

# BUDGET

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City Manager Rob Minerich highlighted some significant items within the budget amendment. “The biggest ticket items are our portion of the 911 fee, which totals over \$2.2 million,” Minerich stated. He also mentioned the city’s response to recent emergencies, including a quick approval for daycare renovations and a one-time infusion of \$162,000 to cover salt expenses due to a harsh winter.

Minerich further explained the budget’s adjustments, including increased salaries

and overtime in the police department, driven by staffing needs during winter weather and special events. “When we have a winter storm or a major event, we usually see all hands on deck,” he said.

Additionally, Minerich addressed federal emergency declaration overtime costs related to a January ice storm, which amounted to over \$13,200 and was not reimbursable.

Commissioner Tammy Cole sought clarification regarding the men’s rehab program, which is federally funded. Minerich confirmed that an additional \$70,000 from the general fund was allocated after a new appraisal

of the property was conducted, updating the purchase price. “The appraisal increased, so we had to cover that difference,” he explained.

The project has experienced delays due to federal government closures, with an estimated 90-day hold-up while awaiting approval of the amended budget and purchase agreement. Minerich added that the city would share the costs over the initial \$4.97 million grant with the county, using opioid abatement funds.

The commission’s next steps will include a second reading, public notice, and eventual approval of the amended budget ordinance for fiscal year 2026.

# JUSTICE

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15 minutes but has taken nearly four years to resolve in court. He described the attack as a brief, yet devastating event, during which Gilday broke into the home, shot Morgan more than a dozen times, and caused irreversible injuries. Morgan voiced frustration over the perceived disparity between the treatment of the accused and the victim.

The attack occurred in the early morning hours, around 3:30 a.m., when the Morgan family was asleep. Jordan Morgan was shot multiple times in the incident, which was characterized as a violent and premeditated act.

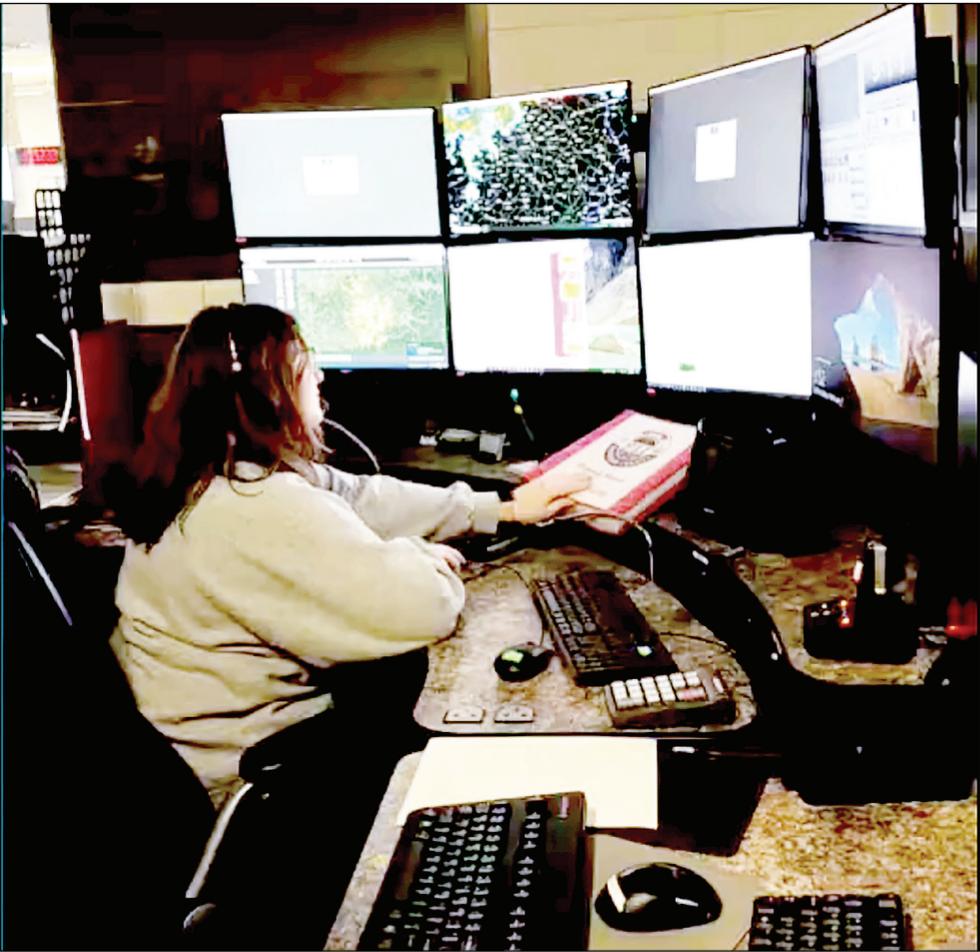
The case was moved from Madison County to Shelby County at the request

of the defense, a decision that Morgan and his family found frustrating. They expressed concern that the move complicates the process and adds logistical challenges for everyone involved.

Despite these frustrations, Morgan remains confident in the strength of the case. Evidence includes a recorded confession from Gilday, which the family believes strongly supports a conviction.

Preliminary jury selection has already begun in Shelby County, with a final trial date set for May 1. A court appearance is scheduled about a month prior to that date to finalize arrangements.

The Morgan family has previously stated they do not intend to accept any plea bargains and are committed to seeking a conviction that includes the possibility of capital punishment.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Madison County 911 dispatcher takes a call at the Emergency Communications Center, where staff answered more than 120,000 calls in 2025. The center, led by Assistant Directors Soraya Lakes and Jody Webb, recently implemented Text to 911 and upgraded its CAD system to better serve the community.

# RECORD

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represent the constant communication between our dispatchers and first responders, tracking them while they are en route and on scene,” Williams explained. She noted that 97.9% of calls were answered within 15 seconds, exceeding national standards.

The 911 center, officially named the Madison County Emergency Communications Center, operates under the Fiscal Court and collaborates with multiple agencies across the county, including eight fire departments and four law enforcement agencies. Breakdown by jurisdiction showed 32,418 calls in unincorporated Madison County; 74,955 in Richmond; and 25,941 in Berea, matching the percentages from 2024.

Williams also highlighted 2025 as a year of significant transitions and achievements. Longtime director Wendy Lynch retired, and the center’s leadership now includes

Assistant Director of Operations Soraya Lakes and Assistant Director Jody Webb, who have overseen major upgrades including the launch of Text to 911 and implementation of a new cloud-based CAD system. Both initiatives were funded

through state 911 board grants and are expected to significantly improve emergency response efficiency.

“Our team received national APCO certification this year, recognizing our training program as one of the top in the

County’s Emergency Communications Center remains a critical component of public safety, keeping pace with the growing demands of the local community.

nation,” Williams said. “We’re proud of the work our dispatchers do every day—they are the ears of our citizens in their worst moments, ensuring responders get to the right location at the right time.” Williams emphasized ongoing priorities, including community education on when to call 911 versus the non-emergency line, recruitment and retention of highly trained dispatchers, and the transition to NextGen 911 standards, which will enhance location accuracy for emergency calls across the county.

With record call volumes and major technological upgrades, Madison

County’s Emergency Communications Center remains a critical component of public safety, keeping pace with the

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