

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
FY 2025/2026 Budget
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
5:15 PM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, Office Amison, and Anthony Croom, Jr.

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator, and Linda Phillips-Finance Director

Call to Order

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Jones led the Board in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Information

Mrs. Griffith presented the budget information as follows:

1. It will take 5.0459 mills to fund this budget.
2. The total of the tentative budget is \$112,590,105.
3. The tentative millage rate of 5.0459 mills is 2.70% greater than the rolled back rate of 4.9131 mills.
4. The tentative millage is 2.70% above the rolled back rate due to a slight increase in the FRS retirement contribution rates as set by the Florida Legislature, an increase of 7.4% in the cost of health insurance, increases in constitutional officers' budgets and departmental budgets due to inflationary cost increases in fuel, supplies, utilities and capital needs, one additional budget funded position for the sheriff's department, one additional employee in the tax collector's office, one additional employee for the animal control department, and one additional employee (planner) for the planning and zoning department, increases in ad valorem transfers to other operating funds, reserve and capital outlay, and a 4% inflationary adjustment to wages for all employees of Franklin County.
5. ****The date set for the FINAL BUDGET HEARING to adopt the final millage rate and budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 is TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2025, AT 5:15 PM, at the Franklin County Courthouse Annex, County Commission Meeting Room, 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, FL.****

Public Comments

Chairman Jones called for public comments and there were none.

Budget Discussion and Adoption

6. **Adoption of 2025-26 Tentative Millage Rate and Budget**
 - a. **Board action to adopt the tentative 2025-26 millage levy resolution**

RESOLUTION

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN
COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE LEVY FOR FRANKLIN**

COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

WHEREAS, the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida, on September 8th, 2025, adopted Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065: and

WHEREAS the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Franklin County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS as \$3,785,787,741.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of Franklin County, Florida that:

The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 tentatively adopted operating millage rate for Franklin County is **5.0459** mills which is greater than the rolled-back rate of **4.9131** mills by **2.70%**.

DULY ADOPTED at a public hearing this 8th day of September 2025. Time adopted 5:29 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Sanders, seconded by Commissioner Ward and Commissioner Amison, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the above tentative 2025-26 millage levy resolution. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Board action to adopt the tentative 2025-26 budget resolution

RESOLUTION FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION ADOPTING TENTATIVE BUDGET

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida has determined the amount of funds required for a Tentative Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year and

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners has given due notice as required by law, and has held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065, and

WHEREAS the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, has set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$112,590,105.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County, Florida, that:

1. The Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tentative Budget be adopted.
2. That copies of this Resolution containing the Tentative Budget be spread upon the records of Franklin County, Florida.

This Resolution **duly adopted** at a public hearing this 8th day of September 2025. Time adopted 5:31 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Amison, seconded by Commissioner Croom, and by a unanimous vote of the Board present, the Board adopted the above tentative 2025-26 budget resolution. Chairman Jones asked Mrs. Griffith for the total of proposed expenses removed at the budget workshop. Mrs. Griffith noted that \$857,923 proposed expenses were removed. The millage rate with the proposed expenses would have been 5.2849. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Sanders noted that the Board and staff have done a good job managing the people's money. She also commended them on the amount of money received through grant awards which is money that we would not have if not applied for. Commissioner Sanders noted that Mrs. Griffith and Mrs. Phillips have done a wonderful job and she appreciates the staff that we have. Mrs. Griffith noted that in the ten year 191 budgeted positions in 2006-2007, and there are 196 budgeted positions in this budget cycle. Chairman Jones

noted that we have to do our best to make sure that services are provided. Commissioner Ward echoed Commissioner Sanders sentiment, she noted that staff should take a vacation after the budget process is completed. Commissioner Croom noted that he would like staff to look into the insurance in the coming year. Commissioner Amison thanked staff for their work.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Ricky Jones – Chairman

Attest:

Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts

The audio is available upon request. Please e-mail jgay@franklinclerk.com, call 850-653-8861 to speak with the Administrative Assistant, or submit a request in writing to obtain audio of this meeting.