department

XII. County Manager

Mr. McCord thanked everyone in attendance for their work making the presidential visit smooth and efficient.

XIII. Chief of Staff

Mr. Blalock noted that E-911 staffed the backup calling center for the presidential visit and communicated that the Secret Service personnel noted that everyone they worked with in Floyd County was professional and the communication was top notch.

XIV. Chairman

Commissioners Watters and Burnes thanked everyone present for their work to make the presidential visit go professionally and smoothly as well as thanking Mr. Blalock for his leadership.

XV. Other Business

XVI. Adjourn

Seeing no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.

***Next meeting April 16, 2026*