



Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee

March 24, 2026

Summary and Motions

Chair James Brown called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Vice Mayor Dan Wu and Committee Members Chuck Ellinger, Shayla Lynch, Liz Sheehan, Lisa Higgins-Hord, Joseph Hale, Whitney Baxter, Dave Sevigny, and Jennifer Reynolds were in attendance as voting members. Council Members Tyler Morton, Emma Curtis, and Amy Beasley were in attendance as non-voting members.

I. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2026, COMMITTEE SUMMARY

A motion by Sevigny to approve the February 24, 2026, Committee Summary, seconded by Baxter, passed without dissent.

II. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2026

Commissioner Erin Hensley, Director Wes Holbrook, and Director Melissa Lueker presented the February Financial Update for FY26. Overall revenues continue to perform slightly above expectations, with strong collections in net profits and franchise fees. A temporary decline in payroll withholding was attributed to a timing issue related to a large taxpayer shifting payment methods, not an underlying economic concern. On the expenditure side, variances were largely driven by winter storm response costs and the timing of contractor payments. Despite these factors, overall spending remains under budget, and staff anticipates that many of the current variances will normalize in March as invoices are processed and seasonal costs are reconciled.

III. OPIOID ABATEMENT FUND UPDATE

The Committee next heard a presentation from the mayor and administration on proposed priorities for opioid abatement settlement funds. Lexington has received approximately \$9 million to date, with additional funding expected over time. The administration outlined six priority areas: establishing an interest-bearing fund to support long-term sustainability; expanding supportive housing and integrated treatment services; investing in community corrections and reentry programming; creating a tiered nonprofit grant program; strengthening local intervention efforts, such as naloxone distribution; and piloting a community-focused opioid response symposium. Council members broadly supported the priorities but emphasized the need to move funding into the community as soon as feasible. Discussion focused on the importance of clearly defining funding allocations, ensuring transparency and accountability, supporting smaller and grassroots organizations, and balancing long-term investment with immediate needs. While no official motion was made, the Committee agreed that the administration should return to the full Council at a Work Session with a more detailed funding plan and associated budget amendments rather than delaying action through additional committee review.

IV. DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

The final item was a presentation on the draft Digital Accessibility Plan. Troy Black, Administrative Specialist, and CIO Liz Rodgers outlined findings from community engagement and data analysis, noting that while broadband availability in Fayette County is high, affordability, device access, and digital literacy remain significant barriers. The proposed strategy focuses on coordinating existing programs,

expanding training opportunities, improving access to devices and affordable service options, and ensuring accessibility of digital platforms.

A motion by Hale to move the plan and resolution forward to the full council, seconded by Sheehan, passed without dissent.

V. REVIEW OF ITEMS REFERRED

No revisions or removals were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.