

**Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
September 16, 2026**

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

Braughler, 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. Staff in attendance were County Administrator, Michael Luckey; Finance Director, Marc DeVries; Assistant Finance Director, Tammy Worzalla, Budget Analyst I, Morgan Toutant; Interim Human Resources Director, Jessica Tucker (Zoom); Corporation Counsel, Danielle Thompson; and Administrative Assistant, Jessica Holmes (Zoom). Members of the public present were James Kukkanen from Watertown Daily Times (Zoom).
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. **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. **Library Service**
 - i. Brittany Larson
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Braughler/Jaeckel to approve the recommended budget of \$1,397,823 (estimated levy amount \$1,397,823)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
 - b. **Child Support**
 - i. Stacey Jensen
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Christensen/Ristow to approve the recommended budget of \$1,225,346 (estimated levy amount \$112,877)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
 - c. **Administration**
 - i. Michael Luckey

- ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Drayna/Jaeckel to approve the recommended budget of \$860,913 (estimated levy amount \$525,913)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
- d. Clerk of Courts**
 - i. Cindy Hamre-Incha/Tina Hotter/Dana Scherer
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Jaeckel/Christensen to approve the recommended budget of \$1,699,001 (estimated levy amount \$699,171)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
- e. Human Resources**
 - i. Jessica Tucker
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Ristow/Drayna to approve the recommended budget of \$803,945 (estimated levy amount \$771,860)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
- f. Medical Examiner**
 - i. Nichol Donovan
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Braughler/Jaeckel to approve the recommended budget of \$483,593 (estimated levy amount \$355,178)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
- g. Human Services**
 - i. Brent Ruehlow/Brian Belford
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Drayna/Braughler to approve the recommended budget of \$41,753,871 (estimated levy amount \$10,045,550)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
- h. Corporation Counsel**
 - i. Danielle Thompson
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Jaeckel/Ristow to approve the recommended budget of \$513,578 (estimated levy amount \$513,578)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
- i. Fair Park**
 - i. Rebecca Roberts
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Braughler/Drayna to approve the recommended budget of \$1,986,820 (estimated levy amount \$156,322)
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
- j. Veterans Service**
 - i. Brandi Hanson
 - ii. No additional motion/information
 - iii. Motion by Christensen/Braughler to approve the recommended budget of \$354,361 (estimated levy amount \$235,229).
 - iv. Motion passed 5-0.
- k. UW Extension**
 - i. Chrissy Wen

- ii. No additional motion/information
- iii. Motion by Ristow/Jaeckel to approve the recommended budget of \$317,170 (estimated levy amount \$294,910)
- iv. Motion passed 5-0.

8. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items – The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th at 8:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn – A motion was made at 10:30am to recess until Thursday, September 18th by Drayna/Christensen. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director
Jefferson County