Robertson County Budget Committee
Joint Budget/County Commission Work Session Meeting
Minutes of June 24, 2025 Meeting

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

The following County Commissioners were also present: Jonathan Rummel, Jeremiah Pierce, Ray Hart, "Doc" Brent Martin, Bryce Ellis, Tommy Jackson, Gina Head-Hieber

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

At the beginning of the meeting, Bobby Couts asked if the Public had any comments or questions about the agenda, there were no Public Comments at this time.

The Budget Committee minutes of June 17, 2025 were approved as presented after all discussions were completed and before the Joint Budget/County Commission Work Session Meeting adjourned.

Brent Dyer, EMS Director, addressed the Budget Committee and County Commissioners about items he has changed in his FY2026 Budget request and explained the reasons for making the necessary changes. There was a question answer session and Brent's additional funds request has changed to $361,146. He informed everyone that four (4) new employees are being requested so a twelve (12) hour shift from 10am through 10pm daily will operate and service the City of White House.

The Sheriff addressed the Budget Committee about his same request of $440,000 for a Retirement Bridge Program for Law Enforcement/Public Safety employees. The Committee had many questions for the Sheriff to answer and explain the details about this Retirement Bridge Program. The Sheriff informed the Committee that the State has approved Robertson County's Jail to receive a higher per diem reimbursement that will generate approximately $200,000 extra revenues for Prisoner Boarding in the FY2026 Budget and all future budgets.

Bubba Dorris was not available to attend this meeting, so Ray Hart presented the Volunteer Fire Department's request for additional funding in the FY2026 Budget. After some discussion about the request for $630,000, Bobby asked if there was another more reasonable request. Ray stated if the Volunteer Fire Department's received the same percentage increase as the Sheriff Department and EMS Department that would be fair. He stated if these departments receive either 10% or 5% increase, it would be fair that the Volunteer Fire Department's should receive that same percentage increase.

Bobby asked if anyone had any questions for Chris Traughber, Assessor of Property, about his request for a new employee. Gina Head-Hieber asked how long the County has been at the parcel count with reference to a T.C.A. law that states he needs an additional employee and Chris said it has been about four (4) years because his previous veteran staff helped.

Bobby mentioned departments that have dollar amounts in their budgets that are not being utilized. He is requesting all Department Heads to give unused funds back and trust the Committee to help with any of their needs.

Melanie Stark, Juvenile Magistrate, addressed the Committee about a hardship in her department because an employee has been diagnosed with two separate auto-immune diseases. This new development has caused an urgent need for the inequities in her Department with a net effect increase of $9,000 plus taxes/retirement. Melanie also stated the on call payment for her staff needed to be adjusted if possible. There were no motions made during this meeting, this was a meeting for discussions and explanations regarding extra needs in the FY2026 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Bobby Couts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director