

PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET ADOPTION MEETING

PIKE COUNTY BUDGET ADOPTION MINUTES October 14, 2025

County Council Members: Jon Craig, Greg Willis, Max Elliott, Randy Harris, Jeff Harting, Eric Smith, and Travis Troutman

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Pike County Council President Jon Craig called the meeting to order. All Council members as well as Auditor Judith Gumbel were in attendance. Others present included Angela O'Neal and Ed Schuessler with Patoka Township Fire District, Pike County Coroner Nick Henson, Circuit Court Deputy Melanie Mosby, Chief Deputy Auditor Audra Warner, Fiscal Officer Jefferson-Marion Township Fire District, Superintendent Park and Recreation Brandon Schultheis, Pike County Sheriff Jason McKinney, Chief Deputy Sheriff Dallas Killian, Asst EMS Director Doug Mounts, EMS Director Chris Young, Pike County EDC Ashley Willis, Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd, Highway Office Manager Melanie Britton, County Commissioner Mark Flint, County Administrator Kristi Dischinger, Nathan Pfeifer and Brayden Downing with BSF.

2. APPROVAL OF BUDGET HEARING MINUTES September 9, 2025

President Craig asked for a motion to approve the Budget Hearing minutes. Motion was made by Councilman Randy Harris and seconded by Councilman Jeff Harting. Motion carried 7 - 0.

3. SUMMARY OF PIKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUDGET

President Craig stated that the group had addressed all the action items of the Pike County Government at the Budget Hearing with the understanding that amendments could be brought to the group at Budget Adoption. The current budget total for the 2026 General Fund Budget is \$9,342,022 and the total budget is \$22,424,923.

4. AMENDMENTS TO BUDGET

President Craig made three calls for any new amendments to Pike County Government Budget as agreed upon at the Budget Hearing. No amendments were put forward.

5. ADOPTION OF PIKE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUDGET

There was an error in the publication date of the Budget Adoption Meeting on Form 3 in Gateway for the Pike County Government. The Binding Budgets can be acted upon. Auditor Gumbel stated that the earliest date that the Budget could be adopted for the County would be October 20th, and it had to be adopted by November 3rd. The 20th was discussed. Councilman Travis Troutman and Councilman Greg Willis cannot be in attendance. All others can attend. It was decided that they would meet at 8 a.m. on the 20th of October prior to the Commissioners' meeting.

6. BINDING BUDGETS REVIEW AND ADOPTION

PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET ADOPTION MEETING

These budgets were advertised correctly in Gateway. Therefore, this portion of the meeting could continue.

A. Patoka Township Fire District

The question remaining with this budget was the wage of the Fiscal Officer. The Fiscal Officer Angela O'Neal and Board President Ed Schussler were present from the District. The Council was presented with a list of duties of the Fiscal Officer. Council questioned the number of hours per month as it was stated. Ms. O'Neal stated that 23 hours per month was a good average. Councilman Eric Smith asked what changed to make the dramatic change from \$4,900 in 2025 to a proposed \$10,000 in 2026. Councilman Harting stated that he could only find 2012 wages reported on Gateway, and at that time the wage was \$2,000. Mr. Schussler stated that North and South Patoka districts were combined. Mr. Schussler also stated that she had been underpaid from the beginning.

Councilman Max Elliott motioned to set the Fiscal Officer wage at \$8,000. Councilman Randy Harris stated this would be about \$29/hr. President Craig stated that there was a motion on the floor. He called for a second to Councilman Elliott's motion three times; the motion died for lack of a second.

President Craig asked Councilman Harris if he wanted to continue his comments. He stated that deputies and clerks in the courthouse are at around \$19 per hour. President Craig stated that the Budget Proposal is \$10,000. He said that administratively the budget has to be adopted as stated or amended. If it can't be adopted or amended, it will stay the same as it is in 2025. This would be true of any budget item. He then stated that the floor stays open for discussion.

Councilman Smith asked if there were required office hours. The answer was only the specified meeting times. Otherwise, she establishes her schedule.

Councilman Harris motioned to establish the Fiscal Officer's Wage in Patoka Township Fire District at \$4,900 + the 3% COLA suggested for the County employees. Motion was seconded by Councilman Harting. President Craig pointed out that there is a difference in processes here. County Offices have been completely immersed in this process for a long time. The first time that the Council heard about this was in September. In the future proposed big changes in the binding budgets somehow need to be brought before the Council before the budgets are advertised.

President Craig asked if there was anymore discussion on the motion. Councilman Willis stated that the amount would be \$5,047. The vote was 5 ayes and 2 nays. Nays were Councilman Troutman and Councilman Elliott.

President Craig asked the representatives if they wanted to increase another line in the budget by the difference not granted. Then it would be available for the District to transfer to another line if the District desired at a later time.

Councilman Willis motioned to add \$4,900 to the equipment line item to conserve the levy advertised. Motion was seconded by Councilman Harting. Motion carried 7 – 0. This makes the equipment line \$10,400.

PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET ADOPTION MEETING

President Craig asked if there was a motion to approve the amended budget. The motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Harting to approve the Patoka Township Fire District Budget as amended at \$194,377. Motion carried 7 – 0.

EMS Director Young stated that perhaps the binding budgets needed liaisons. Auditor Gumbel stated that perhaps the binding budgets should attend the budget workshop.

Mr. Schussler stated his displeasure with the outcome of meeting.

B. Jefferson-Marion Fire District

Robin Whaley, Fiscal Officer of the District, was present. She stated that she felt that the work for the districts was the same. She said, of course, she would like to see her salary raised, but she would also like to see her fire protection raised. She said that she is there to help the District.

Councilman Willis stated that the Council consciously added money to the public safety rate for the fire districts. He stated that at the end of the day he wants to see as many dollars as possible going toward Fire Department training and adequate equipment so they can do their job with as little as possible going toward administration. He shared that he appreciated Robin's understanding of that.

President Craig opened the floor for any amendments to the Jefferson-Marion Fire District proposed budget or for a motion to approve the budget. Councilman Smith seconded by Councilman Harting motioned to approve the proposed budgets. Note these were as follows: Debt Service \$55,670, Public Safety Local Income Tax \$40,204. And Special Fire General \$176,603 for a total of \$272,477. Motion carried 6 – 0. Councilman Troutman abstained.

C. Pike County Solid Waste District

President Craig stated that Council took action on the wage increase of 3% at the last meeting. There were no other questions regarding this budget proposal. President Craig called for a motion to approve the Pike County Solid Waste District Budget at \$328,777. Motion to approve was made by Councilman Troutman and seconded by Councilman Elliott. Motion carried 7 – 0.

7. ADJOURNMENT

President Craig called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Harting and seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried 7 – 0.

ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO REMAIN UNTIL THE BUDGET ORDINANCES HAVE BEEN SIGNED.

PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET ADOPTION MEETING

NAYS

Jon Craig, President

Greg Willis, Vice President

Max Elliott

Randy Harris

Jeff Harting

Eric Smith

Travis Troutman

AYES

Jon Craig, President

~~_____~~ *Not present*

Greg Willis, Vice President

~~_____~~

Max Elliott

Randy Harris

Randy Harris

~~_____~~

Jeff Harting

~~_____~~

Eric Smith

~~_____~~ *Not present*

Travis Troutman

ATTEST:

Judith Gumbel

Judith Gumbel, Auditor

11/17/25

Date

Note Jon Craig was present at the Budget Adoption Meeting. But was not present at the minutes approval meeting.
Oct. 14th
JG