

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, AND THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, TROY SPRINKLE, CHIP KELLER, MELISSA GREENE (absent 8/11/15) BRIAN CULP AND JOE CRONE. ALSO PRESENT WERE LINDA PRUITT, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; DAREE FRY, HR DIRECTOR; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; AND TYLER LEWIS AND MICHAEL BELL, REEDY FINANCIAL.

8/11/25

Council Pay Increase

Brian Culp made a motion to forego a pay increase for 2026. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 6-0. Vickie Kivett challenged the Board of Commissioners to do the same.

Special Duty Incentive Pay

Daree Fry stated that there are several employees in the county that have taken CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) training. Ms. Fry asked for the special duty incentive pay for these employees as Sheriff deputies that have taken the training receive the incentive. The incentive equates to \$115.38 per pay. There are 45 employees in the jail and Sheriff's Department that currently receive the incentive and there are an additional 16 employees that have taken the training. Sheriff Myers stated that he would not have a problem with removing the incentive for this training. Chip Keller suggested grandfathering the current recipients for CISM and eliminating new submissions. Brian Culp asked if there was a list of employees that receive the incentive and what they receive the incentive for. Chip Keller made a motion to remove the CISM incentive effective 1/1/26. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 6-0.

Three-Year Growth Levy Appeal

Linda Pruitt noted that the county qualifies for a three-year growth levy appeal, which must be approved by the state. This is the last year that counties can apply for this. Chip Keller made a motion to apply for the appeal. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 6-0.

Request to Fill Vacant Position – Auditor

Linda Pruitt requested approval to fill a vacant position that is currently shared with the Treasurer. Brian Culp made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Joe Crone. Motion carried 6-0.

Request to Change Position – Health Department

Morgan County Health Department Director, Tricia Runningen, requested changing the duties, requirements and title of the Administrative Assistant to Finance/Grants Manager. Joe Crone made a motion to approve the request. Motion seconded by Vickie Kivett. Motion carried 6-0.

Recess

Brian Culp made a motion to recess the meeting until Thursday, August 14 at 9 am. Motion seconded by Joe Crone. Motion carried 6-0.

8/14/24

Reconvene

Tyler Lewis reviewed the changes the Council made to the budget. Vickie Kivett made a motion to approve the changes and advertise the budget. Motion seconded by Kim Merideth. Motion carried 7-0.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment

Chip Keller made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Brian Culp. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Kim Merideth
Kim Merideth

Vickie Klavett

Troy Sprinkle
Troy Sprinkle

Chip Keller
Chip Keller

Melissa Greene

Brian Culp
Brian Culp

Joe Crone
Joe Crone

ATTEST:

Linda Pruitt
Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor