

Fiscal Court approves 2025-26 budget

BY GRACE BOATRIGT JACHIM
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The Marshall County Fiscal Court approved the fiscal year 2025 — 2026 budget during the June 3 meeting. The court also approved a bid for canopies for the Miracle League Field of Dreams dugouts.

The meeting began with the second reading of the budget, which totaled approximately \$27 million. This included approximately \$10.5 million in the general fund, approximately \$4.5 million in the road fund, approximately \$2.6 million in the jail fund, just over \$1 million in the 911 fund, approximately \$5.1 million in the sheriff's fund, and several smaller allocations.

The budget was approved unanimously, and will officially take effect on July 1, 2025.

In the last meeting, the court approved the advertisement of bids for canopies to be placed on the dugouts of the Miracle League Field of Dreams. Parks Department Director Britney Moss presented one bid that had been received, which was subsequently approved.

The bid came from Miracle of Kentucky and Tennessee and totaled \$37,710 for the shades and installation. Moss said the business recently was involved in the installation of the new playground equipment at Benton's H.H. Lovett Park. Moss also noted that the



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Parks Director Britney Moss presented a bid for shades to cover the Miracle League dugouts.

material for the shades was similar to that being used in other spaces throughout the park, which had a considerable lifespan and required minimal maintenance.

Moss did note that the installation time was 10 to 12 weeks after the order was placed, which she said allowed the Miracle League spring season to be

completed, and still allow the covers to be installed before the fall season begins.

The court also approved several standard annual agreements including an emergency operations plan and lease agreements with West Kentucky Allied Services, CASA by the Lakes, and the Marshall County Rescue Squad.

The court also approved a resolution for state funding for the Aurora package plant, and opted to advertise for bids for engineering on the project. The project will not begin until after the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1.

The court also accepted bids for the surplus of a flag pole that is no longer used and the

damaged carport that was used by Emergency Management.

The court then set the annual public hearing for the Local Government Economic Assistance and County Road Aid funds for June 17 at 9:30 a.m. This set the hearings for during the next court meeting.

The next Fiscal Court meeting is set for June 17 at 9 a.m.



Marshall County Schools
Lauren Shelby Anderson has been selected as the new assistant principal at South Marshall Middle School.

Anderson named assistant principal at South Marshall Middle

MARSHALL COUNTY — Marshall County Schools is excited to announce that Lauren Shelby Anderson has been selected as the new Assistant Principal at South Marshall Middle School.

Ms. Anderson brings more than 16 years of dedicated service to

the district, including the past 11 years as a school counselor at South Marshall Middle School. She holds Middle School Math and Social Studies, School Counseling, and School Administration certificates.

She is known for her commitment to sup-

porting students and building strong relationships across the school community. In addition to her deep experience in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and special

education, Anderson's knowledge of the community adds another layer of strength to her leadership. Her understanding of the day-to-day needs of the students and families ensures she is well-prepared to support all

aspects of school life.

"Please join us in congratulating Ms. Anderson on this well-earned opportunity," Marshall County Schools said. "We look forward to the leadership, care, and dedication she will bring to her new role."



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How Does Your Garden Grow? by columnist Charles Frazier



Charles Frazier

For many home gardeners, the right tool can turn a chore into a joy—and for me that tool has been the Gorilla 4 Cubic Foot Garden Cart. Rated to carry up to 600 pounds, this humble cart has quietly revolutionized how I manage everything from soil mixing to planting preparation in my backyard vegetable patch.

Over the years, I've used wheelbarrows to mix potting soil, carry topsoil and haul tools around the garden. But as any gardener knows, wheelbarrows can be awkward—especially when loaded down. They tip over too easily, are hard to balance on uneven ground and often require more strength than they should to maneuver.

With its sturdy four-wheel base and thoughtfully designed dump feature, this cart has eliminated much of the hassle I used to accept as part of gardening. One of the biggest changes for me has been mixing soil. I often blend topsoil, fresh potting mix, pro mix, peat moss and used potting mix together to reuse in containers or raised beds. The Gorilla cart makes this task a breeze. Its roomy 4-cubic-foot tub offers plenty of space to mix right in the cart, and when I'm finished, I can tip it gently to pour the mixture or dip out the mixture where I need it—with far less risk of spills.

It's also been a game changer when filling seed trays. In the past, I'd scoop soil from a bag or a wheelbarrow, often spilling excess onto the ground or garage floor. Now, I place the potting mix or pro mix directly in the cart, fill the trays comfortably at waist height, and sweep any overflow back into the cart. Any leftover mix goes right into the garden instead of creating a mess. It's efficient, tidy and back-saving.

But the Gorilla cart doesn't stop at soil work. Its usefulness extends to dozens of small but essential yard tasks. It's great for hauling mulch across the yard without

multiple trips. When I prune shrubs or pull weeds, I toss the clippings into the cart and roll them straight to the compost pile. It's also perfect for carrying bags of fertilizer, trays of seedlings or even garden tools and gloves.

Need to transport a load of harvested vegetables from the garden to the porch? The Gorilla cart handles it with ease. Want to collect fallen branches after a storm? It can do that too. Even during autumn leaf cleanup, it outperforms standard bags or tarps—just rake directly into the cart and roll it to your compost bin or curbside.

Its maneuverability is one of its strongest assets. The padded handle and swivel front wheels make steering smooth, even when fully loaded. Unlike traditional wheelbarrows, which require strength and balance, the Gorilla cart is stable and easy to push or pull on gravel, grass or uneven terrain.

Built with a durable poly bed and steel frame, it's designed to withstand heavy use and weather without cracking or rusting. Whether you're a weekend gardener or managing a more ambitious homestead, this cart holds up season after season.

In a world filled with high-tech tools and expensive gadgets, it's refreshing to find something so simple, effective and affordable. The Gorilla 4 Cubic Foot Garden Cart proves that smart design can still make the biggest difference in the garden.

For me, it's become more than a tool—it's a daily companion in the garden or shed. And if you're looking to ease your workload, keep your space cleaner and work smarter—not harder—this cart just might earn a permanent place in your garden shed, too.

Happy Gardening!

