



Lawrence County

## COMMITTEE AS-A-WHOLE

Date: Tuesday June, 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Time: 5:08-5:51 p.m.

**PRESENT: County Executive** David Morgan. **Commissioners:** Chris Sutherland, Delano Benefield, Phillip Heatherly, Will Burnett, Shane Eaton, Tammy Wisdom, Dave Ray, Travis Cauwels, Barry Luffman, Sandy Newton, and Rick Skillington. **Director of Accounts & Budgets** Brandi Willaims, **County Purchasing Agent** Kelly Odom, **Sheriff** John Myers, **County Jail Administrator** Susan Taylor, **Jail Nurse** Kari White, **Highway Superintendent** Ryan Krick, **Highway Department Assistant** Patsy Lee, **County Attorney** Charlie Holt, **Circuit Court Clerk** Tommy Lee Kidd, and Abigail Kidd.

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

- **Williams** went over the proposed FY 25-26 Budget Presentation slide by slide. *Note: the presentation is available in the meeting folder.*
- **Commissioner Skillington** asked what the maximum coverage amount was for the Cyber Policy.
- **Williams** was unsure at the moment, as she did not have the data with her. She then continued with the presentation.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** explained the Civic Plus software.
- The committee discussed Civic Plus.
- **Commissioner Eaton** inquired how many employees were hired for County Probation.
- **Executive Morgan** answered that three employees have been hired so far.
- **Williams** continued the presentation.
- The committee discussed the IT Assistant Director position.
- **Kidd** went over county probation and explained that they will be able to collect court costs and increase revenues in the office. It's a cost recovery program designed to help people. It requires more investment on the front end, but the goal is for it to cover its own costs within 2-3 years.
- **Williams** continued the presentation.

- **Executive Morgan** addressed the “**Effect on Fund Balance**” portion of the presentation. He explained the increased additions to the “**Recurring Hits**” are because of the 24-hour 5<sup>th</sup> Ambulance shift and County Probation services.
- **Commissioner Franks** added that the unbudgeted funds—shown in the “**Projected Revenue (Not Budgeted)**” portion of the presentation—will be more than enough to cover the additional recurring costs for the 24-hour 5<sup>th</sup> ambulance shift and County Probation services.
- **Executive Morgan** noted that the county typically spends only about 91% of its budget, which will also help.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** clarified that the \$75,000 allocated for Maintenance will save money and help avoid budget amendments in July.
- **Williams** continued with the presentation.
- **Executive Morgan** stated that the goal, when he first took office, was to build the fund balance to \$10 million to serve as a “rainy day” fund. Anything above that amount can be used for projects and other county needs. He noted that the Comptroller’s Office recommends maintaining a fund balance equal to 15% of annual expenditures. Currently, the county is at 41%.
- **Williams** continued the presentation. She clarified that Fund 116 also includes staffing for the Convenience Centers, which is not shown on the slide. She also noted that the increase in mineral severance tax is not included in the budget.
- **Williams** stated that departments covered 85% of the cost-of-living raises through their own budget cuts.
- **Kidd** expressed appreciation for the committee allowing each department to provide input on their own cuts.
- **Executive Morgan** briefly discussed the courthouse preservation and safety project, noting that we may have enough funding left over from some of the bond money originally allocated for the Solid Waste Convenience Centers.
- **Commissioner Cauwels** suggested making a county wish list so when money comes in, we can check it off.

**Adjournment.**

**Motion:** Delano. **Second:** Eaton.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes Submitted By:** Christian Tyree