



MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET BOARD WORKSHOP
Thursday, September 10, 2026, 9:30 AM, Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 5
Ashlynn Marquez Vice-Chairman	David Pettis Jr. Chairman	Joey Brock	Wesley Griffin	David Corbin

1. PROCLAMATION

- 1.1 Call to Order - Chairman Pettis
- 1.2 Invocation
- 1.3 Pledge

2. AGENDA ITEMS

2.1 2026-2027 Proposed Budget

County Administrator Fleener informed the Board that the proposed budget maintains last year's levels, with only a few changes.

Budget Summary

- Budget includes the Clerk returning \$200,000.00.
- Budget includes the Property Appraiser returning \$80,000.00.
- Retirement increases across multiple classes.
- Minimum of \$15.00 requirement is complete. BOCC used a five-year schedule to meet this requirement. Compression is included.
- Health insurance increases: The combined renewal cost for FY 25–26 and FY 26–27 is \$1.4 million, representing a significant increase to the budget.
- Workers' compensation.
- Medicaid contributions.
- Unallocated Insurance.
- Computer contract increase: The contract amount rose from \$75,000 to \$150,000. The agreement is currently under review to determine whether the cost can be reduced.
- Economic development funding includes \$44,000, with the additional \$75,000 allocated to support the program.
- There were some consolidations in the fire budget, which will make it easier for Chief Barron.

- Caryville's cash carried forward remains separate, with plans to use the funds for capital expenses. Updates to the inter-local agreements with the fire departments are currently in progress.
- The Transportation budget includes projected revenue from the ELMS Nickel. The total budget reflects a shortfall of \$982,644. To help balance the budget, \$467,808 in transportation cash carried forward is projected to be used, along with approximately \$514,000 in anticipated ELMS Nickel revenue.
- A list of unfunded mandates includes the medical examiner, State Attorney, Public Defender, Guardian ad Litem, and various outside-county agencies.
- A staffing positions report is also included.

Next year will be tough. There are too many unknowns right now to think forward. At this time, there is a solid plan to balance the budget and be at the same place or better next year. The ELMS Nickel revenue will move the Transportation Department closer to being self-supported.

Chairman Pettis requested that if there are any questions/concerns/ideas, reach out to Mr. Fleener over the next few days.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Clerk Bell addressed the Board regarding misconceptions.

- Grant funds are not included in General Fund revenue; they are accounted for separately.
- The American Rescue Act Funds were accounted for separately with allowable expenses. There are reports to support that.
- Substantial amounts of debt have been paid with non-recurring funds.

The Clerk's Office is open to the public and the Board.

4. ADJOURN