Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of May 13, 2025 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.

Budget Committee Chairman Bobby Couts called the meeting to order and the following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

There were no Budget Committee minutes to approve.
Bobby Couts asked if the Public had any comments about the agenda, there were no Public Comments at this time.

Kendra Shelton, Trustee, addressed the Budget Committee about the tax relief program implemented a few years ago for the elderly and disabled Veteran's. She said the program is working very well and the qualified Veterans have been happy. Kendra explained that the amount needed for this program in the FY2026 budget will be approximately $170,000, and this is an increase of $30,500.

Cathy Hamsley, Administrator of Elections, addressed the Committee about an inequity for her Chief Deputy. She informed the Committee that the State passed legislation about receiving reimbursement for the County's local primary election in May, which is approximately $64,000 and she saved 68,470 in her FY2026 budget compared to FY2025, because there is only one election this year. Cathy stated her Chief Deputy was underpaid by approximately $12,000 (plus taxes and retirement) according to the job study prepared by Gallagher. Bobby Couts stated that he does not understand why there seems to be so many pay inequities. There was a brief discussion about pay inequities.

Kristy Chowning, Circuit Court Clerk, addressed the Budget Committee about eight (8) inequities in her Department. Kristy stated that she has not received the information from Gallagher at this time.

Melanie Stark, Juvenile Court Magistrate, addressed the Budget Committee about two (2) inequities in her Department for the Youth Services Officers. She discussed their jobs and the importance of backgrounds in detail. Melanie distributed the job study prepared by Gallagher, but she did not request an actual dollar amount for these 2 employees.

Troy Adkins, Highway Superintendent, addressed the Budget Committee about his Highway Department Fund 131 FY2026 Budget. There was a discussion about qualified employees' retention in the Highway Department. Troy explained to attract qualified employees and retain them; he needs to move everyone in the Highway Department two (2) steps on the pay plan. This equates to 3.5% plus 3.5% for a total pay increase of 7% for all Highway Department employees. Troy stated he currently has 33 full-time employees; he has deleted an employee for a new total of 32 full-time employees in the FY2026 budget and this action plus a pay increase of 7% is only an additional $16,000 in the FY2026 budget. This Budget has already been approved by the Highway Commission. Troy said that he would appreciate their blessing and Bobby said they will take it under advisement.

Sheriff addressed the Budget Committee about his extra needs in the FY2026 budget. The Sheriff presented his FY2026 budget and stated the overall increase including operating expenses totaled $1,051,228. The increase for a 3.5% raise to maintain the pay plan and adding a Bridge retirement program for the Sheriff Department is $830,957. The operating expenses total $220,271. The bridge retirement program is included in the $830,957; note that amount is approximately $440,000 because an additional 3.5% will need to be paid to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS). The Sheriff explained the open positions have decreased due to the competitive pay plan and he appreciates the Budget Committee's support. The Sheriff did mention the hazardous pay duty program. He said they are waiting for the actuarial study from TCRS to determine the one-time payment needed for that program.

1. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Eric Roberts to approve Scott Erwin's request to purchase a custom canopy tent with full back sidewall for fundraisers and various events. Scott explained there were funds in his budget, and for transparency's sake he informed the Budget Committee and requested their approval for this purchase of $1,224. All voted yea.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 P.M.

Bobby Couts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director