

**COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET HEARINGS
AUGUST 18, 2026
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President
Jay Alcorn, Vice President
Danny Wallace
Wayne Huffman
Kerry Williams
Amanda Brown
Brian Berry

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

Kristina Berish
Evelyn Williams

AIC (Budget Advisor):

Jacque Clements

The Putnam County Board of Council met on August 18, 2026, at 9:00 am. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. The pledge to the flag was given.

NON-BINDING UNITS

Huffman made the motion to add non-binding review of units to the agenda instead of reviewing at the meeting tonight. Wallace seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Williams made a motion that non-binding units had been reviewed and requested the auditor send report to the units. Huffman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Campbell stated that take home vehicles need addressed on the commissioner's side regarding policy and the Council regarding funding. Auditor Berish stated that as of right now the county has a generic policy and the county is not following IRS law regarding taxable fringe benefit, etc. Campbell stated they would make a list of who has vehicles and this is something that needed to be addressed.

Berish stated she had emailed prior to the meeting to the board members the excel levy worksheet and the recommendation from the salary committee for 2027 budgets.

Alcorn questioned the removal of the "up to" in the highway department positions. Berish stated this was put in place by previous highway engineer. In discussing the salaries with the Commissioners, felt it was no longer necessary. The committee had been in conversation with the Commissioners, conducted research and sent recommendations for the salary for each position at the highway.

Alcorn stated a few other departments had the "up to" still in front of some of their positions. Berish said those had been requested by those departments from the Council for various reasons. The salary committee did not recommend removing those at this time. The health department has it in their positions due to when someone is hired, they have required classes and certifications they must get within a timeline, or they can't hold the position. They start the employee at a base pay and as they get the certifications they increase their pay.

Alcorn also questioned elected officials not receiving the same percentage raise. This is outside of the normal perimeters the board had done in the past. Committee felt the county may want to consider looking at the elected officials and not giving a straight across the board raise as in the past but to base it off performance, attendance, etc. This is only a recommendation.

Clements stated the levy worksheet shows the major operating funds in the county. Some funds being in the tax levy and others outside of the levy. As in the past, the budgets with LIT have been duplicated to allow the Council to split the budgets depending on how much LIT money we receive. When the budgets are turned in, the LIT amount is not known. The LIT numbers just came out on Sunday so the auditor would be able to put in the updated numbers and split out the budgets.

TREASURER

Treasurer Karrie Minor was present.

- Campbell asked about the increase in office supplies. Minor said she just put it in there just in case.
- Minor stated printing of forms went up from the previous year.
- Dues are dictated by salary, and she ran short this year.

ASSESSOR

Assessor Don Badolato was present.

- Campbell stated there were no increases in county general Assessor budget.
- The Real Estate Department budget has changed. Badolato stated he removed a deputy position since they have continued to outsource the assessment process. The position is currently vacated. He requested the Council look at the two deputies remaining the budget. He asked again for their salary to increase. Berish said that is a late request the salary committee received and would be researched and recommendation given to the board later.
- Campbell asked about certificate of errors and additional being processed by his department. From what she has seen and heard, these are not being done like they have in the past. The main part of the responsibilities in the office had been outsourced to a company, like a lot of Assessors have done across the state. Discussion was made.
- Campbell asked about repairs and maintenance increase. Badolato stated equipment is getting older.
- Sales Disclosure fund the mileage was taken down because of outsourcing work.
- Sales Disclosure Real Estate repairs and maintenance account was not used at all in 2025, questioned if it was needed.

PARK DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Parks Discussion -Campbell stated the Parks Board was looking for a more permanent budget funding source. Discussion was made on ways to fund it.

PLAN COMMISSION, BUILDING, PLAT

Director Lisa Zeiner was present.

- County General Plan Comm – UDO 50K in miscellaneous services put in the wrong budget. Should have been put into the building budget. Volunteered moving the per diem to the building budget as well.
- Building - Zeiner stated she wanted to put the part-time help back in her budget. She had removed it looking to create a full-time position. Decided to wait but would love in the

future to change it. Berish said this is something else the salary committee would review in future to research the need. Benefit accounts would need to be adjusted. Other changes: fuel reduce to 8K, equipment rental to 6K, office supplies 3K add (had removed and put in GIS budget but that is not allowable), remove utilities account and create telephone 2K (this is just clean up work since what is being paid from the account is cellphones).

- Discussion on vehicle uses for their department.
- Plat - put back in budget the part-time office asst and benefits associated.

SURVEYOR

Surveyor Greg Williams was present.

- County General 40401 Equipment - Campbell asked about not spending much last year, but it was increased for 2027. Reduced to \$1,000.
- 1202 Fund Corner Perpetuation - Office supplies can be reduced to \$500.
- Discussion was made on 20206 Operating supplies.
- Contract Labor increased because he will have to increase it this year.
- Equipment increased - Williams stated the GPS being used is his personal one. He eventually wants to get one for the county.

EXTENSION

Jenna Neese was present.

- Increased part time in case there is a pay raise/overtime
- contractual services - contract with Purdue, split with soil water, part of the contract includes mileage so per diem was decreased.
- Decreased equipment because Purdue will take control of some computers.
- Office Rent - lease is up this year, small increase.
- 20201 can be cut by \$1,000.
- Postage - decrease by \$500.
- Telephone - decrease \$500.
- Dues - decrease by \$200.

SOIL & WATER

Sarah Campfield discussed services provided and accomplishments. No changes made.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Baugh and Matron Becky Bailey were present.

- County General, Location 005 Sheriff - overtime and retirement increased.
- Vehicle maintenance discussed. Baugh stated 25% of vehicle fleet will now be under the Enterprise lease agreement and he thinks prices will increase.
- Insurance deductible increased without notifying them. It went from 1K to \$2,500 per incident. They have already put in for an additional for 2026.
- County General, Location 308 Jail - Asking for 4 additional jail deputies, one for each shift. JT Chadd stated they must have at least 4 jailers to not be on lockdown. He went into detail regarding the safety and mental health of employees and cover time off.
- Discussion was made that the matron forgot to add the amount in the budget request \$201,980 for the 4 jailers plus benefits.
- Operating supplies increased due to software licensing.
- Repairs & Maintenance increased because of aging of the building. It covers the kitchen, laundry, etc.
- Discussion was made on bringing back uniform allowance through payroll.

- Misdemeanant – no change.
- Courthouse security – no change.

HEALTH

Brian Williams, Assistant Administrator, was present and Dr. Adam Amos Health Officer.

- 1159 Utilities increased for the new building.
- 4926 Preparedness Grant increased misc. services.
- 1161 increased miscellaneous services as an estimate because they don't get the actual figures until later in the year.

EMS

Chief Kelly Russ was present.

- 1151 increased life and health insurance.
- Operating supplies have increased.
- Per diem and conferences increased because of prices increasing.
- Campbell asked about the vehicle increase. Kelly stated it was for purchasing an ambulance.
- Russ stated she would like to cut the capital reserve amount from 25% to 15%. At 25% it is making their budget currently tight and not allowing for some benefit changes: holiday/PTO.

HIGHWAY

Director Clint Maddox & Assistant Director Robyn Hughes were present.

- 1173 MVH Restricted – increase in rock, broke out road preservation and road construction
- Equipment rental – this has not been used the past two years. Maddox said it was there in case it was needed.
- Road signs were discussed.
- 1176 MVH – part time decreased.
- Mechanic laborer's positions were taken down.
- Got rid of uniform allowance. The employees were not using it for uniforms but more like a Christmas bonus per Hughes.
- Workers Comp – increased.
- Fuel increased due to prices.
- Take out \$100 bonds and have it come out of the Commissioners' budget.
- 1135 cumulative bridge – increased bridge inspections because they have a new contract next year.
- Equipment is increased for a new excavator.
- 1169 – bituminous increased.
- De-icer increased due to increase in the contract with the state.
- 4951 Wheel & Surtax - Bridge 205 \$50,000 and Bridge 203 to \$50,000,

CUSTODIAL

- \$5,000 increase in operating supplies due to rising costs. Council agreed to take it back to \$15,000.
- Repairs & Maintenance – Council agreed to take it back to \$50,000.
- If the budget runs short next year, department can come before the board.

COMMISSIONERS

- Hazardous Waste – professional contract for WCSW went up.
- County General Weights and Measures – increased per diem.

- County General Cemetery – no increases.
- Cumulative Capital Development – no changes.
- County General Commissioners – discussed creating a county administrator position. The current county attorney takes on a lot of administrative duties.
- Decreased mileage and equipment.
- Maintenance person position – discussion was made.

RECESS

Brown made the motion to recess. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

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Kerry Williams

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Attest: Auditor's Office Kristina Berish