

**Jefferson County
Finance Committee Minutes
September 17, 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 (Zoom). 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 Paralegal, Sarana Stolar (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. Outstanding department budgets and changes to previously presented budgets
 - i. **Economic Development Consortium**
 1. Deb Reinbold
 2. No additional motion/information
 3. Motion by Drayna/Braughler to approve the recommended budget of \$637,248 (estimated levy amount \$0)
 4. Motion passed 5-0
 - ii. **Finance**
 1. Marc DeVries
 2. No additional motion/information
 3. Motion by Jaeckel/Drayna to approve the recommended budget of \$1,233,418 (estimated levy amount \$739,418)
 4. Motion passed 5-0.
 - iii. **Live Local Development Fund**

1. Marc DeVries
2. No additional motion/information
3. Motion by Braughler/Ristow to approve the recommended budget of \$147,637 (estimated levy amount \$0)
4. Motion passed 5-0.

iv. **Fleet**

1. Marc DeVries
 2. No additional motion/information
 3. Motion by Ristow/Christensen to approve the recommended budget of \$469,090
 4. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. 2027 Capital and 5-Year Capital Plan – Motion by Drayna/Christensen to approve the 2027 capital and 5-year capital plan. The motion passed 5-0.
 - c. General Revenues; General Expenditures (Contingency) – Motion by Braughler/Jaeckel to approve the General Revenue and Expenditures budget in the amount of \$815,844 (estimated levy savings of \$13,116,787). The motion passed 5-0.
 - d. Fee Schedule – Motion by Jaeckel/Braughler to approve the 2027 Fee Schedule. The motion passed 5-0.
 - e. Fund Balance Policy Application – No action taken.
 - f. Debt Service – Motion by Ristow/Jaeckel to approve the Debt Service Fund budget in the amount of \$4,119,293 (estimated levy amount \$4,119,293). The motion passed 5-0.
 - g. Set Tax Levy – Motion by Braughler/Jaeckel to approve the non-countywide levy in the amount of \$1,022,606 for the Health Department and \$1,395,623 for the Library System. The motion passed 5-0. Motion by Drayna/Christensen to approve the Countywide levy in the amount of \$33,624,712. The motion passed 5-0.

8. Set future meeting schedule, next meeting date, and possible agenda items – The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn – A motion was made by Drayna/Christensen to adjourn at 9:46 a.m. The motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc DeVries, Finance Director
Jefferson County