

November 24, 2025

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

St. Clair County Budget Caucus



MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF
A BUDGET CAUCUS – November 24, 2025

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Call to Order
3. Roll Call by Tom Holbrook, County Clerk; Present - 26; Absent 2 – Mr. Dinges and Mr. Meile. (The Chairman noted that Mr. Dinges and Mr. Meile are excused.)
4. 2026 Budget Caucus

Chairman Kern said I am going to talk about the changes that were made since we posted the budget just so that everyone is clear. Chairman Kern said the overall budget didn't change the final numbers. Chairman Kern said General Fund moved \$14,584 from Central Services from non-personnel to a personnel line in Information Technology. Chairman Kern said the salary affected for position 1016-395-01 was incorrectly entered. Chairman Kern said we also moved \$20,000 from Part-time to Full-time in the County Board budget. Chairman Kern said the Bailiff Fund was increased by personnel lines by \$13,920. Chairman Kern said the 3% increase on 3 Bailiff personnel lines was missed, this affected positions 2690-425-11 through 2690-425-13. Chairman Kern said we had a meeting today with Mr. Lawson from the Veterans Assistance Commission and he is here tonight, thank you. Chairman Kern said at which we discussed a lot of the needs of the VAC that were addressed at the last Finance Committee meeting and so from this we were able to program \$300,000 in this budget that will go towards renovating the West Main drive-thru Volkmann's bank facility into a Veterans Assistance Commission standalone building. Chairman Kern said it is a building of some size that I think will work well for them once the renovations are completed. Chairman Kern said Public Building Commission will do those renovations, and they will cost more than \$300,000, but \$300,000 is what will be coming out of the General Fund budget to fund that. Chairman Kern said in addition an additional position was added as they asked for funds coming from Health and Life line and the aid to indigent veterans was increased to \$240,000 from \$215,660 which is what they had last year and was offset with a decrease to our Capital Replacement Fund 160. Chairman Kern said so I think that met with good thoughts from the VAC and we like that and we are going to continue conversations throughout the year with Mr. Lawson to make sure the VAC any concerns they have perhaps we can address. Chairman Kern said the General Fund budget remained the same at \$48,227,122 because funds were just moved between categories. Chairman Kern said the overall budget change increase by \$13,920 because of the Bailiff.

Chairman Kern called for questions or comments from the public on budget issues.

Chairman Kern called for questions or comments from the County Board members on any budget issues. Mr. Cockrell said couple of questions, but thank you for doing all the Veterans Assistance Commission's concerns addressed. Mr. Cockrell said I greatly appreciate that. Mr. Cockrell said page 65 in the budget refers to the Emergency Telephone System which is 911. Mr. Cockrell said down at the bottom it says total Emergency Telephone System Fund budget, have they approved this budget, the 911 board. Chairman Kern said yes they have. Mr. Cockrell said why is 911 budget part of the budget of St. Clair County since there revenues are from line charges that we don't

get. Mr. Cockrell said I don't understand why this is part of the St. Clair County budget as whole. Mr. Cockrell said they are a standalone entity, as they should be according to the Emergency Telephone System Act and I think they should have a standalone budget. Chairman Kern referred to Jackie Krummrich. Ms. Krummrich said I believe because they are a special revenue fund we try to include them within our budget and we try to include all special revenue funds in our budget even though the money is coming from other sources such as grants and things like that. Ms. Krummrich said we put them in there to get an idea. Chairman Kern said all the bills come through us. Chairman Kern said if you make a standalone agency then you are paying for auditing, bookkeeping, payroll; you are increasing the costs when they already exist here in this building in this budget. Mr. Cockrell said is it permissible, do we have an intergovernmental agreement that allows that. Chairman Kern said it is permissible and has been done for many years. Ms. Krummrich said they are also under our federal ID number. Mr. Cockrell said I understand, just checking. Mr. Cockrell said do they pay rent to the County for the use of the building that we pay lease through the Public Building Commission. Chairman Kern said we are working on a new lease with the Public Building Commission for them. Chairman Kern said they don't currently utilize the services of PBC right now. Chairman Kern said the bonds were paid off that was the agreement. Chairman Kern said they paid for the bonding of that building. Mr. Cockrell said I understand that, but my question is they don't currently pay a lease payment to the County to pay the building. Chairman Kern said they have their own housekeeping, they pay for their own roof repairs, A/C, and HVAC work. Mr. Cockrell said so they pay for their own on those aspects, but they don't pay for everything else in other aspects. Chairman Kern said yes.

5. Adjournment.
Motion to Close the Budget Caucus and Adjourn
CJ Baricevic – made
R. Wilhelm - seconded

M/C RC - Unanimous

THOMAS HOLBROOK, COUNTY CLERK AND
EX-OFICIO CLERK OF THE COUNTY BOARD

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE