

2025 Chase County Budget Workshop  
August 1, 2025

The special meeting, for purpose of reviewing the proposed FY 2025-26 budget for Chase County, was called to order by Chairman Jacci Brown at 8:00am on Friday, August 1, 2025. Also present were Commissioners Billie Muehlenkamp and Kurt Bernhardt, County Clerk Wendy Moe, Treasurer Rebecca Bernard, and Budget Preparer Caleb Johnson. Notice of the meeting was published in the Imperial Republican on July 24, 2025. An agenda was kept current and available in the office of the County Clerk. The agenda and open meeting act were posted.

Caleb presented the proposed budget to the Board and stated that based on preliminary budgets, there was a \$727,758.21 increase in spending growth from last year. Based on the 5.17% inflation, the target increase should be \$58,000-\$150,000. Real Property growth value will also affect this number, Assessor does not yet have those numbers available. Board will use this time to review all funds and make changes where necessary to lower the proposed spending.

Board reviewed the Capital Outlay in the Road Fund, \$10,000 was removed from the bridges line, \$100,000 removed from Champion Road Project line, \$80,000 removed from the Dump Road Extension line.

Abby Cyboron joined the meeting, Board moved to the 5001 Hospital Funding Fund. The fund has a beginning balance of \$471,049.41. Board does not intend to allocate additional tax dollars to the fund at this time. Abby explained that running an ageing facility is costly and having these additional funds available is helpful. Abby would like to see \$250,000 added to this fund annually for continued support. Jacci noted that this fund was not created to be a perpetual sinking fund. Board explained that our Auditor had previously stated that continually adding to this and building such a large fund could be seen as financing a sort of bond fund without a vote of the people. As the Board is currently trying to cut approximately \$600,000 from the proposed tax asking, it is unlikely that they will be able to add funds at all this year. When all numbers are finalized, they will readdress this and see if any additional funds can be allocated. Abby left the meeting.

Fund 1150 – Preservation and Modernization; in balance. No changes.

Review of projected revenue, questions on handibus revenue. Lowered projected revenue on motor vehicle prorated, lowered projected sheriff service fee revenue, increased law enforcement contract, dispatch services, and filing fees – political candidates projected revenue lines. Discussed potential revenue from interest on investments.

Began with Board function under General Fund, no changes; Clerk, no changes; Treasurer, no changes; Assessor, questioned amount on GIS line, \$15,000 plus the funds allocated for GIS in Miscellaneous General – will seek further clarification, salary lines were decreased, Official salary was lowered to the salary as set by resolution, deputy and clerical lines were lowered to \$47,500 and \$40,000, respectively; Election, no changes; Zoning, no changes; District Court, no changes; County Court, no changes; Building & Grounds, removed \$10,000 from building repair line, removed \$6800 from contractual services line; Extension, no changes.

Sheriff Mueller joined the meeting telephonically for discussion of his office budgets - Sheriff, lowered cell phone and telephone service lines each by \$2000 so budgeted lines more closely match actual expenditures; Communication (Dispatch), proposed line of \$20,000 for radios was lowered to \$3,000, lowered salary lines by \$30,000 to more closely align actual expenditures with proposed expenses; Jail, prisoner board lowered to \$20,000, Other County Contracts lowered to \$43,000.

County Attorney Joel Burke joined the meeting for Attorney budget function, a line has been added for Deputy County Attorney, Board questioned that. Joel indicated that he has been in contact with a local attorney and is in negotiations to retain them to handle the juvenile program, compulsory education and child support enforcement. Reviewed Child Support Enforcement budget, salary line shows \$7,000, Board lowered clerical salary line from Attorney budget by \$7,000 with the



understanding that a portion of the clerical salary will be paid from the CSE fuction. Joel left the meeting.

Emergency Manager, corrected salary line to \$1,000 as additional funds were added to the Sheriff's budget to put toward radio expenses; Weed, increased salary line to \$22,000; Veteran's Service, no change; Surveyor, no change; Institutions, corrected amount for Region II Behavioral Health match; Transit, office supplies line lowered to \$1,000, grease and oil lowered to \$1,500, fuel lowered to \$15,000; Champion Mill, contract labor lowered to \$9,000, utilities lowered to \$4,500, telephone service increased to \$800, repair and maintenance increased to \$8,000, porta pottie rental/lease zeroed out; Miscellaneous General, lowered Sheriff, EM and Weed vehicle lines to \$10,000 each as no new vehicles should be needed this year, lowered CASA allocation to \$2,000; Road Fund – reallocated \$2,000 from Supplies into Office Supplies line; Fair Fund, minimal transfer of \$1319.09 from Inheritance to balance the fund, fund will have \$60,000 for expenditures; Juvenile Justice, no change; STOP, no change; ARPA, remaining balance of \$24,795.26 will go toward purchase of new ambulance; LATCF, fund will be closed; KENO, no changes; E911, transfer from Inheritance to balance the fund.

After all adjustments, the proposed spending increase was down to \$165,154.01. Transit administrator Jordan Beard joined the meeting to provide more accurate transit revenue projections, \$141,000 from federal revenue and \$32,000 from state revenue.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 2025-14 for Tax Allocation to Miscellaneous Districts. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bernhardt. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the Resolution is available in the office of the County Clerk.

Commissioner Bernhardt moved to approve Resolution 2025-15 for the Authorization/Reauthorization of Petty Cash Funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Brown. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is available in the office of the County Clerk.

Building and Grounds function was reviewed again, line for PTAC units was lowered from \$8,000 to \$4,000, Treasurer office supply line was lowered from \$6,300 to \$5000.

Budget preparer said that until we have firm numbers for real valuation growth from the Assessor, there really is nothing more to be done. If the numbers indicate that further cuts are necessary, expenditures from the Road fund will be reduced. If more spending authority is available, it will be added to the Miscellaneous General Miscellaneous line.

Tentative date was set for Budget Hearing, September 16, 2025, at 8:00am.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm.

#### CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Billie Muehlenkamp*  
Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1

*Jacki Brown*  
Jacki Brown – Commissioner District #2

*Kurt Bernhardt*  
Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST: *Wendy Moe*  
Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk