



Lawrence County  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Monday, November 10, 2025 | **Time:** 5:00-5:48 p.m.

**PRESENT: County Executive** David Morgan. **Commissioners** Sandy Newton, Shane Eaton, Chris Sutherland, Steve Hagan, Travis Cauwels, Phillip Heatherly, Randy Brewer, Barry Luffman, Scott Franks, Rick Skillington, and Dave Ray. Donna Barrett with the **Barrett Group, Director of Accounts & Budgets** Brandi Williams, **Attorney** Ryan Durham, and county residents Anthony Washburn, and Doug Boadary.

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

**PRAYER:** David Morgan

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman David Morgan distributed the meeting agenda (included in folder) and called the meeting to order.

### **2. Presentation – Donna Barrett, The Barrett Group**

#### **Overview:**

The partnership is two years old and has completed a full year of collections on nearly all findings. (Presentation included in folder.)

#### **Revenue Summary**

- Total Annual Recurring Revenue: \$218,377.22
- Includes \$107,000 in sales tax revenues collected by LUS from county water taps.
- Receiving 12 months of claw-back revenue.
- Last year: \$214,000 received from the city.
- Loretto will also be paying the county.
- St. Joseph has not responded; next step is legal action.

#### **Mineral Severance Tax**

- Increased statewide, phased in:
  - \* \$0.15 → \$0.20 beginning January 2026
  - \* +\$0.05 in 2030
  - \* +\$0.05 in 2035
- Revenue goes directly to the Highway Department.

### **Population Estimates / Census Updates**

- Two counties requesting special census.
- General Assembly proposing percentage increases.
- Beginning July 2026, revenues based on Boyd Center population estimates.
- Revenue amount will not decrease even if population declines.

### **General Sessions Judge Salary**

- Salary mandated by state and increases with population.
- Expected increase: 3% next year.
- County chooses to provide benefits.
- Fee paid by convicted users helps offset costs.

### **Fee Increase Proposal**

- Proposed increase: \$18 → \$28 (to be considered in November).
- Estimated new revenue: \$30,000.
- Current collections: \$48,000 of \$191,000 (salary + benefits).
- July vote: 7 against, 1 passed, 3 absent (12 votes required).
- Barrett offered to appear via Zoom for questions.

### **Motion to change the fee from \$18 to \$28**

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

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

### **3. Solid Waste Write-Offs**

- Items six years old are eligible for write-off.

### **Motion to approve write-offs.**

**Motion:** Heatherly, **Second:** Brewer

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

### **4. Highway Department Equipment Purchase**

- Need four right-of-way clearing tractors and bush hogs.
- Current equipment: 25 years old.
- Cost: \$401,206.96.
- Delivery: will take up to 1 year to deliver.
- Options: Inter-fund loan or bank loan.
- Recommendation: Bank loan.
- Discussion included quick inter-fund loan then refinance. This will not increase the MOE to the Highway Department.

**Motion to pay from fund 151 to 176, then become a loan from a local bank. It has to be a budget amendment in November before a purchase order can be completed.**

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

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

## **5. Budget amendments**

- Inter-fund loan will be added.
- Additions to general fund: revenue from adoptions and donations to Animal Shelter; \$32,000 from sale of seized guns by Sheriff's Department. They are requesting to use those funds for SWAT and other law enforcement equipment.
- Health Department decrease of \$20,000 in building grant because the state gave the funds to another county.
- \$435 grant to the Archives.
- Increase to fund balance with these Amendments. \$800,000 all-purpose building for LCHS going back in.

### **Motion to accept Amendments**

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

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

### **Adjournment**

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

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

**Minutes Submitted By:** Nancy Brewer

**Formatted By:** Christian Tyree