COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
September 15, 2026
6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE:	
COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President
	Jay Alcorn, Vice President
	Wayne Huffman
	Kerry Williams
	Amanda Brown
	Danny Wallace
COMMISSIONERS:	Andy Beck, President
ATTORNEY:	Trudy Selvia
AUDITOR'S OFFICE	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	18 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Council met on September 15, 2026, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Campbell opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

Williams made the motion to add 2027 meeting dates, THRIVE, and animal shelter to the agenda. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

2027 BUDGET HEARING

Campbell opened the hearing for public comments/questions. Hearing none, Alcorn made the motion to close the public hearing. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

E911 DEPARTMENT – RESTRUCTURE OF TWO POSITIONS

Director Debra Simmons requested restructuring two of the dispatcher positions that had been approved previously this year by the board. They were originally two supervisor positions, and the previous director had asked them to be changed to dispatcher positions. She wants one of them back to a supervisor and the other position converted to part-time help. She is not asking for any additional funding. Asking permission to change this so the salary ordinance can be changed and to move money around in this year's budget and for 2027. Brown made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

RURAL TRANSIT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN 2027

Amy Guerrettaz with Area 10 Agency on Aging came to the meeting to give an update. Passed out information. The federal funding that supports the rural transportation requires a local match of 30%. Putnam County's rural transportation cost is $484,228 for 2027. 30% of this is $148,229.

She broke down the local match commitments they have in place already which totaled $131,358 leaving a balance needed of $16,870. Campbell asked if they had asked the City of Greencastle to increase their portion to help with the local match shortage. Guerrettaz said she had not yet. She was reaching out but the county was the first she had approached on the additional funds needed.

This was just informational for tonight. She was not looking for any kind of commitment at this time. Auditor Berish pointed out that the figures presented had the county contributing 40K next year, she is asking for it and additional funding to help bridge the $16,870 gap needed to reach the 30% local match.

OPIOID GRANT ADDITIONAL REQUEST

Auditor Kristina Berish presented:
$186,890 Opioid Grant fund
Reason: this is money that has already been approved by the board to be spent. Cleaning up the "books" to get the account out of the red. Learned at recent conference that this money should be going through the additional appropriation process.

Brown made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

SHERIFF/JAIL ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

Jail Commander JT Chadd came to ask for tentative approval of funding for the water heater/softener needing to be replaced at the jail. This would enable them to get the project started. Officially approve at October meeting. The Commissioners approved bids from Sycamore at their September 8th meeting pending funding approval from the Council. The total project cost is $233,190.19.

Berish stated there is $84,792.87 in the cumulative jail fund leaving a balance needed of $148,397.32 and recommended using LIT correctional & rehab fund. Huffman made the motion to tentatively approve and have the Auditor submit the additional requests per her recommendation at their October meeting. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

Sgt. Josh Boller came to the meeting to get tentative approval on funding needed to purchase two vehicles for the jail: van and a vehicle for the jail commander. There has never been an account for vehicles in the jail budget because in the past they have given an older vehicle to the jail commander, but they will no longer have this ability since they have moved to a leasing program instead of purchasing. The van they did not include in leasing program because it does not make financial sense. Leasing will be rotating vehicles every four years and a van can last them typically 10-12 years.

Van – purchase from York Chrysler Jeep in Crawfordsville in the amount of $39,962.99. Additionally, will need equipment added by JTN Services for a cost of $2,310.

2026 Chevrolet Traverse AWD LT – purchase from York Chevrolet-Buick-GMC in Greencastle in the amount of $44,905.47.

Berish recommended paying for the two vehicles from the LIT correctional & rehab fund. Wallace made the motion to give tentative approval of funding utilizing the LIT fund to purchase the van. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

Alcorn made the motion to give tentative approval of funding utilizing the LIT fund to purchase the Traverse. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

Berish advised Matron Bailey she would need to draw up the additional request and get it to her to advertise for the October Council meeting.

$10,769 Sheriff Donation fund
Reason: appropriate funds.
Wallace made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

$10,000 Sheriff LIT fund Equipment account
Reason: pay for radios.
Williams made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

$25,000 Sheriff LIT fund Repairs & maintenance account
Reason: unforeseen large repairs on vehicles
Wallace made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

$60,000 County General fund Inmate medical account
Reason: high priced prescriptions and offsite services have depleted the account.
Alcorn made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

$20,000 Correctional & Rehab LIT fund Operating supplies
Reason: account depleted by unforeseen expenses.
Wallace made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

HIGHWAY ADDITIONAL REQUEST
Commissioner Andy Beck and Highway Director Clint Maddox presented:

$14,300 Cumulative Bridge fund Bridge 183
$21,953 Cumulative Bridge fund Bridge 167
Reason: arch pipe to replace bridges.
Alcorn made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

REQUEST BY HIGHWAY TO CHANGE POSITIONS TRUCK DRIVER/OPERATOR
Maddox said they recently had a meeting with the Commissioners to discuss the department. It was felt the department/county would be better served by making a truck driver position into an operator position. This would change the department make-up to twelve truck drivers and five operators. If approved there would need to be additional money put into the operator account since they make a higher salary by around 6K. This needs to go before the salary committee for review and recommendation. The Council will take this under advisement.

2027 HIGHWAY BUDGET – POTENTIAL ASK FOR CHANGE ON FUNDING
Maddox passed out a copy of an email from Assistant Highway Director Hughes that was a recap of the budget meeting with the Commissioners regarding their department held recently. It was asking the board to pay for some of the expenses currently in the highway budgets from another revenue source. The board just received it that night, will need time to read and review. Took it under advisement.

PLANNING ADDITIONAL REQUEST
Director Lisa Zeiner presented:
$39,210 Building fund Miscellaneous services
Reason: UDO updates, she had put it in the 2027 budget, but the Commissioners wanted it to start this year. Alcorn made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

THRIVE

Ryan Keller CEO of THRIVE, came to the meeting with information to potentially help the county. They can help connect and guide the elderly through systems of care. Cost is $499 to help an individual to assess a situation. 2–5-hour session to see what the situation is, get a better understanding, and help facilitate a plan of action. On average, it saves 2-3K and 2-3 months' time. Love for the county to help spread the word in the community. This is for the Medicare population in our county.

ANIMAL SHELTER ADDITIONAL REQUEST

The shelter was asking for tentative approval for an additional of $8,629. They received an estimate from Williams Comfort Air & Mr. Plumber Heating. It will remove and dispose of existing materials, install new ductwork, system sealing, and clean up upon completion. Commissioners approved pending Council approval of funding. Berish suggested paying it out of the county general fund. Brown made the motion to tentatively approve up to $8,629. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

MINUTES

August 18th budget workshop – Brown made the motion to approve. Wallace seconded. The motion passed.
August 18th regular meeting – Williams made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.
August 19th budget workshop – Wallace made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

2027 MEETING DATES

Huffman made the motion to approve. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

ADJOURN

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

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Stephanie Campbell, President

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Jay Alcorn, Vice President

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Wayne Huffman

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Danny Wallace

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Kerry Williams

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Amanda Brown

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Attest: Auditor's Office, Kristina Berish