

# SEBREE BANNER



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## Webster County Fiscal Court Meets In Called Session

Webster County Fiscal Court met in a special called session Wednesday morning as they closed out business for May. Wednesday's meeting included first reading of the FY 2026 budget, the surplus of two trucks, awarding road material bids and approving resolutions and agreements.

Following the approval of transfers, claims and purchase orders, the court okayed the hiring of Roger Jones at the road department as a part-time employee, and approved a rate change in Arulius Woolfolk's salary. They also approved Arulius Woolfolk, Jr as a part-time worker at Canaan Ridge Park.

First reading of the fiscal year 2026 budget was approved. That \$20,917,439 budget includes a general fund of \$4,747,281 with a road fund of \$4,208,167. The jail budget for 2026 is set at

\$2,750,846 while LGEA totals \$5,489,890. The county has federal grants in the amount of \$3,078,000 and opioid funding totaling \$353,528. The sanitation fund balance is listed as \$230,458. The animal shelter is funded at \$500 with the sheriff's federal asset forfeiture fund listed at \$20,000 and special funds for the clerk's storage of records reflecting \$38,969.

According to Judge/Executive Steve Henry, the budget approved Wednesday reflects some changes from the budget he presented three weeks ago. He noted that state grant monies have been moved to the LGEA fund.

The fiscal year 2026 budget includes a 2.9 percent COLA (cost of living) increase for all fulltime county employees. Employees' salaries are typically set in July.

The county anticipates revenue in the amount of

about \$1.2 million from real property taxes and \$250,000 from vehicle taxes other sources of income include tangible property tax dollars, delinquent property taxes, deed transfers, 9-1-1 fees, bank franchises and franchise corporations taxes. The county will also receive funds from in lieu of payments from solar projects, excess fees, waste hauling permits, telecommunication fees, EMA reimbursements, sheriff's fees, solid waste charges, and state and federal grants as well as other fees and payments. The road fund will also see funding from licensing county road aide. Jail revenue is dependent on revenue from housing state prisoners and prisoners from other counties, a portion of court costs collections and Class D housing.

Wednesday's court meet-

ing also included approval of a resolution to secure \$529,065 in RDAPP funds, a regional development program that will enable the local economic development to make improvements to the Sebree South Industrial Park. Eliminating the lake, putting in a build ready pad, installing utilities and creating an entrance to the property off KY 494 are planned for that area. The work is part of the Kentucky Product Development Initiative.

The court also approved a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant agreement, a grant program put in place by the General Assembly and will provide about \$122,549 for a county project.

After reviewing road materials bids that were opened at a previous meeting, road foreman Randy Norman recommended that all bids be accepted. The court concurred and approved Nor-

man's recommendation.

Other business to come before the court included approval of a resolution to make application for assistance for funding through the Recreation Trails Program. The matching grant in the amount of \$72,410 will allow the county to repair some trail washouts at the park, help eliminate washouts and enable the bridge project to continue to move forward as well as put in place some initiatives to direct the flow of rain run-off.

Before the meeting adjourned, the court gave the okay for a 2024 Mack tri-axle and a 2024 Mack roll-off to be surplus. Those trucks were to be taken to Montgomery, AL to be sold on Friday.

The next meeting of the fiscal court is scheduled for June 9, at 9:00 a.m. at the Webster County Senior Center.

## Board Of Education Recognizes Students; Hears Attendance, Academic Reports

The Webster County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, May 27 with Superintendent Aaron Harrell and four board members present. Board member Davis Asher was not in attendance at the meeting.

Following approval of the agenda for the session, the board recognized the achievements of several students in the school system.

Gabe Vincent, who operator's Gabe's Aquatics, presented members with an over-

view of his business, which was developed in affiliation with the Webster County High School FFA program. Vincent breeds various types of fish, which are offered for sale. He is currently working on a state competition in

an effort to obtain additional funding to further develop his business.

Webster County High student athletes Paisley Stone, Mayci Moore, Sara Welshans, Jackson Edens, and Chloe Papineau were recognized for their accomplishments in track, tennis, baseball, and softball.

In his report to the board, Superintendent Harrell noted that attendance for the 2024-2025 school year improved from previous years. The average attendance districtwide was 92.61%.

In an instructional update, Harrell noted that new curriculum data helps the district prepare instructional protocols from year to year. "We are moving toward complete implementation of our curriculum plan." He added that goal are being

met and even changed throughout the instructional year because they need to be set higher. Much of that data is being collected on walk-throughs of classrooms throughout the district.

The superintendent provided chart data showing the gains each year in both English and math. The instructional improvements continue to grow across the district. Harrell added, "We are using the designed curriculum as it is intended to be used. We are very close to our 2024-25 goals."

He continued, "We improved this year and that's what we are asking for. The curriculum has been a heavy lift for teachers, but they are doing the work."

Board members approved the same meeting date schedule for the upcoming year as was implemented in 2024-2025. Board work

sessions will be held on the second Monday of each month, and regular meeting days are the fourth Monday of each month. The exceptions are July and December when only one meeting is held. All meeting will be held at the central office in Dixon. Board meeting times will change from 5:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. That time change will take effect at the July 21 meeting.

Board members reviewed the personnel report and several consent items, including student trips, fund-raisers, a fiscal year 2025 audit contract, the superintendent's out-of-district travel expense, monthly report, and one family leave act request for a staff member.

The board approved the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget in the amount of \$20,650,889.

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## Webster County Schools To Host 'Drive A Bus' Event

Webster County community members are invited to test drive a school bus during the first "Test Drive a Bus" event on Saturday, June 14th, from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Participants will sit in the driver's seat and drive a school bus on a closed course at Webster County High School, allowing them to see what it's like to drive a school bus and to learn more about becoming a bus driver, including information about benefits, hours, schedules, and training.

A member of the Webster Coun-

ty Schools Transportation Department will be on the bus during the test drive and available to answer your questions and provide more information about driving for Webster County Schools. Participants must be at least 21 years of age and must bring a valid driver's license to the event. Please go to the district website at [www.webster.kyschools.us](http://www.webster.kyschools.us) or the district's Facebook page to register for the event. Registration is helpful, but not required.

## Providence City Council Reviews \$11.9 Million Budget

The Providence City Council heard first reading of the fiscal year 2026 city budget ordinance Monday night. That budget is listed at \$11,890,236. After hearing attorney Bobby Murray read the ordinance and the total revenues and expenditures for each of four accounts, newly appointed mayor Tom Glover asked the council for input and noted that at the will have a work session at the conclusion of their June 16, meeting to review specific line items. Second and final reading of the budget is expected to be held in a special called meeting later in June.

During discussions about the budget during Monday night's session Jimmy Crowell asked that the city consider a three percent cost of living salary increase for all employees. The council members also asked that the city look at the purchase of lawn mowers and chipper as those employees are presently using are in need of replacement. Councilman Mark Turner expressed his concern about the amount of money the city is spending

on maintenance and repairs to city equipment saying that the "cost is unreal."

A breakdown of the revenues and expenditures shows the special revenue account is anticipated to bring in \$3,666,490 with expenditures of the same amount. The utility account reflects \$5,113,337 in revenue and expenditures and the General Fund total revenue is listed at \$2,977,121. The Providence Golf and Recreation area income is anticipated to be at \$133,288. Chip Palmer is the ordinance sponsor.

Following first reading of the budget, the council heard reports from department heads. Clerk Tiffany Conrad presented the public works report due to the absence of Terry Rice. In May, that department replaced 16 stop signs, completed 55 work order and 39 service tickets. The city produced 31 million gallons of water, Conrad said. The clerk also provided council members with a tentative time line for the waste water project that is expected to begin later this summer.

In his report, Police Chief

Ray Agent reported officers responded to 91 complaints, made five arrests, conducted 27 traffic stops, issued 19 citations and 21 warnings, responded to four domestic issues, and made 13 officer assists. Officers logged 12 hours of court time and 16 hours of training.

Fire Chief Cameron Brown told the council that dispatchers answered 301 calls in May while the ambulance service made 66 runs and the fire department was called to 15 fires. Brown also told the council that on June 11, calls to dispatch will begin being answered by Webster County 9-1-1. That date is dependent on AT&T, Brown said, adding that the project is expected to be complete no later than July 1.

Mayor Glover noted that at each meeting he will revisit public appeals made at the previous meeting. At Monday night's meeting he provided a follow-up to concerns brought before the council on May 19.

In response to Marie Cline's request that something be done about trucks

damaging the sidewalk near her home when they make a turn, Glover said he talked with the business concerned and they will start exiting and entering on the Main Street end of the street to avoid further damage. The mayor also reported that the street Cline lives on is on the list to be paved once the water/wastewater project is complete.

Steve Goolsby had also addressed the council about adding a crosswalk near his business. Glover noted that the city has contacted the department of transportation about that concern and that because the area of concern is a state highway, the state will have to be involved in adding a crosswalk. As of Monday night, the city had not heard back from DOT about the matter.

Glover also addressed Goolsby's concern about people blowing grass clippings into the streets. He noted that the city does not have an ordinance related to grass clippings but the issue has been addressed on the city's Facebook page. He added

that a stop sign Goolsby was concerned about has been replace and work has been done to clean a ditch.

The council moved to other business which included opening their only bid for a generator to be used at the city lake. Evapar Generac Industrial Power submitted a bid of \$101,115 for the generator and full install. The council accepted the bid.

In another announcement, the mayor reported that Paxton and Zach Bruce have asked for a lease to open a restaurant--Greens on the Green--at Providence Golf and Recreation. Paxton Bruce was present to give a brief overview of business. The restaurant, formerly Green's Steakhouse in Madisonville, will have a family atmosphere, she said. The business will serve a Burnsy Burger in memory of her late father Steve Burns and will continue with much of the same menu offered by Green's. Paxton Bruce noted that she wanted to do this because her father had often said Providence needs a good

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