



Lawrence County  
**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 | **Time:** 5:01-5:18 p.m.

**PRESENT:** **County Executive** David Morgan. **Commissioner:** Phillip Heatherly, Dave Ray, Barry Luffman, Chris Sutherland, Tammy Wisdom, Delano Benefield, Shane Eaton, and Steve Hagan. **Attorney** Ryan Duram, **Director of Accounts & Budgets** Brandi Williams, **Circuit Court Clerk** Tommy Lee Kidd, John Uzbasic, and other county residents.

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

**ROLL CALL:** *Chairman* David Morgan, Phillip Heatherly, and Barry Luffman.

**ABSENT:** *Vice-chair* Scott Franks and Travis Cauwels.

**PRAYER:** Tyree.

**PLEDGE:** Morgan.

#### **CIRCUIT COURT FEE**

- **Williams** clarified and explained each budget amendment.
- **Kidd** addressed jury-related expenses, explaining that under state law the county is required to pay for court interpreter services, including both service fees and travel expenses. He noted this issue was not raised during previous budget discussions because the need for interpreter services has only recently arisen.
- **Kidd** further explained that a hard-of-hearing interpreter is required for an upcoming trial scheduled in May, as both the defendant and the victim are hard of hearing. The estimated cost for two individuals over a five-day trial is \$8,800. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) does not provide these services, and payment is required upfront at a daily rate plus travel expenses.

#### **ANIMAL SHELTER**

- **Williams** — *Animal Shelter Director* Ginger Morgan is requesting approval to attend the Humane World of Animals Conference in Pennsylvania. The conference would provide opportunities to connect with others in the animal

welfare field, speak with vendors, gather information on grants, and meet organizations that assist with transporting pets from overcrowded shelters

- **Executive Morgan** gave an update on the Animal Shelter. He cited that Jeff Pettus purchased and outfitted a van to transport dogs. He recently made a trip to New York during which he transported 27 dogs, and is working to relocate more in the near future. **Executive Morgan** noted that the more connections made through networking, the better it will be for the county.

#### **SRO BONUSES**

- **Williams** — SRO retention bonuses are funded by a \$9,600 allocation from the state. There is no cost to the county; the funds simply need to be added to the budget.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY PAY**

- **Williams** — we are paying a retainer for Ryan Durham, moving what was left in Charlie Holt's salary to cover part of it.

#### **HOUSEKEEPER EMPLOYMENT CHANGE**

- **Williams** — *Maintenance Director* Mark Brewer requested his part-time employee change to full time status.

#### **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT COURTHOUSE IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

- **Williams** — The grant totals \$500,000.00 with a county match of \$55,555.00. The matching funds will be taken from the \$1 million allocated in the budget for Courthouse renovations.

#### **COUNTY PROBATION**

- **Williams** — the pay increases for the Director and Probation Officer were intended to make the positions more competitive. To fund this, the part-time personnel position was removed. She added that some funds were reallocated for furniture.

#### **Motion to Approve Budget Amendments to be Considered at the February 17, 2026 Board of Commissioners Meeting.**

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

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 3/0.

#### **Adjournment.**

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

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously, 3/0.

**Minutes Submitted By:** Christian Tyree