

BENTON COUNTY AUGUST 17, 2026

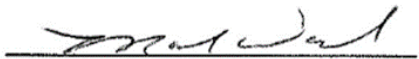
BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON AUGUST 17, 2026, THAT THE BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT THE BENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE @ 6:00 P.M.

Opening of meeting was by Sheriff Kenny Christopher or Deputy
Invocation was led by Daniel King and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jerry Price

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK, Wanda Malin– 17 Present and 1 Absent (Sonny Hall)

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Bain and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve the agenda. On a voice vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 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) Airport Grant Presentations**
 - 6) Approval of Minutes**
 - 7) Report of Public Utilities**
 - 8) A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to budget funds in the amount of \$51,267.82 from the Public School Construction & Maintenance Grant received at the end of the last fiscal year. (20260817-01)**

- 9) A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to move funds in the amount of \$9,300.00 within the school's budget. **(20260817-02)**
- 10) A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to budget funds received from West TN Healthcare in the amount of \$47,440.00 to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure. **(20260817-03)**
- 11) A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to budget funds in the amount of \$812.55 received from the state for Early Childhood Education (Voluntary Pre-K), to the school's budget. **(20260817-04)**
- 12) A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence, to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$217,500.00 to the school's nutrition budget. **(20260817-05)**
- 13) A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Kenny Christopher to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$21,783.33 to proper expenditure line items within the Sheriff's Budget to fund installing a video workstation for the Sheriff's Office due to expiration of BVMS maintenance coverage and licensing fees up to date with Securitas Technology. **(20260817-06)**
- 14) A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christpher to budget funds in the amount of \$150.00 received from the Sex Offenders Registry to appropriate line items in the Sheriff's budget for expenditure. **(20260817-07)**
- 15) A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 12,500.00 received from the TLETA Cost Sharing Grant to an expenditure line item to allow for proper expenditure. **(20260817-08)**
- 16) A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$1,324.45 received from insurance payments on damaged sheriff department vehicles to an expenditure line item to allow for proper expenditure. **(20260817-09)**
- 17) A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$375.00 received from miscellaneous sources to proper line items for expenditure. **(20260817-10)**
- 18) A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$ 200.00 received from Damages Recovered from Individuals. **(20260817-11)**
- 19) A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$775.00 received from miscellaneous sources to proper line items for expenditure. **(20260817-12)**
- 20) A RESOLUTION of Order appointing Angie Hern as commissioner for the North Utility District of Decatur and Benton Counties, Tennessee to serve a four (4) year term expiring April 2030. **(20260817-13)**
- 21) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to reappoint Mr. Ray Wilson to the Benton County Electric System Board for a 4-year term. **(20260817-14)**
- 22) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds received from airport grants in the amount of \$257,869.51 to the airport's budget. **(20260817-15)**
- 23) A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to appoint Heather Drexler to the Benton County Animal Shelter Board for a three (3) year term. **(20260817-16)**
- 24) A RESOLUTION authorizing the return of unexpended school resource office (SRO) grant funds in the amount of \$30,117.76 to the State of Tennessee by appropriating funds for the same. **(20260817-17)**
- 25) A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to declare one (1) county owned vehicle, in possession of the Animal Shelter, as surplus property for the purpose of public sale. **(20260817-18)**
- 26) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds in the amount of \$1,582.00 received from courtroom security fees to proper expenditure line items within the sheriff's budget, in order to fund required training for Bailiffs/Court Security. **(20260817-19)**
- 27) A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to appoint Sam Jones to the Benton County Civil Service Board for a four (4) term beginning September 1, 2026 and ending September 1, 2030. **(20260817-20)**

- 28) A RESOLUTION to increase the compensation for the Benton County Commissioners for attendance at scheduled commission meetings and standing committee meetings. (20260817-21)
- 29) Appointing Notaries
- 30) Any Other Business
- 31) Adjourn

CITIZENS FORUM

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

COUNTY MAYOR, ATTORNEY FINANCE ADVISOR OR PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Mark Ward addressed the commissioners that will be leaving and thank them for their service and dedication for the last 4 years serving on the Benton Co. Commission

Mayor Mark Ward recognized Commissioner Jeff Murphy for his appointment by Governor Bill Lee to the Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

AIRPORT GRANT PRESENTATION

Rita Halsam, Benton County Airport Manager-Presentation regarding Perimeter Fence Grant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Horton and seconded by Commissioner Arnold for the approval of minutes. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF PUBLIC UTILITES

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Douglas to approve the Report of Public Utilities. On a voice vote 17 Ayes, 0 No and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-01

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOS MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to budget funds in the amount of \$51,267.82 from the Public School Construction & Maintenance Grant received at the end of the last fiscal year.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received the Public School Construction & Maintenance Grant at the end of the last fiscal year;

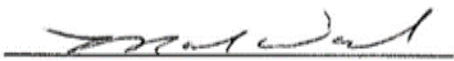
THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2026-27 budget as follows;

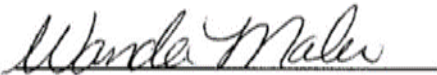
<u>DECREASE</u>		
39000	Fund Balance	\$51,267.82
<u>INCREASE</u>		
76100 707	Capital Outlay Building Improvements	\$51,267.82

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 Horton to approve Resolution No. 20260817-01. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-02

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to move funds in the amount of \$9,300.00 within the school’s budget.

WHEREAS: The estimate of expenditures was not enough to meet the necessary expenditures for certain subsidiary items in the primary series in the School Budget;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2026-27 budget as follows;

<u>INCREASE</u>		
72210 105	Supervisor of Instruction	\$9,100.00
72410 139	Assistant Principal	200.00
<u>DECREASE</u>		
71100 116	Teachers	\$9,300.00

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

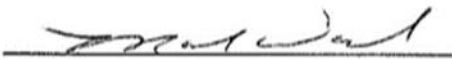
APPROVED:

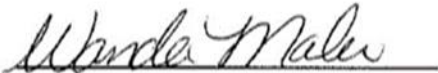
COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler seconded by Commissioner Kiehn to approve Resolution No. 20260817-02. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-03

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOS MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to budget funds received from West TN Healthcare in the amount of \$47,440.00 to proper line items in the school budget for expenditure.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received a donation from West TN Healthcare;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2026-27 budget as follows;

INCREASE

44570	Contributions & Donations	\$47,440.00
76100 399	Capital Outlay Contracted Services	\$47,440.00

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 Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Price to approve Resolution No. 20260817-03. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-04

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence to budget funds in the amount of \$812.55 received from the state for Early Childhood Education (Voluntary Pre-K), to the school’s budget.

WHEREAS: The Benton County Board of Education received state funds for Early Childhood Education (Voluntary PreK);

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following changes within the 2026-27 budget as follows;

INCREASE

46515 VPK	Early Childhood Education	\$812.55
73400 207	Employee Insurance	\$812.55

Upon a Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

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

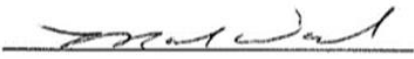
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Horton to approve Resolution No. 20260817-04. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.



MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR



WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-05

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY DOS MARK FLORENCE

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by DOS Mark Florence, to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$217,500.00 to the school’s nutrition budget.

WHEREAS: The estimate of expenditures was not enough to meet the one-time expenditures for certain subsidiary items in the Benton County School Nutrition budget;

THEREFORE: Be it resolved by the Benton County Board of Commissioners to approve the following budget amendment:

DECREASE - Revenue

34570	Fund Balance	\$ 217,500.00
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INCREASE - Expenditures

73100 710	Food Service Equipment	\$ 217,500.00
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Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

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

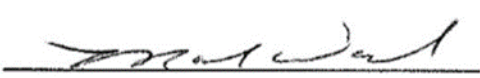
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Douglas to approve Resolution No. 20260817-05. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-06

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KEN CHRISTOPHER

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: LAW ENFORCEMENT & BUDGET COMMITTEES

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Kenny Christopher to appropriate and budget funds in the amount of \$21,783.33 to proper expenditure line items within the Sheriff’s Budget to fund installing a video workstation for the Sheriff’s Office due to expiration of BVMS maintenance coverage and licensing fees up to date with Securitas Technology.

WHEREAS, Benton County Sheriff’s Office has entered into an agreement with Securitas Technology and Brian Williams CISSP to provide the equipment and services; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to appropriate funds in the amount of \$21,783.33 into the appropriate line items with the Sheriff’s budget in order to cover the approved purchases,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026 that funds in the amount of \$21,783.33 be appropriated and budgeted in the following manner:

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.39000	Unassigned Fund Balance	\$21,783.33
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INCREASE ESPENDITURES:

101.54110.709	Data Processing Equipment	\$20,783.33
101.54110.317	Data Processing Services (Brian Williams, CISSP)	\$ 1,000.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted Aye _____ Voted Naye _____ Passed _____ Absent

APPROVED:

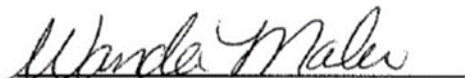
ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Bain and seconded by Commissioner Fowler to approve Resolution No. 20260817-06. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

Resolution NO. 20260817-07

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KEN CHRISTOPHER

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christpher to budget funds in the amount of \$150.00 received from the Sex Offenders Registry to appropriate line items in the Sheriff’s budget for expenditure.

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to budget said revenues in the amount of \$150.00 to the appropriate expenditure accounts within the SOR budget, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026 that the funds in the amount of \$150.00 received by the Benton County Sheriff’s Office for revenues to be budgeted as follows:

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.43395	Sexual Offender Registration Fee -- Sheriff	\$150.00
		\$150.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

101.54160.599	Other Charges	\$100.00
101.54160.358	Remittance of Revenues	\$50.00
		\$150.00

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

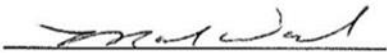
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Fowler to approve Resolution No. 20260817-07. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-08
SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KEN CHRISTOPHER
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES
August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 12,500.00 received from the TLETA Cost Sharing Grant to an expenditure line item to allow for proper expenditure.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff’s Office has received revenues in the amount of \$12,500.00 from a TLETA cost sharing grant; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to budget said revenues in the amount of \$12,500.00 to the appropriate expenditure line item for payment to Deputies (5) within the Sheriff’s Department Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 17th day of August, 2026 that the funds in the amount of \$12,500.00 received by the Benton County Sheriff’s Office be budgeted as follows:

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.47250	Law Enforcement Grants	\$12,500.00
		\$12,500.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

101.54110.140	Salary Supplements	\$12,500.00
		\$12,500.00

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 Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Kiehn to amend Resolution No. 20260817-08 (*See Below Amendment to Resolution No. 20260817-08*). On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed to Amend.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

AMENDMENT #1 TO RESOLUTION 20260817-08
CORRECTION, should be Retention and Recruitment Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-08

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KEN CHRISTOPHER

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher, to budget funds in the amount of \$ 12,500.00 received from the TLETA Retention and Recruitment Grant to an expenditure line item to allow for proper expenditure.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff's Office has received revenues in the amount of \$12,500.00 from a TLETA retention and recruitment grant; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to budget said revenues in the amount of \$12,500.00 to the appropriate expenditure line item for payment to Deputies (5) within the Sheriff's Department Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 17th day of August, 2026 that the funds in the amount of \$12,500.00 received by the Benton County Sheriff's Office be budgeted as follows:

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.47250	Law Enforcement Grants	\$12,500.00
		\$12,500.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

101.54110.140	Salary Supplements	\$12,500.00
		\$12,500.00

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

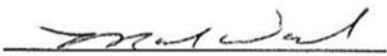
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Fowler to approve as amended Resolution No. 20260817-08 (*See Above Amended Resolution No. 20260817-08*). On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed as Amended.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-09

SPONSORED BY THE BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KENNY CHRISTOPHER

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$1,324.45 received from insurance payments on damaged sheriff department vehicles to an expenditure line item to allow for proper expenditure.

WHEREAS, Payments in the amount of \$1,324.45 have been received from insurance reimbursements on wrecked vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to move said funds into an expenditure line item for proper expenditure, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026 that funds be budgeted as follows:

Decrease Fund Balance:		Amount:
101.49700	Insurance Recovery	\$1,324.45
		\$1,324.45
Increase Expenditures:		Amount:
101.58400.338	Maintenance and Repair of Vehicles	\$1,324.45
		\$1,324.45

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 Bain and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20260817-09. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-10
SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KENNY CHRISTOPHER
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES
August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$375.00 received from miscellaneous sources to proper line items for expenditure.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff’s Office has received revenues in the amount of \$375.00 for the month of June, 2026; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to budget said revenues in the amount of \$375.00 to the appropriate expenditure accounts within Sheriff Department Budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 17th day of August, 2026 that the funds in the amount of \$375.00 received by the Benton County Sheriff’s Office for revenues for the month of June, 2026 be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.44170	Miscellaneous Refunds-(Tow Bill)	\$375.00
		\$375.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

101.54110.353	Towing Services	\$375.00
		\$375.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted Aye _____ Voted Naye _____ Passed _____
_____ Absent

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Horton and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20260817-10. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.



MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR



WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-11

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KEN CHRISTOPHER

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Sheriff Ken Christopher to budget funds in the amount of \$ 200.00 received from Damages Recovered from Individuals.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff's Office has received revenues in the amount of \$200.00 for the month of July, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to budget said revenues in the amount of \$200.00 to the appropriate expenditure accounts within the Benton County Jail's Department Budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 17th day of August, 2026 that the funds in the amount of \$200.00 received by the Benton County Sheriff's Office for revenues for the month of July, 2026 be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.44560	Damages Recovered from Individuals	\$200.00
		\$200.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

101.54210.499	Other Supplies & Materials-Jail	\$200.00
		\$200.00

Upon a Motion by_____ Seconded by_____

On a Roll Call Vote_____ Voted Aye _____ Voted Nay _____ Passed _____ Absent

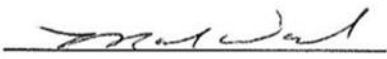
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Douglas and seconded by Commissioner Horton to approve Resolution No. 20260817-11. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-12
SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KENNY CHRISTOPHER
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES
August 17, 2026

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

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff’s Office has received revenues in the amount of \$775.00 for the month of July, 2026; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to budget said revenues in the amount of \$775.00 to the appropriate expenditure accounts within Sheriff Department Budget; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 17th day of August, 2026 that the funds in the amount of \$775.00 received by the Benton County Sheriff’s Office for revenues for the month of July, 2026 be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.44170	Miscellaneous Refunds-(Tow Bill)	\$775.00
		\$775.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

101.54110.353	Towing Services	\$775.00
		\$775.00

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted Aye _____ Voted Naye _____ Passed _____
_____ Absent

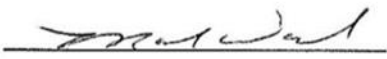
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Bain to approve Resolution No. 20260817-12. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-13

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: NONE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION of Order appointing Angie Hern as commissioner for the North Utility District of Decatur and Benton Counties, Tennessee to serve a four (4) year term expiring April 2030.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to T.C.A. § 7-82-307(a), the Commissioners of The North Utility District of Decatur and Benton Counties, Tennessee certified to the County Mayor of Benton County, Tennessee a list of three nominees in order of preference to fill commissioner position based upon the expired term of Angie Hern, a current commissioner whose term ends April 1, 2026. The new commissioner to be appointed will serve a four (4) year term, commencing on April 1, 2026 and ending April 1, 2030; and,

WHEREAS, said position is currently filled by a resident of Benton County, Tennessee, and the appointee shall be a resident of the same county as the appointee's predecessor.

WHEREAS, pursuant to said statue and from the list of nominees certified to me by the District, I appoint ANGIE HERN, a resident of Benton County, Tennessee, as Commissioner to fill the term commencing April 1, 2026 and ending April 1, 2030.

WHEREAS, A copy of this Order shall be spread upon the minutes of the County Commission for Benton County, Tennessee, and the Clerk is directed to provide a certified copy to the Board of Commissioners of the District and to the appointee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026 that Angie Hern be appointed to a position on the North Utility District of Decatur and Benton Counties Board, to serve a four-year term ending April 2030.

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

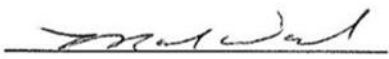
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve Resolution No. 0250218-13. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-14

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: NONE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to reappoint Mr. Ray Wilson to the Benton County Electric System Board for a 4-year term.

WHEREAS, due to the upcoming expiration of his term, Mr. Ray Wilson will need to be reappointed to this position; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson has served multiple consecutive and nonconsecutive terms as a citizen on our board and is willing to serve another term. He is retired from TVA, and has a great understanding of the electric system and its operation and takes great pride in his service to Benton County. He is also well respected in the community.

WHEREAS, Benton County Mayor Mark Ward requests that Ray Wilson be reappointed to the Benton County Electric System Board for a 4-year term, beginning upon the expiration of his current term, September 18, 2026; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 17th Day of August, 2026 that Ray Wilson be reappointed to a 4-year term on the Benton County Electric System Board.

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

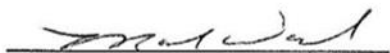
APPROVED:

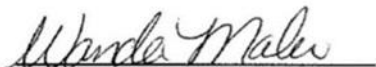
ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Nunnery to approve Resolution No. 20260817-14. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-15

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & PROPERTY COMMITTEES

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds received from airport grants in the amount of \$257,869.51 to the airport’s budget.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Airport has received reimbursement on various grants in the amount of \$257,869.51 from the State of Tennessee. Grants being the Terminal Renovation Grant, Parking Lot Grant, and Windsock and Beacon Panel Grant.

WHEREAS, it is necessary and prudent to budget these funds to a proper line item to allow for expenditures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026 that funds be budgeted as follows:

DECREASE:

189.47590 OTHER FEDERAL THROUGH STATE \$ 257,869.51

INCREASE:

189.91110.724 SITE DEVELOPMENT \$ 257,869.51

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

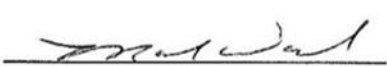
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold and seconded by Commissioner Holland to approve Resolution No. 20260817-15. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed to Amend.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-16

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: NONE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to appoint Heather Drexler to the Benton County Animal Shelter Board for a three (3) year term.

WHEREAS, it will be necessary to fill this position on the Benton County Animal Shelter Board, and;

WHEREAS, Benton County Mayor Mark Ward requests that Heather Drexler be appointed to the Benton County Animal Shelter Board with a three (3) year term ending August 2029,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026 that Heather Drexler be appointed to a position on the Benton County Animal Shelter Board.

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

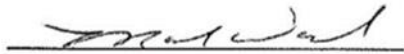
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve Resolution No. 20260817-16. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed as Amended.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-17
SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF KEN CHRISTOPHER
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION authorizing the return of unexpended school resource office (SRO) grant funds in the amount of \$30,117.76 to the State of Tennessee by appropriating funds for the same.

WHEREAS, Benton County applied for and received a School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant from the State of Tennessee to support school safety initiatives within the local school system; and

WHEREAS, the funding period for said SRO grant has concluded, and a final fiscal reconciliation of the project account has been performed; and

WHEREAS, a balance of \$30,117.76 from the grant funds remains unspent and unobligated, leaving an exact sum of money that cannot legally be used for other local purposes and must be returned to the state granting agency; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to maintain compliance with all state grant terms, closeout guidelines, and financial auditing standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee, assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026, that the return of the unspent SRO grant funds to the State of Tennessee is hereby formally authorized and approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Benton County Mayor, the Benton County Sheriff's Dept, and any other appropriate county financial officers are authorized to issue a refund check to the State of Tennessee for the exact unexpended amount and to sign all necessary state closeout documentation to finalize this action.

DECREASE REVENUES:

101.39000	Unassigned Fund Balance	\$30,117.76
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INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

101.54110.509	Other Charges -- Refunds	\$30,117.76
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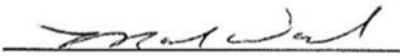
Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

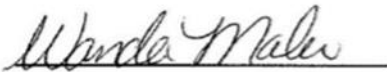
On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Melton to approve Resolution No. 20260817-17. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-18

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: PROPERTY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Benton County Mayor Mark Ward to declare one (1) county owned vehicle, in possession of the Animal Shelter, as surplus property for the purpose of public sale.

WHEREAS, one (1) county owned vehicle assigned to the Benton County Animal Shelter is no longer useful for county service; and

WHEREAS, Benton County Mayor Mark Ward requests that the commission declare this vehicle to be surplus property for the purpose of public sale; and

WHEREAS, this vehicle is listed as follows:

2001 Ford F150 – VIN# 1FTRF17W32KA94310

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August 2026 that the vehicle described above be declared surplus property for the purpose of public sale.

Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

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

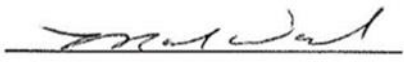
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Fowler and seconded by Commissioner Horton to approve Resolution No. 20260817-18. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-19
SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEES
August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward to budget funds in the amount of \$1,582.00 received from courtroom security fees to proper expenditure line items within the sheriff’s budget, in order to fund required training for Bailiffs/Court Security.

WHEREAS, Benton County Courts have collected funds from courtroom security fees, and;

WHEREAS, the expenditure of these funds for required Bailiff/Courtroom Security Training is a prudent, proper and needed use of said funds; and,

WHEREAS, in order to properly place these funds, it is necessary to budget them into the proper expenditure line;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026 that the following funds be budgeted as follows.

DECREASE

101.42591	COURTROOM SECURITY FEE	\$1582.00
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INCREASE

101.54110.524	IN SERVICE/STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$650.00
101.54110.355	TRAVEL	\$932.00

TOTAL	\$1582.00
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Upon a Motion by _____ Seconded by _____
On a Roll Call Vote _____ Voted AYE _____ Voted NAY _____ Passed _____ Absent _____

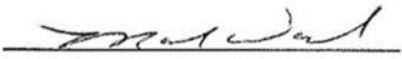
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Bain to approve Resolution No. 20260817-19. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-20
SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: NONE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION by Mayor Mark Ward, to appoint Sam Jones to the Benton County Civil Service Board for a four (4) term beginning September 1, 2026 and ending September 1, 2030.

WHEREAS, due to a vacancy on the Benton County Civil Service Board, it will be necessary and prudent to fill this vacancy for a four (4) term; and,

WHEREAS, Sam Jones is a talented and honorable citizen of Benton County, and has expressed a willingness to serve our community, and;

WHEREAS, Benton County Mayor Mark Ward requests that Sam Jones be appointed to the Benton County Civil Service Board for a four (4) year term, ending September 2030; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee assembled in regular session on this the 17th Day of August, 2026 that, Mr. Sam Jones be appointed to the Benton County Civil Service Board as described above.

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

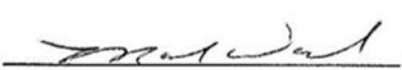
APPROVED:

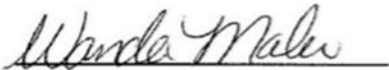
ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Melton and seconded by Commissioner Kiehn to approve Resolution No. 20260817-20. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 20260817-21

SPONSORED BY BENTON COUNTY MAYOR MARK WARD

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 17, 2026

A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION FOR BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR ATTENDANCE AT SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETINGS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Commissioners is responsible for the legislative operations, budgeting, and policy-making decisions of Benton County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the compensation rate for the members of the Board of Commissioners has not been adjusted or modified in approximately eight (8) years; and

WHEREAS, to attract dedicated public servants and maintain a fair, reasonable standard of compensation for the time invested in official county business, it is necessary to adjust the meeting per diem rates; and

WHEREAS, the proposed increases have been reviewed and are deemed financially prudent and necessary for the proper administration of county legislative functions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Benton County, Tennessee, assembled in regular session on this 17th day of August, 2026, that:

1. The compensation rate for Benton County Commissioners attending regular or special called County Commission meetings shall be increased to \$150.00 per meeting.
2. The compensation rate for Benton County Commissioners attending officially recognized Standing Committee meetings shall be increased to \$75.00 per meeting.
3. This compensation adjustment shall officially take effect on September 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county budget line items associated with County Commission payroll be funded accordingly to accommodate this adjustment for the remainder of the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

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

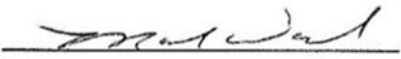
APPROVED:

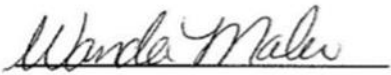
ATTEST:

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN

Motion was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Kiehn to approve Resolution No. 20260817-21. On a roll call vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Passed.

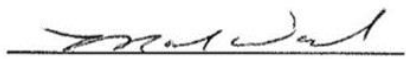

MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR

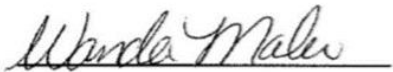

WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

NOTARIES

Tammy Linette Sharum, Michele Byers Wright, Karen D. Scott, Hunter Lee Hollingsworth, and Kayla Jo Smothers

Motion was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Arnold to approve notaries. On a voice vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Carries.


MARK WARD, COUNTY MAYOR


WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy rescinded his motion to discharge and dissolve the Private Acts Committee of Benton County, Tennessee

Commissioner Murphy addressed the commission about the Savannah Grace Organization founded by Amy Cates; The Budget Committee is looking into adding this nonprofit organization to their current nonprofit list

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Holland and seconded by Commissioner Fowler to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote 17 Ayes, 0 No, and 1 Absent. Motion Carries.

WANDA MALIN, COUNTY CLERK, DO CERTIFY THIS TO BE A TRUE AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE AUGUST 17, 2026, BENTON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING.

COUNTY MAYOR, MARK WARD

COUNTY CLERK, WANDA MALIN