

**May 11, 2026**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for budget meetings on May 11, 2026, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Hammons, Commissioner Teske, Commissioner Duram and Clerk and Recorder Corrina Brown.

Zoom Participation: Melanie Howell and Sierra Gustin.

**10:00 AM Elections Budget Meeting:** Present were Dallas Bowe, Jeff Koskela, Melanie Howell and Mike Bradeen.

Melanie Howell, Election Administrator, noted that wages and benefits were not yet included pending further information. She reported a budget increase of over \$19,000, including a \$200 increase in supplies due to higher product costs and a \$13,000 increase in postage due to rising mailing rates and election-related mailings. She explained that purchasing a smaller in-office mailing unit could save approximately \$3,000 annually through nonprofit bulk mailing rates. She noted a \$300 increase in publication costs for required election advertisements, a \$5,000 increase for ES&S election software and maintenance, including a major system maintenance update anticipated in December, and a \$140 increase in professional services related to census boundary updates requiring GIS work. Contract services increased by \$800 due to anticipated minimum wage increases and staffing needs associated with the federal election.

**10:15 AM Noxious Weeds Budget Meeting:** Present were Dallas Bowe, Jeff Koskela and Mike Bradeen.

Mike Bradeen, Weed Director, presented the noxious weed department revenues and expenditures, noting that the only anticipated increases are related to salaries, wages, and benefits. He reviewed contract employee budget details, including wages, chemicals and laboratory supplies, repairs and maintenance, utilities, machinery and vehicle insurance. He discussed plans to purchase a new side-by-side spraying unit while retaining the current unit as a backup. He advised that summer staffing is expected to include one six-month employee and one temporary employee. He also reviewed grant-funded budget items, including the state county reservation grant and stated that grant funding is expected to sufficiently cover related staffing and operational costs. He will add revenue from spraying services at the county landfill and green box sites to the budget projections. He reported successfully bidding on spraying work in Sanders County, including approximately 15 miles in the Bull Lake area and portions of the East and South Fork roads, noting the work helps control invasive species along the county border.

**10:30 AM Sheriff Department Budget Meeting:** postponed

**10:35 AM Adjourned**

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brent Teske, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrina Brown, Clerk of the Board