

2026 Chase County Budget Workshop
August 11, 2026

The special meeting, for purposes of reviewing the proposed FY 2026-27 budget for Chase County, was called to order by Chairman Kurt Bernhardt at 1:00pm on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. Also present were Commissioners Billie Muehlenkamp and Jacci Brown, Clerk Wendy Moe, Treasurer Rebecca Bernard, Veteran's Service Office Duane Todd, Assessor Tori Mueller and Budget Preparer Caleb Johnson. Notice of the meeting was published in the Imperial Republican and on the county website. An agenda was kept current and available in the office of the County Clerk. The agenda was posted and a copy of the Open Meetings Act was available.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 2026-15 for the Authorization/Reauthorization of Petty Cash Funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Muehlenkamp. Muehlenkamp – yes; Brown – yes; Bernhardt – yes. Motion carried. A complete copy of the resolution is on file in the office of the County Clerk.

Board reviewed the proposed Resolution 2026-16 for Tax Allocation to Miscellaneous Districts, as Imperial Rural Fire had a large increase in their General asking, Board attempted to contact a representative of Imperial Rural Fire to confirm that the amount was not submitted in error before taking action.

Caleb Johnson presented the budget draft stating that with preliminary budget requests the proposed increase in spending growth from last year was \$680,319.68. To stay under the LB644/pink postcard threshold (mailed notice sent to taxpayers when a local taxing subdivision increases its total property tax request past the state's allowable growth percentage), the allowable increase would be \$60,129.57. Based on inflation, allowable spending growth could be increased to about \$158,000, but LB644 notice and public hearing would then be necessary. Board does not want to trigger the LB644 hearing due to spending increase, they will work through budget to decrease the tax asking.

As Duane Todd was present, Board first reviewed 803 Veterans' Service Officer function, asking was within a couple hundred dollars of prior year, no concerns. 1900 Veteran's Aid Fund, beginning balance was lowered by the amount of last year's expenditures, otherwise, no change.

Assessor Mueller requested that her budget be reviewed next. Board lowered Official salary line to the amount set by resolution, also adjusted Deputy and clerical salary lines accordingly. Reviewed and adjusted other lines as needed. Reviewed GIS/Eagleview/Vanguard line in 970 Misc, Board questioned why the amount was increased as recent changes were made to lower GIS expenses. Assessor Mueller explained that part of the increase was a one-time setup fee that will not be necessary after this year, also noted that part of GeoComm fee for Communications was paid from this line.

Board reviewed all functions in the General and Road funds, line by line, comparing budgeted versus actual expenditures for the past two fiscal years. Asking amounts were adjusted to more closely match actual expenditures.

Sheriff Elect Rob Browning joined the meeting for review of Sheriff, Jail and Communications budgets; 651 Sheriff – lowered Official Salary line to the amount set by resolution, lowered Deputy salary lines accordingly, other lines were reviewed and adjusted as needed; all lines were reviewed and adjusted as needed in Jail and Communications functions as well.

Actual and projected revenues were reviewed and adjusted as needed.

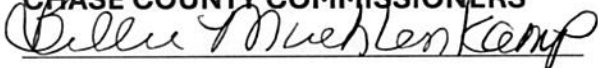
After extensive review and adjusting of requested expenditures and projected revenues, tax asking was within range of the \$60,000 increase. Board directed Budget Preparer to add any additional funds available to General Miscellaneous Miscellaneous line.

With no firm answers on the question about Imperial Rural Fire District tax asking, Board took no action on proposed Resolution 2026-16, this will wait until the next regular Board meeting.

Tentative date for the Final Budget Hearing will be September 22 and 8:00am.

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Bernhardt closed the meeting at 5:25pm.

CHASE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Billie Muehlenkamp – Commissioner District #1



Jacci Brown – Commissioner District #2



Kurt Bernhardt – Commissioner District #3

ATTEST 

Wendy Moe, Chase County Clerk