

Sagadahoc County
Board of Commissioners' 2025 Annual Report



CHARLES E. CROSBY III
DISTRICT 1 COMMISSION VICE CHAIR
BOWDOIN & TOPSHAM

STEPHEN M. AUGUST
DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER CHAIR
BATH & BOWDOINHAM

TODD MCPHEE
DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER
ARROWSIC, GEORGETOWN, PHIPPSBURG
RICHMOND, WOOLWICH & WEST BATH

Dear Residents of Sagadahoc County,

FY25 saw several projects and changes within Sagadahoc County.

The Sheriff's Office participated in a culture scan conducted by a third party in which surveys and interviews were used to review policies and make recommendations. Subsequently, a reorganization of command staff meant the hiring of Chief Deputy Jason Warlick, previously Chief of Police in Damariscotta, and the promotion of Corporal Michael Fitzpatrick to Lieutenant. Additional Sergeant positions were added, one in Patrol and one in Transport.

Upon recommendation by the Board of Health, opioid settlement funds were used to create a Community Navigator position to act as a short-term case manager helping people access services provided by other agencies. Opioid settlement funds were also utilized to provide naloxone training and access to Mid Coast Hospital, youth education and substance abuse prevention, and a contribution toward establishing a warming center at the Tedford Shelter.

Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency integrated all emergency service personnel into a single tracking system (Salamander), greatly improving turn-around time on reimbursement reports for incidents large and small. SCEMA also received opioid funds for the acquisition of a Crisis Canine, aptly named Chaos, to provide emotional support to people in the midst of an incident. This canine has a uniquely high level of training to be able to do his job and is the only one in the northeastern US.

Upkeep projects on the courthouse included both planned (brick repointing, elevator upgrade) and not exactly unforeseen (flat roof replacement) projects, as well as a truly catastrophic HVAC failure that led to abatement and flooring projects on the first floor. The HVAC failure was covered by the County's insurance.

The Board of Commissioners hosted the Maine County Commissioners' Association annual conference at Sebasco Harbor Resort, which was a resounding success. It was a pleasure to share the history and beauty of our area with our counterparts from around the state.

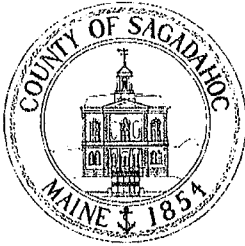
The construction bond for Two Bridges Regional Jail was paid off December 31, 2025, relieving all jail debt owed by the County. Two Bridges is also in the early stages of forming a collaborative with Knox County, which will streamline services and reduce costs for operating the jail.

In the coming year, the Commissioners remain committed to efficiently delivering quality services to the residents of Sagadahoc County while monitoring the challenges and constraints of each community.

CHARLES E. CROSBY III

STEPHEN M. AUGUST

TODD W. MCPHEE



COUNTY OF SAGADAHOC

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Administration Office: 33 Court Street, Bath, ME 04530 Telephone: 443-8202 Fax: 443-8213

March 9, 2026

FY27 Budget Overview

ADMINISTRATION

Expenses

Admin is projecting a 20.40% increase in expenses for FY27. Most line items are flat, aside from minor cost-of-living increase and inflation. The areas driving this increase are legal fees and software. FY26 has seen significant legal fees due to many unforeseen events. We're on track to spend \$120K this year, so I have budgeted accordingly for FY27. Software is seeing a \$20K increase mostly due to a required Trio migration. The on-premises version of our financial software will no longer be supported as of January 1, 2027, so we need to migrate to the web-based version. We knew this was coming down the pike eventually but had not been given a timeline until last week. The remaining increase in software is contractual. There is a staffing change reflected in FY27 as well. The Commissioners have voted to combine the Administrator and Finance Director positions, combine the HR Director and Deputy Administrator positions, and create a Staff Accountant position to fill the labor gap in Finance. This will create a succession plan and stabilize the workload in the Admin office. The total number of employees remains the same. The monetary impact of this change is minimal.

Revenue

Revenue is increasing by 39.51% in FY27. I added \$10K to interest earnings to more accurately reflect the actual amounts currently being received. I also estimated \$6,000 for tower revenue based upon half a year for one public safety agency at the rate the county currently pays to be on other frequencies.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Expenses

Benefits expenses are increasing by 25.74%. This is the best-case scenario and completely out of our hands. The driver is health insurance, as we've had multiple high claims years in a row without ever meaningfully increasing our rate. Malcolm has projected a 25.31% increase for the plan year renewal with the final recommendation expected within the next few days. The County will work with Malcolm before the next renewal to review options for lowering the cost while maintaining a reasonable level of plan consistency. We were able to discontinue short-term disability coverage, as any time missed for medical reasons will now be compensated under the Maine Paid Family Medical Leave law. This is a \$13K savings.

INSURANCE

Expenses

Insurance has an 11.12% increase in FY27. The risk pool insurance is increasing by 10.6% for calendar year 2026, and I projected an increase over that amount for calendar year 2027.

Revenue

Revenues are budgeted to go up 11.89% in FY27 due to the new fee structure. This is a \$44K increase.

PROBATE

Expenses

Probate expenses will decrease by 0.37% in the FY27 budget due to changing the staffing model to two 30-hour positions. There are no other noteworthy changes or increases.

Revenue

Probate revenue is expected to decrease in FY27 by 40.87% or \$50K. Fees are tracking under budget and were adjusted accordingly.

TRANSPORT

Expenses

Transport expenses are budgeted to decrease by 8.18% in FY27. The mental health liaison previously funded in this budget was transferred to the Sheriff budget and pretrial service hours were reduced. These moves were necessary because less surplus funds are available to offset Transport costs. Jail funding remains flat, while the cap increased by 3.70%.

Revenue

Revenue from the state increased in FY27 based on the estimated average daily population at Two Bridges Regional Jail. However, we are only able to utilize \$70K in surplus funds to offset costs this year, which is a steep decrease over previous years.

SHERIFF

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses for the Sheriff's Office are presently estimated to increase by 8.81%. This number is based on best estimates, however the collective bargaining agreement that will go into effect in FY27 is in negotiations, and yet to be quantifiable. The other notable increase is the addition of the mental health liaison, which is moving over from the Transport budget.

Capital Expenses

Capital expenses are increasing by 83.68%. The increases are due to funding the jail line of credit principal repayment and an additional vehicle in FY27.

Revenue

Anticipated revenue is flat in FY27.

COMMUNICATIONS

Expenses

Communications expenses are increasing by 3.42% in FY27. There are no notable increases or changes, only cost-of-living for wages and minor inflation.

Description	Account ID	Department	Object	Amounts - FY24 Actuals	Amounts - FY25 Actuals	Amounts - FY26 Budget	Amounts - FY27 In Progress	Difference - FY27 In Progress	Note
Tax Revenue - Arrowsic	10-200-44001	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Arrowsic	\$193,570	\$235,816	\$270,502	\$283,473	\$12,971	1.96% of FY27 tax levy vs the 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - Bath	10-200-44002	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Bath	\$2,094,312	\$2,400,726	\$2,547,763	\$2,843,391	\$295,628	19.68% of the FY27 county FY26, and based on the 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - Bowdoin	10-200-44003	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Bowdoin	\$550,151	\$592,275	\$649,573	\$737,030	\$87,457	5.10% of the FY 27 county 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - Bowdoinham	10-200-44004	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Bowdoinham	\$617,830	\$756,178	\$810,432	\$845,852	\$35,420	5.85% of the FY27 county 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - Georgetown	10-200-44005	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Georgetown	\$1,106,199	\$1,264,529	\$1,445,744	\$1,592,646	\$146,902	11.02% of the FY27 county 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - Phippsburg	10-200-44006	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Phippsburg	\$1,375,416	\$1,605,293	\$1,777,124	\$1,901,395	\$124,271	13.16% of the FY27 county 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - Richmond	10-200-44007	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Richmond	\$608,852	\$631,749	\$698,797	\$835,064	\$136,267	5.78% of the FY27 county 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - Topsham	10-200-44008	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Topsham	\$2,072,970	\$2,345,965	\$2,526,601	\$2,839,769	\$313,168	19.55% of the FY27 county 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - West Bath	10-200-44009	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - West Bath	\$815,044	\$925,588	\$1,073,037	\$1,214,750	\$141,723	8.41% of the FY27 county 2026 state valuation.
Tax Revenue - Woolwich	10-200-44010	Tax Revenue	Tax Revenue - Woolwich	\$673,931	\$1,017,933	\$1,144,879	\$1,358,229	\$213,350	9.40% of the FY27 county 2026 state valuation.
				\$10,312,285	\$11,781,052	\$12,944,452	\$14,451,609		