

Budget Hearings #47 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
October 28, 2025

Commissioner Davis called the Budget Hearing Session to order with the following Commissioners present: David Levacy and Steve Davis. Also in attendance were Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Bart Hampson, Staci Knisley, and Taylor Forquer. Attendees of specific hearings are listed in their respective section of the minutes.

Each hearing has a corresponding Budget Summary and Excel spreadsheet that are included with the minutes.

Budget Hearing Follow Up, EMA, 9:00 a.m.

Jon Kochis and Garrett Blevins were in attendance for the EMA Follow Up Budget Hearing.

Commissioner Davis stated that the item for discussion was the acquisition of a mobile command unit and added that he would like to proceed with that purchase in 2025.

Commissioner Levacy asked for an estimate of total costs.

Jon Kochis replied that the trade-in value of the current vehicle is \$35,000 - \$50,000. There is still customization to be considered but the cost for the unit should be approximately \$575,000.

Commissioner Davis asked for an overview of a command center's operations.

Kochis stated the new command unit will allow dispatchers to receive 911 calls from the unit and 911 calls can be automatically rerouted. He added that EMA would expect to take possession of the vehicle by June 1, 2026.

Commissioner Levacy stated he was in favor of proceeding with the purchase of a new mobile command unit.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Commission looks favorably upon the request.

Budget Hearing Follow Up, OSU Extension, 9:15 a.m.

Shannon Carter was in attendance for the OSU Extension Budget Hearing Follow Up.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the nutritionist funding issue and stated that the Commission would like to help fund the service for one year and emphasized that the intent is not for any additional years.

Commissioner Levacy asked about funding the position after 2026.

Shannon Carter stated the office is already looking at other funding avenues and that there is speculation from the state that there will be something to replace the program.

Commissioner Davis asked if \$95,200 would allow the service to continue throughout 2026.

Carter confirmed that it would.

Aundrea Cordle stated that she had a conversation with Jeanette Curtis and Joe Ebel from the Health Department and that they would like to be helpful.

The Commission instructed the budget team to allocate \$95,200 to the OSU Extension for the 2026 Nutrition program.

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Commissioner Davis asked for clarification of additional meetings for the day.

Commissioner Levacy stated he would not be in attendance for the Commissioners' Review and Regular meeting, as he would be at the Veterans Hall of Fame meeting.

Commissioner Davis stated that it was his intention to discuss, at the Review and Regular meeting, the Lancaster Festival (“Festival”) and a possible zero or low interest loan of \$225,000 to that organization.

Commissioner Davis further explained the Festival has made application for an SBA loan and has qualified for the loan, but that loan funding has been delayed indefinitely due to the shutdown of the federal government. The Festival needs access to the funds to be able to effectively plan for future events. A loan from the county would offer a bridge pending the funding of the SBA loan.

Commissioner Levacy stated he supported the county making a loan to the Festival.

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Steve Davis and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:30 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Motion by: David Levacy Seconded by: Steve Davis
To approve the October 28, 2025, Budget Hearing minutes by the following vote:

YEAS: David Levacy and Steve Davis
ABSTENTIONS: None

NAYS: None

*Approved on November 4, 2025

Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Rochelle Menning, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners