

Budget Hearings #47 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
October 28, 2025

Commissioner Davis called the Budget Hearing Session to order with the following Commissioners present: David Levacy and Steve Davis. Also in attendance were Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Bart Hampson, Staci Knisley, and Taylor Forquer. Attendees of specific hearings are listed in their respective section of the minutes.

Each hearing has a corresponding Budget Summary and Excel spreadsheet that are included with the minutes.

Budget Hearing Follow Up, EMA, 9:00 a.m.

Jon Kochis and Garrett Blevins were in attendance for the EMA Follow Up Budget Hearing.

Commissioner Davis stated that the item for discussion was the acquisition of a mobile command unit and added that he would like to proceed with that purchase in 2025.

Commissioner Levacy asked for an estimate of total costs.

Jon Kochis replied that the trade-in value of the current vehicle is \$35,000 - \$50,000. There is still customization to be considered but the cost for the unit should be approximately \$575,000.

Commissioner Davis asked for an overview of a command center's operations.

Kochis stated the new command unit will allow dispatchers to receive 911 calls from the unit and 911 calls can be automatically rerouted. He added that EMA would expect to take possession of the vehicle by June 1, 2026.

Commissioner Levacy stated he was in favor of proceeding with the purchase of a new mobile command unit.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Commission looks favorably upon the request.

Budget Hearing Follow Up, OSU Extension, 9:15 a.m.

Shannon Carter was in attendance for the OSU Extension Budget Hearing Follow Up.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the nutritionist funding issue and stated that the Commission would like to help fund the service for one year and emphasized that the intent is not for any additional years.

Commissioner Levacy asked about funding the position after 2026.

Shannon Carter stated the office is already looking at other funding avenues and that there is speculation from the state that there will be something to replace the program.

Commissioner Davis asked if \$95,200 would allow the service to continue throughout 2026.

Carter confirmed that it would.

Aundrea Cordle stated that she had a conversation with Jeanette Curtis and Joe Ebel from the Health Department and that they would like to be helpful.

The Commission instructed the budget team to allocate \$95,200 to the OSU Extension for the 2026 Nutrition program.



General Fund Budget Summary

Budget Hearing Discussion Items

- Revenue
 - Total Budget
- Expense
 - Total Budget
- 10.07.25
 - Juvenile/Probate (Complete)
 - No call back
 - Notes
 - Contractual Services moved down from \$240,000.00 to \$211,094.00. (Complete)
 - Reduction in rent for CY26 cost savings \$38,906.82 or 44.77%. Request for \$10,000.00 in cost savings to retain the annual Fairfield County Juvenile Court Summit. (Complete)
 - Guardianship Services (Complete)
 - No Call back
 - Veterans Services (Complete)
 - No Call back
 - Soil and Water (Complete)
 - No Call back
 - Notes
 - Trying to work with municipalities/townships/villages for future revenue – agreements for services
 - No increase in allocation
 - Looking at efficiencies in technology for future savings
 - IT (Open)
 - No Call back
 - Notes
 - Action Item: Do we have a replacement schedule for assets – Dan to provide a timeframe
 - Action item: How many threats have we prevented? Dan is working on providing data
 - Sheriff (Open)
 - Possible call back for a follow-up based on size of budget.
 - 10.20.25 Sheriff contacted me about taking into consideration the revenue that is being brought into the general fund. Items include:
 - \$220k from the civil unit. This comes from \$3.2M where \$220k is returned by the state.

- Tyler Tech cost that are offset by partners like Lancaster City.
 - \$188 for tech services
 - User Tyler user share cost of \$86k.
- Prisoner Medical \$41,500.
- Jail Holds \$90k in 2024.
- Average reimbursement to general fund of around \$700k.
 - Does not include estimate Federal funds generated for next year.
- Commissioner Finance updated revenue data and provided results to Commissioners.
- Prosecutor (Complete)
 - No call back
 - Notes
 - Action item: Reach out to Dan to see if there are any options for covering data storage usage.
 - 10.15.2025 Dan has set up a meeting with ABT for later this month to get a better understanding. Dan stated he will follow up with Kyle once he knows more.
- Coroner (Complete)
 - No call back
 - Notes
 - They are seeing a 10% increase in cases.
 - Action Item: Commissioner Fix asked for statistics for overdoses
 - Data provided to the Commissioners.
- Dog Shelter (Complete)
 - No call back
- Human Resources (Complete)
 - No Call back
- Utilities (Complete)
 - No call back
 - Notes
 - Tap Fee revenue will drop if Greenfield and Violet don't develop.
 - Allocation cost will be based on 8% increase minus the operating credit.
- 10.14.2025
 - Engineer (Complete)
 - No call back
 - Board of Elections (Complete)
 - No call back
 - Notes
 - Information was provided to BOE about the RFP being completed for procurement of copiers.
 - OSU Extension (Open)

- Possible call back
- Notes
 - Open Item: Looking for solutions for funding needed for Fairfield County Nutrition Education program. Estimated total funding is \$95,200.00. They are looking for grants but grants generally won't cover salaries and benefits. Benefits portion of the program is \$86,000.00 of the \$95,200.00.
- Regional Planning (Complete)
 - No call back
- Recorder (Complete)
 - Possible call back
 - Notes
 - Lisa will get with Jeff to discuss staff compression.
 - Lisa has determined that she can make changes by flexing her deputy director position. No additional appropriations are needed for 2026.
- Clerk of Courts (Complete)
 - No call back
 - Notes
 - Branden agrees to transfer \$150,000.00 in 2026 to offset the increase in legal aid and vehicle purchase cost.
 - Action Item: Bart will notify Dr. Brown of the increase to the general fund revenue budget.
- Common Pleas (Complete)
 - No call back
- EMA (Open)
 - Possible call back
 - Consideration for EMA Command/EOC vehicle replacement of a 2005 model. Estimated cost around \$550,000.00
- Facilities (Complete)
 - No call back
- Airport (Open)
 - Possible call back
 - Airport grant \$1,000,000.00 with 20% match or \$200,000.00. Adding \$50,000.00 for change orders.
 - Jon to provide some information on lease cost and structure.
- 10.21.2025
 - Auditor (Compete)
 - No call back
 - Updating revenue to \$68.1M
 - Treasurer (Complete)
 - No Call back
 - Transit (Complete)
 - No call back
 - Commissioners request reports on denials



- Economic & Workforce Development (Complete)
 - No call back
- Municipal Judges (Complete)
 - No call back
- Municipal Clerk (Complete)
 - No call back
- Family and Children First Council (Complete)
 - No call back
- Job and Family Services (Complete)
 - No call back
- DR Court (Open)
 - No call back
 - Commissioners giving a year of grace
 - AC – if unsuccessful in October, contact us to work through this
 - \$50,000 from Special Revenue fund for 2026 – resolution transfer in 2026
 - Judge Smith open to the idea of adjusting court cost/implementing a fee earmarked for visitation center funding.

Other

- Action Item: Bart to update the 5 year projections