Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of June 23, 2026 Meeting

The Budget Committee met at 4:30 P.M. with the following members present: Bobby Couts, Eric Roberts, Billy Ray Dorris, and Faye Stubblefield. Mayor Billy Vogle and Jody Stewart were also present. Bob Stroud was absent at the start of the meeting, and arrived at 5:43 P.M.

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 16, 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.

Will Sisco, Ambulance Service Training Officer, and Commissioner Faye Stubblefield addressed the Committee regarding updates to the EMS FY2027 budget request from the June 16 Budget Committee meeting. The discussion was extensive and included a question-and-answer session.

The Committee discussed the Ambulance Service Department FY2027 budget request, including the proposed pay adjustments for seven newly licensed paramedics, seven critical care paramedics, and related staffing needs. Discussion included the number of current paramedics and Advanced EMTs (AEMTs), the estimated cost of moving newly licensed employees to paramedic pay, retention concerns, surrounding county staffing needs, the County's current level staffing and training decisions.

The Committee also discussed the previously approved request for two full-time AEMT floater positions and whether those positions should remain in the FY2027 budget. It was noted that the EMS budget request included funding within the existing budget for the proposed paramedic pay adjustments. The Committee discussed that future requests for additional paramedic training or pay adjustments should be reviewed with greater transparency and should include a clear plan outlining staffing needs, anticipated costs, and long-term service goals.

The Committee discussed the prior motion from last week's meeting approving two full-time Advanced EMT floater positions in the amount of $178,623 while leaving $70,000 in the part-time line item. Following further discussion the following motion was made.

1. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to rescind the prior motion approving two new Advanced EMT floater positions in the amount of $178,623. The original motion was number five (5) as approved at the June 16, 2026 meeting. All voted yea.

The Committee then accepted the Ambulance Service Department budget as presented, with the understanding that the proposed EMS pay adjustments were included within the budget and that the previously approved floater positions were rescinded. The Committee also discussed the need for the EMS Department and EMS Committee to develop a table of organization, staffing guidelines, and a longer-term staffing plan for future budget consideration.

2. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to accept the Ambulance Service Department FY2027 budget as presented, with the understanding that the budget included the proposed EMS paramedic pay adjustments and did not include the previously rescinded two AEMT floater positions. The total amount approved for the EMS FY2027 budget was $8,798,621. All voted yea.

The Committee briefly discussed Critter Fixer's $7,000 request. No motion was offered, and the request failed for lack of motion.

The Committee reviewed the next contribution-to-agency request, the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation/Robertson County Reads request in the amount of $40,000. Discussion included prior funding, possible private or United Way support in future years, and the benefit of the program to children in Robertson County.

3. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to approve $30,000 for the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation/Robertson County Reads request. All voted yea.

The Committee reviewed the Bransford Community Center request for the amount of $1,000,000. Discussion included the need for additional information, the potential impact on fund balance, and the possibility of meeting with representatives before further consideration. No motion was made, and the request failed for lack of a motion.

Under new business, Jody Stewart advised that the previously approved Fund 172 Red River Preserve resolution, in the amount of $1,695,772, would be included as part of the FY2027 budget.

Jody Stewart also advised that available funds within the Finance Department budget could be moved to the appropriate line item to purchase replacement printers. The Committee discussed that the existing printers were nineteen years old and that ten replacement printers could be purchased for approximately $10,990.

4. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to transfer available funds to the appropriate line item for the Finance Department to purchase replacement printers. Due to the end of June 30, 2026 year-end deadline, Jody Stewart will make the purchase from the appropriate line item, and the available funds will be reflected as under budget on the financial statements. All voted yea.

The Committee reviewed the School Fund budget. Discussion included the School Board's approval, conservative revenue budgeting, fund balance estimates, bus and construction needs, and potential future school construction projects. The discussion also included possible middle school projects in the White House Heritage and Springfield areas. Dr. Danny Weeks stated that the estimated cost to build a middle school was $44,000,000.

5. It was moved by Eric Roberts and seconded by Billy Ray Dorris to accept the School Fund 141 FY2027 budget as presented. All voted yea.

Jody Stewart reviewed the estimated ending fund balances following the budget updates. The estimated balances were as follows: General Fund 101, $23,694,389; Solid Waste Fund 116, $2,077,320; Highway Fund 131, $1,461,966; School Fund 141, $25,525,601; Debt Service Fund 151, $29,955,570; and General Capital Projects Fund 171, $1,243,236.

The Committee also discussed funding for volunteer fire departments. Discussion included a request to provide $10,000 to each of the eight volunteer fire departments, prior efforts to equalize funding based on call volume, the need for accurate response data, and whether additional information should be obtained before considering additional funding. No action was taken.

The Committee agreed that the final Budget Committee meeting would be held on July 14, 2026. Jody Stewart advised that the June 30, 2026 FY2026 end-of-fiscal-year figures should be substantially complete by that time and that the County's accounting books are scheduled to close on July 21, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Bobby Coutts, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director