

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BUDGET MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2025

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Channing Dobbs, Chair

RECORDING: Reagan E. Robinson, Deputy Clerk

ATTENDING:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Willie Croft   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts & Comptroller |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Channing Dobbs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Russell A. Wade III, County Attorney                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Donna Jackson  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Williams, County Coordinator                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Mac Johns      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Woodington, Finance Director                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Melissa McNeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary                                     |

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chair Dobbs called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner McNeal offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Commissioner Jackson moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Seeing no requests to speak, Chair Dobbs closed the floor to public comments.

**DISCUSSION OF BUDGETS**

Chair Dobbs asked Mr. Williams if he had any information to present in this meeting. Mr. Williams shared that he spoke with Mr. Chris Griffis, Road Department Superintendent, regarding the skid steer and the fact that the County's contract price with Ring Power expires September 30, 2025. He noted that the quote could change by the end of the year. Commissioner Jackson recommended once budget is approved, the County should issue the purchase order to lock in pricing while also not violating the County's purchasing policy. Commissioner Dobbs then inquired if FEMA would reimburse the cost of purchasing the skid steer outright or only if the Road Department spread the cost over three years. Clerk Rhoades said FEMA will not cover the cost, but that the County will get reimbursed for the hours in which employees use the equipment in the event of a disaster.

The second item Mr. Williams discussed is the purchase of a new ambulance. He shared that Mr. Brent Allen, EMS Director, informed him the ambulance is ready to be picked up. Mrs. Woodington stated funds have not been received from the grant and Commissioner Jackson asked if the Board has received confirmation that the County will be reimbursed. Mrs. Woodington confirmed that the funding will be reimbursed. Clerk Rhoades noted that the EMS Department can move forward with the purchase before receiving the funding, but that the signed grant document will need to be provided upon purchase to show the County will be reimbursed. Clerk Rhoades then

mentioned she would like to make sure the Board has received the documents prior to making a budget amendment. Mr. Allen confirmed he sent the grant documentation to Mrs. Woodington.

Mr. Williams informed the Board that he received verification the County will receive approximately 240 miles of fiber cables for high speed internet that will reach more than 2600 homes by October 2026 with an investment of \$18.9 million dollars. He shared the utility provider for the new Internet will be Cox Communications, who will provide 1 gig of internet access to the users. Commissioner Jackson stated Windstream is the only option she has in her area and Mr. Williams confirmed the new fiber will be an option for her.

Mr. Williams then shared that he spoke with an employee at W.W. Gay, who informed him that the chiller for the air conditioner in the courthouse has a burnt wire and they have added freon as a temporary solution. Commissioner Jackson entered into discussion with Clerk Rhoades from which she asked Mr. Williams to schedule a meeting with W.W. Gay, herself, Clerk Rhoades, and other court officials needs to be scheduled to discuss more permanent repairs.

### **911 BUDGET**

Mr. Tim Allen stated Emergency Management has moved into the new Emergency Operations Center and is still waiting on a federal grant for backup power. He noted that an electrician came in to quote a power transfer from the main building. Mr. Allen then requested \$300,000 for new building equipment and furniture which are not covered by construction appropriations or grant funding. He stated that between both the Emergency Management and 911 budget there would not be enough cover the cost. Commissioner Jackson stated she thought the furniture would be covered with the funds the County received for the project. Mr. Allen stated the construction costs exceeded the original \$2.2 million to \$3.4 million, as well as the additional funds for the architect. Commissioner Jackson shared Sheriff Whitehead has a reversion of funds and may be willing to aid their request. Mr. Allen responded, stating that he would speak to Sheriff Whitehead regarding this.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about the pay increases listed on his budget worksheet. Mr. Allen explained he added a \$1 per hour raise to offset the increase in the cost of living for tenured employees. He then noted that 911 has two additional increases for Ms. Talia Trent and Ms. Sydney Ferguson. He shared that both employees are shift leads and have additional duties which are associated with greater pay. Clerk Rhoades then stated a budget amendment may be necessary due to Emergency Management salaries being erroneously reduced by 75% in both rate and allocation and may be made up with the Operations budget.

### **SOLID WASTE**

Clerk Rhoades asked Mr. Lamar Griffis, Solid Waste Director, if there have been any changes since the last meeting. Mr. Griffis responded, noting there was just one pay increase of \$1 per hour. Chair Dobbs asked if there was still only one vacancy in Solid Waste. Mr. Griffis informed him there is another vacancy but it is in the hiring process. Commissioner Jackson asked Mr. Griffis how he was able to reduce his request from the year prior. Clerk Rhoades and Mr. Griffis both confirmed a significant reduction in expenses. Commissioner Jackson then asked for justification on COLA plus \$1 per hour pay raise for certain employees. Mr. Griffis explained that each employee has more than what was required in their job descriptions: Mr. Leon Watkins is a certified electrician and has been able to assist with electrical jobs within the department saving a lot of money, Ms. Alexandra Sullivan, Solid Waste/Road Department Secretary, has been able to manage several budgets, and Mr. Daniel Bryant is collection site employee who receives much praise from citizens. Commissioner McNeal shared she's also received several compliments

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regarding Mr. Bryant and Ms. Bridget Sullivan, who now handles Mosquito Control and assists with Courthouse, as well as maintenance and other tasks that are not in her job description.

#### **MOSQUITO CONTROL**

The Board reviewed the Mosquito Control budget and had questions on Mr. Lamar Griffis's salary percentages between Solid Waste and Mosquito Control. Mr. Griffis stated that once he receives his certifications, he would receive an increase in salary of \$13,000 per year. He noted that the increase will be divided between the two departments. Mr. Griffis went on to share that he recently completed the last required test and submitted his certificates to HR.

#### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

Commissioner Jackson inquired if Animal Control would eventually have a dedicated full-time employee and Mr. Lamar Griffis informed her that they currently have one. Commissioner Jackson noted that due to an error in the budget it only shows funds being allocated to overtime, and Clerk Rhoades noted she was aware and working to correct it.

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

While the Board reviewed the budget paperwork for Parks and Recreation, Mr. Lamar Griffis informed Clerk Rhoades that there is not a designated overtime line for this department. He asked if one could be added due to how the employee would get called out in an overtime schedule during the weekend. Mr. Griffis then discussed an additional \$1 per hour raise for Tommy Mobley because he is always going above and beyond in his duties. Commissioner Johns stated that Parks and Recreation seems to be working better since being reorganized under the Solid Waste Department.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF NEXT BUDGET MEETING DATE AND TIME**

Upon further discussion, the Board agreed to hold the next Budget Meeting on August 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Seeing no further business, Chair Dobbs adjourned the budget meeting at 5:36 p.m.

*Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on September 15, 2025.*