



Lawrence County
BUDGET COMMITTEE

Date: September 11, 2025 | **Time:** 4:30-5:13 p.m.

PRESENT: County Executive David Morgan. **Commissioners** Sandy Newton, Dave Ray, Chris Sutherland, Rick Skillington, Phillip Heatherly, Scott Franks, Randy Brewer, Barry Luffman, **Budget Director** Brandi Williams, **Chamber President** Ryan Egly, **Chamber Tourism Director** Chandler Rose, **Chamber ECD Director** Ben Barnett, **Director of Schools** Michael Adkins, **County Attorney** Charlie Holt, Attorney Ryan Durham, **Sheriff** John Myers, **Lieutenant of Courtroom Security** Jason Runnels, Tabetha Garcia, Michael Wheeler, Anthony Washburn, and other county residents.

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

PRAYER: Barry Luffman

Executive Morgan called the meeting to order.

Williams distributed meeting agenda and supporting documents, included in meeting folder.

Final numbers for 2024-25: we ended up adding \$1.5 million to the general fund. Ending fund balance is \$13.1 million, when it was estimated to be \$11.2 million.

Executive Morgan clarified this is due to our 91% spending trend.

Additional Nonprofit requests:

FOLCA donation back on the table, request for \$35,000 was approved by Nonprofit Committee then cut back to \$25,000 by Budget Committee. Request to consider additional \$10,000.

Motion to ask Commission to reconsider \$35,000 donation

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

Call for Question: Commissioner Heatherly asked if these funds are used to spay/neuter dogs in the Shelter.

Shelter Director Ginger Morgan via phone - Funds to FOLCA pay for spay/neuter for members of the community – spay/neuter clinics, and a local veterinarian does operations at a reduced cost. Our donation to FOLCA does not provide spay/neuter to the Shelter dogs.

Vote to Reconsider \$35,000 Donation to FOLCA for Spay/Neuter Program.

Yes: Brewer. **Yes:** Franks. **No:** Heatherly. **No:** Luffman. **Yes:** Morgan, as tiebreaker vote. Motion passed, 3/2.

City of Lawrenceburg Fireworks contribution

In the past we have contributed \$4,000, half the cost of the firework show, so that was the amount included in the 2025-26 budget. After the fireworks show was over this year, the city sent a request for \$9,000 as payment for half. Next year the estimated cost is \$30,000, so the request will be \$15,000.

Commissioner Franks asked for an itemized invoice. More information will be provided at a future Budget Committee meeting.

LCHS auxiliary gym

Executive Morgan asked the committee to consider request for \$800,000. LHS has two game gyms; Summertown has practice and game gym, and another for elementary.

Request for this was pulled from the regular budget because Williams thought we had enough ARPA funds to cover it, but we have just \$91,000. Audit stated excess general fund dollars can be used as a donation.

Motion to Approve Donation of \$800,000 for LCHS Auxiliary Gym

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

Adkins:

Proposed gym would be 100' x 120', will serve for PE, band, cheerleader practice, full-size basketball court, and extra space for additional classrooms if need.

Would sit north of the gym and east of the science building.

School system will match County funds.

School system also has funds set aside for contribution to Summertown High School gym. Estimated cost \$1.6-\$1.7 million.

Morgan - school system study proved that within the ten years, current classroom space is adequate, which is why concentration is now on improving recreational facilities.

Potential sale of STHEC building to CSCC - funds will have to be used for educational purposes.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

TIF payment to County Industrial Development Board (IDB)

Williams: Request for a \$161,000 match on a land purchase. Will need a resolution because it is over the \$100,000 cap.

We have not made a TIF payment since 2019, so will also return to making the \$100,000 annual donation.

Egly - TIF cap raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000 after sale of Craig property, in order to give IDB funds for minor property transactions, such as this \$161,000 match request. Money comes from incremental growth in TIF district since 2011, increment goes into TIF fund.

\$161,000 is needed as match to purchase Pettus-McLain property on Highway 43 and extend industrial-grade paving and utilities into most recently-purchased industrial property.

Motion to approve \$161,000 donation

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

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

Election Office renovation update

Franks: Cost of renovation so far is \$38,871.08 – countertop is being built that will cost \$4,000 to \$5,000. This will be a waist-high countertop with ADA desks on each side. Now waiting on IT wiring.

Target date for move was December 1, but will be in sooner.

Williams: Will need to come back with a furniture budget, and cost of wiring. May also need to put more funds in the Maintenance Department budget for other projects

Skillington - Maintenance Director Mark Brewer and staff, with inmates, have performed the labor, resulting in great cost savings.

Budget amendments:

- Unspent grant funds rolling over from previous year
- \$500 donation to EMS from NATRA
- Short \$6,209 on insurance
- Stipend for Commissioners' training will not be spent, so taking out \$13,336
- \$4000 for new office chairs in County Clerk's office
- In Solid Waste, adding grant for one Used Oil Container at new Convenience Center.
- Highway Fund transfers, Net zero

- General Capital Projects: moving Convenience Center grant we received last year and moving it to this year's budget. Also moving portion of Health Department grant unspent last year.

Motion to Approve Budget Amendments.

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

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

Williams: School gym and FOLCA donation will be added to budget amendments, if separate resolutions for those items pass.

Update on convenience center

Executive Morgan: LCSS will lease to us for \$1 a year, 2 acres on North Brace Road. Also, would be willing to provide an adjacent acre for an EMS center.

Motion to adjourn

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

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

Minutes Submitted By: Nancy Brewer.