

Union County Budget Committee Meeting
Budget Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Joseph Building Annex Conference Room

Present: R. Matthew Scarfo, Commission Chair
Paul Anderes, Commissioner
Jake Seavert, Commissioner
Matthew Goodwin, Budget Committee Member
Audrey Cant, Budget Committee Member
Mathew Miles, Budget Committee Member
Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer/Budget Officer
Allison Moore, Senior Department Specialist/Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Commissioner Scarfo called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Election of Budget Committee Chair

Commissioner Anderes made a motion to elect Matthew Goodwin as the Union County Budget Committee Chair. Commissioner Seavert seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Budget Message

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer presented the FY 2026-27 budget message.

The proposed Union County budget for FY 2026-27 is presented in the total amount of \$69,172,232. The budget is prepared and presented utilizing the same format and basis of accounting as previous years. The budget consists of 45 funds, all of which are balanced as presented. The proposed budget is approximately 2 percent lower than last fiscal year which is primarily due to the completion of capital projects within the Airport Capital Fund.

The General Fund budget totals \$18,661,231 and is the largest of all funds providing for the delivery of services by twelve county departments. The primary general fund revenues are property tax (40 %), Beginning Fund Balance (22 %) and PILT payments (8%). Property taxes are levied at the rate of 2.9668 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Other general fund revenues come from state shared revenues, fees, contract services, and state and federal grants. This year personnel costs in the General Fund account for 68 percent of expenditures which is due to the fact that the primary purpose of most general fund departments is to provide services.

Personnel cost increases for FY 2026-27 are due to significant increases in the cost of medical insurance and salary cost of living adjustments (COLA) tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The proposed budget will maintain the staffing levels and services provided in the current fiscal year.

The FY 2026-27 proposed budget has been prepared with the goal of providing the maximum services within the funds available at the present time and into the future.

Administrative Officer Burgess summarized the actions necessary to present a balanced budget for the general fund. Significant changes made to the Department requests were in the Facilities budget, such as a reduced line item for building improvements, which was a fair adjustment considering ARPA funds have helped. Administrative Officer Burgess also reduced the funding request from the Planning Department for contractual services from \$30,000 to \$20,000. There was also a reduction in contingency from \$500,000 to \$450,000, which is only 2.7 percent of the total general fund. The Corrections Officer position request was removed along with a reduction in the Sheriff Capital expenditure line item to allow for the purchase of 3 vehicles rather than 4.

Administrative Officer Burgess also provided a breakdown of the amount in each fund and a snapshot of how much was approved and spent in past years and proposed for the upcoming year.

Matthew Goodwin referred to the 2 million dollars that was unappropriated and asked if it was contingency. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated it is different from contingency because when it is unappropriated it would require a supplemental budget process to spend. It is truly there as a reserve on which budget can be built in the future. If there were an emergency or expenses that they wanted to utilize those funds after adoption of the budget, there could be a supplemental budget process where they would go through publication requirements and hearings.

General Revenue

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided a brief summary of the general revenue department.

The General Revenue Department reflects the revenue received by the county which provides the majority of the funding for the programs contained in the General Fund. Included in this department are the primary revenues of property taxes, payment in lieu of taxes, interest, and state shared revenue such as liquor and cigarette taxes. These revenues are not specifically tied to any one department within the general fund.

PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) are Federal Payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable Federal lands within our boundaries. PILT revenue for FY 2026-27 is budgeted at \$1,500,000. This figure represents roughly 8 percent of the general fund revenue.

Property tax revenue represents approximately 40 percent of the General Fund revenues; a 3.75 percent increase in taxes collected is anticipated in this budget.

The general fund beginning balance is also reflected in this department and this year is projected at \$4,123,018.

Department Presentations

Assessment/Taxation

Cody Vavra, Assessor/Tax Collector, provided a brief description of the Assessor/Tax Collector's staff and department function to the committee for their information.

The Assessment and Taxation budget is very similar to that of last fiscal year with an increase to Personnel Services due to the cost of benefits, along with cost-of-living increases. There was a slight increase in copying for books, publications and subscriptions necessary for administering assessment and taxation. He decreased Tuition and Training slightly as there isn't much travel necessary for training this year.

Tax foreclosure expenses are projected to be down this year. His biggest increase is the Software Maintenance fee that is contracted out and expected to go up about 3 percent. Materials and Services is up just over \$6,000 from last year.

Mat Miles asked for clarification on the CAFFA grant funds. Mr. Vavra indicated that the county receives a projection from the state based off of delinquent interest fees and recording fees for the next year. It is hard to predict, and was actually coming in more than what was predicted. He hopes that is the case for this year, but it is predicted to be down.

Commissioner Anderes asked how many years it has been since the Assessors Office started using Helion Software. Mr. Vavra stated they just wrapped up the 3rd year, where the maintenance agreement was frozen. This will be the first year where they get the 3 percent increase on maintenance and entering into the 4th year. Mr. Vavra is very pleased with the switch and transition.

Commissioner Seavert asked if they can absorb the 3 percent increase each year for future years to come. Mr. Vavra indicated that is correct and it goes up with the cost of living.

Computer Services

Jason Fouts, Computer Services Manager, presented the proposed budget for Computer Services to the committee for their information

Manager Fouts decreased Materials and Services because computer prices have skyrocketed nearly double for one computer. He was able to get extra things done this fiscal year that he planned on doing next year, because he refuses to pay the prices they're asking.

Staffing remains the same with the exception of a cost-of-living allowance and increases for insurance costs.

Goals for this year is getting moved over to unioncounty.gov address instead of .org. All government agencies are being asked to move to a .gov domain to set up. He has completed it on the website, but not with email which is this year's goal.

GIS Fund

Jason Fouts, Computer Services Manager, continued his proposed budget presentation with a brief summary regarding the GIS Fund.

There are no significant changes made to the budget this year. Funds are used to maintain required software licenses, with contingency for tasks that cannot be handled inhouse. However, we have not had to utilize contingency in quite some time. The county was contracting out GIS mapping, but now performs that in house.

Juvenile Department

Odin Miller, Juvenile Director, presented the proposed budget for the Juvenile Department to the committee for their consideration.

The Juvenile Department oversees all of the juvenile matters in Union County working alongside law enforcement after the youth is cited. The referral then goes to the Juvenile Department where they route the situation as they see fit, where the youth will do their informal probation, or they take them to court for their formal probation. The hope in that is they successfully complete; sometimes that can be 6-8 months and sometimes their entire teenage span.

The proposed budget is similar to that of last fiscal year. There are a few modifications in Materials and Services but nothing major.

Director Miller described FY 2025-26 as an extremely successful year for the Juvenile Department, both in juvenile crime and fiscally. Juvenile crime is way down, and they are seeing far less referrals from misdemeanors to felonies. Most of the thanks go to the staff in his department who analyze and do case management decisions, which is a huge part of it. Mr. Miller has worked with many Juvenile Department Directors over the last couple of years and Union County is lucky to have such qualified, long-tenured staff.

Director Miller referred to line item 8301, "Detention Retainer", which is county funds that they would use to pay for detention. To date, the Juvenile Department has spent zero dollars of that funding. He was able to arrange their Juvenile Crime Prevention grant to add a little more of that into paying for detention. He also referred to line item 8302, where there has only been \$14,000 spent on detention and ankle monitoring. This is a big success for the youth.

Director Miller also discussed the Workforce Development Program that they are now in their second year of running with Challis Concrete Construction. They are currently working to place youth that are on probation with Challis for summer internships. The program is working well and is another example of the community reaching out and being able to help.

Another program that is new this year is their collaboration with CHD. The Juvenile Department now has a counselor in office. This is something that came on as Daisy Thompson was hired for the Behavioral Health Director position. It is very helpful for her to be willing to send a counselor into the department to make a seamless collaboration, where everything is under one roof.

Lastly, the Juvenile Department is working on hiring a Prevention and Expunction Specialist. They have come to a point where it is needed. Last year the line item was included through their JCP grants, not out of the county fund. This position will bring the department to fully staffed.

Mathew Miles appreciates the creativity in making things work and gave kudos for the detention reduction. Mr. Miles asked if the counseling program through CHD was provided at another site previously. Director Miller indicated that is correct and is now done in-house.

Mathew Miles also expressed his appreciation for the job skills training through Challis Concrete and asked how the idea came about. Director Miller indicated that they brought the idea to Challis and he jumped on it. He was a very willing partner.

Audrey Cant asked if the youth employees will eventually become full-time staff. Director Miller indicated that the goal is for them to be fully employed at some point. There is a youth that did a really nice job last summer, and is returning this summer.

Commissioner Anderes asked if the Prevention and Expunction Specialist is a full-time position. Director Miller indicated that it is a .9 FTE. Commissioner Anderes asked if the position could be combined with the District Attorney's office. Director Miller indicated that there are different rules for juveniles, so they like to keep them separate. There is a Victim's Advocate with the DA's office that has been amazing for their department.

Commissioner Anderes referred back to detention reduction and asked if reoffenders were down as well. Director Miller indicated that is correct and the numbers are looking good for next year as well.

Planning Department

Inga Williams, Planning Director, presented the proposed budget for the Planning Department to the budget committee for their consideration.

The Planning Department proposed budget is very similar to that of last year with the addition of a grant from the state in the amount of \$60,000. There is an increase in PC Software Maintenance to replace some of their software and computers and a decrease in Contractual Services. Once the OWRD ARPA grant funds are added, it will change things a little.

Administrative Officer Burgess clarified that those are the grant funds that support the Place Based Water Planning group and are on the tail end of that grant with \$40,000 remaining. Those funds need to be spent by the end of December 2026. The county subcontracts that work with Anderson Perry.

There is also an increase in Personnel costs due to the cost of personnel benefits, along with merit and cost of living allowance increases.

Communications

Nick Vora, Emergency Manager, presented the proposed Communications budget request to the committee for their review.

The Communications proposed budget is very similar to that of last year as far as expense categories. Emergency Manager Vora is predicting a revenue of approximately \$72,575 from primary system users. Those users are primarily the public safety agencies in Union County such as; fire, EMS, law enforcement and their partners. There are about 21 total system users, and fewer core users.

In addition to the \$72,000 in revenues, there is also likely to be approximately \$432,000 in rollover funds from the current fiscal year into the coming fiscal year as it is a sinking fund with accumulating revenues. Everything that is not an expense that is budgeted goes into the contingency fund. Because it is a fairly new system, he is not anticipating substantial expenses this year. Most of the equipment is still well within its service life.

Commissioner Anderes referred to the narrative provided by Emergency Manager Vora about poor radio coverage and asked if the users know where those areas are. Emergency Manager Vora indicated that is correct and is something that they are continually working on with other agencies to share radio sites, or maybe reuse equipment being replaced somewhere else to expand their coverage. The coverage has improved from the previous radio system, but due to the terrain in our county there are definitely some holes in coverage.

Commissioner Seavert referred to the \$70,000 in capital outlay and asked if it is just for an emergency. Emergency Manager Vora indicated that they are not anticipating that, and there are no planned projects this year that would involve spending those funds. However, we are on windstorm away from that changing.

Emergency Services Department

Nick Vora, Emergency Manager, presented the proposed budget for the Emergency Services Department to the committee for their information.

This upcoming fiscal year, the Emergency Services Department tried to reduce their budget ask as much as possible and accommodating the increase primarily to fuel and personnel costs approximately \$2,383 more than last year. The revenues that they were anticipating are federal grants, primarily the Emergency Management Performance Grant that is administered through OEM. The grant funds are estimated to be approximately \$67,900.

Emergency Manager Vora acknowledged Administrative Officer Burgess' very prudent stewardship of the overall county funds. He noted that Oregon does not have a public assistance disaster fund, and the trajectory that the federal government is on is to look to states to carry more of the burden in emergencies, especially local emergencies, before the federal government steps in financially.

Matthew Goodwin asked why the reimbursement is delayed. Administrative Officer Burgess stated the challenge is that it took the state a significant amount of time to agree and sign off on the grant from the federal government. Once that was done, they were able to give grant agreements to the counties in early March. Emergency Manager Vora indicated that Union County was able to do a quick turnaround on that agreement very quickly and get it sent back. There was a very long delay due to

the program being in litigation for several months. Once that was resolved, the agreement came, they signed it and now they wait.

Audrey Cant asked what would be a potential financial responsibility that the county would hold in an emergency. Emergency Manager Vora stated after a fire or flood, assisting uninsured private landowners with cleaning up their properties and finding accommodations. Another instance would be a landowner walking away from their property after a fire because they are under water on it and not insured. If their hazardous materials present that have the risk of rainfall moving to other private properties or into waterways.

Other issues have been with flooding where the county pays for crews to come in and do sandbagging to protect infrastructure. The threshold for public assistance disasters declarations is per capita, per county. It is termed by FEMA that a county has to incur before they're eligible to apply. Union County would have to incur \$180,000 in damages to public infrastructure or cost incurred protecting public infrastructure before they would be eligible for a federal disaster declaration.

Sheriff

Cody Bowen, Union County Sheriff, presented the proposed budget for the Sheriff's Office to the budget committee for their consideration.

The Sheriff's Department revenue mostly comes from the county who assists in paying for 6 full-time patrol positions, and the rest are provided through contracts. State grant funding helps support the ATV program and Forest Service patrol.

Sheriff Bowen reported that he requested 3 new patrol vehicles for their fleet. Vehicles are one of their biggest expenses throughout the years. The reasoning behind the size of patrol vehicles is that their deputies are a rolling office, especially during a crime scene investigation. They need all of their gear and a majority of the deputies are on the SWAT team, which requires more gear. Not only for the space of the vehicle, but also for the safety of his officers.

Mat Miles asked if the contracts with the county school districts and cities are going well. Sheriff Bowen indicated that the contracts are going very well but a little contentious over the years. He stated it is very nerve-wracking because any new council can pull those contracts at any given time. He currently has seven (7) deputies that are employed by contract; without those contracts he will have to cut positions. Relationship is key with the outlying communities.

Commissioner Anderes asked if the availability of patrol vehicles is better than it was during COVID. Sheriff Bowen indicated there is still a backlog but Lt. Woodward has a great working relationship with the fleet company and is able to get an update from time to time.

Commissioner Anderes stated that the US Forest Service contract provides \$8,800 in Forest Patrols and they manage 49% of our forest. Sheriff Bowen indicated the one or two law enforcement individuals that they have, have a tremendous responsibility. The Sheriff's office also calls on them when it pertains to transient camps, broken down trailers, or people dumping trash.

Commissioner Seavert asked if the 3 percent increase overall in contracts is sustainable for the foreseeable future. Sheriff Bowen indicated they try to base it on what the cost of living is for the union, but it has been a steady 3 percent for the past couple of years.

Corrections

Cody Bowen, Union County Sheriff, presented the proposed budget for the Corrections Department to the budget committee for their consideration.

By Oregon State Law, the Sheriff's Office is required to supply the jail, civil, and SAR. The total budget request is in the amount of \$2,949,417. There was a request for another full-time position in the jail, which couldn't be approved this fiscal year. Although they employ several college kids as reserves in the jail, their office still pays a lot in overtime.

The Sheriff's Department also provides Animal Control services within the county. They receive revenue from the City of Union, animal control fines and local support. The current Animal Control Deputy is driving an older hand me down Tahoe and is in need of an upfitted vehicle.

Mat Miles inquired about dog licensing and if it is required. Sheriff Bowen indicated that it is required by the county. If you own a dog, it is your responsibility to license your animal. He understands that not everyone licenses their animals, but they try to educate the public as much as possible.

Buffalo Peak Golf Course Fund

Dana Londin, Buffalo Peak Golf Course General Manager, presented the proposed budget for the Buffalo Peak Golf Course to the budget committee for their consideration.

Major objectives for FY 2026-27 are to increase play at the course, focus on efficient outreach/advertising including attendance at the Boise Golf Show, cart path improvements, and irrigation system improvements.

Tournament outreach has been really good. They lost one tournament and replaced it with the Loveland Safe Ride tournament that will be held in August.

Commissioner Seavert asked if there is a need to replace a pump. Mr. Londin indicated that it is the system that runs the pump. The cost to replace both units is approximately \$140,000 to \$150,000.

EOU-GED Program

Cathy Trochlell and Tressa Seydel, EOU-GED Program presented to the committee and provided a statement from EOU wishing to extend the GED program.

There is a critical need for General Education Development (GED) support services and an on-site testing location in Union County for residents over 16 years of age in anticipation of a more-qualified and prepared work force. On average, 120 individuals per year access the program. This service is not being provided anywhere else in Union County.

During 2025, 92 individuals-initiated contact with the CEP Coordinator via phone, text and email, and 24 of those students were provided with practice test vouchers. 17 students passed their GED tests either at the EOU Testing Center or through Online Proctored Testing. 45 of those passers received one or more test vouchers paid by the CEP. Over all, the number of students assisted by the program were consistent with the previous year.

Last year a request was included to add advertising costs to the budget which have doubled the amount of people who have reached out for her assistance.

Total funding request is in the amount of \$22,500 – the same as last fiscal year.

USDA Predator Control Program

Chris Lulay, Union County Fish & Wildlife Trapper, and Shane Koyle, District Supervisor, addressed the committee with a brief overview of their work and projects.

The proposed budget request for FY 2026-27 is \$113,500, which is \$6,000 less than the original request due to a grant received by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. This funding request indicates the amount needed to sustain service in Union County of one full time person. The Oregon Department of Agriculture decreased their funding to Wildlife Services by 50 percent this fiscal year, from \$545,660 to \$238,542.

The budget is also an estimate and is based on the amount of state funds that wildlife services is currently projected to receive.

A commitment letter of intent is needed by June 15, 2026 to ensure USDA Predator Control can continue services beyond June 30, 2026.

Center for Human Development – Public Health, Mental Health, Veterans Services

Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Director, and Celeste Tate, Finance Director addressed the budget committee with a summary of the proposed budget request.

The Center for Human Development is requesting \$337,072 in funding for FY 2026-27. This is a 3 percent increase across the board due to costs of inflation.

Carrie Brogoitti provided a breakdown of Public Health services that the Union County budget helps support. The work that they do is very important in protecting the health of our citizens. She also went over Health Network for Rural Schools, which provides services to students in the schools.

Celeste Tate, Finance Director, provided a summary related to Veterans Services in Union County. It is projected that Veteran Services will bring over \$1.8 million dollars into the County as a result of successful disability and pension claims annually. Over 1,600 veterans have directly benefited from Union County's Veteran Services in the last year. During the last fiscal year, over \$629,078 in back payments has been secured for eligible veterans.

Accounting/Treasurer

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the proposed Accounting/Treasurer budget to the committee for their information.

The Accounting/Treasurer Department budget request is very similar to that of the current year. It includes the county elected Treasurer at .50 FTE, Accounting Manager at .90 FTE, Accounts Payable Specialist at .70 FTE and a Payroll Specialist at .70 FTE.

The changes in the budget this year are an increase in postage, personnel costs such as merit increases and cost of living allowances, and travel and training to keep staff up to date on new laws and policies.

Clerk – General Operations, BoPTA & Elections

On behalf of Lisa Feik, County Clerk, Administrative Officer Burgess provided a brief description of the Clerks budget to the committee for their information.

The Clerk's Office is broken up into three departments, General Operations, BoPTA & Elections. The staffing is the same for each department.

The budget is very similar to that of last year with the increase in Personnel Services due to the anticipated cost increases for insurance, merit, and an estimated cost of living allowance. There is also an increase in vendor fees and postage.

Materials and Services are broken out separately so expenses can be tracked between the three departments. There are a couple of increases in software. When the Assessor's office moved to a new platform, the recording package moved as well. In the Elections budget, there is maintenance for the election machines, which will increase due to vendor costs.

Board of Commissioners

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided the Commissioner's proposed budget request to the committee for their information.

The Board of Commissioners budget request is very similar to that of last year. There is an increase in Personnel costs due the cost of personnel benefits, along with merit and cost of living allowance increases as well as funding for some overlap and accumulated leave pay out for an upcoming retirement.

The Commissioners Office consists of the three elected Commissioners, one Administrative Officer, one Senior Department Specialist at 1.0 FTE and a Senior Department Specialist at .50 FTE who is shared with Emergency Services Department. Staffing remains the same with the exception of a cost-of-living allowance and increases for insurance costs.

Materials and Service line items remain the same as FY 2025-26 with no changes.

Facilities

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the proposed Facilities Department budget to the committee for their information.

The Facilities department budget is divided into five different sections, and each section has its own department budget for each of the buildings. There is General, Law Enforcement Annex, Joseph Building & Joseph Annex, Chaplin Building and Court Building.

The staffing for this department is one Lead Facilities Maintenance Worker and one Custodian/Facilities Worker. We do a small amount of contracting for a few things like, cleaning of law enforcement annex and have partnered with the City of La Grande who pay part of a contract for those services. We also contract for lawn services at Riveria.

Matthew Goodwin inquired about Riveria and all of the activity going on lately. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that the County has recently entered into a 6-month lease with Nerd Mentality who is leasing the classroom area. After 6 months, the County will reevaluate the agreement and decide whether to keep it the same or increase the rent.

District Attorney

On behalf of Kelsie McDaniel, District Attorney, Administrative Officer Burgess provided a brief description of the District Attorney budget to the committee for their consideration.

The District Attorney's proposed budget is very similar to that of last fiscal year. The Investigator position is still included, and DA McDaniel was obtaining grant funding for that position. It has been 2 years since that position was created. The grant funding has ended, and they were not successful in obtaining the funding for that grant again. However, were able to secure another one.

There have been 2 out of 3 Deputy District Attorney's filled, with the potential of a third. The proposed budget does continue to allow for those same number of positions.

Mat Miles asked how much the county should bump the salary up to attract applicants. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated it is 10 percent and are comparable to counties our size.

Special Accounts

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, presented the proposed Special Accounts budget to the committee for their information.

This particular fund has a lot of things in it. This is where the county pays for liability and property insurance, Association of Oregon Counties dues, CHD contributions, Predator Control Program and Contingency. The Personnel in this fund is for Vector Control District, the county employs the staff but the Vector Control District pays the county for all of those costs plus a 10 percent administrative fee.

Audrey Cant asked for clarification on the goal for contingency and if the goal includes a 2.7 percentage. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated the highest the county has been able to is \$500,000. The recommended budget if you are following the budgeting guidelines is 10 percent.

Cat Utopia

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided a brief staff report regarding Cat Utopia who had recently come to a commissioners meeting and presented their funding request. At that time, the Commissioners suggested it be discussed as part of the budget meeting.

If the budget committee approves of the request, payments would be sent to the local veterinarian to hold as a credit for the trap, neuter and release program.

Matthew Goodwin asked if Cat Utopia is an organization. Administrative Officer Burgess indicated that they received authorization to work under the nonprofit status of Cat Utopia of Umatilla County which is a 501(c)(3).

Commissioner Scarfo has seen the success of the program but would like to know why the city isn't pitching in on some of the cost with the amount of cats caught in La Grande. He feels that the organization should approach each of the cities and ask for a small contribution instead of asking the county for the full funding.

Commissioner Scarfo said there were some serious clusters of cats that have become a big problem and does appreciate the assistance of Cat Utopia. He would like to propose \$1,500, but not as a line item because we should see the problem fizzle out as time goes on.

Administrative Officer Burgess indicated if this is something that the budget committee wants to do, there is a resource development line in Special Accounts that she pays a variety of things out of. If they put it in as a specific line item it will be difficult to stop it.

Commissioner Anderes asked if the funding could fall under the transient lodging tax request. Administrative Officer Burgess is not sure how that would work. He recalls going over the ordinance and during public comments constituents were demanding the Commissioners to force veterinarians do free spay and neuter. Administrative Officer Burgess agreed to review the ordinance and report back at the May 20 meeting.

David's Chair Veteran's Program

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer, provided a brief staff report regarding the request of utilizing "David's Chair" which provides outdoor mobility assistance to veterans in Union County.

The request comes from Brian Blais who is the Veteran's Service Officer. However, the request comes from him as a member of the VFW. The chair requires an annual financial contribution of \$7,000 for maintenance and repairs as needed. They agreed to manage the program and house the chair at the VFW Post in Union.

Administrative Officer Burgess indicated the funding for the chair can come from the STIF program in the future. If approved, the county would include the program in the draft STIF plan that would be approved through the Commissioners. She did inquire with Public Transit to see if this particular use may be eligible and it would be up to the county if it was included in the plan or not. Because the chair will provide access for disabled individuals, it would qualify. This would be available beginning July 1, 2027.

Administrative Officer Burgess also explained there is a line item in Special Accounts for special transportation in the amount of \$5,000. In past years, it was funding that they county paid to Community Connection for bus routes that they would run during the Union County Fair to facilitate attendance. They didn't need to request those funds last year, because they now have a route that serves that purpose, so the funding could be diverted without impacting a program.

Commissioner Scarfo would like to hear from Brian Blais regarding specifics and lifetime of the chair. Allison Moore will reach out to Mr. Blais and check his availability to answer questions before it is considered at the May 20 meeting.

Public Comment

The chair provided an opportunity for public comment. There were no public comments.

The Chair called a 10-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:15 pm.

Budget Discussion

Commissioner Anderes noted that this year will be his final budget committee meeting as he retires in December.

Union County Solid Waste District

The Union County Solid Waste District proposed budget is presented in three funds, Enterprise Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, and Household Hazardous Waste Fund. The total proposed budget is in the amount of \$998,477. The Solid Waste District operates on revenues generated by franchise fees and includes no local taxes.

The Enterprise Fund is proposed at \$101,500. Its major expenses have to do with the monitoring activities since the landfill was closed November 2008, which is the county's responsibility for 30 years through the DEQ permit. The clean-up day event line item has been reduced by \$5,000 which would allow matching funds up to \$1,000 per city.

The Capital Reserve Fund is proposed at \$51,977. This fund is to ensure that funds are available to complete the required monitoring of the landfill. A transfer of \$20,000 to the Enterprise Fund for monitoring and reporting expenses is budgeted in the event funds are needed.

The Household Hazardous Waste fund is proposed at \$845,000. This is a cooperative effort between Union, Baker and Wallowa counties. Union County receives fees from each of the counties being the

fiscal agent and contract with Waste-Pro who runs the household hazardous waste facility. This fund has a large carryover but cannot transfer these funds to any other program.

Commissioner Scarfo knows that we haven't had 100 percent participation from the outlying communities in the clean up day event. His concern is if the rest of the cities come to them for assistance and there isn't enough funding.

Commissioner Seavert made a motion to approve the Solid Waste District Budget as presented. Matthew Goodwin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Recess

The chair called for a recess at 7:32 PM until 4 PM on Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Moore



Senior Department Specialist