

The Board of: Riceville Volunteer Fire Department
Met at: 6:30PM
On: Monday, April 6, 2026
For: Special Board Meeting
Moderator: Dan Little (Chairperson)
Members Present: Lee Barrett, Merel Johnson, Butch Laughter,
Lisa McCallister, Carla McLendon, Mark Siler
and Steve Wickham
Not Present: Kent Creasman (Family Medical)
Guest(s):

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** Dan Little called the meeting to order at 6:33PM and determined a quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer:** Dan Little opened the meeting in prayer and then asked everyone to stand if able and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. **Purpose of Meeting:** Dan Little explained the purpose of the meeting was to approve the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. The proposed budget has to be submitted to the County prior to the Board's next Regular Meeting on April 20, necessitating this Special Meeting.

4. **Proposed 2026-2027 Budget:** Katie Payne had reviewed the proposed budget with the Board during their Regular Meeting on March 16. After a focused review by Katie and Board Members Lee Barrett, Lisa McCallister and Carla McLendon on March 30, some line items were increased [i.e., fuel, insurance (property and liability)].

Katie Payne provided an overview of the updated proposed budget, which included needs with the new County standards and needs without the standards. The "with standards" column reflects needs to allow for the addition of two firefighters; the "without standard" column reflects needs to allow for the addition of one firefighter. The budget packet also included:

- A proposal of how to get EMT Basic starting pay from \$19/hour to \$25/hour over a five-year period in accordance with the County plan. The proposal is for an annual \$1.50 increase in pay for each position over the next five years.
- A Draft Apparatus Replacement Plan, which outlined the name, year, mileage, purpose, actual replacement date, order year and budget year pay for each Department vehicle.
- A Draft Operating Plan; and
- A Draft Capital Plan. The "Main Station" entry on this proposed plan matches Building Improvement (Line Item 6007) on the "with standards" proposed budget.

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In accordance with the County contract, the proposed budget has to be submitted by April 20. Katie submitted a draft proposed budget to the County last week, in keeping with their request and with the understanding it was pending Board approval. While a meeting is tentatively set for April 20 for Katie, Chief Kelly and Dan Little to meet with the County to discuss the proposed budget, it is not known when or with whom they will actually meet.

Merel Johnson made a motion to accept the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. Lee Barrett seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Adjournment: Lisa McCallister made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45PM. Mark Siler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Note: Chairman Dan Little only votes in the event of a tie.