
**LEWIS COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
May 26, 2026**

Present:

Legislator Joshua Leviker, Chair
Legislator Thomas Osborne, Vice Chair
Legislator Vincent Nortz
Legislator Jeffrey Nellenback
Legislator Michael Hanno

CALL TO ORDER

Legislator Leviker called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Legislator Leviker moved to approve the minutes of April 28, 2026, General Services Committee meeting as submitted.

Motion seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain - None

Lewis County EMS Study

Presenter: *Paul Bishop, CGR*

Mr. Bishop presented a multi-month study of Lewis County emergency medical services, summarizing interviews, facility tours, 911 call-data analysis, and an interim baseline delivered in February; a detailed 100-page report is available. The study began in September and reviewed all seven in-county agencies, four frequent out-of-county responders, county staff, and the regional EMS council.

Findings: Lewis County Search and Rescue (LCSR) handled roughly 75% of county EMS responses due to its countywide operating certificate, advanced life-support capacity, and more consistent staffing. Inter-facility transports comprised about 20% of county call volume in the 2022–2025 sample; LCSR’s inter-facility long-distance transports declined ~30% over

that period as transfers shifted to out-of-county agencies. The system faces staffing shortages and declining volunteer participation, rising ambulance operating costs, and the recent closure of Harrisville Rescue Squad. Strengths include strong mutual aid, institutional knowledge, municipal financial support, reliable 911 and air-medical relationships, and an engaged Lewis County General Hospital. Call volume peaks noon–4 p.m. and clusters near population centers, creating response challenges for a single central station in the geographically large county.

Recommendations: Transport strategy favors Lewis County General Hospital starting a supplemental ambulance service focused on inter-facility work — a modeled option of a 24/7 paramedic engine plus a second ambulance covering peak hours requiring ~13 FTEs, ~\$1.7 million annual operations, and producing an estimated ~\$931,000 in billing from ~1,095 billable transports at ~\$850 each. A full hospital-run service (three 24/7 ambulances plus peak coverage) would roughly double staffing and costs and is presented as a future option; the study recommends beginning with the supplemental model rather than immediately replacing existing providers.

Workforce and operations: Expand EMT training via local BOCs and hybrid delivery, appoint an instructor coordinator, explore workforce housing to retain staff, and strengthen BLS first-responder capacity in remote areas. System operational recommendations include creating a county EMS coordinator position and improving emergency call triage to better match resources to call severity.

Funding: The report modeled local revenue options — motor vehicle registration fees, portions of sales or lodging tax, and property tax impacts — and estimated the median homeowner impact for an initial ~\$800,000 supplemental funding model at about \$48 per year; larger models scale costs accordingly. The presentation closed with an offer to review the detailed data and answer stakeholder questions.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Draft Resolution No. 1

Authorizing a three-year renewal agreement with NCC Systems for fire alarm inspection services at the Lewis County Courthouse, Public Safety Building, and Emergency Management garage. The agreement covers the period from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028, at a total cost not to exceed \$9,755.00, to be funded through the Buildings & Grounds Professional Services budget line.

Motion: Legislator Leviker moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Nortz and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 2

Awarding the bid and authorizing an agreement with Rynocoatings LLC to provide sealing and striping services for various County parking lots, including the Highway garage, Outdoor Services, DMV, Human Services, and Public Safety Building. The project will be completed between June 8, 2026 and September 28, 2026, at a total cost not to exceed \$66,215.10, to be funded through the Buildings & Grounds Professional Services account.

Motion: Legislator Leviker moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 3

Authorizing Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with Barton & Loguidice for additional engineering services related to the Kotel Road culvert replacement project over the South Branch of Crystal Creek (PIN 775454) in the Town of Watson. The supplemental agreement covers construction, construction inspection, and construction support services from April 27, 2026 through December 31, 2027, at an additional cost not to exceed \$153,000.00, bringing the total project engineering cost to \$333,000.00, fully reimbursable through BridgeNY Culvert Funding.

Motion: Legislator Leviker moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

Draft Resolution No. 4

Authorizing an interfund loan and Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Lewis and the Lewis County Highway Department to finance 2026 machinery and equipment purchases under the Highway Department's capital equipment plan. The agreement authorizes the transfer of up to \$514,980.00 from the County's General Fund to the County Machinery Fund for the purchase of a CAT skid steer, Viking plow, and Western Star cab and chassis, with repayment to the County over five years at no interest.

Motion: Legislator Leviker moved that this draft resolution be forwarded to the full Board of Legislators for action.

Motion was seconded by Legislator Hanno and carried.

Vote: AYE – 5 NAY – 0 Recuse/Abstain – None .

NEW BUSINESS

Lewis County Highway Superintendent John Reed came forward at the request of Legislator Kalamas to explain that the Number Four Road in Lowville had been reduced to one lane of traffic in the area between the Markowski Road and the East Martinsburg Road, near the DEC boat launch, due to a failing culvert.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Legislator Leviker moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 PM, seconded by Legislator Nellenback and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser
Clerk of the Board