



Lawrence County
BUDGET COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2026 | **Time:** 4:30 p.m.-4:55 p.m.

PRESENT: County Executive David Morgan. **Commissioners:** Sandy Newton, Chris Sutherland, Rick Skillington, Barry Luffman, Denny Gillespie, Scott Franks, Steve Hagan, Shane Eaton, Delano Benefield, Phillip Heatherly, and Wayne Yocom.

Director of Accounts & Budgets Brandi Williams, **Sheriff** John Myers, **Road Superintendent** Ryan Krick, **Highway Assistant** Tasha Corbin, **EMS Director** Michelle Ayers, **Assistant EMS Director** Kane Watkins, **Veteran Services Director** Donnie Morris, Angie Jacobs, Anthony Washburn, and John Uzbasic.

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

Approve the Opioid Abatement Settlement Funds to be Considered at the July 28, 2026 Board of Commissioners Regular Session.

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

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- **Executive Morgan** discussed deadstock removal services. State funding for the program was reduced, and members discussed petitioning for the restoration of funds to continue this valuable service. The program was described as a one-year solution that assists local farmers; however, it was noted that it serves as a temporary measure rather than a long-term solution.

Approve Establishing a One-Year Dead Stock Removal Relief Fund for Livestock Producers to be Considered at the July 28, 2026 Board of Commissioners Regular Session.

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

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- **Executive Morgan** recommended restoring *Shelter Inc.*'s funding to their original request of \$15,000 rather than the approved amount of \$10,000.

Approve Increasing the Shelter Inc. Request Back to \$15,000 to be Considered at the July 28, 2026 Board of Commissioners Regular Session.

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

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- **Commissioner Gillespie** urged the committee to approve an assistant position for Veteran Services Director Donnie Morris. The proposed position had been removed from the budget during the budget process.
- **Morris** discussed his need for an assistant and addressed the department's cremation budget.
- **Commissioner Williams** noted that funding is budgeted for two deceased individuals in the cremation line item.
- The committee discussed the assistant position and clarified that it had been removed because members believed another funding source might be available to cover the cost. After discussion, the committee agreed that it would be preferable to include the position in the county budget.

Approve a New Full-Time Secretary Position for the Veteran Services Office, not to Exceed \$50,000, to be Considered at the July 28, 2026 Board of Commissioners Regular Session.

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

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Adjournment

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

Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Minutes Submitted By: *Christian Tyree*