Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of February 4, 2025 Meeting

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

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

The Budget Committee minutes of December 3, 2024 were approved as presented.
Bobby asked if the Public had any comments about the agenda, there were no Public Comments at this time.

1. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Eric Roberts to approve the FY2025-2026 Budget Adoption Schedule for Robertson County as presented to the Committee. Jody Stewart explained it was the same as last year, except the dates changed by one day. All voted yea.

2. It was moved by Billy Ray Dorris and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #24 in the amount of $951,964 to the County Commission. Dr. Danny Weeks, School Director, presented the above balanced budget amendment. All voted yea.

3. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Eric Roberts to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #26 in the amount $21,600, for a State grant for the School Year 2023-2024 for the School Resource Officer Salary Supplement to the County Commission. All voted yea.

4. It was moved by Billy Ray Dorris and seconded by Eric Roberts to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #25 in the amount of $38,150 for a license plate reader system from the Drug Fund 122 to the County Commission. This budget amendment requires two readings and the Sheriff requested the Committee to suspend the rules at the February County Commission meeting and everyone agreed with his request. All voted yea.

Kristy Chowning, Circuit Court Clerk, addressed the Budget Committee about her need for a new employee and she also requested a small increase per hour for eight (8) employees to match the pay of the new employee requested. Kristy presented Budget Amendment #26 in the amount of $84,302. She stated her one (1) employee shortage has caused mistakes to be made causing issues for specific citizens and her floating employee will be out on maternity leave in a couple of months. Kristy also stated that mental health requirements are now a big issue that needs to be managed in her department and her lack of an employee is also causing issues in this area. There was a very long discussion and also a question/answer session and the question was asked about the funding for this new employee being available in her current budget. Kristy stated that she asked for this new employee during the FY2025 budget process and she was told to wait and come back to the Committee in seven (7) months. So, there are no funds in her budget for

this request currently. Bobby said he will entertain a motion to approve this request, if there is not a motion then this request will die due to the lack of a motion. There was not a motion regarding this request and Kristy thanked everyone for their time. Please note that budget amendment #26 was reassigned to a budget amendment required during this meeting.

Jon Graves, Clerk and Master, addressed the Budget Committee about approval of the audio/video IT installation quote from Justice AV Solutions, Inc. (JAVS) to the lower courtroom within the Historic Courthouse. The quote from JAVS in the amount of $61,471.10 is for Jon's request for the Chancery courtroom. After much discussion Judge Ben Dean stated that they needed to add the amount needed for Kristy's upstairs courtroom also. Kristy just received her quote in the amount of $60,879 from JAVS today. A very long discussion continued including a question answer session about the need for the audio/video system in the courtroom and also how this need will be funded. There was a discussion about the reserve funds for Chancery Court, Circuit Court and General Sessions Court and Jon Graves and Kristy Chowning stated that these reserves cannot be used to fund the full amount of $122,351 because their reserve funds will be depleted by too much. The Committee discussed among themselves that there may be extra revenue funds in account number 101-44170 for this one-time purchase from the workers comp refund/miscellaneous refunds in the amount of $60,000 to help with the total funding for the requested item. This budget amendment will be balanced if the other approximately one-half (1/2) of the funds are used from the respective reserve funds.

5. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to recommend balanced budget amendment #23 in the amount of $122,351 to the County Commission. This budget amendment will fund the purchase of a JAVS Audio Visual System in two (2) separate courtrooms to follow the law as explained by Judge Ben Dean. All voted yea.

Item six (6) and item seven (7) on the agenda did not need to be addressed at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Bobby Cauts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director