

Minutes

Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

The meeting was held via: Zoom

April 21, 2026

PRESENT: Richard Morton, Scott Landry, Dennis O’Neil, Janet White, LeeAnn Dalessandro, Rupert Pratt, Tom Goding, Morgan Dunham, and Jay Reynolds.

AUDIENCE: Mt. Blue T.V, Jake Nichols, Joe Terranova, Earl Martin, Betsy Sawyer-Manter, , Renee Whitely, Jess Boulay, Kat Whitney, Rebecca Gage, Thomas Cody, Nathan Hiltz, Kristen Filbreck, Nowelle Coyne, Craig Zohurst, Trisha Mosher, Nathan Holt, Grace Kendall, Lauren Robinson, Rachel McClellan, Lee Ireland, Caroline Verrill, Commissioner Skolfield, Commissioner Gilbert, Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Saviello, Scott Nichols, Ryan Close, Hart Daley, Pam Prodan, and Jamie Sullivan.

ZOOM: Tiffany Maiuri, Jake Ducharme, Charlie Woodworth, Deeds, and Dustin Richards.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Carlton/Rupert Pratt at 3:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Opening comments from Chairperson
3. Acceptance of meeting minutes of April 17, 2026 – **Motion to accept the Minutes of April 17, 2026: LeeAnn Dalessandro/Dennis O’Neil - Roll Call: Scott Landry – Yes, Dennis O’Neil – Yes, Janet White – Yes, Rupert Pratt – Yes, Richard Morton – Yes, Jay Reynolds – Yes, Lee Ann Dalessandro – Yes, Thomas Goding – Abstained, Tiffany Maiuri – Yes (8/0/1)**
4. Review FY2027 Budget Proposals:
 - A. **Program Grants/Extension** - The Commissioner’s and Budget Advisory Committee had the opportunity to listen to the non-profits listed below present their organization’s request for funds. They asked questions and requested additional information from some of the non-profits. This year, two new non-profits have requested funds from the County.
 - a. **Care and Share Food Pantry** - \$5,000 requested, new this year
 - b. **Franklin County Extension Association** - \$72,476 requested. A \$2,591 increase over last year.
 - c. **Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation** - \$36,000 requested. A \$6,000 increase over last year.
 - d. **Franklin County Children’s Task Force**- \$15,000 requested. No increase over last year.

- e. **Franklin County Adult and Community Education** - \$10,000 requested. Funds not requested last year, a \$1.00 placeholder was requested.
- f. **Western Maine Community Action** - \$56,000. A \$150 increase over last year.
- g. **Seniors Plus** - \$40,000 requested. No increase over last year.
- h. **SAPARS** - \$20,000 requested. No increase over last year.
- i. **Andwell Health Partners** - \$30,000 requested. No increase over last year.
- j. **Greater Franklin Development Corporation** - \$1 requested as a placeholder. No increase over last year.
- k. **Franklin County Firemen's Association** - \$3,700 requested. No increase over last year.
- m. **Western Maine Transportation** - \$45,000 requested. A \$5,000 increase over last year.
- n. **Safe Voices** - \$25,000 requested. No increase over last year.
- o. **Franklin County Healthy Community Coalition** - \$100,000 requested, new this year.

B. Jail - The Jails overall majority increase is due to the contractual salary and benefit increases. The other major increase was the addition of line 100-7228 – Boarding of Prisoners for \$95,000. This fund covers the cost to house inmate at other facilities when our facility is full. Other increases include the addition of the Auditor line 100-7228 for \$9,000. This is now a state requirement. The uniform line, 100-7503 has increased by \$10,000 due to being fully staffed. The cost to uniform one staff member is approximately \$600 to \$800. \$5,000 has been budgeted to purchase a new copier. Major Daley indicated that the furniture and equipment line, 100-7680 can be reduced back to \$10,000 due to not purchasing a body scanner this year.

C. Communications - The increases for this department were attributable to personnel, which is contractual. Line 80-7356, Software Licenses and Support was added this year in the amount of \$23,000 for the I Am Responding program for the paging services for the first responders. This was previously budgeted as a reserve account. Other significant changes are in training and development due to turnover.

D. Technical Services – The It budget has increased due to personnel, and increase in services, including the migration to pro-suite, the new CAD system for dispatch, the sheriff's office, the detention center, and police departments. This system doubled from last year. This year's bill is \$138,000, \$71,000 of which the County is responsible for, and the remaining balance comes from surrounding towns/organizations (UMF). Consulting services, (\$41,000) used for network monitoring. This had been removed from the budget previously, which needed to be added back in to pay for these services. The reserve account, line 99-8505, has been increased for future server upgrades and migration to the cloud.

5. Next meeting – Confirmation – The next meeting was confirmed for April 30, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. to be held at 120 County Way, the Emergency Operations Center.
6. Other Business - None
7. Adjournment – **Motion to adjourn at 7:06 p.m.: Jay Reynolds/Scott Landry (9/0).**