

**Regular Meeting
Lea County Board of Commissioners
April 9, 2026**

Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Lea County Courthouse.

Commissioners present were, to wit: Chair Tyson Pierce, District 4, Vice Chair Brad Weber, District 2, Commissioner Dee Ann Kimbro, District 1, Commissioner Gary Eidson, District 3, Commissioner Pat Sims, District 5.

Commissioner Kimbro led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Invocation by Vice Chair Weber

ITEM 01: COMMISSION

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-091R Approving the March 26, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Public Comments: *(Non-Agenda Items)*
 - No public Comments.
- Commissioners and County Manager Comments:
 - Commissioner Kimbro – Shared that Curry Pruitt provided a tour of the Maljamar Fire Station #2 facility and added that the condition of the facility reflects the pride staff take in what they do.
 - Vice Chair Weber – Welcomed Daniel Keen, the new Lea County Detention Director.

ITEM 2: ACTION ITEMS

- Consideration of Proclamation Recognizing April 12-18, 2026, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-092R Approving an Aviation Grant with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) for Runway 13-31 MRL Reconstruction at the Lea County Regional Airport.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

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- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-093R Authorizing the Advertisement of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Alignment Study, Surveying and Design Services of a Connector Roadway from NM 18 to NM 483.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-094R Approving Memoranda of Agreement Between Lea County and the State of New Mexico's Department of Health (NMDOH) for the Use of Public Health Offices.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-095R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and Lasco Construction, Inc. for Upgrades Under the Show Barn at the Lea County Fairgrounds.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, no. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-096R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel November 17–21, 2026, for the Facilities Director to Attend the International Facility Management Association's World Workplace Conference in Anaheim, California.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-097R Authorizing Out-of-State Travel April 26-29, 2026, for the Health & Wellness Director to Attend the National Council on Mental Wellbeing Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-098R Authorizing the 3rd Quarter Payment and Certification for the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP) Fund.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-099R Adopting the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation to Deny the Vacation of a Dedicated 60-foot Right-of-Way in the Oakridge Park Unit 2 Subdivision, Being Armijo Avenue, South of Lot 20, Located in Section 5, Township 18 South, Range 38 East, N.M.P.M.

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Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-100R Adopting the Freeholders Committee's Recommendation to Approve the Vacation of a 12-Foot Alley in the Townsite of Bennettville Subdivision, the North Termini Being Front Street and the South Termini Being Back Street, Between Marshall Street and Benson Street, Located in Section 7, Township 26 South, Range 37 East in Lea County, New Mexico.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-101R Approving a Cooperative Educational Services (CES) Agreement Between Lea County and Anissa Construction, LLC. for Architectural Services for the Lea County Emergency Management Building.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-102R Approving Change Orders No. 1 & 3 for Painting and Repairs at the Lea County Environmental Services Building and Warehouse to Anissa Construction, LLC

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

- Consideration of Lea County Resolution No. 26-APR-103R Approving Change Order No. 1 with Strada for Extending the Implementation Period of Workday.

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of the Lea County Comprehensive Plan.

Chuck McMahon, Chuck McMahon Consulting, LLC proposed a plan to establish an Advisory Committee to support Lea County's Comprehensive Plan by gathering community input and providing guidance. The Board of County Commissioners was asked to review and give feedback on the committee's structure, member categories, and selection process.

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- Discussion of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Departmental Operating Budgets.

Anthony Dobbs, Interim Finance Director, presented an overview of the annual budget preparation process, explaining that elected officials and department directors provide presentations on operating plans and funding needs during the County Commission meeting. This gives the County Commissioners an opportunity to provide feedback and directions in the budget process.

Lea County Departments:

Chip Low, Assistant County Manager, presented the Board of Commissioners' operating budget. He explained that various adjustments were made to reallocate certain costs into more specific line items to improve transparency and better track where funds are being expended. These changes resulted in an overall budget reduction of \$4,344,746.

Corey Needham, County Manager, reviewed the operating budgets for the Lea County airports. He referenced a three-year actual budget history and used it as a base to modify the current operating budget. He noted that some operational amounts were reduced, with less contingency but still enough for comfortable operations. The total operating budget reduction for the three airports is \$419,700.

Daniel Keen, Detention Center Director, reported a \$380,125 reduction in the operating budget.

Jim Kemp, Event Center Director, proposed an event management system. Overall, he reported a \$2,743,000 reduction in the operating budget due to a decrease in special production.

Corey Needham, County Manager, reported for the Executive Department a \$68,600 reduction in the operating budget.

Edmundo Lara, Facilities Director, reported a \$1,751,180 reduction in the operating budget due to adjustments made to reallocate costs to more specific line items.

Wyatt Duncan, Lea County Fair Grounds Director, reported a \$541,901 reduction in the operating budget across both departments. He also reported a \$150 increase in team roping entry fees per team due to increase in stock cost.

Anthony Dobbs, Finance Director, reported a \$16,259 reduction in the operating budget. He also noted a \$1,056,406 increase in the Indigent Fund. Risk Management reported no changes to its operating budget. The Opioid Settlement Fund current amount is only for what was spent for program at Detention Center, we are still unsure of the amount that will be received.

Angela Martinez, Lea County Communication Authority Director, expressed appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for recognizing dispatchers and all departments within Lea County. She reported a \$53,000 increase in the operating budget.

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John Caldwell, Legal Department, reported a \$2,047,112 increase in the operating budget.

John Potulano, Planning Director, reported a \$4,075 reduction in the operating budget.

Marvin Sanchez, Road Department Director, reported a \$46,000 reduction in the operating budget.

- Discussion of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Personnel Budget.

Corey Needham, County Manager, discussed Lea County's personnel budget, outlining the costs associated with staffing within the county. Developing a personnel budget is crucial for maintaining the county's financial health and operational efficiency. It enables better control over expenses and ensures that Lea County can effectively fulfill its obligations to both its employees and its residents.

ITEM 4: EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:50 a.m. Vice Chair Weber moved that the Commission convene in closed session to discuss pending litigation, namely Tello v. Lea County Board of Commissioners and others, and Guerry v. Gutierrez and others, and In the matter of proposed amendments to 20.6.8 NMAC-Ground and Surface Water Protection pending before the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission, and to discuss the disposal of real property in central and southern Lea County, as authorized by NMSA 1978 Sections 10-15-1 H (7) and (8). The motion was second by Commissioner Kimbro.

COMMISSION MAY CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION to Take Action, if any, on the Closed Session Item(s).

Secretary polled the commission. Chair Pierce, yes; Vice Chair Weber, yes; Commissioner Kimbro, yes; Commissioner Eidson, yes; Commissioner Sims, yes. The motion passed.

The meeting reconvened at 11:54 a.m.

The Chair stated, let the record reflect that the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure.

ITEM 5: OTHER BUSINESS

- No other business discussed.

ADJOURN: 11:54 a.m.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO


Tyson Pierce, Chair


Brad Weber, Vice Chair

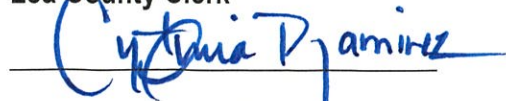

Dee Ann Kimbro, Member


Gary Eidson, Member


Pat Sims, Member

ATTEST: Carrie Sandoval

Lea County Clerk


Cynthia Ramirez, Recording Secretary

