SCOTT

VIRGINIA

At an adjourned budget workshop of the Scott County Board of Supervisors begun and held in the Supervisors' meeting room located at the Community Services Building in Gate City, Virginia on Wednesday the 29th day of April 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Darrel W. Jeter
L. Michele Glover – Vice-Chairman
Eddie N. Skeen
Michael K. Brickey
Danny M. Casteel
Christopher S. Maness – Chairman
Stefanie C. Addington.

ABSENT: None.

Chairman Chris Maness called the meeting to order, gave the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by L. Michele Glover duly seconded by Darrel W. Jeter, this Board hereby approves the agenda.

Voting aye: Darrel W. Jeter, L. Michele Glover, Eddie N. Skeen, Michael K. Brickey, Danny M. Casteel, Christopher S. Maness, and Stefanie C. Addington.

Voting nay: None.

The general fund summaries, changes from the first draft, and full draft budget were presented to the Board. It was noted that the proposed budget total is $38,931,217 with a current deficit of approximately $2,500,962. The real estate collection rate reduced from 97 percent to 95 percent, interest income lowered from $750,000 to $600,000, and $225,000 was removed from the S.C.O.T.T. Program. Individual requests were placed in the contingency fund except Imagination Library (Said reports being attached to the minutes of this meeting; Minute Book 35 Attachment No: 122)

The following spoke regarding their budget:

Fire Association Roger Carter and Wendel Burke

- Scott County operates seven volunteer fire departments with three substations, relying on mutual aid to manage county-wide incidents.
- Operating costs have risen sharply (diesel $5–$6/gal; equipment, PPE, and maintenance inflation) while county funding per department ($60,000) lagged for years.
- Equipment costs: new engines $650,000–$680,000, ladder trucks $2,000,000; turnout gear $4,000–$5,000 per firefighter; SCBAs $6,000 each; PPE lifecycle 10 years. Aging apparatus face costly repairs and parts delays.
- Staffing realities: volunteers manage 800+ incidents/year; paid coverage for seven stations would require 40+ FTEs and $1.6 million in salaries (excluding benefits), making a shift to paid staffing cost prohibitive.
- Training is extensive and often unfunded; instructors frequently volunteer time.
- Proposal: centralize capital outlay and have the county purchase one basic fire engine every two years, rotating across seven departments over 14 years (20-year life), with $300,000/year allocated and department capital returns ($115,000/year) supplementing. Prioritize critical needs first.
- Dedicated fire tax discussed: moving from 3 cents to 4 cents with transparency via a line item; estimated $640,000 revenue, phased over three–four years to minimize burden and support Fire/EMS equipment and readiness.
- EMS costs include $6,000 per unit per year for mandated medications; EMS collections average 60% and tighten late in the year.
- A water rescue team with boats funded last year is being stood up.

Treasurer Kevin Helms

- Three deputy treasurers enrolled in state certification; BAI payment integration (Treasurer's portion $18,000; Commissioner's portion $6,500) would auto-post online payments but may be deferred and is not a priority.
- Postage increased.
- Treasurer is accelerating delinquent recoveries (TACS/GSCS) and focusing on 2022–2024 collections to improve cash flow. DMV Stops being done timely.

Commissioner of the Revenue Tammy Tiller

- Issues with personal property billing and collections; missing DMV accounts previously led to thousands of unbilled taxpayers.
- Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer coordinating: Supplements being added, DMV stops to be applied faster, and cross-checks planned between DMV files and prior-year list to detect omissions before billing.
- Personal Property valuation uses J.D. Power; last year's higher-ratio error was corrected. Commitment to prevent recurrence even if extensions are needed.
- Software to read deeds and do transfers, BAI ($6,000) to set up accounts for transient taxes to see who is paying

Park and Recreation Director Derrick France

- Equipment: greens mower is 15 years old (industry life three–nine years); backup 45 years old; fairway mower from 2012 (leased 2019). Frequent repairs and rising parts costs; lease-based replacement preferred. Typical annual equipment lease line $15,000–$18,000 proposed.
- Staffing: four full-time staff covering maintenance, cart shop, and pro shop seven days/week; peers operate with nine staff. Overtime/comp time is high (55–60 hours/week in season). Proposal for one part-time seasonal worker (Apr–Oct, 25–30 hrs/week) at $12,000–$13,000 to reduce OT and improve coverage; exploring volunteer closers with defined benefits.
- Operations: discussion about testing extended hours to capture after-work play; would require defined metrics and staffing plan.
- Irrigation: lower-cost tank and valve repairs completed ($4,000–$5,000) with ongoing monitoring; long-term durability measures may be needed.
- Revenues growing (projected to be near $160,000), with strong community engagement and team recognition; the course serves both public service and business roles with a reduced share of the county budget after revenue.

E911 Director Tammy Bowen

- Vehicle maintenance increases requested for an Explorer and AAA truck due to frequent repairs.
- Access road requires a one-phase rehabilitation (estimated $28,500) due to recurring failures; vendor availability is challenging given terrain.
- Signs department requests an increase due to more replacements (accidents, theft), while in-house vinyl production via a new cutter reduces outsourcing costs.

Circuit Court Clerk Bo Taylor

- Jury pay increased from $30 to $50 per person; current year spend $12,500 with additional grand jury costs expected, pushing the line negative.
- Clerk will seek state reimbursement for criminal jury allowances via the Supreme Court of Virginia's Executive Secretary; process and timing to be confirmed.

Information Technology Director Matt Bright

- Cuts to contracted maintenance equate to reducing staffing capacity; training lines could be trimmed if necessary but pose cybersecurity risks.
- Phone/internet consolidated into IT; electricity/utilities consolidated into General Properties for streamlined coding—administrative changes, not new spending.
- Communications equipment and construction: a FEMA grant (originally $350,000; may drop to $300,000 and shift from two years to one) is on hold; expenditures intended to be revenue-neutral but timing uncertain. Some construction may be deferred a year, but routine annual work is expected to double this year and remains necessary.

Public Works Director Bill Dingus

- Solid Waste and Landfill Maintenance
- Solid waste budgets consolidated; net increase 2.1% (salaries/insurance).
- Closed landfill cap leak identified by DEQ requires timely repair using in-house equipment; request to restore landfill maintenance line to $10,000 (from $2,000) due to recent ($5,000) actuals, other increases from tipping fees and electricity.

Registrar Mike Edwards

- Current voting system on VVSG 1.0; push toward VVSG 2.0 is halted by court but anticipated.
- Upgrade path: $4,000–$5,000 per precinct machine ($125,000 total) for motherboard, firmware/software, and LCD replacements; new equipment $300,000.
- Prior purchases financed over 4–5 years; similar options could be considered. Planning recommended within 1–2 fiscal years pending mandate timing.

Animal Control Officer Jake Dougherty

- No asks

Tourism Director Brittany Robertson

- No asks
- Tourism grant of $15,000 awarded for a “three-day stay in place” initiative around Natural Tunnel; shifting to targeted advertising and digital collateral (rack card to landing page), with analytics temporarily paused during digital brochure development.
- Drone purchased; content production planned for summer events and scenic assets; support for VA250 event marketing.

Sheriff’s Office – Jason Jenkins and Daniel Ross

- Sheriff’s fleet is aging (many units 100,000 miles) with frequent breakdowns, including during calls; repair lines are over budget. Preference to standardize Ford Explorers.
- Request for a dedicated, rotating vehicle replacement program (e.g., three–four vehicles annually), either cash-funded or financed, to avoid future cliffs.
- CID requests increase due to inflation and workload growth: postage/shipping (USPS/UPS), training (mandated hours; specialized courses), office supplies (evidence materials), digital storage, and uniforms for one new investigator and staff identification.

Consideration to notify departments of 7–7.5% cuts to close the deficit; recognition that fixed costs (salaries, benefits, schools, jail) limit flexibility, forcing heavier cuts onto operational lines (fuel, tires, postage).

Uniform cuts could reduce essential services; propose targeted reductions with minimal impact.

Discussion of revenue options: large tax hikes unlikely; dedicated four-cent fire tax under consideration to reduce required cuts (to 5.25%).

Consensus of the Board to hold next regular meeting set for May 6 at 9:00 AM with a budget workshop to follow.

Prepare a consolidated list of additional/one-time items

Chairman Maness adjourned the meeting to May 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

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CHAIRMAN CLERK