

August 19, 2026
Workshop
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met for a Workshop on the above date with the following members present: Commissioner Wade Ellenburg, Commissioner Mitch Johnson, Commissioner Wilmer Stafford, Commissioner Clint Erickson, and Commissioner Earl Stafford, Chairman of the Board.

David Corbin, Project Director, was present.

Angie Purvee, Finance Director, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Stafford called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Project Director David Corbin led the prayer and pledge.

Becky Miller, Florida Sheriffs Employee Benefits Trust, presented a revised Florida Blue quote for the County's employee health insurance. She stated that the revised quote is not for the County's current Florida Blue plans, but for three different plans. The revised quote has an approximate 25% premium increase. Discussion of this matter included the following:

- The new Florida Blue plans have a significant financial impact on employees covering spouses or dependents
- United Healthcare quote had a 25% premium increase with less of a financial impact for employees covering spouses or dependents
- Process to transition employees to new insurance coverage
- Insurance Committee's recommendation to switch to United Healthcare if Florida Blue does not return with comparable quotes
- Eliminate the "free" health insurance plan and require a \$25 monthly deduction from the employee

Ms. Miller recommended transferring the County's health insurance coverage to United Healthcare. The Board took a roll call vote to accept Ms. Miller's recommendation and require a \$25 monthly deduction from the employee on the previously named "free" plan. The votes were unanimous.

(Quote)

Chairman Stafford presented a proposal to balance the 2026-2027 budget. He advised that the proposal uses the D5 dirt pit sale proceeds, the money returned from constitutional officers, the health insurance savings, FEMA #4564 Advance funds for completed projects, capital outlay funds, and LOGT funds to balance the budget. He stated that his proposal still has a shortfall of \$139,000 due to the reduced sales tax projections posted by the State.

(Proposal)

Chairman Stafford's proposal includes funding the Holmes County Tax Collector's \$108,473 request for new computer software. Discussion included the type of software needed, the procurement method used to acquire the quote and the \$30,000 annual maintenance fee on the quoted software. The Board agreed by consensus for an impartial computer specialist to view the Holmes County Tax Collector's current system and to attend the September 1st Special Session to discuss the need for the software.

The Board discussed the legal process to sell the D5 dirt pit and the wisdom of the sale. Commissioner Wilmer Stafford discussed using the dump truck sell proceeds in lieu of selling the pit.

The Board directed Project Director David Corbin to research selling or leasing out the County's closed landfill.

The Board discussed the need to generate more recurring revenue through franchise fees, surtaxes or gas taxes. John Tate, Holmes County Sheriff, presented a proposal to impose an EMS Assessment Fee in Lieu of Patient Billing. He stated that all property owners would be charged an annual EMS assessment that would help fund EMS services and also guarantee the citizen is provided with emergency services at no cost outside the insurance funds collected. Sheriff Tate discussed the benefit of the assessment to the County as well as its citizens. The Board agreed to allow County Attorney Nate Nolin to investigate the process needed to implement the assessment.

(Proposal)

The Board discussed the impact of the property tax reform referendum if approved by voters.

There being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Clerk

Chairman