

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

**April 2, 2026
Forsyth, Georgia**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. J.C. “Spud” Bowen
Ms. Kellie Brownlow
Mr. Rodney Bryant
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. – Chairman
Ms. Sandra D. Hudson
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Luis “Lou” M. Solis Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John B. Edwards
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. W. D. Strickland

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE:

Ms. Elizabeth Crowder, Attorney General’s Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Mr. Louis DeBroux, Assistant Commissioner, Research, Strategic Planning, Government Affairs
Mr. Jackson Defore, Assistant Commissioner of Finance and Admin
Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of Health Services Division
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division
Ms. Lori Benoit, Deputy Director of Office of Communications
Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Kenneth Ellis, Statewide Chaplain
Mr. Benjamin Ford, Facilities Division Director
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Angela Ivestor, Deputy Director, OIT
Mr. David Jones, Director of Engineering, Construction Services
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Quana Kemp, Admin Assistant
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Ms. Janine Robinson, Executive Director of Georgia Correctional Industries
Mr. Charles Vinson, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Bryan Wilson, Interim General Counsel
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:

Ms. Barbara Tahsler, Citizen

First, Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. called to order the April 2, 2026, meeting for the Board of Corrections (“the Board”) at 10:00 a.m. and Board Liaison, Simone Juhmi, recorded the minutes.

Chairman Fleming then asked Chaplain Kenneth Ellis to deliver the invocation. Following such, Chairman Fleming led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Fleming welcomed and recognized all guests and visitors and the Board meeting, being duly convened, proceeded with business.

Chairman Fleming presented the Agenda to the Board for approval. Mr. Rossie Ross made a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Chris Clark. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Fleming presented the March 5, 2026, Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Rossie Ross made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Chris Clark. The Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Oliver briefly discussed several events such as Sine-Die (the last day of session), the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget, March being Women's Month and the Women's Symposium that was held at State Offices South at Tift College, and Ms. Nikki Renfroe, the daughter of former Board of Corrections Member, Rose Williams, being the Keynote Speaker for the event. Commissioner Oliver also mentioned the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) participation in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, which is a charity event that was held on February 21, 2026, and GDC raising \$26,601 dollars for the event.

Commissioner Oliver discussed the new surgical unit opening at Augusta State Medical Prison, the Amended Fiscal Year 2026 Budget being signed, the \$2000 dollar supplement for employees, the Managed Access System, the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget hearing set for next week Thursday, March 12th, the ModCorr at Dodge State Prison, Guidehouse and Moss Group's assistance to the Georgia Department of Corrections, recruitment and retention, and Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of the Office of Professional Development retiring at the end of March, after serving 31 years with the Georgia Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Oliver then discussed the Commissioner's Dashboard, which is a four-page overview highlighting key areas and significant events within the Agency.

Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner of the Health Services Division, to do a Health Services Division Update.

Assistant Commissioner Sauls briefly presented the major Health Services project completions for Fiscal Year 2026. Some of the items discussed were the Electronic Health Record (EHR) and TechCare which is the comprehensive Electronic Health Record Software System, the expansion and reopening of surgical services at Augusta State Medical Prison (ASMP). Mr. Sauls focused on the features of TechCare, documentation and tracking reporting, TechCare Patient Chart, TechCare Report Dashboard, TechCare Site Specific Dashboard, ASMP Surgical Services, Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC), Coastal State Prison Mobile Surgery Unit (MSU) Experience, Coastal MSU, and the expansion of services at ASMP.

To close, Mr. Sauls discussed the facility status prior to reopening, the Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Centers (ASTC), the rollout plan, and photos of ASMP Open House, ASMP Operating Suites, ASMP Endoscopy Suite, the Pre-Op Holding Area, the Patient Holding Area 4A Unit, and the Surgical Providers.

This concluded Mr. Sauls' report.

Next, Commissioner Oliver asked Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Division, to do a Facilities Division Update.

Mr. Holt began by expressing that his presentation would be on the Overwatch and Logistics (OWL Unit: Georgia's Centralized Surveillance and Logistics Vision), which is a strategic blueprint for real-time correctional intelligence.

Some of the highlights discussed were the mission and the core concept of the Overwatch and Logistics (OWL) Unit, the three pillars of the unit being proactive prevention, efficient response, and tactical support. Mr. Holt discussed items such as camera formatting, monitoring scope, reaction time, intelligence format, the physical nerve center, State Offices South at Tift College (SOSTC) remodeling of a dedicated space. Also discussed were the video wall matrix, analyst workstations, the rollout roadmap and phases, unit build-out, deploying 24/7 human capital and prepping pilot facility network infrastructure, technology and integration, and completion.

Mr. Holt closed by discussing the 24/7 coverage topology, infrastructure scaling, the OWL unit dashboard, tactical integrations: security and overwatch (drone detection, taser monitoring, FUSUS/Body Cameras), Logistical Integrations: Operational Command (Fleetistics monitoring, NoteActive tablets, CMMS Monitoring and Motorola Connect). Mr. Holt discussed the Anatomy of Proactive Security (drone detection alert, SOSTC analyst intercept, Motorola dispatch, and live body cam sync). Last of all, Mr. Holt discussed the measurable impact, incident reduction, and fully integrating the centralized hub by June 2026.

This concluded the report for Mr. Holt and the Commissioner's Report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Under the Chairman's Report, Chairman Fleming advised the Board that we collected a total of one thousand five hundred and forty-five dollars (\$1545.00) towards the 2026 Georgia Prison Warden's Association (GPWA) Board of Corrections scholarship fund. This total was added to the previous collection so the Board has officially reached and surpassed its two thousand-dollar (\$2000) goal. The total for the GPWA scholarship award is two thousand, one hundred and forty-five dollars (\$2,145.00). Chairman Fleming advised that the Board would continue to collect until the GPWA Conference that is held annually in June.

Under Old or New Business, Chairman Fleming asked Mr. Bryan Wilson, Interim General Counsel for the Office of Legal Services, to present the property resolution for approval to the Board.

Mr. Wilson stated Donna Barwick holds title to 0.55 acre located at 316 Watson St, Swainsboro, Emanuel County, Georgia, and the Georgia Department of Corrections intends to use the property as the Warden's Residence for Emanuel Women's Facility. Mr. Wilson also stated that the Georgia Department of Corrections is desirous of acquiring the property for the consideration of \$260,000.00 and that all the necessary paperwork was in the Board members packets.

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve the property resolution. Mr. Thomas Culpepper made a motion to approve the resolution, which were seconded by Sheriff Donnie Pope. The resolution were voted "approved" by the Board as presented.

Chairman Fleming reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on Thursday, May 7, 2026, in Forsyth. Mr. Fleming also reminded the Board members that we will honor our Correctional Officers and Correctional Nurses at the next meeting for their honorary recognition week.

There being no further business, the board meeting was adjourned.

Ester Fleming Jr., Chairman

Chris Clark, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison