Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of June 3, 2025 Meeting

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

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

The Budget Committee minutes of May 13, 2025 and May 20, 2025 were approved as presented. Bobby Couts asked if the Public had any comments about the agenda, there were no Public Comments at this time.

Brent Dyer, Ambulance Service Director, presented a letter listing additional funding he needs in the EMS FY2026 Budget. See the following list of items he is requesting in A through F below:

A. Step increases for senior/tenured employees, estimated cost for 15 employees from last year and 3 employees for this year is **$40,000** - line items 100 and 200 series,
B. Part-time personnel, line item 169 - Requesting to increase to $200,000 to better cover vacations, sick leave, FMLA, workers comp time off. Current amount of $153,000 to increase by **$47,000**,
C. Stretcher, line item 718 – Rotate out an older stretcher and purchase a new stretcher this year for the next new ambulance. This equipment cost is **$30,500.** There may be a $5,000 trade in allowance.
D. Medical Supplies, line item 413 – Approximately 10% of our medical supplies/drug expenses helps restock the fire departments' first responders. This requires an additional **$35,000** to continue with helping restock the first responders.
E. Director, line item 101 – Brent is asking to increase his pay by **$7,300**, because he is operating the EMS Department without an Assistant Director.
F. Add 6 full-time employees – This is much needed, however very costly. The cost to add 3 paramedics and 3 AEMTs to staff another ambulance for the White House area is approximately $585,000, plus $126,000 in costs to the County for benefits/insurance. Total request of **$711,000.**

Michelle Adcock, Library Director, presented the Library's FY2026 Budget. Michelle stated that she is requesting an additional **$15,050** from each funding body for the Library's FY2026 Budget. She explained the services being provided to the County and read a letter about accommodation for the great service the Library provides. During 2023-2024 there were 100,687 library visits, 753 programs and activities, 17,328 event attendance, 107,699 physical circulations and 54,694 electronic circulations. The Committee asked if the City of Springfield has already approved the request for these additional funds and Michelle said yes. Bobby and Eric stated they were positive about her request, but the Committee will give formal approval later.

1. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to recommend the Sheriff's Drug Fund 122 - FY2026 Budget to the County Commission. The Sheriff stated the only change was an increase in drug control payments and trustee commission fees, this budget needs to be approved before June 30, 2025 this year. All voted yea.

2. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to approve the Sheriff's request to purchase two (2) vehicles in the FY2025 budget, because there are extra funds from salary savings. All voted yea.

3. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to recommend balanced budget amendment #40 in the amount of $200,000 for an approximate 20% increase over last year for Disposal Fees to the County Commission. Korey Stewart, Sanitation Director, explained if there are extra disposal fee expenses that it has always offset by the additional revenues. All voted yea.

4. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #41 for the School System to the County Commission. Steve

Sorrells, Assistant School Director, presented balanced budget amendment #41 in the amount of $1,457,072 for State and Federal Grants and Miscellaneous Housekeeping line items. All voted yea.

Jon T. Graves, Clerk and Master, addressed the Budget Committee about two (2) inequities in his Department for the FY2026 Budget. Jon gave a detailed explanation about the extra duties these 2 employees are required to perform due to the busyness of the judicial system. He is trying to delegate workload so he will be able to complete his main job duties. The summary of responsibilities is listed in the letter Jon emailed to the Budget Committee members. Gallagher has performed a pay study and Jon estimated the pay should increase from $19.67 per hour to $21.00 per hour for these two employees. The difference of $1.33 x 1,950 hours x 2 employees x 15.37% = **$5,984.24** increase.

Kristy Chowning, Circuit Court Clerk, addressed the Budget Committee about eight (8) inequities in her Department for the FY2026 Budget. Kristy explained the busyness of her office and the courts and additional demands the State has placed in her department. She referenced the May 14, 2025 compensation assessment prepared by Gallagher for her Court Clerk II positions. The pay study estimates the median hourly pay at $22.68 and these eight (8) employees are being paid $21.78 per hour. The difference of $.90 x 1,950 hours x 8 employees x 15.37% = **$16,197.95** increase.

There was a discussion about the County's growth and there not being enough funds in the Highway Department Fund 131 to maintain the county's growing road system. The Budget Committee discussed the County-Wide Motor Vehicle Tax as described in Resolution No. 031907033 and changing the distribution percentages in the Debt Service Fund 151 and Highway Fund 131. The County's growth relating to County Roads needs extra funds in Highway Fund 131. The idea is to change the distribution amount to 30% for Highway Fund 131. (Estimated $700,000 extra Revenues in Highway Fund FY2026 Budget.) This would change the Debt Service Fund 151 distribution amount to 70%. If the Committee approves this change in the resolution for the wheel tax, Jody will be required to contact Clyde Richert, County Attorney, to make the update/change effective July 1, 2025 for the County Commission Meeting on June 16, 2025.

5. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend a resolution changing the distribution rate of the wheel tax from the original Resolution No. 031907033 dated March 19, 2007, as described in the above paragraph to the County Commission. All voted yea.

Other Business: Faye Stubblefield talked about a committee that was formed to work on an Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Faye, a member of the EOC committee, is requesting the Budget Committee to consider the purchase of property for a future building site for an EOC. This request is based upon the information in the red folder that she distributed to everyone. There was much discussion. The Committee instructed Jody to verify it was okay/legal to make the purchase of 6 acres of property, rezone it commercial and sell off five (5) acres and keep one (1) acre for the EOC. Demetria White, the Real Estate agent, said this will pay for the one acre of land where the EOC would be constructed. Faye told the Committee a bridge would need to be built and it would cost approximately $1,375,000. Faye stated a letter of intent was needed to secure the property, but this letter of intent constitutes a contract according to the real estate agent, Demetria White. Because this would be a contract the Committee instructed Jody to contact Clyde Richert, the County Attorney. The Committee stated they are not able to make any type of motions to move forward until they have information and guidance from the State Auditors and Clyde Richert. The Auditors told Jody the County was okay to purchase this property, and Cody was not aware of any Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA) that prevents the County from purchasing this land as described. Jody explained the details about Faye's request for a letter of intent to Clyde and she gave him the red folder with all the real estate property information from Faye.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 P.M.

Bobby Coutts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director