

Commissioners  
SCOTT L. METZGER  
*Chairman*  
MARC C. SORTMAN  
*Vice Chairman*  
MARK MUSSINA  
*Secretary*



COUNTY OF LYCOMING  
48 West Third Street  
Williamsport Pennsylvania 17701  
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CHRISTOPHER H. KENYON  
*Solicitor*

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**LYCOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2025  
10:00 A.M.**

**Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Sortman, Commissioner Mussina, Shannon Barnes, Director of Management & Operations, Solicitor Nicholas Grimes.**

**1.0 OPERATIONS**

- 1.1 Opening Prayer
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Convene Commissioners' Public Meeting
- 1.4 Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

**None**

**2.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 2.1 Mya Toon – Presentation and Public Comment on Proposed 2026 County Budget.

**3.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

**Commissioner Metzger thanked everyone for all their hard work and contributions to developing the budget and working to reduce costs from a \$20 million-dollar deficit. He pointed out that the County has had limited tax increases. There have only been two increases since 2004. Commissioner Metzger reported that they have cut \$28 million dollars out of the budget over the past two years. In order to replenish the budget, it is necessary to raise taxes. The fund balance is critical for cash flow to ensure the bills get paid and paid on time. This is a proposed budget. We will continue to look at it to see if there are other areas that adjustments can be made. The impasse of the state and federal monies also affected the budget. He emphasized that this is a team approach and a very difficult, stressful process. This is the first time the fund balance hasn't been used to balance the budget. Our goal is to have a balanced budget and be fiscally responsible.**

**Commissioner Sortman thanked all the teams that worked together to put the budget together. He commented on the importance of the checks and balances and noted that they are watching these. He pointed out that the County has over spent for many years. They are trying to rectify this with the cuts they have made. This also necessitated a tax increase which was a difficult decision to make. Commissioner Sortman stated that they have things**

they are working on that will help reduce the 2027 expenditures. He reiterated that did not use the fund balance to balance the budget, comparing the fund balance to a savings account. He estimated that a half of a million dollars is needed yearly to go back into the fund balance. Commissioner Sortman talked about the TRANS – Tax Revenue Anticipation Note. This needed to be done to pay bills before our revenue starts coming in from taxes. The goal is to get this one paid off and not need to take one out in the future. The tax increase will assist in doing this. The tax increase will help us to be financially strong in the future which is what we are committed to. Commissioner Sortman spoke about bond on the landfill and the need to expand the landfill in order to meet the terms of the bond. There are also bonds that equal 57 million dollars that have maturity dates in the future up to 2040. The goal is to pay these off sooner. He asked that the keyboard warriors provide constructive suggestions.

Commissioner Metzger added that each Commissioner oversees different Department. Commissioner Sortman oversees the landfill. They just learned this week is that the landfill has a 27-million-dollar bond. If they do not get permitted for the land that they acquired they do not have enough airspace to pay off the bond. It is critical for the future of the landfill that they get the required permits. Currently they do not have enough revenue to meet all their expenses which is why the prices have been increased.

Commissioner Mussina talked about the challenges of developing the budget. He expressed his appreciation for the groups working together to put this budget together as well as his fellow Commissioners. He talked about the necessity of raising the taxes. He emphasized that the budget is going in the right direction, but challenges continue to arise. Commissioner Metzger added that anyone with ideas or suggestions are welcome to call them.

Director Barnes commented about the difficult decisions that had to be made and how hard everyone worked throughout the budget process and the education she has received. She emphasized that the Commissioners considered how each of their decisions would affect the employees, the retirees and the taxpayers.

#### **4.0 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Speakers who wish to address the Board of Commissioners will be limited for no more than three (3) minutes on any particular item. The speaker must state his/her name and address for the record. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the Board Chairman.

Dennis Correll representing the Konkle Library and Board of Trustees. Mr. Correll asked if the numbers were available from the voluntary layoffs and retirements and if they were reflected in the budget.

Ms. Toon responded that there are some confirmations that are reflected in the budget.

In response Commissioner Metzger explained that the positions eliminated from the TDA were open positions that hadn't been filled and accounted for approximately 2 million

dollars. He also commented that state and federal monies aren't available anymore which limits the Count's income.

Mr. Correll expressed his appreciation for the County support over the years. He pointed out that every dollar received from the County is turned into 13.2 dollars of services. Every dollar not received is 13.2 dollars of services they can't provide.

Commissioner Metzger commented on the needs of the various non-profit organizations that provide critical services to the community.

The Commissioners and Director wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

#### ***YOU TUBE PUBLIC COMMENT***

@leelaubscher6458 This is a very hard decision to make. It is good that you are being fiscally responsible and are making the hard decisions rather than continuing to kick the can down the road.

@meganlehman1101 Lycoming County is not alone. Inflation means everything costs more, and the County cannot absorb it forever. Bradford County is proposing a tax increase of 1.625 mills for 2026.

@thomasadams3614 Thank-you for your work! Are there any regulations that are unnecessarily costing us financially, by hamstringing business from growing? Regulations from the city, state or federal governments, which

@thomasadams3614

#1

we might be able to lobby against, and wake-up our legislators to any detrimental policies? Maybe using an AI tool to aid in the search for such roadblocks? Definitely in conjunction with the legal

omasadams3614

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department. I think there may be other options for funding, but would probably need to go through our legislators, as well. I do believe the commitment to working with ICE is absolutely necessary to

@thomasadams3614

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aid in reducing costs, in many ways. Thank-you again and Good Morning Lycoming County! May God Bless America and May God Bless Lycoming County! Happy Thanksgiving!

@meganlehman1101

#2

1,000% agree with small, incremental tax increases when needed rather than a big hike all at once. Much easier on everyone involved; better for internal planning and financial mgmt. This is the way.

#### **5.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Board Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 33 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

*To View This Meeting and For More Detailed Information Click on The Link Below:*

*[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53qrSSR0\\_OA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53qrSSR0_OA)*

# 2026 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Represents projected revenues of \$123,254,342. This is a \$5.5M decrease or 4.24% decrease over the current 2025 budget.
- Represents projected expenditures of \$123,254,342. This is a \$5.5M decrease or a 4.24% decrease over the current 2025 budget.
- Main factors impacting expenditures include personnel and benefit costs, service costs and an increased in Juvenile Probation Costs.
- The Proposed Budget does include a .50 mil tax increase taking the County rate to 7.00 mils. That equivalentes to \$50 per every \$100,000 of assessed value. Marking the first tax increase since 2018.

# 2026 BUDGET SUMMARY-ALL FUNDS

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	DEBT SERVICE FUND	ENTERPRISE FUND	TOTAL ALL SERVICES
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>					
Taxes	\$ 41,230,953	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,230,953
Hotel Tax	1,900,000				1,900,000
Licenses & Permits	29,000				29,000
Intergovernmental - Federal	2,530,350	5,001,112			7,531,462
Intergovernmental - State	11,780,808	9,979,390		293,000	22,053,198
Intergovernmental - Other	768,112	11,375			779,487
Charge for Services	4,441,368	3,404,000		17,395,864	25,241,232
Sale of County Products	123,900			1,825,000	1,948,900
Interest	1,683,000	1,214,844		198,100	3,095,944
Cost, Fines, & Forfeits	786,124				786,124
Miscellaneous	2,552,242	255,691		137,695	2,945,628
Other Sources	12,440,000	137,875	3,134,539		15,712,414
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 80,265,857</b>	<b>\$ 20,004,287</b>	<b>\$ 3,134,539</b>	<b>\$ 19,849,659</b>	<b>\$ 123,254,342</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
General Governmental	\$ 17,615,057	\$ 343,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,958,787
Judicial	15,465,126	154,694			15,619,820
Public Safety	21,230,103	3,427,470			24,657,573
Public Works	176,425	6,814,645		16,349,659	23,340,729
Human Services	10,360,606	4,900,353			15,260,959
Culture & Recreation	954,000	3,551,895			4,505,895
Conservation & Development	373,424	66,500			439,924
Debt Service			3,134,539		3,134,539
Miscellaneous	5,404,175				5,404,175
Capital Assets	5,775,900			1,500,000	7,275,900
Other Sources	2,911,041	745,000		2,000,000	5,656,041
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 80,265,857</b>	<b>\$ 20,004,287</b>	<b>\$ 3,134,539</b>	<b>\$ 19,849,659</b>	<b>\$ 123,254,342</b>

# 2026 REVENUES - ALL FUNDS



**Taxes:** The County is permitted by state law to levy real estate taxes up to 25 mills on every dollar of assessed value for general County purposes exclusive of the requirements for the payment of interest and principal on bonded debt. For 2025, County real estate taxes are projected to be levied at a rate of 6.5000 for County purposes.

**Licenses & Permits:** The County's portion of the fee collected for dog, hunting, and fishing licenses as well as the fee for small games of chance permits.

**Intergovernmental:** Receipts from other governments (federal, state, and local) in the forms of grants, entitlements, or payments in lieu of taxes. Revenue is estimated using allocation letters or estimates based on trends and information from federal, state, and local agencies.

**Charge for Service:** Payments from customers for the provision of specific services to a person or entity.

**Sale of County Products:** Payments for the sale of any County owned item. Examples would include the sale of surplus inventory items, crops and livestock at the farm, and recycling products, electricity, and gas at the landfill.

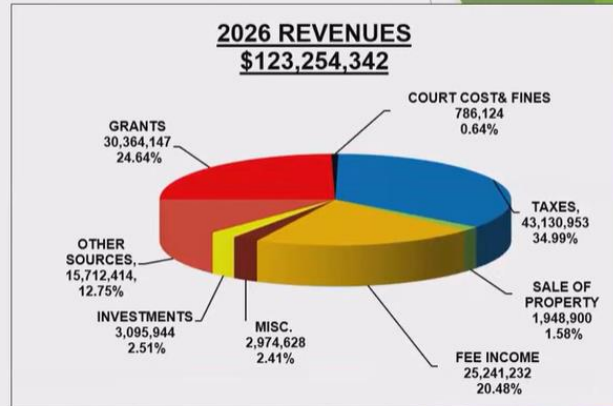
**Interest:** Interest earned on any County bank account or investment.

**Cost, Fines, & Forfeits:** Collected County cost and fines.

**Miscellaneous:** These revenues include anything from rent to telephone fees at the prison.

**Other Sources:** Represents operating transfers of funds to one governmental fund from another when one fund is responsible to support the other.

**Fund Balance:** Represents the difference between total actual financing sources and total actual expenditures at the close of the fiscal year. This carries from previous years.



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# 2026 EXPENSES - ALL FUNDS



**General Governmental:** Costs related to the central administration of the County government including departments such as Commissioners, Voter Registration, Human Resources, Maintenance, Budget & Finance.

**Judicial:** Sheriff, Coroner, Courts, District Attorney, and Public Defender are some of the departments that make up the costs in the Judicial category.

**Public Safety:** Public Safety includes departments like the Prison, Adult and Juvenile Probation, Communications, Emergency Services, and Hazardous Materials.

**Public Works:** Liquid Fuels, Community Development Block Grants, Flood Mitigation, Economic Development and Resource Management Services are examples of the departments that make up this category.

**Human Services:** Human Services is comprised of our Children & Youth and Veteran's Affairs dept.

**Culture & Recreation:** The Culture & Recreation division encompasses our Recreational Grant department and our Marcellus Legacy Fund.

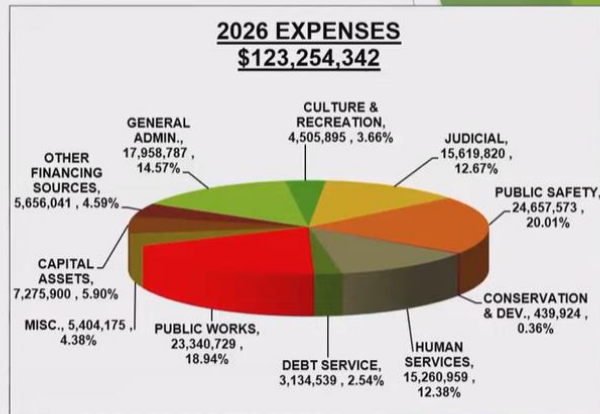
**Conservation & Development:** This category is made up of the County Farm, Co-Operative Extension, and Conservation District.

**Debt Service:** The amount of money required in a given year to pay the principal and interest expense of any existing County debt.

**Miscellaneous:** Employee Fringe and Liability Insurance department make up the majority of the expenses in the Miscellaneous area.

**Capital Assets:** This category accounts for all of the capital assets being purchased by the County in a given year. Resource Management Services assets are not included as they are an enterprise fund.

**Other Sources:** Represents operating transfers of funds from one governmental fund to another.



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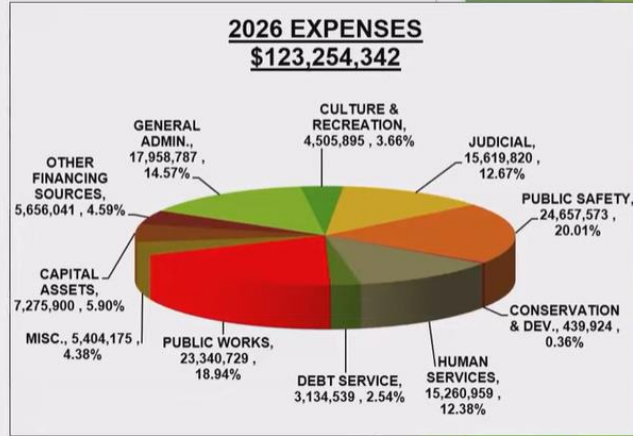
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# 2026 VS. 2025 BUDGET COMPARISON



	2026 BUDGET	vs 2025 BUDGET	Variance
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>			
Taxes	\$ 41,230,953	\$ 38,220,429	\$ 3,010,524
Hotel Tax	1,900,000	1,425,000	475,000
Licenses & Permits	29,000	26,600	2,400
Intergovernmental - Federal	7,531,462	10,611,752	(3,080,290)
Intergovernmental - State	22,053,198	23,747,849	(1,694,651)
Intergovernmental - Other	779,487	585,671	193,816
Charge for Services	25,241,232	23,151,961	2,089,271
Sale of County Products	1,948,900	5,073,300	(3,124,400)
Interest	3,095,944	1,450,139	1,645,805
Cost, Fines, & Forfeits	786,124	741,624	44,500
Miscellaneous	2,945,628	3,954,284	(1,008,656)
Other Sources	15,712,414	14,336,282	1,376,132
Fund Balance Appropriated	-	5,381,459	(5,381,459)
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 123,254,342</b>	<b>\$ 128,706,350</b>	<b>\$ (5,452,008)</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
General Governmental	\$ 17,958,787	\$ 17,472,865	\$ 485,922
Judicial	15,619,820	17,624,629	(2,004,809)
Public Safety	24,657,573	26,748,081	(2,090,508)
Public Works	23,340,729	28,653,292	(5,312,563)
Human Services	15,260,959	12,729,605	2,531,354
Culture & Recreation	4,505,895	3,811,843	694,052
Conservation & Development	439,924	1,708,456	(1,268,532)
Debt Service	3,134,539	3,251,836	(117,297)
Miscellaneous	5,404,175	3,092,000	2,312,175
Capital Assets	7,275,900	10,536,581	(3,260,681)
Other Sources	5,656,041	3,077,162	2,578,879
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 123,254,342</b>	<b>\$ 128,706,350</b>	<b>\$ (5,452,008)</b>

And then you can see the comparison from 2026 to the current budget

Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues Over

