

**COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET HEARINGS
AUGUST 19, 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 19, 2026, at 9:00 am. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Campbell called their meeting back into session.

GREENCASTLE SCHOOLS

Mr. Gibboney presented the school's proposed budget and sources of revenue.

FIRE DISTRICTS

Tiffany Deer presented the following budgets:

Roachdale Fire Protection

Floyd Fire

Walnut Creek Fire

CORONER

Coroner Todd Zeiner was present.

- Zeiner stated the fuel line item was increased due to prices but believes it can be reduced by \$1,000.
- Zeiner stated the number of deaths is down.
- He stated he wanted to advocate for higher pay for his two deputies. Berish said information would need to be submitted to the salary committee. Nothing had been presented to them prior to budgets.

AIRPORT

Baker Tilly presented the Putnam County Airport's budget.

WEST CENTRAL SOLID WASTE

Jane Collisi had an emergency and could not be present. The information was given to the Council prior to the meeting. Council President Campbell presented the budget.

CLERK

Tracy Bridges, County Clerk was present

- County General, Location 001 – increased part time because it was taken out for 2026. Bridges stated they get several requests for old records and with the workload they need to get someone in there to help.

- Office supplies can be reduced back to \$8,500.
- Printing of forms can stay at \$5,000.
- Contractual labor can stay at \$2,000.
- Repairs and maintenance increased because of a new copier.

County General, Election

- Part-time needs to stay as requested.
- Printing of forms needs to be increased to \$10,000 in election budget because the state is coming out with new forms.
- Repairs and maintenance needs increased by another \$2,000.

Perpetuation – no changes

Discussion was made on whether part-time help was needed. It was decided not to put part time back in the Clerk budget.

RECORDER

Recorder Heather Gilbert was present.

- County General – no changes
- ID Security – no changes
- Recorder Perpetuation – asked for \$28,080 for part-time. This would be used to hire someone to do back records and help cover the office. State called conferences she would like her First Deputy to go with her. Without help she would have to close her office. By statute, offices are to remain open unless otherwise dictated by the Commissioners. It was asked if Recorder was in the office on a regular basis most of this part-time help would not be needed. Discussion was made between the council members regarding part-time help. Council decided to change the amount to \$8,000, which is what they allowed the Treasurer in the same circumstance.

VETERAN'S OFFICE

Veteran's Officer Brian Hopkins was present.

- Added a telephone and mileage account for reimbursement.
- Repairs and Maintenance increased.

HOME DETENTION/COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Director Jamie France was present

- 1122 fund – director salary increased, Jamie explained it was reappropriation. Grant funding was cut for salaries. This was not an increase in salary. Discussion was made.

France state they are looking at moving funding from the Department of Corrections to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

EMA & LEPC

Director Sarah Owen was present

- 4942 LEPC no changes
- County General EMA – previously was part-time help and now it is a full-time position.
- Office supplies 20201 increased almost 6K – due to a lot of various programs she is using. One helps her take minutes so she can focus on the meeting. Council said the auditor takes minutes and still can pay attention to the meeting to answer questions etc. Did not see the need.

- Training 30308 \$1,500 increase – Owen stated it is to maintain the required certifications.
- Misc. Services 30360 increased – Owen stated the laptops will need to be upgraded. She would like to replace them two at a time.
- Repairs Parts & Service 30374 increased - Owen stated she has multiple vehicles that she maintains.
- Mileage 30481 should be changed to fuel 20203.
- Questioned the vehicles in the department.

E-911

Director Debra Simmons was present.

- Simmons just recently took over the position. The budget in front of them today was submitted by the prior director. She needed more time to review.
- Council decided to leave budget as presented to give the new director time to get a grasp on the bills and accounts. Auditor can switch accounts around to better suit how the bills are paid.

PROSECUTOR

Prosecutor Austin Malayar was present.

- County General – No changes.
- PreTrial Diversion – No Changes.

Title IV-D, Vicky Patterson

- Patterson stated that the state requires IT monthly and it is an extra \$1,800.
- When they move to the new annex the rent payment will go away.

SUPERIOR COURT

Jim Ensley stood in for Judge Bridges who was in court.

- Increased petit jurors due to increase in jury trials.
- Uniform allowance was reduced back down to \$2,000. Keep the allowance the same as the sheriff department.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Auditor Kristina Berish presented:

- \$1,000 stipend for grant administrator can be reduced to \$0. Adult Probation is looking to see if their grant will allow for administration fees.
- Increased repairs & maintenance due to the LOW software increase.

COUNCIL

Berish stated she put a line in for potential raises. Council discussed the professional contract because this is Jaque Clement's last year as a budget advisor.

CIRCUIT COURT

Judge Headley presented:

- The judge asked the council to consider an increase in the CASA line to train more volunteers and hire professionals.

Juvenile Probation

Chief Probation Officer Renee Marsteller presented:

- Increased per diem/conference.

ADULT PROBATION

Chief Probation Officer Teresa Parrish presented:

- County General increased repairs and maintenance due to IT support
- Adult Probation User Fees asked for raises for the probation officers (state mandated salary and state did not give a raise again). 1K increase in equipment.
- SATP increased assistant salary to reflect change in personnel. Due to state mandated salary the new employee is paid more.
- Increased equipment line for IT.

BUDGET DECISIONS

Council went back to the beginning of the agenda to go through all the budgets:

Treasurer – No changes

Assessor

- Fund 1000 – no changes
- Fund 4928 -Budget reduction on position that is currently vacant. Amend current year salary ordinance
- Fund 4928 - Office Supplies 20201 – reduce to \$5,000
- Fund 4928 – Dues 30305 – reduce to \$600
- Fund 1131 Location 105 – Repairs & Maintenance 30303 – reduce to \$0

Plan Commission

- County General – Misc. Services 30360 – reduce to \$0
- County General – Per diem reduce to \$0
- Fund 1180 – 10112 part-time added back in and benefits
- Fund 1180 – 30315 \$6,000
- Fund 1180 Fuel – reduced to \$8,000
- Fund 1180 20201 office supplies – added 3K
- Utilities changed to telephone
- Per Diem added \$2,000 to fund 1180
- Fund 1181 added \$18,850 for part-time and added benefits back
- Fund 1181 reduced office supplies to \$3,000

Surveyor

- County General – Equipment 40401 down to \$1,000
- Perpetuation – Office supplies down to \$500

Extension

- Office Supplies down to \$6500
- Postage down to \$2,000
- Telephone down to \$2,000
- Dues down to \$450

Soil & Water - No changes

Sheriff

- County General - Repairs & Maintenance Location 005 changed to \$100,000
- Fund 1170 LIT Public Safety – No changes

- Auditor will split the budget between county general and LIT funds.

Jail

- County General – Discussion on jail deputies. Needs to go before the salary committee. Clements said two positions could potentially be financed but not four.
- Auditor split the budget between the county general and LIT funds.

Animal Shelter

- Doesn't fund as submitted
- Leave at 2026 budget

Public Safety Courthouse LIT - No changes

Health Department

- 1159 - No changes
- 4926 - No changes
- 1161 - No changes

EMS

- 1151 - No changes
- Council decided to leave capital outlay at 25%. Denied request to lower it to 15%.
- 1236 - No changes

Highway

- 1173 – No changes
- 1176 – Reduced bonds to \$0 to come out of Commissioner's budget
- Discussion on operating balances and sustainability. 2027 they are okay but in 2028 the current budget will not be sustainable.
- 1135 – No changes
- 1134 – No changes
- 4951 – No changes

Commissioners

- Administrator reduced to \$0
- Maintenance reduced to \$0
- Auditor will change benefits depending on salaries
- Weights & Measures – No changes
- Cemetery – No changes
- CCD – No changes

Binding

Greencastle School - no changes
 Fire Territories - no changes
 Airport – no changes

Coroner

- Fuel down by \$1,000

Clerk

- County General Location 001 – Took out part time
- Office Supplies down to \$8500
- Printing of Forms down to \$5,000
- Contractual Labor down to \$2,000
- County General Location 104, Printing of Forms increased to \$10,000
- Repairs & Maintenance changed to \$37,000
- 1119 Fund – No changes

Recorder

- County General 004 – no changes
- Identification Security Protection – no changes
- 1189 Fund – Took part-time down to \$8,000, adjust benefit accounts.

Veterans

- No changes

Community Corrections

- No changes

Custodial

- Operating Supplies changed to \$15,000
- Repairs & Maintenance down to \$50,000

EMA

- LEPC – no changes
- County General Location 361 – Office Supplies reduce to \$2,000
- Misc. Services reduce to \$10,000
- Fuel – Create account with a budget of \$4,300
- Mileage – Reduce to \$0

Prosecutor

- County General – no changes
- 2503 Fund – no changes
- County General Title IV-D – no changes
- 8897 – no changes

Superior Court

- Uniform allowance changed to \$2,000
- 8119 – Public Defender – no changes

232 Circuit Court

- Uniform allowance changed to \$1,000
- 529 Public Defender – no changes

Family Court Project

- No changes
- Fund 2200 - no changes

Juvenile Probation

- 2050 – Reduce to \$8,000

Adult Probation

- County General – No changes
- Fund 2000 – change part-time
- SATP Fund 4901 – No changes

E911 – waiting for Director to have time to review.

County Auditor

- Reduce stipend to \$0

Council - no changes

SALARIES

- Discussion was made about salary committee recommendations.
- Council approved the recommendations except for elected officials. All elected officials receive 3% raise. If the county wants to address job responsibilities, performance, attendance, etc. then they can look at giving the others more than 3%.
- Salary committee does have positions they are still reviewing and will give recommendations to the board later. To avoid this in future years, they will be putting together a guide and timeline for department heads. They had a problem this year with several waiting until a week before the budget workshop and even some during the workshop asking for a position to be reviewed.
- Most personnel looking at 3% raise (COLA for 2027), the auditor will run the numbers and see how we fall regarding the levy spreadsheet. See if the budget will be funded.

ADJOURN

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

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Danny Wallace

Wayne Huffman

Amanda Brown

Kerry Williams

Brian Berry

Attest: Auditor's Office Kristina Berish