Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of May 12, 2026 Meeting

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

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

The Budget Committee minutes of April 7, 2026 were approved as presented.
Bobby Couts asked if the Public had any comments about the agenda, there were no Public Comments at this time.

1. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Eric Roberts to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #46 in the amount of $25,000 for Genesis Jury Selection Software for the Historic Courthouse courtrooms to the County Commission. All voted yea.

Kristy Chowing, Circuit Court Clerk, requested a new full-time position in the FY2027 budget, and the Committee said it would take her request into consideration. Estimated cost: $73,808.

2. It was moved by Bob Stroud and seconded by Eric Roberts to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #47 in the amount of $84,270 for pay increases for the two (2) Animal Control Officers ($19,270 yearly) and cat cages to the County Commission. Animal Control's Reserve, Committed and current donation funds in the amount of $35,000 will be used to purchase the cages and the County will provide $30,000 from the fund balance. All voted yea.

Randy Peach, Animal Control Director, presented a list of needed FY2027 budget increases totaling $15,300. He also requested $195,532 in capital outlay for new trucks due to ongoing issues with the current fleet, and his Committee approved the request. The Committee said it would take his request into consideration.

Blake Pierce, Emergency Management Agency Director, presented a list of FY2027 budget increase requests totaling $135,351. The Committee said it would take his request into consideration.

Terri Ann Swearingen, Administrator of Elections, requested e-poll books to replace the signature lists currently used at precincts. She said the e-poll books would streamline verification during the certification process and that about half of the counties in the state already use them. The cost to equip the entire county is $73,880. The Committee said it would take her request into consideration.

Korey Stewart, Solid Waste Director, informed the Committee of an increase in disposal fees and a resolution that will require County Commission approval at the May 18, 2026, meeting. She also presented a list of FY2027 budget requests estimated at $190,000, including repairs to the parking lot and tipping floor, as well as a concrete pad. The Committee said it would take her request into consideration.

3. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Bob Stroud to recommend a resolution to approve balanced budget amendment #48 in the amount of $1,303,837 for State Grant funds and Miscellaneous Housekeeping items for the School System to the County Commission. All voted yea.

4. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to recommend a resolution to the County Commission to approve Balanced Budget Amendment #45 in the amount of $200,000 for miscellaneous housekeeping items. The ice storm increased overtime and other expense line items, which were offset by higher patient charge revenues. An additional $15,632 in insurance recovery funds reimbursed the EMS operating budget for wrecked vehicles. All voted yea.

5. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris a recommendation to reject Brent's two salary increase proposals related to employees who completed State-funded paramedic school, effective May 9, 2026. Budget amendments #49A for $84,383 and #49B for $193,914 were both rejected, and salary considerations were deferred to the FY2027 budget year. All voted yea.

Brent Dyer, Ambulance Service Director, presented a list of FY2027 budget increase requests totaling $613,433. The Committee said it would take his request into consideration.

The Committee discussed business from May 4, 2026, Building and Grounds Committee meeting, this included re-bidding the 40-acre property across the street from Springfield High School. There was some discussion about previous attempts to sell this property through the sealed bid process that is required because we are a government. Eric mentioned the cost for advertisements was approximately $1,000.

Jordan Osborne, Interim Director of the Robertson County Economic Development Board (RCEDB), addressed the Committee regarding the Red River Preserve Pilot funds. She said the RCEDB would request reimbursement from those funds for payments made to the Airport Board on the County's behalf. She also requested access to Pilot funds to provide matching funds for a $4,000,000 grant application.

Summary of Department Head requests for the County General Fund 101, FY2027 Budget totaled $1,107,304.

The Solid Waste Fund 116, FY2027 Budget request totaled $190,000.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Bobby Coats

Bobby Coats, Chairman

Jody Stewart

Jody Stewart, Finance Director