UMPQUA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

FY 26-27 Budget Hearing Meeting

Umpqua Public Transportation District

Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

516 SE Jackson Street, Roseburg, OR 97470

Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order at 5:00 pm**

2. **Roll Call**

Doug Mendenhall – P	Michaela Hammerson – A	Jeana Beam – A	Natasha Atkinson - P
Gregg Kennerly - P	Bill Hagedorn - P	Phil Morton - P	

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

4. **Presentation of FY 26-27 Budget**

4.1 FY 26-27 Proposed Budget

Sheri Bleau presented the FY 2026–2027 Proposed Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. Sheri reported that the proposed budget included an estimated beginning fund balance of $505,000 and an ending unappropriated fund balance of $658,799, resulting in an increase to reserves of approximately $153,799.

Legal Services Budget Amendment

Board members discussed the legal services budget and the potential need for additional funding to cover investigative and legal expenses.

Sheri reported that legal counsel had obtained proposals from multiple investigators and that preliminary estimates indicated the work could likely be completed for less than $10,000. Following discussion, Board members agreed that increasing the legal services budget would provide additional flexibility should unforeseen legal or investigative expenses arise.

A motion was made by Bill Hagedorn and seconded by Doug Mendenhall to increase the Legal Services budget by $15,000, raising the total Legal Services allocation from $5,000 to $20,000.

Motion: Increase the Legal Services budget line item by $15,000 for a total budgeted amount of $20,000 made by Director Bill Hagedorn. Seconded by Director Doug Mendenhall.

Motion passed with 5 “Yes”.

Recorded votes:
Jeana Beam – Absent
Natasha Atkinson – Yes
Bill Hagedorn – Yes
Phil Morton – Yes
Gregg Kennerly – Yes
Michaela Hammerson – Absent
Doug Mendenhall - Yes

Sheri reported that with the approved amendment, the projected ending fund balance would be adjusted to approximately $643,799, resulting in an estimated reserve increase of $138,799 by fiscal year-end.

4.2 Budget Scenarios
Sheri Bleau reviewed the budget scenarios previously considered by the Budget Committee and reported that the committee recommended Scenario No. 1 for Board consideration. The recommended scenario included a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for employees, up to a 3% merit increase, a placeholder amount for General Manager/Chief Financial Officer compensation subject to future Board approval, a 6.5% increase in employee benefit costs, and an increase in workers' compensation expenses of $9,768.

Director Natasha Atkinson requested clarification regarding the compensation assumptions included for the General Manager/Chief Financial Officer position. Sheri explained that the compensation amount reflected in the proposed budget was a placeholder and would be subject to Board discussion and approval during the subsequent Special Board Meeting. Sheri further clarified that the placeholder amount represented the total proposed compensation for the position and was not in addition to the COLA or merit increase assumptions included elsewhere in the budget.

5. Public Comment
During the public comment period, Jennifer Boardman encouraged the Board to consider compensation data from comparable transit agencies when evaluating compensation for the General Manager/Chief Financial Officer position. Jennifer suggested that a wage analysis of similarly sized transit agencies could provide valuable information regarding market compensation levels and support future compensation decisions.

Director Doug Mendenhall noted that, during the District's previous recruitment efforts for a General Manager, compensation expectations among experienced candidates often exceeded the District's available resources. Discussion occurred regarding compensation ranges for comparable positions within rural transit agencies and the importance of reviewing market data when evaluating executive compensation.

Amira Kamel reported that a wage analysis had recently been completed comparing compensation levels and responsibilities among similar transit agencies throughout Oregon. Amira noted that the analysis had been provided to the Board for review as part of the budget process.

No further public comments were made.

6. **Adjournment** at 5:21 p.m.