

Staff Report

Subject: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between Effingham County and the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce

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Department: County Manager

Meeting Date: March 3, 2026

Item Description: Consideration to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Effingham County Board of Commissioners and the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce for economic development, tourism promotion, small to mid-size business support, nonprofit capacity-building, and partnership initiatives for Fiscal Year 2026.

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

Executive Summary/Background: The attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizes the collaborative relationship between Effingham County and the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce for FY2026. The agreement outlines the Chamber's role in supporting economic development, small- to mid-size business growth, tourism promotion, nonprofit capacity-building, workforce initiatives, and regional partnership efforts.

In exchange for these services, the County will provide annual compensation of \$20,500. The agreement is effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and may be terminated by either party with 90 days' written notice.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Effingham County and the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce.
2. Do not approve the Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Provide staff with direction.

Recommended Alternative: Staff recommends Alternative 1 – Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between Effingham County and the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce for FY2026.

Other Alternatives: N/A

Department Review: County Manager

Funding Source: Annual allocation of \$20,500 from the County's General Fund.

Attachments: Memorandum of Understanding