Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of October 6, 2026 Meeting

The Budget Committee met at 4:30 P.M. with the following members present: Eric Roberts, Faye Stubblefield, Eric Thompson, and Jonathan Rummel. Mayor Keith Hoover and Jody Stewart were also present. Billy Ray Dorris was absent.

Commissioner Eric Roberts called the meeting to order, and the following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

The Budget Committee minutes of September 8, 2026 were approved as presented.
Eric Roberts asked if the Public had any comments about the agenda, there were no Public Comments at this time.

Speaking Procedure: Participants wishing to speak were asked to raise their hands and wait to be recognized by the chair. **Meeting Length:** The committee emphasized orderly discussion and set a goal of completing routine meetings within 45 to 60 minutes, when feasible.

Drug Recovery Court — Security Guard Overtime
1. It was moved by Jonathan Rummel and seconded by Eric Thompson to recommend balanced budget amendment #2 in the amount of **$**580 to cover security guard overtime for the Drug Recovery Court Fest event to the County Commission for approval. The expense was not included in the original budget, and available reserve funds were identified to offset it. All voted yea.

Safe Baby Court and Red Ribbon Week Donations
2. It was moved by Eric Thompson and seconded by Jonathan Rummel to recommend balanced budget amendment #3 in the amount of $1,800 to be presented to the County Commission for approval. This amendment recognizes $1,800 in donations: $1,000 from Sabi Doc Kumar for Safe Baby Court, $800 for Red Ribbon Week Events, including $500 from Dean Oil and $300 from United Way. All voted yea.

Circuit Court Technology and Software Contracts
3. It was moved by Eric Thompson and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend balanced budget amendment #4 in the amount of $15,000 to the County Commission for approval. The amendment uses court-cost reserves to replace a failed 20-year-old printer, fund maintenance contracts for courtroom sound systems, and the purchase of tablets and scanners as needed for new jury-management software. All voted yea.

School Capital Projects --- Springfield Property Acquisition and White House Heritage Design
The committee held an extended discussion and question-and-answer session regarding school enrollment and capacity needs, increasing property costs, potential deed restrictions or a seller's right of first refusal, and the distinction between acquiring land and authorizing construction. Dr. Danny Weeks confirmed that no final decision had been made to construct a Springfield middle school on the property. Members also discussed a proposed construction-management process under which a guaranteed maximum price would be established after design and bidding to reduce unforeseen change orders. The preliminary funding plan for the two School Capital Projects called for using **$3,150,000** from the General Purpose School Fund 141 fund balance, with eligible capital expenditures to be reimbursed from future bond proceeds. The County Commission would be required to approve a resolution stating its intent to reimburse those expenditures from future bonds or other debt obligations.

4. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Jonathan Rummel to recommend budget amendment #5 in the amount of $3,150,000 to be presented to the County Commission for approval. After the meeting, County Mayor Keith Hoover and Budget Committee Chairman Eric Roberts divided this amendment into two separate budget amendments: Amendment No. 6—$1,000,000 for architectural services for White House Heritage Middle School; and Amendment No. 7—$2,150,000 for the purchase of property in Springfield. Also, after the meeting, while the minutes were being prepared,

Jody realized the prepared reimbursement-intent resolution for eligible capital expenditures to be repaid from future bond proceeds needs to be approved by the County Commission. All voted yea.

Fund Balance Policy: Dr. Danny Weeks, School Director, reported that a draft General Purpose School Fund balance policy was being developed in response to the Comptroller's letter. The draft was expected to be shared at the October 19 School Board meeting.
Budgeting Practice: Members discussed the School System's use of conservative five-year averages for property- and sales-tax revenue estimates. Because expenditures must be supported by a balanced budget, anticipated use of fund balance may be shown even though actual revenues have historically exceeded budget estimates and year-end surpluses have returned to fund balance. Members also discussed the effect that recognizing higher recurring revenue could have on county maintenance-of-effort requirements and tax rates.
Fund Balance: Historical balances and budget-to-actual results were reviewed. Members discussed a proposed target of approximately 15% of annual expenditures, or about $22.5 million to $25 million, representing roughly two months of operating costs. The draft policy will proceed through School Board review before being submitted to the County Commission for approval.

5. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Jonathan Rummel, to recommend the General Purpose School Fund 141 fund balance policy, prepared by Ashley McAnulty, the County's Financial Advisor, for approval by the School Board at its October meeting and subsequent approval by the County Commission. All voted yea.

Another School Capital Project --- Greenbrier Middle School HVAC
There was a brief discussion about the School System's need for approximately $6,000,000 to fund an HVAC project at Greenbrier Middle School. The committee discussed funding the work through county debt service, which was reported to have an approximately $31,000,000 budgeted ending fund balance on June 30, 2027. A more precise engineered estimate is expected by Thanksgiving. The committee expects to revisit the HVAC project in December.

Election Office Budget Amendment
6. It was moved by Jonathan Rummel and seconded by Eric Thompson, to recommend balanced budget amendment #6 in the amount of $15,000 for the Elections Department to the County Commission for approval. This budget amendment was renumbered as amendment #5 following the meeting. All voted yea.

Assistant Solid Waste Director
The committee was informed of a plan to designate an Assistant Solid Waste Director to provide a single point of contact when the Director is unavailable. The role will be filled through internal advancement and funded from existing vacancy savings. The designee will receive a modest pay increase, but no additional position or benefits cost will be added.
Action: No budget amendment or committee motion was required.

Other Business - Declare Two Items as Surplus Property
7. It was moved by Eric Thompson and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend declaring a Van for the Veteran's Services Department and a Crown Victoria vehicle for the Planning and Zoning Department as surplus property to the County Commission for approval. All voted yea.

Meeting Room Audio: Members discussed concerns about the audience's ability to hear meeting proceedings. Jonathan Rummel stated that Commissioner Brent Martin reported that attendees seated in the back of the room often cannot hear the discussion, creating a possible accessibility issue. Members noted that inaudible discussion also creates a transparency concern.
Follow-up: Staff will ask Chet, County IT Director, to evaluate audio improvements for this room and the County Commission meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Eric Roberts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director