Lawrence County

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday, June 30, 2026 | **Time**: 5:30 p.m.-7:09 p.m.

PRESENT: County Executive David Morgan. **Commissioners:** Scott Franks, Travis Cauwels, Sandy Newton, Chris Sutherland, Phillip Heatherly, Barry Luffman, and Denny Gillespie. **Road Superintendent** Ryan Krick, **Director of Accounts & Budgets** Brandi Williams, **EMA Director** Shelton Barnett, **EMS Director** Michelle Ayers, Bethe Bolin, Anthony Washburn, John Uzbasic, and other county residents.

Executive Morgan called the meeting to order.
Reconvened from the recessed Budget Committee meeting held on June 25, 2026.

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

- **Williams** went over and discussed the proposed FY 2026-27 budget.
  **All meeting documents are available in the committee folder.*
- The committee deliberated on whether they should approve the City of Lawrenceburg $15,000 funding request for the Fourth of July firework show.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** expressed his opposition to the request.
- *The committee continued to discuss the request for fireworks.*
- **Commissioner Luffman** suggested restoring the 10% reduction that the Budget Committee applied to the charitable contribution recommendations submitted by the Economic Development/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee. He said the funding should be restored because the Budget Committee did not reduce the funding request for the Joint Economic and Community Development Board, noting that the portion allocated to the Chamber had not been reduced.
- **Williams** explained that the difference between the funding amount recommended by the Economic Development/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee and the amount after the 10% reduction was $18,100. She noted that restoring the 10% would increase the budget by that amount.
- **Commissioner Luffman** suggested reducing the Joint Economic and Community Development Board (JECDB) funding request by 10% instead.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** noted that a 10% reduction to the JECDB funding request would save around $40,000.

- **Commissioner Franks** explained that, unlike charitable contribution funding, the approved funds for the JECDB are designated for economic and industrial development and cannot simply be reduced and redirected for other purposes.
- **Executive Morgan** expressed his support for fully funding the JECDB. He stated that the Chamber provides a strong return on investment for the county and that Main Street has also done excellent work benefiting the county. He added that he did not believe it made sense to reduce the JECDB's funding and felt the county could restore the $18,100 to the charitable contribution recommendations while remaining within budget.

Approve Restoring the 10% Reduction Applied to the Charitable Contribution Recommendations from the Economic Development/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee, for a Total Funding Increase of $18,100.
Motion: Luffman. **Second:** Franks.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- The committee continued discussion regarding the City of Lawrenceburg's funding request for fireworks.
- The committee agreed to fund the request at the same amount provided in the previous year.

Approve funding the City of Lawrenceburg's Independence Day Fireworks Display Request in the Amount of $4,000, Consistent with the Funding Provided in the Previous Year.
Motion: Luffman. **Second:** Heatherly.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- **Williams** continued to discuss the proposed budget.
- **Executive Morgan** noted that on average, each department only spends roughly 91% of their budget. Believes the budget is healthy.
- **Williams** discussed county employee raises.
- *The committee discussed potential salary increases for employees.*
- **Williams** clarified that any across-the-board salary increase would not apply to EMS employees, who are transitioning to a 24/72 schedule, or to Maintenance Director Mark Brewer, herself, and Bethe Bolin, who is being promoted to Assistant Maintenance Director, as those employees will be receiving separately approved salary adjustments.
- **Commissioner Heatherly** suggested implementing merit-based raises. He also recommended doing a minimum salary increase of 2.63%.
- *The committee discussed the concept of merit-based salary increases.*
- **Uzbasic** suggested implementing employee performance evaluations.

- **Commissioner Gillespie** expressed his opposition to merit-based raises.
- **Washburn** suggested establishing a structured process if a merit-based raise system were to be implemented.
- **Executive Morgan** noted that the inflation rate is approximately 3.9% and stated that a 4% salary increase would help employees keep pace with rising costs due to inflation.
- *The committee discussed doing 4% raises.*
- **Williams** explained that a 4% salary increase would result in an estimated $1.93 million impact to the Fund Balance. While that figure appears significant on paper, she noted that it does not account for anticipated revenue growth in the upcoming fiscal year. She also explained that a good portion of the impact is attributable to one-time expenditures rather than ongoing costs.

Approve a 4% Salary Increase for all Eligible General Fund Employees. Employees who Received Separately Approved Salary Adjustments Shall Not Receive an Additional 4% Salary Increase.
Motion: Luffman. **Second:** Franks.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- **Williams** explained that the committee will need to approve the general fund with the latest amendments.

Approve Fund 101: General Fund Budget, as Amended. The Amendments Include a 10% Increase to Charitable Contributions, as Originally Recommended by the Economic Development/Nonprofit/Tourism Committee; a $4,000 Contribution to the City of Lawrenceburg for the Independence Day Fireworks Display; and a 4% Salary Increase for General Fund Employees.
Motion: Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

The committee recessed at 6:48 p.m. and reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

Approve Fund 112: Courthouse and Jail Maintenance.
Motion: Franks. **Second:** Heatherly.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- **Williams** discussed Fund 116 and the possibility of removing the pickup truck and 20-yard garbage truck from the proposed budget, as those purchases are dependent upon grant funding.

Approve Fund 116: Solid Waste.
Motion: Franks. **Second:** Luffman.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- **Williams** explained that Fund 119 primarily contains funding designated for waterline extensions, allowing those funds to be utilized for waterline extension projects without requiring a budget amendment each time a request is made.

Approve Fund 119: Industrial/Economic Development.
Motion: Cauwels. **Second:** Franks.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Approve Fund 122: Drug Control.
Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Cauwels.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Approve Fund 131: Highway/Public Works.
Motion: Franks. **Second:** Cauwels.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Approve Fund 151: Debt Service.
Motion: Franks. **Second:** Luffman.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

- The committee briefly discussed paving the library parking lot.

Approve Fund 171: General Capital Projects.
Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Luffman.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Approve Fund 176: Highway Capital Projects.
Motion: Franks. **Second:** Heatherly
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Williams** passed out a Lawrence County EMS Protocols/Guidelines—Event EMS Stand-By-Policy.
- **Ayers** explained how this policy would help allow EMS to recoup money for providing services. Only for services that are not county related.
  **The policy is available in the meeting folder.*

Approve Lawrence County EMS Protocols/Guidelines—Event EMS Stand-By-Policy.
Motion: Luffman. **Second:** Cauwels
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Adjournment
Motion: Heatherly. **Second:** Cauwels
Vote: Motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

Minutes Submitted By: *Christian Tyree*