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**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

[www.cityofyankton.org](http://www.cityofyankton.org)

VOL. 61 NUMBER 9

**Commission Information Memorandum**

The Yankton City Commission meeting on Monday, May 11, 2026 will begin at 6:00 pm.

**Non-Agenda Items of Interest**

**1) Finance Department Update**

A team of auditors from Williams & Company were onsite during the week of May 4th to complete the field work portion of the annual financial audit for 2025. The Finance Department provided numerous financial documents to the auditors in advance through Williams & Company's secure website portal so that a portion of their work could be done prior to their arrival. This has helped to minimize the number of days they need to spend onsite. Auditors will prepare a draft document for our review before submission to the South Dakota Department of Legislative Audit for state approval.

The Finance Office has a cooperative agreement with the Yankton County Auditor's Office to assist them during their primary and general elections in turn for their assistance during municipal elections. The Finance Officer or the Deputy Finance Officer from the City will be helping with the tabulation of ballots during the primary election on Tuesday evening, June 2nd.

**2) Human Resources and Employee Engagement Department Update**

Summer positions have been filled. We are looking forward to a great summer with all our seasonal employees.

We are happy to announce the upcoming retirement of Julia Hussein. Julia will be retiring as a Communications Supervisor on June 12 after nearly 30 years of working for the City of Yankton. We will celebrate Julia's retirement with a gathering on Friday, June 12 from 3:00-5:00 PM at Fire Station #2. The position of 911 Communication Supervisor will be open due to Julia's retirement. The position will be open until filled.

Michael Feilmeier has announced his plans to retire on June 12 after over 30 years of service as Transfer Station Truck Operator in our Public Works department. Michael has opted to not have a retirement gathering.

May's employee wellness challenge is kicking off. The challenge for May is to drink 100 ounces of water for 25 days of the month. Employees are also asked to submit their log at the end of the month to be entered into a drawing for a prize.

AFSCME collective bargaining negotiations will begin on May 12. This will be a wage opener.

### 3) Parks and Recreation Department Update

An update on the various activities in the Parks and Recreation Department is included in this packet.

### 4) Community and Economic Development Department Update

During the recent session, the South Dakota Legislature adopted [SB 3](#) which prohibits municipalities from requiring building permits for siding, windows, and doors on detached, owner-occupied single-family homes. Homeowner informational materials and permit forms are being updated, and building permitting staff have begun a contractor education effort around the changes that will be effective on July 1, 2026. While SB 3 prohibits requiring permits, it maintains the obligation for homeowners and contractors to follow the adopted building code. Loss of revenue won't have a sizeable impact on the departmental budget, but will potentially show up in lower building permit valuation figures in future years.

When staff issues a permit, it is an opportunity to talk to contractors, homeowners (and their friends and families) about proper installation and building code changes. Permitting is also valuable as a means of proving installation, date of work, and party responsible in the event of a sale or insurance claim. This change does not impact roofing or structural changes, including new or enlarged emergency egress window openings, so permits will still be required for that type of work on owner-occupied homes.

The building report is available at <https://www.cityofyankton.org/departments-services/community-economic-development/building-services-permits/building-permit-reports>.

### 5) Police Department Update

Jose Garcia graduated from MMU on May 2nd with a BA in Criminal Justice and was inducted into the Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society. He will start as a full time officer in training on May 18th and will attend the Police Academy in the fall. Tommy Brinkerhoff graduated with an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice on May 8th from Southeast Technical on a Build Dakota scholarship. He also passed his reciprocity test to become a certified officer and will start with YPD on June 1st.

YPD has been working on cleaning up and making upgrades to the former Youth Center located in the basement of City Hall to utilize for training scenarios. As part of this effort, the Building Trades class at Yankton High School constructed a simulated house for training use.

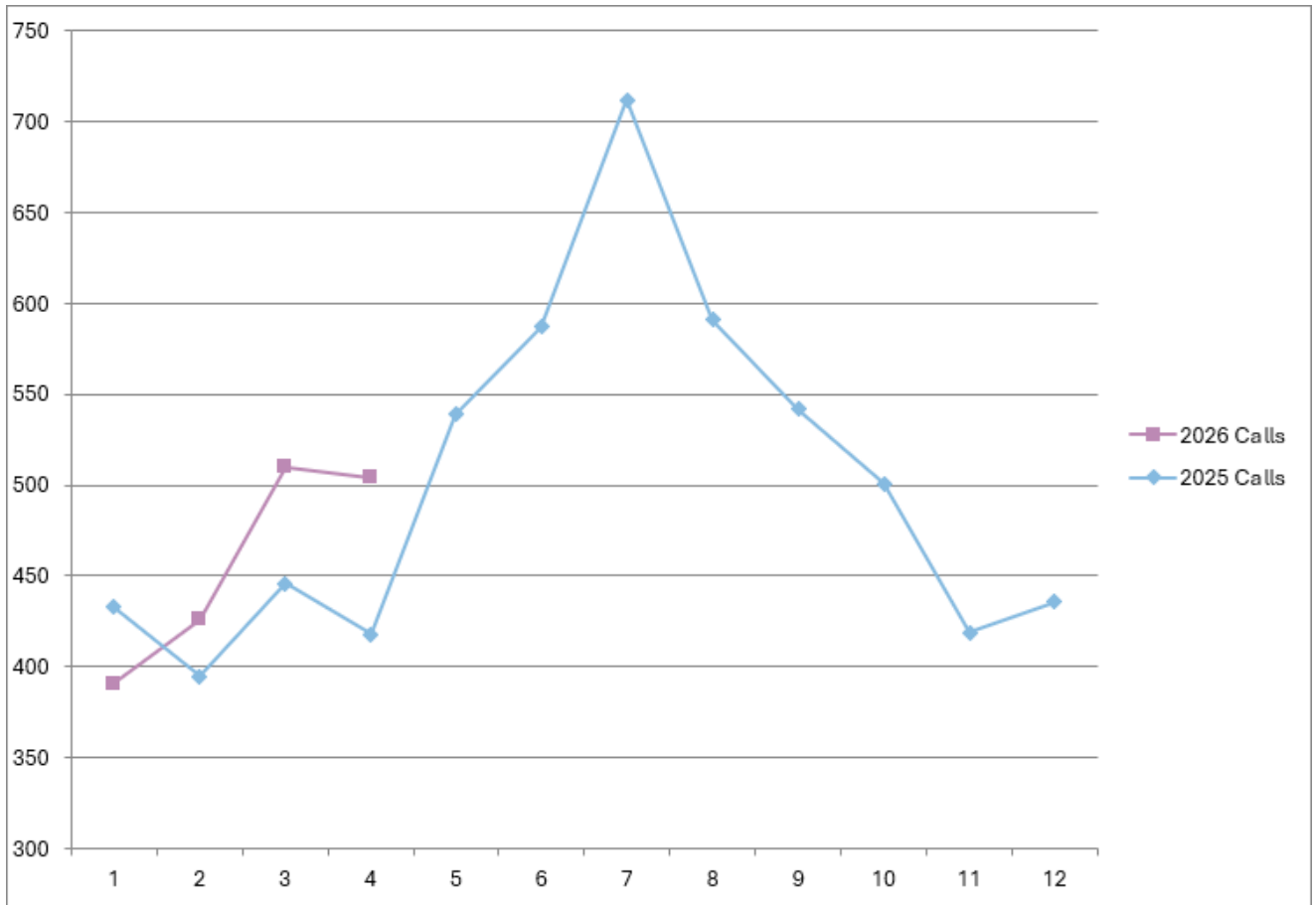
Detective Brett Fishel attended the South Dakota Narcotics Association (SDANA) conference from April 29 – May 1 in Deadwood. This event serves as a key training opportunity for narcotics investigators and law enforcement personnel across the state.

Officers Craig, Johnson, Schaefer and Detective Fishel attended Instructor Development training in Pierre May 4-8. This was an interactive course designed to prepare individuals to determine training needs, and then develop, implement, and evaluate meaningful training for their departments.

The national high-visibility seat belt enforcement campaign, *Click It or Ticket*, runs May 11–31, coinciding with the busy Memorial Day travel period. YPD will be posting reminders on Facebook throughout the campaign and officers will be actively enforcing seat belt laws and watching for violations.

**6) Information and Technology Services Department Update**

Yankton has been awarded a \$106,021.00 grant from the South Dakota 911 Coordination Board and the Department of Public Safety. The project includes updating our Zetron radio consoles and installation of Z-Nodes in cooperation with Clay Area Emergency Services. The project will replace outdated hardware and add capabilities to provide redundant dispatching capabilities between the two agencies. Stats below show 911 calls thru the month of April cumulatively are up 8.2%.



**7) Environmental Services Department Update**

Kyle attended the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Regional Meeting of Section Officers as the chair elect for South Dakota. A large amount of time was spent discussing the AWWA’s newest report investigating balancing compounding infrastructure costs and needs with water affordability. “Beyond the Replacement Era” is a report that outlines the water industry needs versus the increasing cost. Communities are confronting a compounding set of cost drivers including: aging infrastructure: regulatory compliance (PFAS and Lead Service Lines): cyber security, climate and resilience investment: more complex water sources; and rising repair and maintenance cost (increased inflation within the industry). The report estimates water rates nationally are going to need to increase by 126% by 2050.

The Cedar Knox Rural water system’s project to connect to the City of Yankton continues to move forward. Funding for the project has been secured. The project is navigating several funding sources and the time line for the final connection and purchasing water has now changed for next spring. The bore under the river and pipe installation could happen this fall or next spring.

## 8) Fire Department Update

Yankton Fire Department volunteers recently conducted their annual pancake breakfast. With excellent weather and strong community turnout, the event was a success and highlighted the continued support we receive from the public.

The breakfast provided a valuable opportunity for collaboration between our volunteer members and the auxiliary. Favorable conditions also allowed attendees to view apparatus and engage with firefighters.

Yankton hosted the recent Yankton County Fire Chiefs meeting last Wednesday. This group includes chief officers and representatives from departments across Yankton County and neighboring areas. Meetings are held quarterly on months with a fifth Wednesday.

Discussion topics focused on:

- Interoperable radio communications
- Incident command coordination
- Recent incident reviews
- Shared training opportunities

Lesterville Fire Department showcased a new apparatus equipped with modern extrication tools, providing a hands-on opportunity for regional departments to understand its capabilities. With continued dry conditions, the likelihood of mutual aid responses for grass and timber fires remains elevated. These meetings play an important role in strengthening relationships and ensuring coordinated responses across jurisdictions.

Yankton resources were requested by Vermillion Fire Department to assist with a large grass fire near Burbank last weekend. Deputy Chief Daniel Prendable and Assistant Chief Brian Frick coordinated the response, ensuring adequate support was provided while maintaining appropriate coverage within Yankton.

A significant portion of fire incidents in Yankton are attributed to the improper disposal or careless discarding of smoking materials. Additionally, impairment due to alcohol or other factors continues to increase fire risk.

## 9) Public Works Department Update

Street Department crews are replacing curb and gutter at various locations throughout the City. Crews are also street sweeping and mowing. Pavement marking painting in the City parking lots and streets has begun.

### 2026 Construction Projects

#### **Third Street from Mulberry Street to Picotte Street**

Slowey Construction is finalizing the removals on the project. Base course for the mainline paving is 90% complete. Masonry Components will begin curb and gutter, concrete paving, and sidewalk installation once the base course is ready. The project is ahead of schedule for completion.

#### **Alley from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Maple Street and Green Street**

Feimer Construction has removed the existing pavement and the base course has been installed. Masonry Components has begun concrete paving on the north block. If the contractors are able to keep the current pace, the alley should be complete and back open to traffic by the middle of May.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge Replacement**

The new box culverts have been delivered and Alliance Construction has set them in place. Backfilling operations are underway.

Staff are waiting for contractors to schedule preconstruction meetings for the several projects that have been bid out and awarded. Once the preconstruction meetings are held, there will be a better understanding of the schedule of construction for each project.

Included in this packet is a sample bid advertisement for the Chan Gurney Municipal Airport – Douglas Avenue Utility Expansion. Staff is working to get this project advertised soon.

### **10) Library Update**

We are looking forward to a celebrity visit at the library! The Friends of the Yankton Community Library are excited to host visits from children's author Coach Ryan Sloth. Coach Sloth will be visiting all of the Yankton elementary schools from May 11-13, and will hold a special literacy event at the library on May 11 at 6:00 PM.

Sloth is a former Iowa State University football player, football coach, and played an extra in many notable movies, such as 'We Are Marshall', 'Leatherheads', 'Touchback', 'Dark Knight Rises', and 'Amazing Spider-Man'. Sloth has published ten children's books, and estimates that he has visited more than 1,300 schools in 25 different states, sharing his books to more than 500,000 students.

We are also looking forward to hosting Family Literacy Night on May 14 from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. This event is in partnership with the Yankton School District. It is a great opportunity to visit with families about library services and especially the Summer Reading Program.

### **11) Monthly reports**

The Salary and YPD monthly reports are included for your review as well as minutes from the Planning Commission.

Have an enjoyable weekend and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these or other issues. If you will not be able to attend the Commission meeting on Monday, please inform my office.

Sincerely,

Amy Leon  
City Manager