

MINUTES of the work session of the Uintah County Commission held **April 15, 2026** in the large Commission conference room of the Uintah County Building at 152 East 100 North, Vernal, Utah. The meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners John Laursen, Sonja Norton, and Willis LeFevre.

ATTENDANCE: Caleb Hall, Jared Kaufman, JC Brewer, Matt Cazier, Wendi Long, Steve Labrum, Melanie Silcox, Angela Hawkins, Loren Anderson, Tonya Wilson, Mike Wilkins
Minutes by Sheri Allen.

WELCOME: Commissioner Laursen, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. ORDINANCE #04-15-2026 01 FEE SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS - Loren Anderson, Civil Attorneys Office

Loren Anderson, Civil Attorney, led the discussion on the proposed fee schedule amendments. Departments were previously notified that this would be one of the few opportunities this year to request changes to the fee schedule. Two requests were received. The process was initiated by the Recorder's office due to legislative changes. Recorder's office changes effective May 6, 2026 will be the General Recording Fee increased by \$5, from \$40 to \$45, Plat Subdivision increased by \$5, from \$50 to \$55 per sheet, and the addition of a miscellaneous redaction fee of \$10. The Western Park requested change is not a fee increase or decrease; it will be a description change for booth rentals. The description for a booth rental is being clarified to \$15 for a 10x10 booth, removing the words "per day."

2. 2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT DISCUSSION - Caleb Hall, Deputy Clerk Auditor

Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, led the discussion on the 2026 budget amendment. Caleb has generated these changes through discussion from departments and with the commissioners. Mike stated most of the amendments would be grant increases. GIS: \$4,000 increase for the Adage program, which came in higher than anticipated, using Fund Balance. Grants increased: SS4 grant \$4,722,200, OHV Trails grant \$171,000, Revitalization grant \$389,500, Rural grant \$416,600, UCore grant \$829,000, and Ashley Valley Watershed Central Canal \$8,800. Economic Development has a carryover from last year and \$11,000 received from the Weber State Wildcat grant, adjusting Fund 11. Municipal Building Authority (MBA): Sheriff's Department bulletproof vests \$18,500 funded by grant and Bulletproof Vest grant \$13,800, totaling \$32,300; and Law Enforcement \$94,500 adjustment for the Liquor Control Grant, as funds were finally received. B Road: \$2,000,000 for rebuilding 5th North from 5th East to 1500 East. This project is proposed to piggyback on the UTSSD's work from 1500 East out to the Landfill to save on mobilization fees. Commissioner Norton asked if the \$2 million was new, referencing a previously discussed \$2 million contribution for the Red Wash Road project. Mike confirmed the Red Wash contribution was already budgeted and is now being spent. Sheriff Labrum clarified with Mike that the beer tax should be a \$94,500 increase. The total amount in the beer tax budget would increase to \$174,500.00.

Municipal Building Authority (MBA) planning grants received \$140,000 total, \$70,000 grant from CIB funds, matched by \$35,000 from Western Park and \$35,000 from Buckskin Hills. This is for two master plans. Capital Projects: \$1,105,000 from Fund Balance. Care Center/Golden Age Center: \$100,000 use of Fund Balance, bringing the total budget to \$1,000,000. \$900,000 was already budgeted, we have already given \$500,000 from a signed commitment and we are committed to giving an additional \$500,000 which brings the total to \$1,000,000. Museum of Uintah County \$2,800 from book sales to replace books purchased in bulk.

Caleb Hall, Deputy Clerk-Auditor, noted that Buckskin Hills did not have the \$35,000 match money budgeted for the master plan and asked the Commissioners if they wanted to find it within their budget or take it from Fund Balance. He suggested that since Buckskin Hills did not have a snow hill operation this year, there should be ample money in their budget to cover the \$35,000.

3. FINLEY LELAND BENCH LAYFLAT AGREEMENT - Jared Kaufman, Road Department
Jared Kaufman, Road Department, requested approval for a layflat agreement between Uintah County and Finley Resources to run a lay flat from the Duchesne River on 7500 East, approximately eight miles south of Leland Bench, to provide water for 26 oil and gas wells. The time period they are requesting is 15 months, but the County had previously agreed on a one-year contract with a possible renewal for three months. Included in the agreement are the landowner acknowledgements, the route plans, and the tentative dates. This was an agreement form that had been reviewed earlier this year. Loren worked with staff and it was presented in a previous commission meeting. Finley Resources did not make any changes to the terms, only filled in the information and dates.

Loren confirmed the Commission approved the form. If other entities come forward, Jared can just sign off so we don't have to bring it in front of the Commission; as long as they're within those guidelines and it doesn't change the agreement.

4. 2026 UTAH COUNTY FAIR CONTRACTS - Melanie Silcox, Western Park

a. United Truck and Tractor Pullers-

The total cost for the Friday night event, including the addition of tractors and trucks, will be \$22,000. This is an increase of \$2,000 from the original \$20,000 for adding the equipment. Both professional and public entries are expected.

b. All Star Monster Truck Family Tour-

The "All Star Monster Trucks" event is proposed for a Saturday night performance. The total cost is estimated at \$40,000, which is below the going rate of \$45,000. With this professional company, the County will take all the gate receipts. A previous approach, where the County received only a portion of the gate, proved to be less profitable, even requiring Loren's involvement to finalize payment. The new model ensures the County handles ticket sales and takes the profit. While the exact profit is unknown as ticket prices are not yet set, it is noted that last year's event came close to covering the \$40,000 cost.

The event package includes trash car racing, which was popular last year and serves as an alternative to a derby. This racing also provides entertainment while the monster trucks cool down. The deposit required is \$4,000, due by the first of June.

c. Utah Horse Pullers Association-

The \$7,000 total cost is comprehensive and covers all expenses. The event will take place on Friday, scheduled between the tractor pulls and the truck pulls.

The Uintah County Fair is scheduled for August 20-22, with the Carnival opening on August 19. The full event runs from August 19-22. Due to a scheduling leap year, these dates are one week later than usual and cannot be moved, although they align with the week school starts. The fair's schedule for participant entry is Thursday, Aug. 20 the day is free and the night is charged, Friday, Aug. 21 the day and night are free, and Saturday Aug. 22 the day is free and the night is charged.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:20 am.


JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR


MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

