

BENTON COUNTY JANUARY 21, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON JANUARY 17, 2025, THAT THE BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT THE BENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE @ 6:00 P.M.

Opening of meeting was by Sheriff Kenny Christopher or Deputy


Invocation was led by Mark Florence and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Keith Arnold

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK, Wanda Malin– 16 Present and 2 Absent (Stephen Stokes and Gary Furr)

ANNOUNCING OF QUORUM BY COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN
APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Price to approve the agenda. On a voice vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

AGENDA

- I. Opening of Meeting by Sheriff or his appointee
- II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call by County Clerk or Chief Deputy
- IV. Announcing of Quorum by County Clerk, Wanda Malin
 - 1) Approval of Agenda
 - 2) Citizens Forum
 - 3) Commissioners Forum
 - 4) County Mayor, Attorney, Finance Advisor or Proclamations
 - 5) Approval of Minutes
 - 6) Report of Public Utilities

- 7) A RESOLUTION, requesting to name a section of Highway 641 North, near Camden in honor and memory of Chief Deputy Michael W. Lockhart of the Benton County Sheriff's Department. (20250121-01)
- 8) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to establish a four (4) year reappraisal cycle for Benton County, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated 67-5-1601. (20250121-02)
- 9) A RESOLUTION, by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$ 775.00 received from various sources into proper line items for expenditures. (20250121-03)
- 10) A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 1500.00 received as a gift from Utrust to the school's budget. (20250121-04)
- 11) A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 5000.00 received as a grant from the Tennessee Educator Survey Staff Appreciation Grant to the school's budget. (20250121-05)
- 12) A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 9,999.00 received as a Project Raise Grant to the school's budget. (20250121-06)
- 13) A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 3,455.29 received from insurance recovery to the school's budget. (20250121-07)
- 14) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to appoint Johnny Belisle to the Benton County Airport Board to fulfil an unexpired term. (20250121-08)
- 15) A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds in the amount of \$ 8000.00 received by the Benton County Senior Center from a TCad Grant to proper line items for expenditure. (20250121-09)
- 16) A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to give Candy Eaton permission to pursue grants for and on behalf of Benton County/Benton County Animal Shelter, with compensation of 2% of the grant monies secured. (20250121-10)
- 17) A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to make need changes and updates to the Benton County Travel Policy. (20250121-11)
- 18) A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 98,417.54 to cover the County's obligation with regards to the Clerk & Master's Property Sale. (20250121-12)
- 19) A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 8,000.00 to cover a shortfall in Internet Connectivity. (20250121-13)
- 20) 20) A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 5,500.00 to cover an expenditure obligation Community Development Partners. (20250121-14)
- 21) A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 20,000.00 to cover the county's share of a \$ 80,000.00 Airport Grounds Maintenance Grant. (20250121-15)
- 22) A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 50,000.00 to cover a shortfall in Aviation Fuel for the Airport. (20250121-16)
- 23) Appointing Notaries
- 24) Any Other Business
- 25) Adjourn

CITIZENS FORUM

Candy Eaton-Grants for the Benton County Animal Shelter

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

Commissioner Presson-Benton County Property Tax and Covia-Severence Tax
Mayor Mark Ward responded regarding having a meeting with Covia

COUNTY MAYOR, ATTORNEY FINANCE ADVISOR OR PROCLAMATIONS

Assessor of Property, Ryan Hall-Benton County Property Reappraisal(s)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nunnery and seconded by Commissioner Miller for the approval of minutes.
On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF PUBLIC UTILITES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nunnery and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the Report of Public
Utilities. On a voice vote 16 Ayes, 0 No and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-01

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KEN CHRISTOPHER, BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD AND THE BENTON COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, requesting to name a section of Highway 641 North, near Camden in honor and memory of Chief Deputy Michael W. Lockhart of the Benton County Sheriff's Department.

WHEREAS, Michael Wayne Lockhart was born in Huntingdon, TN on November 23, 1969, to Judy Lockart Akers; and,

WHEREAS, Michael Wayne Lockhart honorably served in Law Enforcement for over 32 years, working at the Bruceton Police Department for 12 years and at the Benton County Sheriff's Office since 2002; and,

WHEREAS, Michael Wayne Lockhart earned a degree in Criminal Justice from Bethel University in 2013 and completed training at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy, demonstrating a tireless commitment to his profession; and,

WHEREAS, Michael Wayne Lockhart sadly passed from this life on October 30, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, Chief Deputy Michael Wayne Lockhart is fondly remembered as an amazing person who enjoyed life, loved his family and friends and was proud to protect and serve his community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee do hereby support and request that the Tennessee General Assembly name the section of US Highway 641 North near Camden, beginning at or near the intersection of Atcheson Road and extending to at or near the intersection of Rocky Ridge Road the **Chief Michael W. Lockhart Memorial Highway**.

Approved on this 21st day of January, 2025.

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution 20250121-01. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-02

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & PROPERTY COMMITTEES

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to establish a four (4) year reappraisal cycle for Benton County, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated 67-5-1601.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTINUOUS FOUR (4) YEAR REAPPRAISAL CYCLE

WHEREAS, Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-5-1601 establishes a general six (6) year reappraisal for updating and equalizing property values for every county in Tennessee for property tax purposes, and

WHEREAS, a six (6) year reappraisal program consists of an on-site review of each parcel of real property over a five-year period followed by revaluation of all such property in the year following completion of the review period and includes a current value updating during the third year of the review cycle and sales ratio studies during the second and fifth years of the review cycle, and

WHEREAS, Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-5-1601 provides that upon the submission of a plan by the assessor and upon approval of the State Board of Equalization, a reappraisal program may be completed by a continuous four (4) year cycle comprised of an on-site review of each real property over a three (3) year period followed by revaluation of all such property in the year following completion of the review period, and

WHEREAS, Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-5-1601(a)(3) authorizes a reappraisal plan specifying a schedule for continuous onsite review or photo review, not to exceed four (4) years, and

WHEREAS, the county legislative body of Benton County understands that by approving such a four (4) year reappraisal cycle, a sales ratio study will be conducted during the second year of the review cycle and the centrally assessed properties and commercial/industrial tangible personal property will be equalized by the sales ratio adopted by the State Board of Equalization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the county legislative body of Benton County, meeting in regular session on this the 21st day of January 2025, that:

PURSUANT to Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-5-1601, reappraisal shall be accomplished in Benton County by a continuous four (4) year cycle beginning July 1st, 2025, comprised of an on-site review of each parcel of real property over a Four (4) year period followed by revaluation of all such property for tax year 2029.

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton seconded by Commissioner Nunnery to approve Resolution 20250121-02. On a roll call vote 15 Ayes, 1 No (Bain), and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-03

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KEN CHRISTOPHER

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: LAW ENFORCEMENT & BUDGET COMMITTEES

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$ 775.00 received from various sources into proper line items for expenditures.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff's Office has received revenues in the amount of \$775.00 for the month of December, 2024, and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to budget said revenues in the amount of \$775.00 to the appropriate expenditure accounts within the Sheriff's Department and SOR budgets.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21st day of January, 2025 that the funds in the amount of \$775.00 received by the Benton County Sheriff's Office for revenues for the month of December, 2024 be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.43395	Sexual Offender Registration Fee – Sheriff	\$450.00
101.44170	Miscellaneous Refunds	\$325.00
		\$775.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

101.54110.353	Towing Services	\$325.00
101.54160.599	Other Charges	\$450.00
		\$775.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Hall to approve Resolution 20250121-03. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-04

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOE MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 1500.00 received as a gift from Utrust to the school's budget.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received a gift from Utrust;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2024-25 budget as follows;

INCREASE

44570 Contributions & Gifts \$1,500.00

72210 524 Inservice/Staff Development \$1,500.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____
_____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made Commissioner Holland and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20250121-04. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.



MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR



WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-06

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOE MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 9,999.00 received as a Project Raise Grant to the school's budget.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received the Project Raise Grant;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2024-25 budget as follows;

INCREASE

46590 PRA	Other State Education Funds	\$9,999.00
71200 370 PRA	Special Education Contracted Subs	\$6,250.00
72220 124 PRA	Psychological Personnel	3,210.00
72220 201 PRA	Social Security	200.00
72220 204 PRA	Retirement	289.00
72220 212 PRA	Medicare	50.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed
_____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution 20250121-06. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.



MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR



WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-07

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOE MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION by DOE Mark Florence, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 3,455.29 received from insurance recovery to the school's budget.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received an insurance reimbursement from TN Risk Management;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2024-25 budget as follows;

INCREASE

49700	Insurance Recovery	\$3,455.29
72710 729	Transportation Equipment	\$3,455.29

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
 On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed
 _____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Kiehn to approve Resolution No. 20250121-07. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-08

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: NONE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to appoint Johnny Belisle to the Benton County Airport Board to fulfil an unexpired term.

WHEREAS, there exists a vacancy on the Benton County Airport Board; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to fill this seat on the Benton County Airport Board; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Belisle has expressed a willingness to serve in this capacity; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to appoint Johnny Belisle to fill this position for a four (4) year term beginning immediately upon adoption of this resolution and ending on December 19, 2028.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21st Day of January, 2025 that Johnny Belisle be nominated and appointed to the Benton County Airport Board for the remainder of the unexpired term beginning immediately upon adoption of this resolution and ending on December 19, 2028.

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____
_____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Kiehn to approve Resolution No. 20250121-08. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.



MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR



WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-09

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & PROPERTY COMMITTEES

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds in the amount of \$ 8000.00 received by the Benton County Senior Center from a TCad Grant to proper line items for expenditure.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Senior Center/Office on Aging has received a TCad grant in the amount of \$ 8,000.00; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to budget these funds in the amount of \$ 8,000.00 to proper line items for expenditure; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that funds in the be budgeted as follows.

INCREASE:

101.46980 OTHER STATE GRANTS \$ 8,000.00

INCREASE:

101.56300.355 TRAVEL \$ 4,000.00

101.56300.422 FOOD SUPPLIES \$ 2,000.00

101.56300.499 OTHER SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS \$ 2,000.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed
Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Douglas to approve Resolution 20250121-09. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-10

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to give Candy Eaton permission to pursue grants for and on behalf of Benton County/Benton County Animal Shelter, with compensation of 2% of the grant monies secured.

WHEREAS, Benton County Mayor Mark Ward asks the Benton County Commission to approve and give permission to Candy Eaton to and pursue and secure grant funds on behalf of Benton County to benefit the Benton County Animal Shelter; and,

WHEREAS, as compensation for her services, Candy Eaton will receive two percent (2%) of grant funds that she secures for this purpose (paid from the County General Fund); and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that Candy Eaton be granted permission to pursue and secure grants, under the terms outlined above.

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed
_____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve Resolution 20250121-10. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.



MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR



WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-11

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to make need changes and updates to the Benton County Travel Policy.

WHEREAS, the previous amended Travel Policy for Benton County was passed and adopted by the Benton County Commission with Resolution # 0515-04; and,

WHEREAS, the Benton County travel Policy needs to be amended and revised to address proper the payment procedure for lodging when traveling; and,

WHEREAS, the verbiage below should be added to the Benton County Travel Policy, replacing the current verbiage immediately under the fifth (5th) "WHEREAS" in the policy:

WHEREAS, the revised and updated reimbursement rates below will take effect immediately:

Hotel Rooms \$ 200.00 Per Night (Unless at a Convention Rate)

Breakfast \$ 10.00 (Reimbursement not to exceed)

Lunch \$ 14.00 (Reimbursement not to exceed)

Dinner \$ 16.00 (Reimbursement not to exceed)

Mileage The County will reimburse the same mileage rate as the State of Tennessee and may fluctuate at any time.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that the above changes to the Benton County Travel Policy are approved and adopted for use.

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve Resolution No. 20250121-11. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-12

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & PROPERTY COMMITTEES

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 98,417.54 to cover the County's obligation with regards to the Clerk & Master's Property Sale.

WHEREAS, after the Chancery Court's recent tax sale, the Benton County Mayor has received an invoice from the Clerk & Master for payment on unsold properties; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 98, 417.54 in order to pay this obligation; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that funds in the be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE:

101.39000 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE \$ 98,417.54

INCREASE:

101.51300.599 OTHER CHARGES \$ 98,417.54

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve Resolution No. 20250121-12. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-13

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 8,000.00 to cover a shortfall in Internet Connectivity.

WHEREAS, there exists a projected shortfall in the expenditure line for Internet Connectivity in the budget for County Buildings; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 8,000.00 in order to cover this expenditure; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that funds in the be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE:

101.39000 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE \$ 8,000.00

INCREASE:

101.51800.350 INTERNET CONNECTIVITY \$ 8,000.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve Resolution 20250121-13. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-14

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 5,500.00 to cover an expenditure obligation Community Development Partners.

WHEREAS, there exists a projected shortfall in the expenditure line for paying for services from Community Development Partners, LLC; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 5,500.00 in order to cover this expenditure; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that funds in the be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE:

171.39000 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE \$ 5,500.00

INCREASE:

171.91110.308 CONSULTANTS \$ 5,500.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Nunnery and seconded by Commissioner Miller to amend Resolution No. 20250121-14 (Please See Below Amendment to Resolution No. 20250121-14 to change the amount of \$5,500.00 to \$9,500.00). On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed to Amend.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

*****Amendment to Resolution No. 20250121-14*****

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-14

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 9,500.00 to cover an expenditure obligation Community Development Partners.

WHEREAS, there exists a projected shortfall in the expenditure line for paying for services from Community Development Partners, LLC; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 9,500.00 in order to cover this expenditure; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that funds in the be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE:

171.39000 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE **\$ 9,500.00**

INCREASE:

171.91110.308 CONSULTANTS **\$ 9,500.00**

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Burke to approve as amended Resolution No. 20250121-14 (*Please See Above Amendment to Resolution 20250121-14*). On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed as Amended.



MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR



WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-15

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 20,000.00 to cover the county's share of a \$ 80,000.00 Airport Grounds Maintenance Grant.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Airport has been approved for an Airport Grounds Maintenance Grant; and,

WHEREAS, this grant is a 75/25% grant, with a \$60,000 State share and a \$20,000 Local share; and,

WHEREAS, this grant will be used to purchase the following items: -John Deere Side-by-Side, Zero-Turn Mower, Sprayer System, Blower to clean rwy/twy/apron/parking area; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 20,000.00 in order to cover this expenditure; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that funds in the be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE:

101.39000 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE \$ 20,000.00

INCREASE:

101.584220.717 MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT \$20,000.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Holland and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve Resolution No. 20250121-15. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

*****CORRECTION TO RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-15*****

Correction to **Resolution No. 20250121-15** needed due to a typo error in drafting the **Original Resolution No. 20250121-15** which was noticed by the Mayor's Office on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, and we were advised to correct the line item number from **101.584220.717** to the correct line item number which should have been **101.58220.71**

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-16

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION, by Mayor Mark Ward to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 50,000.00 to cover a shortfall in Aviation Fuel for the Airport.

WHEREAS, due to robust sales, there exists a projected shortfall in the expenditure line for the purchase of Aviation Fuel in the budget for the Benton County Airport; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$ 50,000.00 in order to cover this expenditure; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 21th day of January, 2025 that funds in the be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE:

101.39000 UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE \$ 50,000.00

INCREASE:

101.58220.425 GASOLINE \$ 50,000.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Nunnery to approve Resolution No. 20250121-16. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.



MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR




WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

NOTARIES

Sherry J. Elendt, Amanda Joy Butcher, Ashley Morgan McHan, Glenda L. Phillips, and Emma Lydia Wyatt

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Holland to approve notaries. On a voice vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Carries.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Miller to Suspend the Rules to bring Resolution No. 20250121-17 to the floor. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20250121-17

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOS MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: NONE

January 21, 2025

A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to voice opposition to Governor Lee’s “Education Freedom Act” in solidarity with the action and will of the Benton County Board of Education.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, in Article XI, Section 12, states that the Tennessee legislature “shall provide for the maintenance, support, and eligibility standards of a system of free public schools”; and

WHEREAS, the fulfillment of this constitutional guarantee is heavily reliant upon adequate state funding, which is vital for equipping schools with the necessary resources to serve the various needs of Tennessee’s students; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Education is charged with governing the school district so that all students, regardless of background needs, or ability, receive the best possible educational opportunities in order to graduate prepared to enter a postsecondary institution or the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Benton County is an educational community that serves a student population of 2,180, with 68% of those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Benton County School System offers an array of specialized programs including special education services, career and technical education training aligned with local workforce needs, athletics, clubs, band/music, and after school tutorial services which are invaluable for meeting both individual student needs and the Tennessee Constitution’s requirement of a free and public education; and

WHEREAS, Benton County School System is a cornerstone of the local community, not only providing education services to all students regardless of background, need or ability, but also employing 202 professional educators and 154 support staff members; and

WHEREAS, Benton County School System is committed to maintaining local control over its schools, ensuring that they are reflective of the community’s needs and values; and

WHEREAS, Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) threaten the district’s ability to maintain the quality of its educational offerings as ESAs would divert state funds to private actors and disrupt local control of education. The ESAs as being proposed, would not hold private actors to the same accountability as public schools currently are under. This being the case, it would prevent true accountability for the funds being diverted away from public schools to private actors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Benton County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its opposition to the Governor’s “Education Freedom Act” as well as any other voucher or Education Savings Account legislation due to the immediate and yet to be determined long range detrimental impacts these programs will have on our students, schools, and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Benton County Board of Commissioners urges the Tennessee General Assembly to consider the effects that Education Savings Accounts will have on local schools’ districts and to instead seek out ways to support and strengthen public schools throughout the state.

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve Resolution No. 20250121-17. On a roll call vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

ANY OTHER BUSINESS CONTINUED

Announcement that the Benton County Budget Committee will hold a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Benton County Courthouse

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Lashlee to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote 16 Ayes, 0 No, and 2 Absent. Motion Carries.

WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK, DO CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE JANUARY 21, 2025, BENTON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING.


COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD


COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN