

**Stoneville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes
2025 Annual Budget Retreat
March 8, 2025, 9:00AM
Council Chambers at 101 Smith St.**

Special Meeting: Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Council members Henry Thornton, Johnny Farmer, Curt Bennett, Daisy Smith, and Lee Shelton. Also present were Town Administrator Michael Sands, Finance Officer Shannon Tucker, Town Clerk Deleia Hutcherson, Fire Chief Joel Freeman, Police Chief Rebecca Dixon, and Town Attorney Eugene Russell. Public Works Director Byron Curry was unable to attend the meeting.

Welcome: Mayor Galvan welcomed the assembly and called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Agenda: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the March 8, 2025, Agenda. Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Department Budget Requests for 2025/2026

1. **Public Works Department** – Public Works Director, Byron Curry was unable to attend. He reviewed his requests with Finance Officer, Shannon Tucker and asked her to present on his behalf.
 - Uniforms: increase to \$2,000 to accommodate seasonal needs.
 - Other Supplies: Increase to \$5,000 for miscellaneous expenses, including gravel.
 - Equipment: Increase to \$70,000 to purchase a sewer vacuum to clean and maintain sewer lines.
 - Equipment Maintenance: Increase to \$10,000 due to aging equipment and repair costs.
 - Vehicle Maintenance: Increase to \$5,000 due to an additional truck in the fleet.
 - Training: Increase to \$500 for staff development.
 - Software Purchase: Increase to \$3,000. Proposal to purchase ArcGIS System (\$2,200/year) for improved water line mapping, as recommended by the town engineer.
 - The Council requested staff look at a capital improvement plan for road improvements prior to the next budget session. This should align with the pavement study that is currently being performed by a third party.

Wastewater

- Equipment: Increase to \$1,500.
- Training: Increase to \$1,000 to support required certifications.

Water System

- Vehicle Maintenance: Increase to \$500.

2. Police Department – Chief Rebecca Dixon presented her budget requests

- Salary Adjustments: Ensure budget aligns with recent salary increases.
- Postage Budget: Increase due to rising costs.
- Training Budget: Most law enforcement training is free; funds reallocated.
- New Canine (K9) Line Item: Separate budget line created for K9 expenses. Revenue line created for donation-based funding, ensuring funds roll over each year.
- Records Management System: Option 1: LEA Data Technologies (\$2,000) – Basic internal investigation and early warning system. Option 2: LEFTA Program (\$5,000) – Comprehensive system covering investigations, training, equipment tracking, and vehicle maintenance.
- New Police Vehicles: Need for additional vehicles due to staff expansion. Proposal for two vehicles with phased purchases in July and January. Discussion on financing options through local government loans. Chief Dixon mentioned the Police Department would be moving away from unmarked vehicles and talked about the importance of visibility for police vehicles. She also shared the new color scheme for vehicles.
- Concerns Over School Resource Officer (SRO) Funding: Chief Dixon shared that Federal grants fund 83% of the SRO position. Councilman Farmer mentioned the uncertainty regarding federal funding and the need for a contingency plan if funding is cut.
- Equipment Needs: Handheld Radios Upgrade (\$500 per unit) – Aging equipment will become obsolete after July 1st. Patrol Car Radios (\$10,000 for two units) – Needed for new vehicles.
- Chief Dixon also informed the Council that Captain Eanes was working on an inventory control system for department-issued gear.

3. Fire Department – Chief Joel Freeman presented his budget requests

- Part-time Salaries: Increase from \$16.00 hour to \$19 hour to attract more part-time firefighters.
- Fire Call Payments: Increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per call to encourage volunteer participation.
- Training Budget: Increase to \$2,000.
- Website and Grant Applications: Continued development of the department's website and grant-seeking efforts.

New Fire Truck Proposal – Current fleet includes a 2015 engine and a 2001 engine. The 2001 engine is 26 years old and needs to be replaced. The estimated cost is \$900,000 - \$1,000,000. The Council directed Chief Freeman to start looking at specifications and review other municipalities' truck bids to explore cost-saving options.

Chief Freeman stated the County would allocate \$130,000 during the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Chief Freeman was also asked if he was recommending a full-time Fire Chief's position and he stated he didn't

know if that would resolve or improve their current situation and decline in staffing. The Council directed the Town Administrator to provide comparative salary data for a potential full-time Fire Chief.

4. Parks & Recreation – Finance Officer, Shannon Tucker presented the budget items due to the vacancy in this position.

- Christmas Events: \$3,000 budgeted which includes Christmas parade and other events
- Park Maintenance: \$14,000 allocated for necessary repairs, including playground slide replacement (\$7,000 - \$9,000).
- Youth Activities: \$1,000 set aside for events like the Back to School Bash.
- Consensus of Council to maintain budget allocation for potential hires.

Mayor Galvan announced the next budget work session for April 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Public comments will be allowed at the budget session to gather community feedback on budget priorities. A public comment sign up sheet will be available in the lobby on the night of the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Farmer. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 10:19 a.m.



Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan



Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

