

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP
TOWN OF LADY LAKE, FLORIDA**

February 18, 2026

The workshop meeting of the Lady Lake Town Commission was held in the Commission Chambers at Lady Lake Town Hall, 409 Fennell Blvd., Lady Lake, Florida, with Mayor Freeman presiding. The meeting convened at 4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Commissioner (Ward)	Present
Regan (Four)	YES
Roberts (One)	YES
Sage (Five)	YES
Freeman (Three)	YES

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Lawrence, Town Manager; Kathy Rosado, Town Clerk; Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt; Lt. Robert Tempesta, Lady Lake Police Department; C.T. Eagle, Public Works Director; Mike Burske, Parks and Recreation Director; Tanner King, System Administrator; and Carol Osborne, Deputy Town Clerk.

Town Attorney Derek Schroth was also in attendance.

A. Presentation – Staffing and Space Needs Study for Police Department, Presented by Stockton Reeves, Center for Public Safety.

Mr. Reeves stated that the Town’s population is projected to grow to over 30,000 by 2045, which is a 76% increase from the current population of 17,300. This growth creates demand for public safety, with general calls for service to rise approximately 44% by 2030. There will be increases in general calls, arrests, traffic citations, traffic accidents, and medical calls. This would require approximately 68 police department personnel.

Mr. Reeves stated that the proposed two-story, tilt-wall facility would be on a 5.5 acre site with secure perimeters, covered parking, and 20% future expansion reserve. The facility would encompass many modern law enforcement needs, including a community meeting room, an evidence and forensic complex, training facilities, a physical fitness center, patrol briefing room.

Mr. Reeves reviewed two project cost estimates, stating that both include identical site development, technology, and equipment costs ranging from approximately \$53,214,000 to \$56,784,000. He advised that the first step is to secure funding authorization and site acquisition.

Commissioner Roberts inquired if the large community meeting room would be for police use only or for community use as well.

Mr. Reeves clarified that the square footage of the meeting room includes approximately five storage spaces, along with a food prep area, food pantry, an audio-visual room, and a mechanical and electrical room. The main space would be for meetings or community events.

Commissioner Roberts inquired about the capacity of this room.

Mr. Reeves stated that the meeting room would have multiple uses, such as a backup emergency operations center. It is located at the front of the building to provide public access to the meeting room without going into the interior of the police department.

Town Manager Bill Lawrence stated that the meeting room could be used for press conferences and swearing-in ceremonies.

Commissioner Roberts inquired if the fitness center would be for all town personnel or for police use.

Mr. Reeves stated this would be a multi-use facility with cardio, free weights, and defensive tactics training. He stated that the town policy would outline who has access.

Mayor Freeman inquired if this would be a two-story building.

Mr. Reeves stated that a single-story building is less expensive. A two-story building requires stairwells, elevators, and stronger materials to support the weight of each floor above it.

Mayor Freeman inquired why it takes more than five acres to construct a 1.5 acre building.

Mr. Reeves stated this is due to circulation space, separate parking areas for staff and the public, setbacks for water mitigation, and security purposes. This allows outdoor space for outdoor training, as well.

Commissioner Sage inquired if there would be a jail in the new building.

Mr. Reeves replied negatively, adding that there is a secure holding area for interviews before transporting the suspect to the county jail.

Commissioner Regan inquired when this construction would begin.

Mr. Reeves, this will be determined after the style of building is decided and the bid is awarded.

Mayor Freeman inquired how this project would be funded.

Mr. Reeves stated federal and state grants.

Mr. Lawrence stated that there is no guarantee that the town would be awarded a grant. He stated that the town may need to acquire a municipal bond.

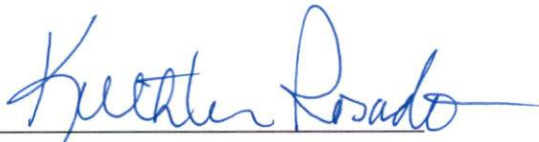
Mr. Reeves advised doing a bond during the spring and not during a general election. He stated to make it public safety only, communicate early and often, and invite the public to view the current facility to show the need for a new public safety building.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the town has zero debt and does not have experience with the bond process.

Mr. Reeves stated that his company could help with this. He advised to keep the project simple and not include other amenities such as a dog park.

ADJOURN

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.



Kathleen Rosado, Town Clerk



Ed Freeman, Mayor