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Sheriff Carl Ritchie advocates for 12% pay increase for Detention Center staff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 28, 2026

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – Charleston County Sheriff Carl Ritchie's call for a 12% pay raise for employees at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center was answered by Charleston County Council with the approval of the first reading of the Fiscal Year 2026 County Budget during its meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

"Detention center staff perform one of the most difficult and essential public safety jobs in the county," Sheriff Ritchie said. "A competitive pay structure is vital to keeping skilled employees and ensuring the safety of our facility and our community."

The Sheriff noted the detention center continues to face staffing shortages and high turnover, issues experienced by correctional facilities across the state and nation. He emphasized that the proposed 12% increase is intended to keep pay rates competitive.

Sheriff Ritchie said he is grateful to the County Council for passing the first reading of the budget and looks forward to continuing to work together to prioritize the needs of detention center employees.

"Supporting the dedicated men and women who work at the Sheriff Al Cannon Detention Center is a public safety priority," said Charleston County Council Public Safety Committee Chair Jenny Costa Honeycutt. "These employees take on incredibly demanding responsibilities every day as they work to serve and protect the citizens of Charleston County. I'm proud to support a pay raise that reflects our commitment to valuing that service, strengthening retention, and ensuring a safe and secure environment for both staff and inmates."

The budget will move forward for additional readings and public discussion in the coming weeks. The final budget will be approved mid-to-late June and take effect July 1, 2026.

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