Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of September 10, 2024 Meeting

The Budget Committee met at 4:30 P.M. with the following members present: Bobby Couts, Eric Roberts, Billy Ray Dorris, Bob Stroud, and Faye Stubblefield were present. Mayor Billy Vogle and Jody Stewart were also present.

Mr. Bobby Couts called the meeting to order and following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

The Budget Committee minutes of August 6, 2024 were approved as presented.
Bobby asked if the Public had any comments about the agenda, there were no Public Comments at this time.

The Sheriff said he needed to inform the Committee about his pay plan and what he did to maintain its integrity and be transparent. The Sheriff stated there were approximately forty (40) new employees that do not qualify to receive a 3.5% step pay increase in this fiscal year. The Sheriff said that the savings from these 40 employees helped him incorporate a 1% cost of living raise into the Sheriff Department pay plan. All employees in the Sheriff Department will receive a 1% cost of living pay increase and approximately 150 employees will receive their 3.5% step pay increase whenever they move up a step on their pay plan in the FY2025 Budget. The Sheriff said this is the procedure from years past.

1. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend a resolution to approve budget amendment #10 in the amount of $33,269 for additional funds needed to replace two (2) wrecked vehicles to the County Commission. The Sheriff explained the insurance company totaled the patrol cars and insurance will only reimburse the County $58,683 (instead of 100% replacement cost) to replace the two (2) cars. The total cost for replacement is $91,952. All voted yea.

The Sheriff stated the last item he must discuss with the Committee is the County's Emergency Radio Project and it has been an absolute disaster. He said this project was supposed to be completed January 2024, then it was March, then June and every month in between and now we are in September 2024 and it's still not complete and there is not any definite final completion date. Sheriff stated there were lots of things asked for concerning this project and it is affecting the operations of his department and there are items he needs to be fixed. The Sheriff explained items he needed for this project were asked about and he was told that they were not in the contract. Sheriff obtained a copy of the contract a few weeks ago and he confirmed that needed items were not included in the contract as originally requested. The Sheriff stated that many agencies do not have any of their radios.

The Sheriff said that there is GPS needed and generators needed. The Sheriff was told on three (3) different occasions by Motorola that the infrastructure, such as HVAC and generators were included in the project contract. During the Sheriff's review of the contract, he notated these items were not included. There was a very lengthy and involved discussion and then a question and answer session. The original project manager no longer works for the County and Chad Gregory has tried to work with Motorola and two (2) of the Motorola employees have retired during this project. Bobby Couts and Eric Roberts want to know if someone will take this project over and see everything through to completion. Mayor has requested Traye to help with the generator specification sheet and to please help obtain a cost. The Sheriff stated that he will work with Traye and Chad and get this project on track.

It was stated there was a meeting scheduled with Motorola on Thursday, September 12, 2024. The Sheriff and Mayor told Jody after the meeting with Kate Stillwell, new Motorola Project Manager, that the County Emergency Radio Project all appears to be on a much better track.

The State of Tennessee's cost share of the County's Emergency Radio Project was discussed with the Budget Committee. The State's cost share is $1,044,966. The State was originally required to pay these funds ($1,044,966) directly to Motorola, as per the original contract. The State has changed this agreement to a reimbursement grant. Due to the State changing to a reimbursement grant to the County, there is a possibility the County will be required to pay this $1,044,966 to Motorola prior to receiving the funds from the State. All agreed not to pay these funds to Motorola until the project is closer to completion date. The Finance Department plans to wait upon the Sheriff's direction before any payments are made to Motorola.

2. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #6 in the amount of $1,250 for an operating transfer into Debt Service for the School Energy Efficiency Bond to the County Commission. All voted yea.

3. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Bob Stroud to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #7 in the amount of $87,104 for a new Tractor as requested and approved by the Solid Waste Committee to the County Commission. All voted yea.

4. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Eric Roberts to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #8 in the amount of $574 for overtime pay for Security Guard Services required at the Drug Recovery Court Festival to the County Commission. All voted yea.

Chris Traughber, Assessor of Property, stated because of transparency he wanted to inform the Committee that he had a long time employee leave and a current employee has taken on an additional responsibility, so he will pay her an additional $1.27 per hour already in his FY2025 Budget. Chris also informed the Committee that he needs to ask for an additional employee in his department. Chris said there is a State Statute, Tennessee Code Annotated 67-1-506 (b)(1) whereas the growth in the County with 40,866 parcels requires an additional employee.

5. It was moved by Billy Ray Dorris and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend waiting approximately sixty (60) days and revisit Chris Traughber's request for an additional employee in his department. Chris stated he never replaced his position in 2008 and there are so many extra requirements for the Robertson County Economic Development Board (RCEDB) Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) workload of preparing invoices and discussing these PILOT taxes with these various companies. These two (2) items are also part of the reason he needs an additional employee in his department. All voted yea.

6. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Bob Stroud to recommend a resolution to approve budget amendment #9 in the amount of $55,000 for additional funds needed for the Agriculture Extension Building Window Replacement and Renovations to the County Commission. All voted yea.

Jody informed everyone the State Auditors had finalized the FY2024 Audit and there were no findings. She also stated that State Comptroller's office sent their approval letter for the County FY2025 Budget to be presented to the County Commission at their September 16, 2024 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Bobby Couts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director