



Lawrence County
**BUDGET & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
/NONPROFIT/TOURISM COMMITTEE**

Date: Monday, June 1, 2026 | **Time:** 8:30 a.m.-5:56 p.m.

PRESENT: County Executive David Morgan. **Commissioners:** Randy Brewer, Phillip Heatherly, Shane Eaton, Scott Franks, Barry Luffman, Travis Cauwels, Rick Skillington, Chris Sutherland, Tim Clifton, John Bradley, Steve Hagan, Wayne Yocom, and Will Burnett. **Director of Accounts & Budgets** Brandi Williams, **Chief Deputy** George Barturen, **County Fire & Rescue Coordinator** Tyler McDow, Leeann Pettus with **FOLCA**, John Uzbasic, Stephanie Edwards with **Jubilee Trading Company**, and other county residents.

ROLL CALL ECD: *Chairman* Randy Brewer, *Vice-chair* Rick Skillington, Shane Eaton, Chris Sutherland, and John Bradley.

ROLL CALL BUDGET: *Chairman* David Morgan, *Vice-chair* Scott Franks, Phillip Heatherly, Barry Luffman, and Travis Cauwels.

PRAYER: Executive Morgan.

PLEDGE: Commissioner Brewer.

NONPROFIT/CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

- **Commissioner Brewer** went over each nonprofit request.
**Nonprofit requests are available in the committee folder.*

LAWRENCE COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

- **Tyler McDow** provided an overview of County Fire & Rescue and outlined the department's \$1,449,553 funding request.
- **Williams** explained that the request would use \$1,077,053 from excess interest income in the *FY 2025-26 budget* and \$412,500 from the *FY 2026-27 budget* to fund the total request. This was similarly done in the prior two fiscal years.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** shared his concerns about dividing their funding into two separate portions.

- **Executive Morgan** there's more than just extra interest income in savings that could be used if necessary.

Approve Funding County Fire & Rescue at the Fully Requested Amount.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Bradley.

- **Commissioner Skillington** recommended funding County Fire & Rescue for \$1,250,000 instead.

Resend Motion to Fund County Fire & Rescue at the Fully Requested Amount.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Bradley.

Approve Funding \$1,250,000 for County Fire & Rescue.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

FOLCA

- **Leann Pettus** gave an overview for their requests. Not asking for increase in funding. SNIPS Program. \$35K funding request.

Approve Funding \$30,000 for FOLCA.

Motion: Skillington.

- **Commissioner Yocom** asked the committee to consider funding the full \$35,000 request.
- **Executive Morgan** also recommended to fund the full \$35,000 request.

Approve Funding \$35,000 for FOLCA.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Sutherland.

Vote: Sutherland—Yes. Eaton—Yes. Bradley—Yes. Skillington—No.

Motion passed, 3/1.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTERS

- **Williams** noted a typo for the *My Ride Program*—it should say \$35,000. This brings the Senior Citizen Center total funding request to \$68,000.

LORETTO SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

- **DeeDee Crouch** gave an overview for Loretto Senior Center.

- **Commissioner Skillington** asked if they had any money in a CD.
- **DeeDee Crouch** currently have \$17,000 in a money market account.
- The committee discussed how much they should fund.

Approve Funding \$10,000 for the Loretto Senior Citizens Center.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

SAINT JOSEPH SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

- **Merry Gabel** gave an overview of the St. Joseph Senior Citizen Center. Currently requesting \$8,000 which will help update their kitchen.
- **Commissioner Yocom** requested the committee to consider giving all three senior citizen center's \$10,000.
- **Commissioner Skillington** asked if they had any money in a CD.
- **Merry Gabel** currently have around \$6,000.

Approve Funding \$10,000 for Saint Joseph Senior Citizens Center.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Bradley.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

SUMMERTOWN SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

- **Commissioner Franks** spoke on behalf of the Summertown Senior Citizen Center and explained that they don't have any money in CD's.

Approve Funding \$10,000 for the Summertown Senior Citizens Center.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

LAWRENCEBURG SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

- **Stephanie Sinclair** gave an overview of the Lawrenceburg Senior Citizen Center. Currently have a little over \$5,000 in a money market account.

Approve Funding \$10,000 for the Lawrenceburg Senior Citizens Center.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Sutherland.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

MYRIDE LAWRENCEBURG

- **Stephanie Sinclair** gave an overview of MyRide Lawrenceburg. They have received \$25,000 the past few years and is asking for \$35,000 this year. The increase is due to the increase in gas prices.
- **Commissioner Clifton** vocalized his support of the program and the benefit it is to Lawrence County.

Approve Funding \$35,000 for MyRide Lawrenceburg.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Bradley.

Vote: Bradley—**Yes.** Eaton—**Yes.** Sutherland—**Yes.** Skillington—**No.**

Motion passed, 3/1.

LAWRENCE COUNTY RESERVE DEPUTY ASSOCIATION

- **Wade Barnett** gave an overview of the Reserve Deputy Association. He noted that they previously received \$5,000.

Approve Funding \$5,000 for the Reserve Deputy Association.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Skillington.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

KID'S PLACE

- They are requesting the same amount as previous year.

Approve Funding \$30,000 for Kids Place.

Motion: Bradley. **Second:** Sutherland.

Vote: Eaton—**Pass.** Skillington—**Pass.** Sutherland—**Yes.**

- **Executive Morgan** spoke in support of Kid's Place and highlighted the positive impact the organization has had on Lawrence County. He noted that it would ultimately be more cost-effective than requiring county law enforcement to fill the gaps in services. He emphasized that Kid's Place staff possess specialized training that enables them to provide these services more efficiently and effectively. Based on these considerations, **Executive Morgan** recommended funding the organization's full request of \$30,000.
- **Commissioner Brewer** urged the committee to fund them at their full request.

The motion to fund Kid's Place was reintroduced.

Approve Funding \$30,000 for Kids Place.

Motion: Bradley. **Second:** Sutherland.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

THE SHELTER

- The committee discussed cutting The Shelter’s funding request from \$15,000 to \$10,000.

Approve Funding \$10,00 for The Shelter.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

CENTER OF HOPE

Deny Funding Request from Center of Hope.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Skillington.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

DECISIONS, CHOICES, AND OPTIONS

Deny Funding Request from Decisions, Choices, and Options.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 5/0.

SANDCASTLE LIBRARY

- **Commissioner Franks** gave an overview of Sandcastle Library.

Approve Funding \$5,000 for Sandcastle Library.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** None.

Motion failed for lack of second.

Approve Funding \$2,500 for Sandcastle Library.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Skillington—**Yes**. Eaton—**Yes**. Sutherland—**Yes**. Bradley—**No**.

Motion passed, 3/1.

GOD’S STOREHOUSE

- **Commissioner Heatherly** shared his concerns with funding nonprofits with tax payers' money. Would be supportive of God's Storehouse receiving funds if they are using the money to renovate their facility because it's a county owned facility.
- **Commissioner Skillington** recommended funding them at their regular \$5,000 amount instead of their FY 2026-27 request of \$25,000. If they need more later, they can approach the committee and request it then.

Approve Funding \$5,000 for God's Storehouse.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

BUFFALO RIVER SERVICES

- The committee discussed funding them at \$5,000 instead of their requested \$10,000.

Approve Funding \$5,000 for Buffalo River Services.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #146

- They've never received funding from the county before. Currently requesting \$4,000.
- **Commissioner Sutherland** shared concerns about adding new funding request.

Deny Funding \$4,000 for American Legion Auxiliary Unit #146.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Sutherland.

Vote: Skillington—Yes. Sutherland—Yes. Bradley—No. Eaton—No.

Brewer broke the tie vote with a **Yes**.

Motion passed, 3/2.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #146

Approve Funding \$4,000 for American Legion Post #146.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Skillington.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

JUBILEE TRADING COMPANY

- **Stephanie Edwards** gave an overview of Jubilee Trading Co. and their operations.

No motion was made to fund Jubilee Trading Co. for the requested \$6,200.

LIMITLESS-LAWRENCE COUNTY TN

- **Commissioner Skillington** gave an overview of what *Limitless-Lawrence County TN* does and added that he will abstain from voting due to ethical reasons.

Approve Funding Limitless for \$1,000.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Sutherland.

Vote: Sutherland—**Yes.** Eaton—**Yes.** Bradley—**Yes.** Skillington—**Pass.**

Motion passed, 3/0 with 1 pass.

PROGRESSIVE DIRECTIONS

- The county funded them \$5,000 last year.
- **Commissioner Skillington** gave an overview of what *Progressive Directions* does and added that he will abstain from voting due to ethical reasons.

Approve Funding \$10,000 for Progressive Direction.

Motion: Sutherland. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Sutherland—**Yes.** Eaton—**Yes.** Bradley—**Yes.** Skillington—**Pass.**

Motion passed, 3/0 with 1 pass.

STAR CENTER

Deny Funding \$500 for STAR Center.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Skillington.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE DISCRETIONARY

- **Commissioner Skillington** suggested funding the County Executive Discretionary fund for \$15,000 instead of the requested \$20,000.

Approve Funding \$15,000 for the County Executive Discretionary Fund.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Skillington—**Yes.** Eaton—**Yes.** Bradley—**Yes.** Sutherland—**No.**

Motion passed, 3/1.

TOURISM

- The committee discussed the request from the Joint Economic Board of Lawrence County. The Chamber of Commerce receives a portion of the funding alongside Main Street Lawrenceburg.
- Several members of the committee were apprehensive about funding the Chamber of Commerce.
- **Commissioner Skillington** shared that he did not support any money going to Main Street.

Deny Funding \$401,740 for the Joint Economic Board of Lawrence County.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Skillington.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

CITY OF LAWRENCEBURG

- The committee discussed that the City of Lawrenceburg's requested \$15,000, part of which would go toward Fire Works.

Approve Funding \$7,500 for the City of Lawrenceburg.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** None.

Motion failed for lack of second.

LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- The committee agreed to fund the full amount requested.

Approve Funding \$3,000 for the Historical Society.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Bradley.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY CLUBS

Approve Funding \$3,000 for the Council of Community Clubs.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

LORETTO LIFT UP

- A Loretto Lift Up representative gave an overview of the program and their \$4,000 request.

Approve Funding \$4,000 for Loretto Lift Up.

Motion: Skillington. **Second:** Eaton.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

WEST GAINES SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTER

- **James Wallace** gave an overview of the West Gaines School Community Center building and their \$15,000 request.
- **Commissioner Brewer** urged the committee to support this request.
- **Executive Morgan** agreed that the county should help fund them.

Approve Funding \$15,000 for the West Gaines School Community Center.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Bradley.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- **Williams** noted that Tourism and Economic Development funds have to be spent towards tourism and economic development.

The ECD/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee Adjournment.

Motion: Eaton. **Second:** Sutherland.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

The ECD/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee adjourned at 10:23 a.m. and Budget Committee convened at 10:45 a.m.

- **Williams** passed out a *Capital Projects* sheet and an *Employee Raises* sheet for later review.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT | 10:47 a.m.

- **Road Superintendent** Ryan Krick and Assistant Tasha Corbin gave the Highway Department's proposed budget.
**The Highway Department's budget proposal is available in the committee folder.*
- **Commissioner Heatherly** stated that the proposed budget is just getting them by, they are not requesting more than they need.

The Highway Department concluded at 11:15 a.m.

PENNY VALUE

- **Williams** went over the *Assessed Evaluation Sheet and Calculation Form*.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** shared his concerns with inflation and the need to save money from somewhere.
- **Commissioner Cauwels** shared his concerns on employee raises and noted the rising cost of living.

FUND 112

Courtroom Security Fee and Litigation Tax Fund

- **Williams** explained Fund 112 sheet.

Motion to Approve Fund 112.

Motion: Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

FUND 116

Solid Waste Fund

- **Williams** explained Fund 116 sheet.
- Suggested voting on it after the approving Fund 101.

FUND 119

Industrial/Economic Development Fund

- **Williams** no revenue going into this fund except for water line extension projects. \$30,000 put aside for it.

Motion to Approve Fund 119.

Motion: Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

FUND 122

Drug Control Fund

- **Williams** explained that it was the same revenue as last year.

Approve Fund 122

Motion: Franks. **Second:** Cauwels.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Recess the Budget Committee for 12:35 p.m.

Motion: Cauwels. **Second:** Franks.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

The Budget Committee recessed at 11:37 a.m. and reconvened at 1:04 p.m.

FUND 101

General Fund

- **Williams** went through Fund 101.
- **Williams** explained that we would have a 1.3 million cut if each department cut 5% out of their budget.
- **Commissioner Franks and Heatherly** both recommended sending each department's budget requests back to the departments for cuts.
- **Commissioner Skillington** added that some departments only have a bare bone budget and can't cut 5% and some have fluff that can cut 5%.
- **Williams** recommended cutting down to the previous year and then doing Budget Amendments throughout the year if the department truly needs it.

Have Department Heads and Elected Officials in Fund 101 Cut their Budget by 10% from the No Raises Column.

Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Cauwels.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Fund 116

Solid Waste

- The committee discussed the Solid Waste fee.

Have Solid Waste Cut their Proposed Budget by 10% from the No Raises Column.

Motion: Franks. **Second:** Luffman.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

FUND 131

Public Works/Highway

- The committee agreed they already cut all they can from their budget.
- **Commissioner Luffman** recommended not doing a percentage raise but doing a dollar amount since some people make more.
- **Williams** agreed to create a spreadsheet with dollar amount raises.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** shared his opinion on merit-based raises.
- The committee discussed merit-based raises.

FUND 151

Debt Service Fund

Approve Fund 151.

Motion: Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Williams** explained that the Nonprofit Committee recommended funding *County Fire & Rescue* for \$1.25 million.
- **Executive Morgan** recommended fully funding *County Fire & Rescue's* request with realized money. Realized money was more than projected.

Approve Funding County Fire & Rescue \$1,077,053 from Excess Interest Income in the FY 2025-26 Budget and \$412,500 from the FY 2026-27 Budget.

Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Franks.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTERS

- **Executive Morgan** Senior Citizen Center total funding changed to \$70,000 from the Nonprofit Committee's recommendation.
- **Saint Joseph** was increased to \$10,000 alongside the other Senior Citizens Centers.
- **Commissioner Cauwels** stated that Saint Joseph Senior Citizens Center requested \$8,000 because they didn't think they received their requested \$6,000 from last year but they did receive it.
- **Commissioner Skillington** added that the County offers custodial services to the Lawrenceburg Senior Citizens Center facility—so we are giving them more money.

FOLCA

- **Williams** reminded the committee to discuss the FOLCA request. They requested \$35,000. and the ECD/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee recommended funding the full amount.

Approve Funding \$35,000 for FOLCA.

Motion: Cauwels. **Second:** Franks.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTERS

- The committee's discussion returned to the Senior Citizen Centers.
- **Commissioner Skillington** added that the County pays for the utilities for Lawrenceburg Senior Citizens Center, the other centers have to pay for their own utilities.
- **Williams** recommended the nonprofits cut 10% out of their budget request.
- **Commissioner Franks** suggested the committee reduce everything by 10%.
- **Williams** recommended setting all charitable contributions back to what they had been funded the previous year.
- The committee agreed to keep the *Loretto Senior Citizens Center* at \$10,000.
- The committee was unsure if the *Saint Joseph Senior Citizens Center* needed the full \$10,000 recommended by the ECD/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee.
- The committee agreed to reduce their funding to \$8,000.
- The committee agreed to keep the *Summertown Senior Citizens Center* funding at \$10,000.
- The *Lawrenceburg Senior Citizens Center* has received \$10,000 the last four years, the committee agreed to keep it the same.
- The committee agreed to fund *MyRide Lawrenceburg* for \$30,000.

- **Williams** added that we are asking departments to cut 10% off of what they requested and not what they were funded last year. Asked if the committee should do the same for Charitable Contributions.
- The committee agreed with **Williams** suggestion.
- The committee recommended cutting The Shelter based on their original request of \$15,000 instead of the recommended \$10,000 from the ECD/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee.
- **Commissioner Luffman** recommended leaving Shelter at the \$10,00 since it's a higher percentage cut than 10% from their original request.
- The Committee agreed that if the recommended charitable contributions were already cut by the ECD/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee then they don't get hit with the 10% reduction.
- *Sandcastle* and *County Executive Discretionary Fund* not subject to the hit.
- Historical Society, Loretto Lift Up, West Gaines School Community Center will be subject to 10% reduction hit.
- The Council of Community Club was already cut, not subject to the 10% hit.
- **Williams** explained that with the 10% cuts that brings the total Charitable Contributions to \$81,400.

Reduce Charitable Contributions List Recommended by the ECD/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee by 10% on Organizations that were not Previously Cut by the ECD/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee Excluding County Fire & Rescue and FOLCA.

Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Franks.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Executive Morgan** shared, in his opinion, that the Chamber of Commerce has done a great job for the county and helped the unemployment rate and local economy. Believes not funding the Industrial/Economic Development request is inconsiderate and added that there are laws in place where tourism needs to be allocated.
- **Executive Morgan** also cited Magna, Craig Manufacturing, Blickman, and other industrial projects that have contributed much to the county due to the Chamber of Commerce and their efforts.
- **Commissioner Skillington** asked if the recommendation include Main Street.
- **Executive Morgan** replied that yes Main Street is included. Stressed that Economic Development and Tourism need to be funded.
- **Commission Heatherly** wants to know the Chambers operating budget.

- **Executive Morgan** suggested tabling the discussion until the next Budget Committee meeting to get all the information and have Chamber CEO/President Ryan Egly here.
- **Commissioner Skillington** shared that he does not want to fund Main Street.

Table Discussion for the Joint Economic Board of Lawrence County Industrial Development Funding Request to the Next Budget Committee Meeting.

Motion: Franks. **Second:** Cauwels.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Approve Funding Senior Citizens Assistance Request for \$61,200.

Motion: Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Approve Funding Other Social/Cultural/Recreational Requests for \$81,400.

Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Franks.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Approve Funding \$23,300 Tourism Requests for \$23,300.

Motion: Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

The Committee recessed at 3:11 p.m. and reconvene at 3:21 p.m.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- **Williams** went through each project.
**Capital Project Sheet is available in the committee meeting folder.*
- **Shelton Barnett** spoke on several capital project requests such as: the need for new radios for EMA, thermal drones, EOC Chairs, Tornado Shelters, Civil Defense truck, and a Communication Tower.
- **Commissioners Cauwels** would like to have a sheet of order of importance for these projects.
- **Executive Morgan** added to include Library Director Marie Brennan to be in attendance for the next Budget Committee meeting.
- The committee agreed to discuss Capital Projects at a later date once the committee makes a decision on the main portion of the *FY 2026-27 Budget*.

The Committee recessed at 3:53 p.m. and reconvened at 3:59 p.m.

FUND 141: SCHOOL SYSTEM | 3:59 p.m.

- **School Superintendent** Michael Adkins and Jessica Eledge presented the proposed budget for the Lawrence County School System. ** The Budget Presentation is available in the committee folder.*
- Eledge gave a Lawrence County School System FY 2026-27 Budget Presentation that was previously presented to the school board.
- *The presentation concluded at 4:53 p.m.*

Approve the Lawrence County School System FY 2026-27 Budget.

Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Franks.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- The committee requested having **Maintenance Director** Mark Brewer, **Library Director** Marie Brenaan, **Chamber of Commerce CEO** Ryan Egly, **EMA Director** Shelton Barnett present at the next Budget Committee meeting.
- The committee discussed having the next Budget Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8.

Recess for Monday, June 8, at 4:00 p.m.

Motion: Cauwels. **Second:** Heatherly.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Minutes Submitted By: Christian Tyree