

Official Minutes
April 28, 2025
Board of Commissioners Meeting

Attendance:

Randy Church, Chairman
Mike LaBrose, Vice Chairman
Jeff Branch, Commissioner
Donnie Potter, Commissioner
Wayne Rash, Interim County Manager
Tony Helton, Chief Financial Officer
Abby Rich, County Clerk

Chairman Church called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Economic Development was the first department to present. Director Ashley Bolick began by showing a video in partnership with Caldwell county Schools. Mrs. Bolick then reviewed the strategic plan with the Board. The key changes of the budget were reviewed including an increase in occupancy tax collected. Commissioner Potter expressed concern with Economic Development's intent to have an outside agency produce videos for the department. The presentation continued with Mrs. Bolick reviewing other budget increases and projects totaling for an increase of \$108,000. CFO Helton asked if any of these projects could be funded with Sales Tax Reinvestment Funding and Ms. Bolick said no.

Commissioner Potter stepped out from 4:31 to 4:35.

There was a discussion about the railroad and Chairman Church noted that the railroad is not a top priority at this time.

Animal Care Enforcement was the next to present. Director Gilliland said there is salary increases due to new certifications, merit pay, and the salary study increase. Additionally, an increase of electric funds will be needed due to the emergency heat. The Board and Director Gilliland discussed possible solutions to keeping the kennels at the mandated temperature in the colder months.

DSS was the next department to present. Overall DSS is asking for less than a 5% increase in the budget. The largest increase is in salaries and benefits due to merit increases and pay adjustments. It was noted that DSS is asking for an additional \$5,000 in supplies to purchase scanners and mobile scanners to assist with the mandated transition into ECourts. DSS also asked the Board for 10 new cell phones for field employees. The last request was the reclassification of a position to move it from an area of lesser need to a position where the employee could be better utilized.

Health was the next department to present. Director Cook said the overall budget decreased by 14% and noted the decreases.

Vice Chairman LaBrose stepped out from 5:57 to 6:00.

Commissioner Potter stepped out from 5:59 to 6:00.

Public Information was the next department to present. PIO Paige Counts told the Board the departmental budget decreased 30%. PIO Counts reviewed the major accomplishments of the department.

The last department to present was Facilities Services. Director Isaac Bush noted a request to bring mowing services in-house. With this change, two new positions would be hired, but there would be a funding decrease of 4% with this change. Other topics included reclassifications of positions and the purchase of a new vehicle to replace one to be surplus.

Commissioner Branch made the motion to adjourn at 7:10 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.