

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

December 4, 2025

Forsyth, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff Barry H. Babb
Mr. J.C. "Spud" Bowen
Ms. Kellie Brownlow
Mr. Rodney Bryant
Mr. Chris Clark
Mr. Thomas Culpepper
Mr. John B. Edwards
Mr. Ester Fleming Jr. – Chairman
Mr. Gary Gulledge
Sheriff Donnie Pope
Mr. Rossie Ross
Mr. Alton Russell
Mr. W. D. Strickland
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Duke Blackburn
Mr. Bruce Carlisle
Sheriff Stacy Jarrard
Mr. Luis "Lou" M. Solis Jr.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Ms. Amy Radley, Attorney General's Office

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Mr. Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner
Mr. Alan Watson, Chief of Staff
Ms. Latera M. Davis, Assistant Commissioner of Inmate Services
Mr. Jackson Defore, Assistant Commissioner of Finance and Admin
Mr. Ahmed Holt, Assistant Commissioner, Facilities Division
Mr. Louis DeBroux, Assistant Commissioner, Research, Strategic Planning, Government Affairs
Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development
Ms. Komola Edwards, Director of Human Resources
Dr. Kenneth Ellis, Statewide Chaplain
Ms. Joan Heath, Director of Office of Communications
Mr. Cliff Hogan, Director of Data Management and Research
Ms. Gwendolyn Hogan, Executive Assistant
Ms. Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison
Ms. Quana Kemp, Admin Assistant
Ms. Dawn Mock, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Alan Raffield, Office of Professional Development
Ms. Janine Robinson, Director, Administrative Support Division
Ms. Kathleen Smith, Director of Administration Support, Admin. & Finance Division
Mr. Joel Tolliver, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Bryan Wilson, Deputy General Counsel
Mr. Matthew Wolfe, Director of Office of Professional Standards

VISITORS:

Ms. Sherrie Bowen, Wife of Board Member
Ms. Nyshelle Daniel, Visitor
Ms. Teresa Fleming, Wife of Board Member
Ms. Rosemary Pilcher, Visitor
Ms. Karen Russell, Wife of Board Member
Ms. Sophia Tedesco, SCHR

First, Chairman Ester Fleming Jr. called to order the December 4, 2025, 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. Gary Gulledge. The Agenda was voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Fleming presented the November 6, 2025, Minutes to the Board for approval. Mr. Gary Gulledge made a motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. J. C. “Spud” Bowen. The Minutes were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

To begin the Commissioner’s Report, Commissioner Tyrone Oliver gave a brief update on several items to include the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC)’s participation in holiday charities like Clark’s Christmas Kids Program (Secret Santa) and CARE Cottage, which is a local organization in Forsyth, Georgia, and the ModCorr and drone update.

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

Commissioner Oliver then asked Mr. Adam Baswell, Director of Office of Professional Development, and Mr. Alan Raffield, Senior Training Manager, Office of Professional Development, to do a Training Update.

Mr. Baswell began by discussing care and custody and staff training, which are the areas that make up the Office of Professional Development. Some of the highlights discussed were the strategic training realignment of the regional model, (North, Southeast, Southwest, and Central Office), strengthening field-level support and statewide consistency, ensuring quality control at Central Office, certification, and curriculum alignment. Mr. Baswell also discussed Basic Correctional Officer Training (BCOT), cadets, enrollments, completions, success factors, certified instructors, Success Coaches, scenario-based learning, field training success, In-Service completions, supplemental course completions, instructor development programs, leadership courses, participants trained, and the average pass rate.

Mr. Baswell then asked Mr. Alan Raffield, Senior Training Manager, to discuss the Special Agent’s Academy. Some of the highlights were discussing the 10-week intensive academy, the 455-hour program leading to Peace Officer Standards Training (POST)’s first-ever specialized certification as a Special Agent, core competency areas, criminal investigations, legal framework, digital and technical investigations, institutional intelligence, report writing and documentation, surveillance and covert operations, digital learning expansion, special operations training, the Success Coach Program, and the key results.

This concluded the report for Mr. Baswell, Mr. Raffield and the Commissioner’s Report.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Under the Chairman’s Report, Chairman Fleming made the Chairman’s End of the Year Comments by thanking the board members for allowing him to continually serve as Chairman for another year.

Under Old or New Business, Mr. Bryan Wilson, Deputy General Counsel, for the Office of Legal Services, presented the Board Rule Change for Approval on an Emergency and Initial Proposed Rule change to the Control of Critical Materials 125-3-1-.06 and Training 125-2-1-.06.

Mr. Wilson gave a brief synopsis statement stating the purpose and main features of proposed rule change as, “the purpose of these proposed amendments are to expand authority for use of new generation Tasers and other less-than-lethal devices and munitions and correct typographical errors.” Mr. Wilson also explained the difference between existing and proposed rules were “Paragraph (a)(2) is amended to add an additional exception to the rule and to correct a typographical error.

Paragraph (a)(3) is modified to replace the words “the maintenance or re-establishment of” with the words “establish, maintain or regain control of any offender or a facility” and to correct a typographical error.”

In addition, the statement of purpose for emergency rule change is “the need for the proposed emergency rule change is the current Taser in use by the Department is no longer supported by the manufacturer and the cartridges used with the Taser are no longer being manufactured. As a result, the Department had to purchase new generation Tasers which have been determined to meet the definition of a firearm under federal law due to their system of prong propulsion. The rule change is required in order to deploy the new Taser purchased by the Department inside an institutional compound with consent of the Warden/Superintendent, for the safety of the corrections officers and inmates within the facility. Authority: O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(b).

Mr. Wilson then discussed the Proposed Rule Amendment for Initial Adoption Rule 125-3-1-06. Control of Critical Materials.

Mr. Wilson stated that “Any item that may be used to aid in or accomplish an escape, create a disturbance or which represents a hazard to the safety and security of the institution shall be placed under control and maintained under the strict supervision of institutional officials and/or employees” and Mr. Wilson explained the controls that shall be instituted at each institution.

Mr. Wilson gave a brief synopsis statement of purpose and main features of proposed rule change as “ the purpose of these proposed amendments are to expand authority for use of new generation Tasers and other less-than-lethal devices and munitions and correct typographical errors. And Mr. Wilson stated the difference between existing and proposed rules were “Paragraph (a)(2) is amended to add an additional exception to the rule and to correct a typographical error.

Paragraph (a)(3) is modified to replace the words “the maintenance or re-establishment of” with the words “establish, maintain or regain control of any offender or a facility” and to correct a typographical error.

Mr. Wilson then discussed the Training 125-2-1-06 Rule explaining the synopsis statement of purpose and main features of proposed rule as, “the purpose of these proposed amendments are to extend the time for a newly hired correctional officer to complete BCOT and delete obsolete language related to probation officer certification. The difference between existing and proposed rules were:

- Paragraph (1)(b) is amended to change 60 days to 120 days.
- Paragraph (2)(a)(1) is amended to change 60 days to 120 days.
- Paragraph (2)(b) is deleted in its entirety.”

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve the Control of Critical Materials 125-3-1-06 Rule, to the Board for approval. Mr. Rossie Ross made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Emergency and Initial Proposed Rule change to the Control of Critical Materials 125-3-1-06 were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Chairman Fleming then asked for a motion to approve the Initial Proposed Rule change to the Training 125-2-1-06 Rule, to the Board for approval. Mr. Thomas Culpepper made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The Initial Proposed Rule change to the Training 125-2-1-06 were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Next, Chairmen Fleming asked Mr. Wilson to present the five Approval of Property Resolutions. Mr. Wilson stated he would present all five resolutions together for one vote and approval. The following resolutions were presented for approval:

- Smith Transitional Center Land Conveyance
- Coastal FAA Easement
- Hays State Prison Gas Easement
- Walker State Prison Power Easement
- GBI Building Expansion Transformer Loop Upgrade Easement

Smith Transitional Center Land Conveyance

Mr. Wilson stated the State of Georgia owns and holds title to, and the Georgia Department of Corrections is in custody of property in Evans County, Georgia, known as the Smith Transitional Center (“the Property”) located at 8631 US-301, Claxton, Georgia 30417.

Evans County has proposed the conveyance of approximately 0.13 acres of real property located directly in front of Smith Transitional Center to the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) to support its operational needs.

The conveyance of the property is expressly contingent upon GDC constructing a fence on the Evans County property, which will adjoin with the new fence being installed as part of the Smith Transitional Center Dorm Expansion project.

GDC will coordinate with Evans County to ensure the fence meets mutually agreed specifications and needs, enhancing security and supporting shared infrastructure goals.

Once construction of the fence is complete, Evans County will assume full responsibility for the maintenance, repairs, and upkeep of the portion of the fence located on its property.

The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate the proposed donation and associated constructions without causing harm to the operation of Smith Transitional Center, and that the conveyance will exclusively benefit the State.

Coastal FAA Easement

Mr. Wilson stated the State of Georgia owns and holds title to, and the Georgia Department of Corrections is in custody of property in Chatham County, Georgia, known as the Coastal State Prison (“the Property”) located at 200 Gulfstream Road, Garden City, Georgia 31418.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) maintains a radio tower facility that is fully surrounded by Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) property at Coastal State Prison, with its operational infrastructure located entirely within the boundaries of GDC controlled land.

Tree growth on GDC property surrounding the FAA property has resulted in signal obstruction in the northern portion of Sector 68, impairing communication capabilities at altitudes ranging from 23,000 to 35,000 feet.

The FAA has requested a Revocable Lease Agreement (RLA), followed by a permanent Non-Standard Easement to GDC property for the purpose of removing trees within a 200-foot radius from the FAA perimeter fence to restore full signal coverage and ensure safe and effective communication within Sector 68.

The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate granting access for this tree removal and it will not interfere with the operations of Coastal State Prison.

Hays State Prison Gas Easement

Mr. Wilson stated the State of Georgia owns and holds title to, and the Georgia Department of Corrections is in custody of property in Chattooga County, Georgia, known as the Hays State Prison (“the Property”) located at 777 Underwood Drive, Trion, Georgia 30753.

The Georgia Department of Corrections is undertaking infrastructure improvements at Hays State Prison as part of the Modcorr project, which includes the installation of modular units and supporting systems.

The City of Summerville has requested a temporary Revocable Lease Agreement and a Non-Exclusive Utility Easement to install dedicated natural gas service to the Modcorr addition, including a 400 KW generator with a gas demand of 4,231 CFH, new gas piping connections, and a separate gas meter to serve the new facility.

The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate the easement request without causing harm to the operation of Hays State Prison and this proposed easement will exclusively benefit the State.

Walker State Prison Power Easement

Mr. Wilson stated the State of Georgia owns and holds title to, and the Georgia Department of Corrections is in custody of property in Walker County, Georgia, known as the Walker State Prison (“the Property”) located at 97 Kevin Lane, Rock Spring, Georgia 30739.

North Georgia EMC has requested a temporary Revocable Lease Agreement (RLA) to perform electrical infrastructure improvements on GDC-controlled property at Walker State Prison.

The scope of work includes the replacement of an existing utility pole and the installation of two new utility poles, along with the placement of new 480V transformers to support the operational requirements of newly installed Georgia Correctional Industries (GCI) equipment.

The Georgia Department of Corrections has determined that it can accommodate the easement request without causing harm to the operation of Walker State Prison and this proposed easement will exclusively benefit the State.

GBI Building Expansion Transformer Loop Upgrade Easement

Mr. Wilson stated the State of Georgia owns and holds title to, and the Georgia Department of Corrections is in custody of property in DeKalb County, Georgia, known as the Georgia Correctional Industries Administration Office and Warehouse (“the Property”), located at 2984 Clifton Springs Road, Decatur, Georgia 30034.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) is undertaking a building expansion and equipment upgrade at its facility, which is located adjacent to the GCI Office Building.

The Georgia Power Company has requested a Revocable Lease Agreement (RLA), followed by a permanent Non-Standard Easement, to establish a power loop connecting a new transformer with the existing transformer on the GCI property and another on the adjacent Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) property, as further detailed in Exhibit A.

This configuration will improve electrical reliability across all three facilities—GCI, GBI, and DJJ—by enhancing infrastructure resilience and service continuity. The Georgia Department of Corrections has reviewed the proposed scope of work and determined that it will not interfere with institutional operations or security protocols, and that the infrastructure improvements will directly benefit the State of Georgia.

Chairman Fleming presented all five resolutions for approval. Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve all five property resolutions, which were seconded by Mr. Thomas Culpepper. All five property resolutions were voted “approved” by the Board as presented.

Last of the agenda, Chairman Fleming asked Ms. Kathleen Smith, Director of Administration Support, Admin & Finance Division, to present an approval of employment for one (1) Fleet Operations Mechanic.

Ms. Smith began by stating that Mr. Jonas Truett’s (GDC Fleet Mechanic) specific job duties as defined by Standard Occupational Classification Manual, will include the following:

49-3023: Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanic
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles.

49-3093: Tire Repairers and Changers
Repair and replace tires.

49-2096: Electronic equipment installers and repairers, motor vehicles
Install, diagnose, or repair communications, sound, security, or navigation equipment in motor vehicles.

Program Completions:

Custodial Maintenance
Forklift Certification
OSHA 10.1

Auto Mechanic Helper
Automotive Oil Changing

Chairman Fleming asked for a motion to approve Mr. Jonas Truett's (GDC Fleet Mechanic) for employment.

Mr. W. D. Strickland made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams. The employment of this individual was voted "approved" by the Board.

To close, Mr. Gary Gullledge expressed to the Board that this was his last meeting and that he planned to resign. Chairman Fleming thanked Mr. Gullledge for his service as a board member.

Chairman Fleming reminded the board members to attend the Annual Board Holiday luncheon following the board meeting.

Chairman Fleming also reminded the Board that the next Board of Corrections meeting is on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at State Offices South at Tift College, in Forsyth, Georgia as well as reiterating the February board meeting was cancelled.

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

Ester Fleming Jr., Chairman

Chris Clark, Secretary

Simone Juhmi, Board Liaison