

## Minutes

### Franklin County Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

The meeting was held via: Zoom

May 14, 2026

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

**AUDIENCE:** Mt. Blue T.V, Jake Nichols, Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Skolfield, Commissioner Saviello, Commissioner Gilbert, Commissioner Fowler, Nathan Hiltz, Renee Whitley, Craig Zohurst, Janis Walker, Caroline Verrill, Rachel McClean Tara Marble, Nick Rawley, Amy Bernard, Karen Rea, and Jamie Sullivan.

**ZOOM:** Noelle Coyne, Kristen Filbeck, Jake Ducharme and Marc Roy.

The meeting was called to order by Rupert Pratt at 3:01 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Opening comments from Chairperson
3. Acceptance of meeting minutes of May 7, 2026 – **Motion to accept the Minutes of May 7, 2026, with changes presented: Janet White/Richard Morton (10/0).**
4. FY2027 Budget – Vote
  - A. **County-Wide – Other Expenditures**
    - i. Care and Share Food Pantry – **Motion to accept the changes as proposed by the Commissioners include all of the food panties and increase the amount of \$20,000: Scott Landry/Morgan Dunham.** A discussion was held regarding the ability for other local food panties to apply for a portion of the funds allocated in this line. It was indicated that process does not allow the opportunity for the Budget Committee to review who the applicants are affiliated with, who they provide services to and how many people are served, and there is no structure as to how funds will be distributed. It was also reiterated that if a municipality was funding a non-profit, that non-profit could not receive funding from the County and vice versa. Everyone could agree that food insecurity is a problem that we have now and will in the future, however the proposed process does not make sense. **Amend the motion to split the \$20,000 equally between all of the food organizations in Franklin County affiliated with the Good Sheppard Food Bank: Rupert Pratt/Jay Reynolds (6/4) Richard Morton, Morgan Dunham, LeeAnn Dalessandro, and Tom Goding opposed. Amendment Passes.**  
**Motion as amended to split the \$20,000 equally between all of the food organizations in Franklin County affiliated with the Good Sheppard Food Bank: (7/3) Richard Morton, LeeAnn Dalessandro and Tom Goding opposed.**

- ii. Franklin County Extension Association – **Motion to approve funding of \$72,476: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- iii. Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation - **Motion to approve funding of \$36,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- iv. Franklin County Children’s Task Force - **Motion to approve funding of \$15,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- v. Franklin County Adult and Community Education - **Motion to approve funding of \$10,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- vi. Western Maine Community Action - **Motion to approve funding of \$56,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- vii. Seniors Plus - **Motion to approve funding of \$40,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- viii. SAPARS - **Motion to approve funding of \$20,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- ix. Andwell Health Partners - **Motion to approve funding of \$30,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- x. Greater Franklin Development Corp. - **Motion to approve funding of \$1.00: Richard Morton/Morgan Dunham (10/0).**
- xi. Franklin County Firemen’s Association - **Motion to approve funding of \$3,700: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- xii. Western Maine Transportation - **Motion to approve funding of \$45,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- xiii. Safe Voices - **Motion to approve funding of \$25,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- xiv. Franklin County Healthy Community Coalition - **Motion to approve funding of \$10,000: Scott Landry/Richard Morton (9/1) Morgan Dunham opposed.**
- xv. Debt Services Principal - **Motion to approve funding of \$47,694: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- xvi. Debt Services Interest - **Motion to approve funding of \$2,314: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**

**B. County-Wide Personal and Services**

- i. **Paid Family Leave** – There was an error in the calculation, the correct expense is \$28,000. It was requested that the County look into using an independent insurance company instead of the State of Maine. **Motion to approve funding of \$28,000: Morgan Dunham/LeeAnn Dalessandro (10/0).**
- ii. **Longevity/Salary Pay** – **Motion to approve funding of \$16,800: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- iii. **Worker’s Compensation** – **Motion to approve funding of \$129,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
- iv. **Unemployment** – **Motion to approve funding of \$5,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**

- v. **Consultants – Motion to approve funding of \$0.00: Richard Morton/LeeAnn Dalessandro (10/0).**
  - vi. **Other Professional Services – Motion to approve funding of \$0.00: Richard Morton/Morgan Dunham (10/0).**
  - vii. **General Liability Services – Motion to approve funding of \$136,000: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
  - viii. **Volunteer Firemen Insurance – Motion to approve funding of \$1,950: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (10/0).**
  - ix. **Overall Countywide Budget – Motion to approve funding of \$750,435: LeeAnn Dalessandro/Morgan Dunham (10/0).**
5. **Commissioner’s Office – Discussion and Vote - Motion to approve funding in the amount of \$461,823: Jay Reynolds/Morgan Dunham.** A discussion was held regarding the Commissioner’s Flex Benefit and the policy regarding flex benefits. Amy stated that No board can hold other boards to the prior board’s expectations. A discussion was also held regarding cutting/reducing/replenishing lines within the budget. **Amend motion to line 20-7055, Flex Benefits \$56,179.67 by removing the Commissioner’s flex benefits of \$31,011.33: Janet White/Tom Goding (7/3) Rupert Pratt, Morgan Dunham and Jay Reynolds opposed.**  
**Motion to approve amended motion to approve funding of \$430,812: Richard Morton/Scott Landry (7/3) Rupert Pratt, Morgan Dunham and Jay Reynolds opposed.**
6. **Schedule Public Hearing – Motion to schedule public hearing for Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.: Richard Morton/Tom Goding (10/0).**
7. **Other Business -**
- A. **Central Square – LeeAnn Dalessandro requested an accounting of this.**
  - B. **Sheriff’s Gas Line – LeeAnn Dalessandro requested a full accounting of this line.**
  - C. **Asset List – LeeAnn Dalessandro requested that we review the statute to see what is required on the list.**
  - D. **Unused funds – LeeAnn Dalessandro requested information for the past three years, based on this statement: Unused funds go to an undesignated fund balance unless the Commissioners set portions of the undesignated funds to a reserve account. The Commissioners could also use those funds to offset taxes. What happened with those funds for the past three years?**
8. **Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 4:47 p.m.: LeeAnn Dalessandro/Tom Goding (10/0).**

**A recording is available for this meeting.**