



Lawrence County  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 | **Time:** 5:00 – 5:57 p.m.

**Present:** County Executive David Morgan, Commissioners Barry Luffman, Phillip Heatherly, Chris Sutherland, Tim Clifton, Shane Eaton, John Bradley, Steve Hagan, Dave Ray, LCEMS Director Michelle Ayers and Assistant Director Kane Watkins, Chief Deputy George Barturen, Budget Director Brandi Williams, Heritage Health Solutions Representative, Brian Green with Ethridge VFD.

**ROLL CALL:** David Morgan, Randy Brewer, Barry Luffman, Phillip Heatherly

**1. Heritage Health Solutions Annual Report:**

- **Presented Savings:** 78.6% savings from April 2024 to February 2025.
- **Eligibility Management:** Maintains inmate eligibility files to confirm incarceration during claims.
- **Comment (Barturen):** Some individuals try to falsely claim they were in jail during treatment.
- **Contract Update:** Current operations under an MOU; renewal as professional services needed in May.

**2. Ethridge EMS Lease & Facility Discussion:**

Requested \$12,000 a year; \$8,800 utility costs

- **Presenter:** Brian Green
- **Request:** \$1,000/month lease for Lawrence County EMS Station #3 at Ethridge VFD satellite building, used by the VFD for an office facility.
  - Renovation Cost: \$75,000
  - Informal agreement to split utilities and upkeep since 2011.
  - Ethridge Fire uses the building only once a month.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT:**

- **Ethridge VFD Plans:** New satellite station at Ethridge Crossroads by 2030 to improve ISO rating for Crawfish Valley, representing a 30% + savings for homeowners on home insurance
- At \$1,000 a month, VFD would save approximately \$320 a month to go toward this new facility

### **ADDITIONAL REQUESTS:**

- **Generator Installation:** Connects to the VFD bay building and EMS location. \$7,100 installation cost; Green requests county to pay half.
- **Building Use:** EMS personnel are present 24/7.

### **3. Comments & Concerns:**

- **Morgan:**
  - Compared Loretto's agreement (county pays utilities, City of Loretto provides building).
  - City of Ethridge lacks means to provide a building.
  - \$320/month savings would support a partnership for the new Crossroads facility, possibility of EMS station being located there discussed.
  - Questioned proximity of Crossroads to new EMS headquarters, which will be located in current Health Department facility.
- **Henryville Property:** Offered by Washburn for Ambulance Service and Convenience Center.
- **Watkins:** Low call volume in Henryville.
- **Ayers:** Ethridge EMS station is highest quality.
- **Eaton:** Recommended investment in new building.
- **Green:** VFD ready to finance new station.
- **Luffman:** Loretto's annual utility cost is \$3,900. Warned against favoring one VFD over others.

**Motion to approve \$9,000/year (based on average utilities), utility bill to accompany invoice**

**Motion:** Heatherly; **Second:** Brewer

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion:** Brewer; **Second:** Heatherly

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

### **5. Additional Discussion**

- **Clifton to Ayers:** If funds were available, where should northern station go?
- **Ayers:** Ethridge could be absorbed by new Health Department facility; Henryville would then be a suitable location.

**Minutes Submitted By:** Nancy Brewer