



Lawrence County  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 | **Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 8:19 p.m.

**PRESENT: County Executive** David Morgan. **Commissioners:** Phillip Heatherly, Scott Franks, Randy Brewer, Dave Ray, Rick Skillington, Barry Luffman, Shane Eaton, and Chris Sutherland. **Director of Accounts & Budgets** Brandi Williams, **Director of Schools** Michael Adkins, and **CFO** Jessica Eledge.

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman David Morgan, Vice-chair Scott Franks, Phillip Heatherly, Barry Luffman, and Randy Brewer

**Executive Morgan** called the meeting to order.

**SCHOOL SYSTEM:**

- **Adkins** and **Eledge** gave a presentation for the Lawrence County School System which was approved by School Board on May 29, 2025.
- **Eledge** explained their goals include – Continuation of Tutoring/Intervention, Employee Compensation, Prioritizing the Classroom/Academic Learning, and Instructional Supports.
- Total Budget is \$92,284,803.00.
- The committee discussed the budget with Adkins and Eledge.
- **Adkins** gave an update on the Summertown football field and a future funding request for a new gym for the Lawrence County High School.
- **Adkins** also gave a brief update on the growth study done for the School System. We have the capacity to house our students. We just need to utilize our space better and shift a few things around. We are not over crowded.

*Presentation available in the meeting folder.*

**THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WAS DIMISSED | 6:43 P.M.**

- **Commissioner Skillington** explained that most county offices don't have AED's. There are 14 different county buildings and it will cost \$10,500.00 to purchase enough AED's. The Workplace Safety approved and recommends it to the Budget Committee for consideration.

**Approve the Purchase of AED's at the price of \$10,500.00 as Recommended by the Workplace Safety Committee.**

**Motion:** Heatherly. **Second:** Franks.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

**NON-PROFIT/CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:**

- **Williams** explained the charitable nonprofits approved: \$21,500.00 over what was already included in the budget.
- Total in the budget is \$598K, and an additional \$21,500.00 was just approved.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** expressed concern about giving FOLCA an extra \$10K while not fully funding senior services and cutting their request.
- The committee discussed the **Mom's of Lawrence County Inc.**
- **Executive Morgan** liked the organization but believed it is self-supporting and backed by many local churches. He noted it is the only nonprofit with a membership fee.
- **Commissioner Franks** stated that if the community wants to support nonprofits, they will—but the government must be cautious about how many nonprofits it funds.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** spoke in favor of supporting reserve deputies, stating they deserve support because they help protect the community.
- **Executive Morgan** said that if new management for the Animal Shelter is approved at the June 30th Special Session, inmates will work there for free—creating some savings. The extra money could be repurposed for the Spay and Neuter program next year.
- **Williams** noted that county departments were asked to make cuts, but the nonprofits were not.
- The committee decided to cut \$10K from FOLCA's request.
- **Loretto Senior Center** increased their request by \$2K, for a total of \$10K. **Saint Joseph Senior Center** kept their requested \$6K. **Summertown Senior Center** increased their request by \$1K. **Lawrence County Senior Center** – remain at \$10K.
- **My Ride Program** – no change in request. **Reserve Deputies** – keep their request the same. **Kids Place** – considered to fall under safety and security for the community, keep the same. **The Shelter** – request remains the same. **Sandcastle Library** in Summertown – request remains the same.
- **God's Storehouse** – requested \$50K. They are located in a county-owned building and have not submitted a request in the past two years. They missed the deadline last year due to paperwork issues, and the person who previously handled the paperwork left the year before. Committee recommendation: stay at \$5K.

- The **committee** discussed **Moms of Lawrence County Inc.**

**Approve Cutting the Requested \$10,000.00 Recommended by the Nonprofit Committee for the Moms of Lawrence County Inc.**

**Motion:** Heatherly. **Second:** Luffman.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously 5/0.

- The committee discussed Buffalo River Services – agreed to leave the same.
- County Executive’s Discretionary fund – take \$5K from the \$25K.
- Still have \$2K over what’s in the budget.
- **Williams** thinks the \$2K increase is more manageable.
- The committee cut a total of \$19,500.00 from the Nonprofit Committee’s recommendation.

**Approve Updated List of Nonprofit Funding Request.**

**Motion:** Heatherly. **Second:** Brewer.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

**FY 2025-2026 BUDGET REQUEST REVIEW:**

- **Williams** reviewed the Fund 101 Fund Balance document that was presented.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** shared concerns regarding MOE (Maintenance of Effort) and recurring expenses, emphasizing the need to be strategic with county funds. He noted that surrounding counties do not operate under the 1957 Act, and the 1981 Act would include the School System.
- **Williams** stated that departments were unable to meet the 5% cut target. However, a total of **\$265,573.00** was cut from the original budget requests.
- There will be approximately \$10 million left in the fund balance before raises are applied.
- **Executive Morgan** noted that around 4–5 years ago, the fund balance was \$5 million. He emphasized that the county currently has a healthy fund balance. Historically, the county has spent around **91% of the budget** annually—a trend over the past 9 years. No major financial hits or adjustments are anticipated in the coming year, unlike the previous one.

**Approve a 3% Raise for County Employees.**

**Motion:** Franks. **Second:** Brewer.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

- **Total impact** is \$1.5 million.
- **Projected fund balance** is \$9.7 million. It was noted that we typically do not spend as much as budgeted and usually collect more than projected.
- The **Department Head Budget Cuts** paper was reviewed.  
*Paper is available in the meeting folder.*
- **Williams** – Moved all of the wholesale beer tax from **Fund 119** to **Fund 101** (\$200K). Also moved the beer tax from **Fund 116** to **Fund 101** (\$18K), and the alcohol beverage tax from **Fund 116** to Fund 101 (\$125K).
- The committee continued discussions on department budget cuts.

**Approve General Fund, Fund 101, Including 3% Raises for County Employees.**

**Motion:** Heatherly. **Second:** Franks.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

**Approve Solid Waste, Fund 116, Including the 3% Raise.**

**Motion:** Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

**Approve Industrial/Economic Development, Fund 119.**

**Motion:** Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

**Approve Highway/Public Works, Fund 131.**

**Motion:** Brewer. **Second:** Heatherly.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0,

**Approve Debt Service, Fund 151.**

**Motion:** Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

**Capital Projects Fund:**

- **Williams** discussed courthouse renovations and the Bulletproof Project, which cost around \$1 million, funded through bond proceeds.

- **Executive Morgan** expressed appreciation for TommyLee Kidd's concerns. Stated this was the best use of the funds—to bulletproof the front foyer and redo the Sheriff's façade.
- The committee discussed the Courthouse Preservation and Security Project.
- The committee also discussed the Solid Waste Convenience Centers.
- **Executive Morgan** noted that future Convenience Centers could be scaled back compared to the Loretto location. Other sites are expected to have less traffic, which could reduce the budget.
- TLM estimate for the Courthouse project is \$1.2 million.
- **Williams** added that the bond money used for this includes the Courthouse and Solid Waste Convenience Centers at their current budgeted rate, as well as land and the transfer station reskin. She noted there should be enough funding, with a little remaining.

**Approve General Capital Projects, Fund 171.**

**Motion:** Heatherly. **Second:** Luffman

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

- **Williams** discussed Highway Capital Projects, Fund 176.

**Approve Highway Capital Projects Fund, Fund 176.**

**Motion:** Luffman. **Second:** Franks

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

**School System:**

- **Williams** explained the \$550K increase is MOE's. Sales tax has increased but has plateaued from last year to this year. There is currently a \$1.8 million cushion; this increase would result in a \$1.3 million cushion.
- **Commissioner Brewer** noted that sales tax figures are updated through April, but there are still two more months to account for before having an accurate fiscal year total for sales tax collected.
- **Williams** explained that she compared total collections from last year to collections through April of this year, then estimated May and June conservatively. She projects that we will be roughly \$80K short compared to the previous year.

**Approve Fund School System, Fund 141.**

**Motion:** Luffman. **Second:** Brewer.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

- **Kidd** gave a revenue report from July 1 to April 31. We collected over \$972K in office. \$635K of that is county money. We are going to be over \$1 million in collections.

**Adjournment.**

**Motion:** Heatherly. **Second:** Luffman.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

**Minutes Submitted By:** Christian Tyree