Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of June 16, 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 June 9, 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.

The Committee reviewed the Animal Control budget request presented by Randy Peach, Animal Control Director. Randy discussed the need for replacement of animal control trucks due to safety concerns, limited vehicle capacity, and increased operational needs. The proposed truck would include a chassis-mounted animal transport body with an estimated eight-month completion date.

1. It was moved by Bob Stroud and seconded by Eric Roberts to approve the purchase of one Animal Control truck in the approximate amount of $97,766 and to approve an operational budget increase in the amount of $15,300 for the FY2027 Animal Control budget. All voted yea.

The Committee discussed the proposed increase in County Commissioner compensation, including whether future adjustments should correspond with the percentage increase approved for County employees. Discussion also included commissioner attendance and whether compensation may be adjusted for missed meetings. The Committee agreed that legal guidance should be obtained before considering any attendance-based compensation policy. No action was taken on the proposed commissioner compensation increase at this time.

The Committee reviewed a request from Terri Ann Swearingen, Administrator of Elections, for electronic poll books. The total request was discussed in the amount of $73,880, with the possibility of funding approximately one-half during the current budget year and the remaining portion in the following fiscal year. The Committee discussed setup fees, annual support costs, bidding requirements, implementation timing, and the need for a trial period prior to full implementation.

2. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to approve funding approximately one-half of the electronic poll book request for the current year, with the final amount of $36,940, plus any additional cost necessary to divide the total request between two fiscal years, to be determined after clarification of software and setup costs. All voted yea.

The Committee reviewed the Sheriff's request for the Retirement Bridge Program through the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) with an approximate cost of $450,000. The discussion included related retirement benefit options, including TCRS and other alternatives, the estimated cost of the proposed benefit, comparisons with neighboring counties, and whether the matter should be forwarded to the full County Commission for consideration.

3. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to forward the Sheriff's Office Retirement Bridge Program request, in the form of a resolution, to the full County Commission for consideration and final approval at its July 20, 2026 meeting. All voted yea.

Blake Pierce, Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director, budget request was presented and discussed. Items reviewed included drone software, live-streaming capability, communications equipment, radios for large-scale events and special operations, uniform and equipment line items, and replacement of aging safety equipment.

4. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Bob Stroud to approve an operational budget increase for the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Department in the amount of $63,557.08, excluding the purchase of an additional drone. Following the meeting, the amount was adjusted to $51,580 because the salary increase had already been included separately in the EMA budget. All voted yea.

The Committee reviewed the Ambulance Service Department (EMS) budget request presented by Brent Dyer, EMS Director. Discussion included revisions to the original request of $613,433, removal of certain billing-related costs, deferral of a second ambulance purchase until state funding becomes available, staffing needs related to ambulance coverage, proposed full-time floater positions, part-time staffing, overtime, response coverage, and mutual aid concerns involving surrounding areas.

Faye Stubblefield made a motion to approve $267,934 to fund three (3) additional full-time Advanced EMT floater positions for the Ambulance Service Department. The motion failed for lack of a second.

5. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Bob Stroud to approve adding two (2) new full-time Advanced EMT floater positions in the amount of $178,623 while leaving $70,000 in the part-time line item in the Ambulance Service Department budget. All voted yea.

The Committee reviewed a request for repairs and improvements for the Solid Waste Fund 116, including the installation of a concrete pad, relocation of a metal pole, floor repairs, and parking lot repairs. The estimated project cost was $190,000, to be funded from available reserve funds. Discussion included bidding requirements and project specifications.

6. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Bob Stroud to approve funding in the amount of $190,000 for repairs and improvements to be included in the Solid Waste Fund 116 FY2027 budget. All voted yea.

Jody Stewart distributed updated school fund information and advised the Committee that certain formulas on the school budget summary page were incorrect. Committee members were instructed to rely on the corrected information provided during the meeting. The detailed supporting pages were noted to be accurate.

The Committee discussed volunteer fire department funding and the possibility of providing additional assistance for equipment needs, truck payments, and fuel costs. A request was presented to provide $10,000 to each of the eight (8) volunteer fire departments, for a total request of $80,000. The matter was discussed as an item for further review at a future meeting. No decisive action was taken.

The Committee agreed to meet next Tuesday to continue discussion of the remaining contribution requests from outside agencies.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Bobby Couts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director