Levy County Board of County Commissioners
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Levy County Quarterly Department Report

Department Information

Name of Department	**Grants/Finance & Administration**
Name of Department Head	**Kari Bastow**

Department Deliverables

Deliverable *(To be determined by the Department Head)*	**Second Quarter FY** (January-March 2026)	**Third Quarter FY** (April-June 2026)	**Fourth Quarter FY** (July-September 2026)
Centralize Oversight and Advancement of Grant-Funded Projects	Stabilized and Advanced Over $8.5 Million in Grant-Funded Projects	Advanced Grant Agreements Through Legal Review, Board Approval, and Execution	-Advanced Grant Portfolio into Implementation and Executed Key Agreements -Continued Compliance Requirements for Executed Agreements.
Implementation and Administration of Housing Assistance Programs (SHIP & CDBG)	Strengthened Housing Program Oversight and Prepared for Program Launch	Advanced SHIP and CDBG Compliance and Program Administration	-Managed Housing Applications and Responded to State SHIP Audits -Funded 26 SHIP Applications
Development and Execution of a Strategic Grant Funding Pipeline	Submitted Targeted Grant Applications to Support Infrastructure and Environmental Priorities	Submitted and Advanced New Grant Applications for Public Safety and Infrastructure	Submitted Two Rural Infrastructure Grants (Over $8 Million) and Received Two Boating Improvement Awards
County Fiscal Year Budget			Served as Interim Director and Led the FY26-27 County Budget Process to Adoption
Comment:			

Commissioners
Charlie Kennedy, Vice Chair, District 1
Rock Meeks, District 2
Desiree Mills, District 3
Tim Hodge, Chair, District 4
Johnny Hiers, District 5

Department Highlights:

Fourth Quarter Accomplishments

1. Advanced Grant Portfolio into Implementation and Executed Key Agreements

Continued advancing the County's grant portfolio from planning into implementation by coordinating with state and federal agencies, consultants, and County departments to meet contractual milestones, compliance requirements, and project schedules. Executed key grant agreements and amendments, including the $1.5 million Florida Job Growth grant.

2. Managed Housing Applications and Responded to State SHIP Audits

Fielded housing-related questions from applicants, reviewed applicants for eligibility, and encumbered funding for qualified projects. Responded to State SHIP audits and worked with subcontractors to satisfy audit requirements, strengthening program accountability. Held the quarterly AHAC meeting to address the annual Incentive Strategy Requirements and to discuss the next steps in submitting the Annual Housing Report.

3. Submitted Two Rural Infrastructure Grants and Received Two Boating Improvement Awards

Submitted two Rural Infrastructure Grant applications totaling over $8 million. Received two Florida Boating Improvement Program awards for the planning and design of the Shell Mound and Fowler's Bluff boat ramps. Held a RESTORE Act meeting to determine which projects will advance to the submission stage and to review updated projects for proposal to the RESTORE Act Committee.

4. Served as Interim Director and Led the FY26-27 County Budget Process to Adoption

Served as Interim Director overseeing the County budget process beginning in mid-July, including public workshops presenting assessments, millage, and budget details to the Commissioners. The final budget was adopted on September 21, 2026. Assumed responsibility and oversight of Board-side financial transactions and began drafting policies to promote fiscal responsibility.