COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN SERVICES
August 10, 2026
4:00 P.M.
Council Committee Room
301 University Ridge, Greenville

Citizens may also access the meeting at the following web address:
https://www.greenvillecounty.org/livestream.aspx.

Committee Members Present:

Garey Collins, Chairman
Steve Shaw, Vice Chairman
Frank Farmer
Joey Russo via Zoom

Committee Members Absent:

Dan Tripp

Staff Present:

Campbell Plumblee, Assistant County Attorney
Jackson Scott, Assistant County Attorney
Israel Hollister, Assistant County Administrator Public Safety
Lauren Gilstrap, Clerk, Public Safety Committee

Call to Order: Chairman Garey Collins

Invocation: Chairman Garey Collins

Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Councilor Farmer moved to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026 regular Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously by all present.

FLOCK CAMERAS – SHERIFF HOBART LEWIS

Before beginning his presentation, Sheriff Lewis gave the Committee a hand out that provided the General Order 156, Data Retention and Storage and a list of Frequently Asked Questions with answers regarding Flock cameras. Sheriff Lewis stated the Greenville County Sheriff's Office budgets for thirty-two LPRs (License Plate Readers) to include four live-feed cameras at the County Law Enforcement Center since the recent shooting of an Officer in the parking lot. Sheriff Lewis stated LPRs have been used by the County for the last twenty years and are not new to Greenville County. The only difference is now the cameras are placed on fixed poles that are visible and accessible to the public. SCDOT originally installed the LPR cameras, but due to an ongoing lawsuit with the State, they no longer provide installation. The company, Flock, has agreed to install the cameras going forward. Cameras are aimed at traffic and constantly takes pictures of license plates and vehicles they are attached to. If a crime has been committed, Law Enforcement can use the vehicle description or a license plate number to determine if a vehicle is linked to the crime. Sheriff Lewis stated his department has updated their policy on the use of Flock cameras due to the recent termination of two deputies for misusing the program for personal use.

The cost of each Flock camera is three thousand five hundred dollars with a one-time fee of nine hundred dollars to install each camera. The images captured are kept on a County level for thirty days. After that, the images are no longer accessible. The County does not sell these images. Over three hundred sworn personnel at the Sheriff's Office have access to the Flock system. Four civilian analysts who work with the Drug Enforcement Division have access when needed for investigation purposes. Eleven additional employees have administrator access who are Intel Analysts, as well as those from the Office of Professional Standards. Sheriff Lewis stated the Department does an automatic audit of the Flock system every ninety days to ensure the system is not being misused in any way. The Sheriff's Office does share with one hundred forty-one networks in South Carolina and twenty-six hundred networks out of State. These include two-way sharing with Law Enforcement agencies and one-way sharing with private networks. Sheriff Lewis shared some statistics on solving missing

persons cases, as well as solving homicides cases in the last three years. He believes the Flock cameras have been an invaluable tool for Law Enforcement.

Sheriff Lewis stated the Courts have said there is no Fourth Amendment violation because the still images taken only capture a license plate and a description of a vehicle not the driver itself. South Carolina drivers or those who have registered vehicles within South Carolina have signed a document stating they understand they do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy while driving on public roads.

Sheriff Lewis referred to the back of the handout given to the Committee at the beginning of the meeting regarding questions that were sent to him by Chairman Collins and his responses to those questions. He offered to elaborate further if needed.

Chairman Collins asked what the penalty was for cutting down or destroying a camera. Sheriff Lewis stated the individual would be arrested for Destruction of County Property and would be responsible for reimbursing the county for the total cost of the camera.

Councilor Farmer asked if the cameras were insured. Sheriff Lewis said no. Councilor Farmer then asked what specifically constitutes misusing the data Flock provides for deputies. Sheriff Lewis referred back to the Department policy. A deputy cannot use the system for personal reasons or sell the information to others.

Vice Chairman Shaw asked what the process of accessing information was for deputies. Sheriff Lewis stated for those who have access to the Flock system, they have an MDT (mobile data terminal) in their vehicles. They open the Flock icon and enter the description and a reason for why they need the information, which is associated with a case number.

Chairman Collins asked Sheriff Lewis what the process was to get access to the Flock system. Sheriff Lewis stated each deputy with access has to go through training and certification to be able to use the Flock system. Sheriff Lewis noted it is important for the public to know Flock is not used as a means to track the public.

Chairman Collins thanked Sheriff Lewis for his presentation.

Adjournment:

ACTION: Councilor Farmer moved to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

_____
Lauren M. Gilstrap, Clerk to Public Safety Committee