BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5 NOVEMBER 2026

Chair Commissioner Evan Baddour opened the meeting noting prayer and pledge already offered in same day meeting. Minutes of 8 October 2026 were moved for approval by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Cathy Roberts, and were approved unanimously. The Chair asked Financial Manager (FM) Beth Moore-Sumners to provide an overview on the County's Fund Balance. Also provided was a handout showing Fund Balance $8,698,496.33 less reserves which amount to $2.1M as of 1 Jul 2026, and an estimated projected fund balance of undesignated funds to be $8,081,128.99. She mentioned $307K in hotel/motel Reserve which could be utilized for county buildings only, excluding schools, and $254.8K in Litigation fees which can be used for courtroom security. She mentioned that an upcoming workshop would be available the next week.

OEM Public Assistance Grant – An Amendment to the Highway Fund 131 showing both debit/ credit for $84,889.84 for Salt for disaster relief was moved for approval by Commissioner Carman Brown, seconded by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, and was approved. Road Superintendent Gene Barnickle said he was starting work on the pad (for the Salt Barn) and plans on completion by 1 December, with the Chair noting a tight timeline. Mr. Barnickle said salt can be used on hot mix roads only, noting tar and chip roads would deteriorate quickly with salt.

OHM Contract 1B courthouse – Motion to approve GMP contract for $236K was made by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Carman Brown. Discussion included: Commissioner Steve Woods discussed his reservations about the estimated costs especially fire suppression and cost of air conditioning. In addition, Commissioner Woods said we don't need fire suppression and is worried about asbestos remediation and he thinks the total courthouse cost will be more than $8.5M. He commented that additional fees would need to be reevaluated against cost. He asked if the money not used for the courthouse modifications could also be used for other county buildings. CE Vanderpool commented that you may not need fire protection for a stone building, however wood in the courthouse building is both below and in top level of building and would require fire protection. Commissioner Gayle Jones said that the resolution from February provides funds for the courthouse and other buildings. Commissioner Carman Brown said that we are the third Commission to attempt to get this project done. He stressed that all of these issues have been addressed. Commissioner Thomas Price had compared prices given for the nation's White House costs but the CE noted that was done in 2017, (size differences as well - Courthouse larger square feet.) Commissioner Rickie

Carpenter noted that if we postpone further, we will spend more money. Commissioner Gayle Jones commented that the sales tax revenue is going up. She would support the project if the cost would back up from $8.5 million to $5-6 million. She says that we have other capital expense needs as well, and moving people while renovating will be additional cost; She said that the resolution from February provides funds for the courthouse and other buildings. FM Beth Moore-Sumners said that the $8.5 million bond is waiting to be spent. Sales tax dollars have already been shifted to debt service. Member of the public commented that E911 got an outside review and cost went from $700K to $70K. Commissioner Evan Baddour noted that the motion on the floor is to approve the max price. Roll call vote to approve above motion, approved 6 – 1 with Commissioner Steve Woods voting no. The CE noted there would be a walk through on Monday and a prebid meeting in afternoon

The Chair noted the budget amendment total was $330,906.31 (included OHM Historical Preservation Grant, use of a Grant Consultant, and NHC Tax Refund – Court Judgment). Motion to approve by Cathy Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Rickie Carpenter, and was approved, after public comment requested (none), 6 – 1 with Commissioner Steve Woods voting no.

Highway amendment – Motion to approve $84,889.84 by Commissioner Brandon Beard, seconded by Commissioner Cathy Roberts, and was approved. Commissioner Mike Cesarini asked if that would be enough for the whole winter, with Mr. Barnickle saying he had never used that much before, but he did mention the raised cost of diesel fuel which would raise overall highway costs.

School Amendment – Motion by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Rickie Carpenter, to approve the $562,718.14 amendment which included the purchase of two buses and hiring a PT LEA Liaison person. Motion approved.

County Budget Amendment for OHM Historical Preservation Grant – Motion to approve by Commissioner Carman Brown, seconded by Commissioner Brandon Beard, for $60K noting $56K after consideration of funds already spent. Motion amended by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Steve Woods, to add "funds will be from Hotel/Motel tax revenue." Motions on amended and on original approved.

Grant Strategy Coordinator – Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Steve Woods, seconded by Matthew Hopkins, and was approved unanimously.

NHC Tax Refund – Court Judgment – Property Assessor Tommy Hyatt discussed how the process works if there is a claim against an assessment. There is an Equalization Board, and then a state board, who review and in court judges tend to go middle ground. The amendment is for $24K

which has to be paid within 30 days or interest starts. Motion to approve by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Carman Brown, and was approved unanimously.

The Chair discussed the current Facilities Maintenance Technician, who currently has three more employees in his staff, is planning to resign. The Chair also mentioned the staff at AgPark too where there are staff changes. He estimated a $10K - $15K increase to replace the exiting staff.

Other Old business – The Chair said there is a bid on the animal shelter and a $300K grant from Cathy Bissell of the BISSELL Pet Foundation, and the award has been made. He also said he in talks with Brindley Construction to try to cut costs without changing the Scope of Work. The Archives doors were discussed with the Chair saying he will pull the old bid and see what was cut out. Public Leah Bailey asked the commission to consider a worst-case scenario for the courthouse contingencies and how the commission would answer to the public. The Chair noted this had been discussed a lot with Mr. Werre of Reeves and Young and if contingency within the scope of work the cost would be covered by the GMP.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Cathy Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, and was approved unanimously.

ATTENDEES: Members of the Committee Chair Commissioner Evan Baddour, other Commissioners Cathy Roberts, Brandon Beard, Rickie Carpenter, Steve Woods, Carman Brown, Matthew Hopkins Other Commissioners in attendance Sarah Suddarth, Thomas Price, Richard Kemp, Mike Cesarini, Lynn Albury, Jan Beecham, Tracy Wilburn, Gayle Jones, Tommy Pollard, James Gentry Others in attendance Knox Vanderpool, Financial Manager Beth Moore-Sumners and Shana Woodard, Property Assessor Tommy Hyatt, Circuit Court Clerk Crystal Greene, Road Superintendent Gene Barnickle, Trustee Tony Risner, EMS Director Walter Daugherty, members of the public