Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of July 15, 2025 Meeting

The Budget Committee met at 4:00 P.M. with the following members present: Bobby Couts, Faye Stubblefield, Eric Roberts, and Bob Stroud were present. Mayor Billy Vogle and Jody Stewart were also present. Billy Ray Dorris was absent.

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

The Joint Budget Committee/County Commission Work Session Meeting minutes of June 24, 2025 were approved.

At the beginning of the meeting, Bobby Couts asked if the Public had any comments or questions about the agenda, and Lanny Adcock, City of Greenbrier Mayor, requested to address the Budget Committee about the Volunteer Fire Department's National Survey concerning compensation.

Lanny Adcock and Chief Hamil, from the Greenbrier Fire Department, informed the Committee about the National Survey for Volunteer Fire Departments results and there was a question/answer session. Lanny explained he appreciates all the First Responders in the room and the Budget Committee's time to listen to the explanation of the Nationwide market rate survey. The National Survey spreadsheet lists the Fire Departments, the current FY2025 funding provided by the County, the 2023 calls, the 2024 calls and a current cost per call each Fire Department is being reimbursed. The Nationwide average per call amount is $715 and Lanny stated they did not want to decrease the two (2) smaller Fire Departments, Orlinda Fire and Ridgetop. Mayor Billy Vogle stated these two (2) Fire Departments will be frozen at their current rate until the other Fire Departments catch up. Lanny stated there could be an annual increase until the $715 per call amount is met. There was much discussion and there was an agreement to pay each Fire Department $600.00 per call. The 2024 calls for the six (6) Fire Departments totaled 2,829 multiplied by $600 equals $1,697,400 less the current amount being paid to all Fire Department in the County's budget of $1,534,239 for an estimated total of $163,161 needed for the payment of $600 per call.

1. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Eric Roberts to approve Brent Dyer's request in the amount of **$361,146** for the Ambulance Service (EMS) Department FY2026 budget. Brent stated that four (4) new employees are being requested for a twelve (12) hour shift from 10am through 10pm daily scheduled to operate and service the City of White House. There are a few line item changes, $44,000 will be added for training and $40,000 added for a longevity schedule developed by Brent. All voted yea.

Item number two (2) on the agenda was the Sheriff's request for approximately $440,000 for a retirement bridge program as previously discussed during other budget meetings. There was no motion made to approve adding this request to the Sheriff's FY2026 budget and another involved discussion followed. There was a lengthy question/answer session. Eric Roberts said this was a very difficult request for only five (5) Budget Committee members to decide yes or no about adding this expense to the budget. Eric stated that he knows this request will be addressed on the County Commission floor on the night the FY2026 budget is presented for approval. Bobby Couts stated the Sheriff Department does an exceptionally good job policing Robertson County. Bobby said this request has failed due to the lack of a motion. All agreed the Sheriff's request will be dealt with later and Eric thinks it does need to be addressed by the full County Commission. $200,000 for additional prisoner boarding will be added as revenues to the FY2026 budget whether this request is approved or not.

Item number three (3), the Volunteer Fire Department cost to Increase the annual funding was briefly discussed prior to the following motion. There was confusion about the cost being $300,000 or $400,000 if the funding is calculated at $600 per call, and Ridgetop and Orlinda will not decrease.

2. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to approve the payment of $600 per call for all Volunteer Fire Departments. The calculation was made by multiplying 2,829 calls at $600 and all thought the total to be added to the FY2026 Budget was $163,161. After the meeting, Jody made the calculations and realized Orlinda's payment of $199,250 plus Ridgetop's payment of $89,125 were inadvertently eliminated from the above calculation. The FY2026 Budget will increase by **$451,536** to accommodate $600 per call and continue to pay Orlinda and Ridgetop the same amount. All voted yea.

Item number four (4), Chris Traughber's request for a new employee was addressed and Chris informed the Committee that he will reduce his postage line item by $20,000 to help defray the cost for a new employee. Bobby Couts asked Chris to research the usage of a Drone for his department because other Counties are having success and Chris stated that he is investigating Drone usage. All agreed with the increased growth of the County that a Drone will be able to perform many surveys and be a great asset to the Assessor of Property's Department.

3. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Bob Stroud to approve a new employee for the Assessor of Property's FY2026 Budget. Chris will decrease his postage line and one other line item making a total decrease of $20,000 to his budget. The budget will increase by approximately **$49,000**. All voted yea.

With regards to any inequities, Bobby mentioned there did not need to be any more discussions, but Eric wanted to address Donna Adcock's extra hours being worked that may qualify as callback pay.

4. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Eric Roberts to approve the payment of $250 per week for callback pay for Donna Adcock in the General Sessions Department. The cost will be $13,000 plus Retirement, Social Security and Medicare taxes. Because there are two line items Judge Joel Perry will reduce in his General Sessions budget, the net effect on the budget is zero. All voted yea.

Bob Stroud stated that Melanie had a very compelling argument about her needs in the Juvenile Court Department that warrants discussion. After a brief discussion, the Committee made the following motion.

5. It was moved by Bob Stroud and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to approve Melanie's request to increase two (2) Youth Service Officer employees pay in the Juvenile Court Department. Melanie will decrease her Juvenile Detention Programs line item 53500-599-202 by this same amount. The net effect on the budget is zero. All voted yea.

There was an involved discussion about pay raises for County employees. Bob Stroud originally made a motion to put a 3.5% pay increase in the FY2026 budget for employee pay raises same as the FY2025 budget. After a long discussion and Jody stating that each percentage increase was an approximate cost of $319,000, the following motion was made.

6. It was moved by Bob Stroud and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to approve a 4% pay increase for County employees in the FY2026 budget for an estimated cost of **$1,276,000**. All voted yea.

7. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to approve the Mayor's request to add **$24,000** to his budget to pay Chad Gregory as a consultant to manage the emergency radio towers, generators, etcetera. All voted yea.

Jody Stewart presented the updated Statement of Estimated Fund Balance documents for all funds in the FY2026 budget. She stated the revenues and expenses for all funds were close to final. Jody informed the Committee that all Statement of Estimated Fund Balances for all funds will be final and presented at next week's July 22, 2025 budget committee meeting. Everyone agreed next week's meeting was needed to approve final numbers for all funds in the FY2026 Budget and set the FY2026 property tax rate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 P.M.

Bobby Couts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director