

Gibson County Council 2026 Budget Meeting July 15, 2025

The Gibson County Council met in Special Session on July 15, 2025, following the Commissioner Meeting (roughly 10:00 a.m.) at the Southwest Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: President Jeremy Overton, Vice-President Derek McGraw, Councilmen, Jay Riley, Craig Schafer (absent), Michael Stilwell, Robert Schleter, and Hannah Whitehead (absent).

Also present: Gibson County Auditor, Mike Watkins and staff members Lynda Cumberland, Logan Vickers and Kristy York.

The Council would like to look at the budget with \$1 per hour raises.

Sheriff's Department – The Council would like the E911 Coordinator adjusted to \$55,000. They will allow for one additional Communications Officer with the \$1 per hour rate increase. They would like to cut the telephone line (air cards) back to \$20,000 and zero out radio equipment line (for a booster). The radio equipment line can be paid from the Riverboat Fund.

Surveyor – The Council feels as though the Surveyor should receive the same amount of pay as other Elected Officials, not including his Registered Surveyor stipend.

Assessor – The Council would like to zero the aerial photography line and add it to the Riverboat Budget; the amount is \$20,000.

Council – The Council would like to add \$500 to the President's rate of pay while holding all other Council salaries at the 2025 rate.

Commissioners – Line 33006 will be cut back to \$118,080, which is the 2025 adopted rate plus \$2080 for the raise.

Circuit/Superior/Magistrate Courts – The Council would like to tie the Paralegal rate of pay to the Court Reporters.

EMS – The Council would like to delay adding new employees. They want to leave the number of Paramedics (17) and F/T Advanced Basic EMTs (7) employed the same as 2025. If they add employees in 2026, they could be paid from fund 1170 LIT Public Safety. Council cut the uniforms line to \$17,000

EMA – The Council will provide the director the same raise as all other employees, the \$1 per hour will be figured for now. Council requested to zero the overtime and Deputy Director/Flood Plain Administrator lines.

Jail – The Council will keep 21 employees in the Corrections Officers line. They cut uniforms to \$15,000; Johnson Air Controls/HVAC to \$16,000; Meal line was cut to \$380,000; Utility line

was cut to \$150,000; Level 6 Medical Expenses will be zeroed and moved to Fund 4009 County Corrections; Video Maintenance/Supply was cut to \$600; and Security Door Repair was cut to \$500.

Animal Services – The Council zeroed the Professional Services line; it will be up to the Commissioners to budget this in a different fund, rather than the general fund; they also cut Contract Services to \$200,000; and the Animal Shelter and the Utilities lines were both cut to \$8,000 (Council suggested moving the combined cut of both lines, \$80,000, to EDIT).

EDIT – Council cut Sheriff Department and EMS Equipment lines to zero and want to add it to Fund 1170. They feel Commissioners should divert the \$80,000 cut from Animal Services Shelter and Utility lines into this budget

Cumulative Building – Council cut the Camera/Security System to \$100,000 and County Building Construction was zeroed. The Council would like Commissioners to request money for projects.

LIT Public Safety – Council zeroed the vehicles lines and requested that a line be added for each the EMA, EMS, and Sheriff. They will fund the EMS and Sheriff lines at \$350,000 each.

MVH – The Council would like to talk to County Engineer Holden at the next budget meeting to get clarification on his budget changes.

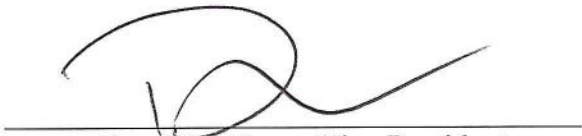
The Council will take another look at EDIT and the Sheriff, Jail, and EMS budgets at the next budget meeting.

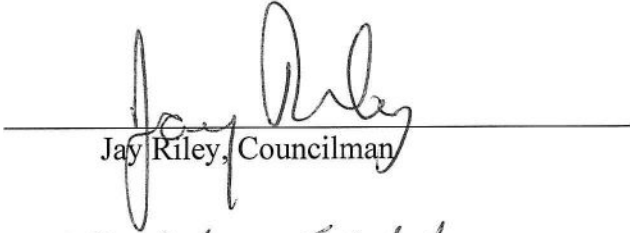
This session on budgeting concluded shortly after 1:00 p.m. The next session will be held on August 12, 2025, immediately following the Council regular meeting and the first budget reading will be on August 19th.

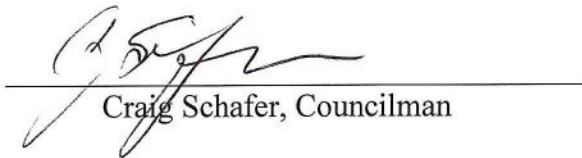
Councilman McGraw motioned to adjourn the meeting.


Minutes from July 15, 2025 Budget 2026 Meeting



Jeremy Overton, President

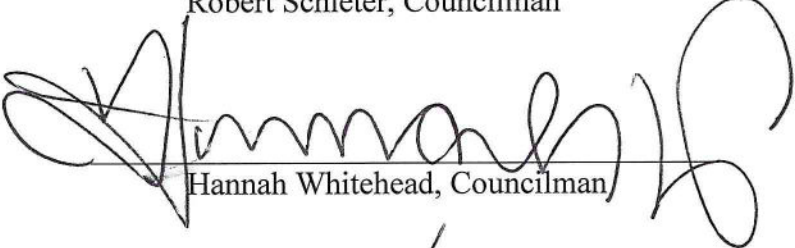

Derek McGraw, Vice-President

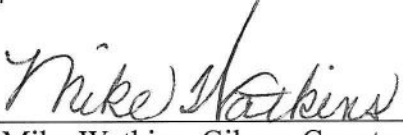

Jay Riley, Councilman


Craig Schafer, Councilman


Robert Schleiter, Councilman


Michael Stilwell, Councilman


Hannah Whitehead, Councilman

Attest: 
Mike Watkins, Gibson County Auditor

