



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**To: News Media, Community Leaders, and Concerned Citizens**  
**From: Bamberg County Administration**  
**Date: May 16, 2025**  
**Re: FY 25-26 Budget First Reading Gets Council Approval**

**Bamberg, South Carolina (May 2025)** – On Monday, May 12, 2025, Bamberg County Council approved the first reading of the Administrator’s FY 25-26 Budget.

Controller Gina Smith, a certified public accountant, presented several items for consideration, including recent increases in health insurance and retirement costs, inflation, and a proposal from Thorne Ambulance Service for Bamberg County to pursue the implementation of a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) resource station in Ehrhardt.

Per Administrator Joey Preston, the proposed budget “promotes adequately covering retirement and health insurance, mitigating rising inflation, and providing essential EMS services to Ehrhardt residents while remaining financially prudent.”

Councilman Jonathan Goodman thanked Ms. Smith and the accounting team for working diligently to maintain “fiscal responsibility, which allows us to further invest in programs and initiatives that benefit the entire community.”

Additionally, Chairwoman Sharon Hammond expressed how important it is to “continue providing essential benefits for Bamberg County employees while improving the quality of life for all Bamberg citizens.”

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For more information on this press release, email [info@bambergcounty.sc.gov](mailto:info@bambergcounty.sc.gov).