

**Jefferson County  
Finance Committee Minutes  
September 14, 2026**

Committee members: Jaeckel, George (Chair)  
Christensen, Walt  
Drayna, David (Vice Chair)

Braugher, Jim  
Ristow, Phil

1. **Call to order** – Finance Committee Chair Jaeckel called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. **Roll call (establish a quorum)** – Finance Committee members present were George Jaeckel, Walt Christensen, David Drayna, Jim Braughler, and Phil Ristow. Other board members present were Francine Gies and Kathi Cauley (Zoom). Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Michael Luckey; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla, Budget Analyst I, Morgan Toutant; Planning and Development Director, Matt Zangl; Interim Human Resources Director, Jessica Tucker (Zoom); Corporation Counsel, Danielle Thompson; Administrative Assistant, Jessica Holmes (Zoom); Paralegal, Sarana Stolar (Zoom); Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Ryan Roecker (Zoom); and Land and Water Conservation Director, Patricia Cicero. Members of the public present were James Kukkanen from Watertown Daily Times.
3. **Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law** – County Administrator Luckey certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
4. **Approval of the agenda** – The agenda was approved.
5. **Communications** – none.
6. **Public comment** – none.
7. **Presentation of budget overview** – County Administrator Luckey presented an overview of his recommended budget for 2027. The recommended budget meets the State imposed levy limit.
8. **Department 2027 Budget Hearings** – The Finance Committee considered the recommended budgets for each department listed below and motions were made to tentatively accept the recommended budget figures for each department, unless otherwise noted. *[The format for each department lists (i) budget presenters in addition to Michael Luckey, (ii) any other information specific to the department budget, (iii) who moved/seconded to tentatively accept the recommended budget figure, unless otherwise noted, along with the amount, and (iv) the voting record]*
  - a. **Sheriff**
    - i. Travis Maze and Jerry Haferman
    - ii. No additional motion/information
    - iii. Motion by Jaeckel/ to approve the recommended budget of \$21,590,743 (estimated levy amount \$16,494,719)
    - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
  - b. **Register of Deeds**
    - i. Staci Hoffman
    - ii. No additional motion/information

- iii. Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to approve the recommended budget of \$497,429 (estimated levy savings \$167,371)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

**c. Facilities**

- i. Michael Luckey on behalf of John Fox
- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Drayna/Christensen to approve the recommended budget of \$1,947,872 (estimated levy amount \$1,393,522)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

**9. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items** – The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

**10. Adjourn** – A motion was made at 11:05 a.m. to recess until Tuesday, September 15th by Drayna/Christensen. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director  
Jefferson County