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| Banks County Established 1858 Seal | **Banks County Board of Commissioners Called Meeting** |
| Courthouse Annex Boardroom | 150 Hudson Ridge | Homer, GA 30547 |
| Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 10:30 AM |
| **Minutes** |

**1.** **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Griffith called the meeting to order.

**PRESENT**
Chairman Taylor Griffith
Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell
Commissioner Chris Ausburn
Commissioner Bo Garrison

**STAFF**

Deputy County Clerk Erin Decker

Chief Finance Officer Randy Failyer

Human Resources Director Arlene Ivey

Probate Judge Cameron Boswell

**2.** **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Ausburn, Seconded by Vice Chairman Maxwell.
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

**3.** **FY2026 BUDGET**

Chief Finance Officer Randy Failyer stated there had been minor adjustments throughout various departments.

**Extension Service**

Mr. Failyer stated we shared an employee with the school system in which the county and the school each paid half of the salary. Ch. Griffith stated that was an employee we had that a grant was paying for.

Mr. Failyer stated they also had an intern and were in need of a computer.

**Mountain Circuit**

Mr. Failyer stated there would be a resolution for approval later but they were able to work in the Superior Court, Juvenile Court, Public Defender and District Attorney into the budget.

**Road Department**

Mr. Failyer stated the road department budget included an additional cost of two foremans that included benefits.

**Recreation**

Mr. Failyer stated Stephen Rylee was moved to the Maintenance Department and Chelsey Seamans was the employee maintenance employee for the Recreation Department.

**Probate Court**

Mr. Failyer stated there was a letter from the Probate Judge concerning the salaries in his department. Chairman Griffith stated the letter was referring to a 10% increase for Probate Clerks and then he further discussed the pay scale. The total impact of the increase would be $9,200.

Commissioner Garrison asked how this was compared with other departments.  Ms. Ivey stated it was inline based on duties.  She further stated we couldn't compare to some other counties because the pay scale was based on population and our population was lower. Ms. Ivey stated from an HR standpoint she couldn't justify the raise because they were in line with other salaries.

Vice Chairman Maxwell stated we couldn't increase salaries until we see where the digest was at.

Judge Boswell stated one of his main goals was to make sure his clerks were taken care of. He stated his Chief Clerk had been there for 26 years and was still at mid range, so what constitutes a higher rate.  He also stated his Deputy Clerk was new and was starting at a lower rate than surrounding counties.

He further stated his office was up on revenues compare to last year.  He also stated since he was bringing more money in with vital record fees he wouldn't have to go up on his budget and pay the salary increase from those fees.

Commission Garrison said he would have to wait and see what the tax digest came in as before he could consider any salary increases.

**Sheriff's Office**

Chairman Griffith stated he had Mr. Failyer to break down the Sheriff's budget into Sheriff and Jail. He further stated they had proposed a $9.1M budget for FY2026 which was substantially higher than the $7.3M budget for FY2025 and stated attorneys were still in talks about duplication of services and other issues within the Sheriff's Office.  Chairman Griffith stated after using expense reports and the current proposed budget the figure for the Sheriff's Office budget for FY2026 was about $7.78M.  He stated this increase was more in line with other departments budget.  He stated some of the biggest increases was medical care fees, food provider and a little for inmate housing.

He stated he also had met with SteelCell about adding inmate housing capacity in the giant metal building that was not being used for anything. Commissioner Garrison asked wouldn't you have to hire more personnel?  Chairman Griffith stated yes but that would be cheaper than paying $49,000 a month for inmate housing outside the county.

Commissioner Ausburn stated that when we moved to the Mountain Circuit he was told that the cost for medical, housing and food expenses would decrease because once they were sentenced, they would move to another facility.

Commissioner Garrison stated the court system was left with a very heavily loaded court docket and back log.  He understood that inmates that were repeat offenders had been sent out to another facility and the court system was getting cases cleaned up.

Chairman Griffith stated this budget amount also pulled out over $20,000 in salary overages.

Commissioner Garrison asked about the increases and where would we be at at the end of the year.  Mr. Failyer stated they would be over by about $500,000. If they do not have enough to cover the bills they would have to come before the Commissioners to ask for an amendment. Ch. Griffith stated if we approved the amendment, the attorney had suggested the County pay vendors instead of Sheriff Office.

**FY2026 Budget**

Mr. Failyer stated that the proposed budget total would be about $26.7M.

Commissioner Ausburn said inflation was over and at some point the budget should flatline.

**4.** **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Maxwell, Seconded by Commissioner Ausburn.
Voting Yea: Chairman Griffith, Vice Chairman Maxwell, Commissioner Ausburn, Commissioner Garrison

Vote: 5:0

All yea votes and the motion passed.

 Chairman

Deputy County Clerk