Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of June 17, 2025 Meeting

The Budget Committee met at 4:00 P.M. with the following members present: Bobby Couts, Billy Ray Dorris, Eric Roberts, 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 following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

The Budget Committee minutes of June 10, 2025 were approved as presented.
Bobby Couts asked if the Public had any comments or questions 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 adding a Drone in the amount of **$23,000** to the Emergency Management FY2026 budget. All voted yea.

Faye made a motion to accept the $14,000 inequity in the FY2026 budget for the Emergency Management Director. This motion failed due to the lack of a second.

There was a discussion about all the salary inequities being requested by six (6) different Department Heads for a total of fifteen (15) different employees. Eric Roberts thinks there should be a four (4) percent pay increase for all County employees instead of the three (3) percent pay increase that has been discussed. Eric said if the pay increase was 4 percent for all County employees, he feels like this will help take care of most of the inequities. There was an involved discussion concerning the pay inequities and the need for a pay compensation study plus the need for the County to hire a full-time Human Resources (HR) employee. Bobby said the County needs to entertain the ideas of hiring an HR employee and funding a pay study for County employees soon. Eric stated that the pay increase discussion needs to be set aside until the other large requests are addressed and decided upon what will be added to the FY2026 budget.

2. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Eric Roberts to approve adding **$15,050** to the Library's FY2026 budget. All voted yea.

3. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to approve adding **$30,500** for the elderly & veteran tax relief program to line item 101-58400-340 in the FY2026 budget. All voted yea.

Brent Dyer, Ambulance Service Director, addressed the Committee about changing his original request of $871,922 per his EMS Committee's discussion during their meeting on Monday. Brent stated that he will need to add $20,000 for the County's one-half share cost of a generator for the Cross Plains station. Brent explained that he will decrease his uniforms line item 55130-451 and adjust his capital account line item 55130-799. Basically, he will redistribute funds in various line items in the FY2026 budget to help reduce the amount of his original request. Brent said instead of hiring six (6) employees that it may work okay if he hires a four (4) employee crew to operate a twelve-hour shift from 10:00 AM through 10:00 PM daily in the City of White House. There was a discussion about Brent saving $239,350 by hiring 4 employees instead of 6 employees and he will save another $30,500 for a stretcher, which reduces his total request by $269,850. The original $871,922 request less the $269,850 equals a new request of $602,072 in the FY2026 budget.

Brent thanked the Committee and said that whatever they can do for his department is appreciated and they will do their best to take care of the public in the best professional manner as always. The County already has an Ambulance stationed in White House and this truck and crew will be placed in a station provided by the City of White House. Brent said the City of White House wants everyone to get through their FY2026 budget process and then they will look at the mutual aid agreement between the City and County.

Faye made a motion to accept the adjusted request to add $602,072 to the EMS Department's FY2026 budget as explained above by Brent. This motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Sheriff addressed the Committee about his request to implement a Retirement Bridge program in the FY2026 budget moving forward. There is a mandatory retirement age of 60 years old or age 62 for administrative. The Sheriff named off a list of Counties and Cities that have already adopted the Retirement Bridge program he is requesting Robertson County to adopt. Eric asked the question about the hazardous pay duty program and the Sheriff said that they are waiting for an actuarial study, but the Sheriff thinks the Retirement Bridge program is a much better benefit for his law enforcement staff. He stated his department will return approximately $1,200,000 back to the County from his FY2025 budget. Sheriff also stated that due to the hard work of his employees, that the Robertson County Sheriff Department has become an accredited jail and this will generate an additional $200,000 in prisoner boarding revenues in the FY2026 budget and all future budgets.

Faye made a motion to pass the Sheriff's request to add $440,000 to his FY2026 budget for the Retirement Bridge program. This motion failed due to the lack of a second. There is concern amongst the budget committee members about other County Commissioners not being in favor of the Sheriff's request. There was some discussion about involving all County Commissioners in the decision-making process before the FY2026 budget is presented for final approval. Bobby stated that Faye Stubblefield had a good idea for there to be a working session involving all County Commissioners about the big dollar amounts requested in the FY2026 budget.

Everyone agreed to meet next Tuesday, June 24, 2024 at 4:30 PM in the Juvenile Courtroom. There will be a Joint Budget/County Commission Work Session meeting to discuss the large FY2026 budget requests such as: The Sheriff Department's $440,000, the Volunteer Fire Department's $630,000 and the EMS Department's adjusted request of $602,072. After the joint work session meeting, the budget committee members will convene at about 5:15 PM to vote on items to add to the FY2026 budget based upon the work session meeting involving all County Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Bobby Coats

Bobby Coats, Chairman

Jody Stewart

Jody Stewart, Finance Director