

**MINUTES OF THE VAN BUREN COUNTY COMMISSION
VAN BUREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

The Van Buren County Commission met in a Regular Meeting on July 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Van Buren County Administrative Facility & Justice Center. The following action was taken as recorded in Minute Book, “V”.

Call to Order

Chief Deputy Cameron Clendenon called the Meeting to Order.

Roll Call

Members present: Michael Chandler, Jordan Delong, Tabitha Denney, Terry Hickey, Terry Hodges, Dusty Madewell, Kenny Smith, Tommy Frady, Michael Woodlee and Cale Crain.

Also present: Standing in for County Attorney Howard Upchurch was Attorney Stacey Farmer, County Mayor David Sullivan, County Clerk Lisa Rigsby, and Jay Williams with zoom and Several Citizens of Van Buren County.

Prayer

Dusty Madewell led us in prayer.

Pledge

Chairman Cale Crain led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve/Disapprove: Minutes from June 22, 2026 Meeting and Special Called Meeting from July 6, 2026 as printed

Terry Hickey made a motion, seconded by Michael Chandler to approve the Minutes from June 22, 2026 Meeting and Special Called Meeting from July 6, 2026 as printed.

Upon roll call: Michael Chandler, Jordan Delong, Tabitha Denney, Terry Hickey, Terry Hodges, Dusty Madewell, Kenny Smith, Tommy Frady, Michael Woodlee, and Cale Crain voted yes. Motion passed.

Approve/Disapprove: Committee A Report

Committee A Meeting

July 6, 2026

Call to order – 6:30 p.m.

Roll call – Terry Hickey, Terry Hodges, Cale Crain, and Tabitha Denney were present.

Motion made by Terry Hickey second by Terry Hodges to approve Grant for new ambulance from the State of Tennessee. Giving Tiwana the ability to sign a letter of agreement to begin building the ambulance. Roll call all members in favor.

Motion made by Terry Hodges second by Cale Crain to approve TBI reimbursement for Sheriff’s Department as presented. Roll call all members in favor. No action needed. (No action taken by the Full Commission)

Motion made by Terry Hickey second by Cale Crain to approve Resolution amending the Van Buren County General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Roll call with all members in favor. (No action taken by the Full Commission)

Motion made to adjourn by Terry Hickey.

Committee A Chairman Tabitha Denney brought forward action that needs to be taken by the Full Commission from the Committee A meeting on July 6, 2026.

Grant for New Ambulance & letter of agreement (Contract)

Tabitha Denney made a motion, seconded Kenny Smith to approve the Grant for the new ambulance from the State of Tennessee and Give Tiwanna the ability to sign a letter of agreement to begin building the ambulance.

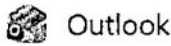
Upon roll call: Michael Chandler, Jordan Delong, Tabitha Denney, Terry Hickey, Terry Hodges, Dusty Madewell, Kenny Smith, Tommy Frady, Michael Woodlee, and Cale Crain voted yes. Motion passed. **Governmental Grant Contract & Ambulance Intent to purchase as following:**



GOVERNMENTAL GRANT CONTRACT

(cost reimbursement grant contract with a federal or Tennessee local governmental entity or their agents and instrumentalities)

Begin Date June 1, 2026	End Date October 30, 2027	Agency Tracking # 34320-29626	Edison ID
Grantee Legal Entity Name Van Buren County			Edison Vendor ID 0000002778
Subrecipient or Recipient		Assistance Listing Number 93.798	
☒ Subrecipient ☐ Recipient		Grantee's fiscal year end	
Service Caption (one line only) The Purchase of One (1) Ambulance and lift in each of the 89 rural counties in Tennessee through the Last Mile Teams Initiative for the Rural Health Transformation Funds			
Funding —	State	Federal	Interdepartmental
FY			Other
2027		\$305,461.00	
TOTAL:		\$305,461.00	
TOTAL Grant Contract Amount \$305,461.00			
Grantee Selection Process Summary			
☐ Competitive Selection			
☒ Non-competitive Selection			
The Purchase of One (1) Ambulance and lift in each of the 89 rural counties in Tennessee through the Last Mile Teams Initiative for the Rural Health Transformation Funds.			
Budget Officer Confirmation: There is a balance in the appropriation from which obligations hereunder are required to be paid that is not already encumbered to pay other obligations.		CPO USE - GG	
Speed Chart (optional) HL00019412		Account Code (optional) 71301000	



ambulance quote

From Van Buren County Ambulance Service <vanburenems@benlomand.net>
Date Mon 7/20/2026 10:22 AM
To melinda starkey <melinda.starkey@outlook.com>

📎 1 attachment (584 KB)
26 TEN-8 Fire & Safety quote-intent to purchase 7-14-26.pdf;

Melinda,

Attached is the quote/letter of intent for the ambulance that is being purchased with the grant money. The budget committee approved up to \$320,000.

Tiwanna

Approve/Disapprove: Committee B Report

Committee B Meeting

July 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call: Kenny Smith, Michael Woodlee, Michael Chandler, Tommy Frady, Dusty Madewell were present.

Michael Chandler made a motion to approve the moratorium on data centers. Seconded by Kenny Smith. All members in favor.

Old Business

Michael Woodlee made a motion that the issue regarding Company Store Road be sent to the County Attorney. Seconded by Kenny Smith. All members in favor. (No action was taken by Full Commission.)

Michael Woodlee made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kenny Smith. All members in favor.

Committee B Chairman Dusty Madewell brought forward action that needs to be taken from the Full Commission from the Committee B Meeting on July 6, 2026.

Resolution to impose a temporary (2 yr.) moratorium on the Construction, development, establishment, or operation of Data Centers within Van Buren County.

Dusty Madewell made a motion, seconded by Kenny Smith to approve the moratorium on data centers within Van Buren County.

Upon roll call: Michael Chandler, Jordan Delong, Tabitha Denney, Terry Hickey, Terry Hodges, Dusty Madewell, Kenny Smith, Tommy Frady, Michael Woodlee, and Cale Crain voted yes. Motion passed. **Resolution Number 506 as following:**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, IMPOSING A TEMPORARY TWO (2) YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, ESTABLISHMENT, OR OPERATION OF DATA CENTERS WITHIN VAN BUREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY WHILE THE COUNTY STUDIES THE IMPACTS OF SUCH FACILITIES AND CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE REGULATORY MEASURES.

WHEREAS, Van Buren County, Tennessee ("County"), is charged with protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens pursuant to the police powers granted to counties under Tennessee law, including but not limited to Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 5-1-118 and 5-1-121, and other applicable provisions of Tennessee law; and

WHEREAS, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners ("Board") finds that the rapid expansion of Data Centers and Digital Data Operations throughout the State of Tennessee and the United States has created substantial concerns relating to infrastructure demands, land use compatibility, utility consumption, environmental impacts, public safety, and the long-term welfare of local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that Data Centers may create extraordinary electrical demand requiring substantial upgrades to electrical transmission systems, substations, and related utility infrastructure, potentially resulting in increased utility costs, grid instability, or reduced electrical capacity available to residents and existing businesses within Van Buren County; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that Data Centers may consume significant quantities of water for cooling operations and may create substantial wastewater disposal demands that could adversely affect the County's existing water and sewer infrastructure and the availability of public resources for residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that Data Centers may generate excessive and continuous noise from cooling systems, HVAC systems, industrial equipment, backup generators, transformers, and related infrastructure that may negatively affect nearby residential neighborhoods, schools, churches, healthcare facilities, agricultural uses, and other sensitive land uses; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that Data Centers may require extensive construction of utility infrastructure, including substations, transmission facilities, backup power systems, and industrial-scale equipment that may materially alter the rural character and natural environment of Van Buren County; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that large-scale Data Centers may create substantial traffic impacts during construction and operation, including increased heavy truck traffic, road

deterioration, traffic congestion, and public safety concerns affecting County roads and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that Data Centers may require the use and storage of hazardous materials, industrial cooling systems, diesel fuel, backup generators, batteries, and other equipment that may create fire hazards, environmental risks, and increased burdens on emergency response services; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that the cumulative impacts of Data Centers upon land use, utility systems, environmental resources, emergency services, transportation infrastructure, and residential development patterns have not yet been adequately studied within Van Buren County; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that Van Buren County presently lacks specific countywide regulations, development standards, operational standards, setback requirements, buffering requirements, noise regulations, utility-impact regulations, and other appropriate safeguards specifically governing Data Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that immediate action is necessary to preserve the status quo and protect the public health, safety, and welfare while the County undertakes a comprehensive study of Data Centers and considers whether additional land use regulations, development standards, permitting requirements, or other regulatory measures should be adopted; and

WHEREAS, during the moratorium period established herein, Van Buren County intends to conduct or commission studies and analyses relating to:

1. Electrical infrastructure capacity and grid impacts;
2. Water usage and wastewater treatment impacts;
3. Noise impacts and mitigation measures;
4. Emergency response and fire protection requirements;
5. Environmental impacts and stormwater concerns;
6. Road usage and transportation infrastructure impacts;
7. Property value and land use compatibility impacts;
8. Agricultural and rural preservation concerns;
9. Economic development impacts;
10. Public utility and infrastructure costs;
11. Potential zoning classifications and land use restrictions applicable to Data Centers;
12. Setback, buffering, screening, and operational standards;
13. Impacts of cryptocurrency mining operations and digital asset processing facilities;
14. Appropriate permitting and enforcement mechanisms; and
15. Any other matters deemed necessary by the County to determine how Data Centers should be regulated within Van Buren County; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that a temporary moratorium is necessary to avoid undue hardship upon the citizens of Van Buren County and to prevent the establishment or operation of Data Centers before the County has had a reasonable opportunity to study and regulate such uses; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that this temporary moratorium is reasonable in scope and duration and is enacted solely for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Van Buren County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Resolution, the following definition shall apply:

"Data Center" means property consisting of buildings or structures specifically designed or modified for Digital Data Operations. Such facilities may include high-density computer and/or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances, air handlers, power generators, water cooling and storage facilities, utility substations, and other associated utility infrastructure to support sustained operations. Administrative areas and offices for the purpose of supporting the primary activity may be located within the buildings.

Digital Data Operations means storage, management, processing, and/or transmission of digital data. This includes Cryptocurrency Mining. Cryptocurrency Mining means the process by which crypto transactions are verified and added to the public ledger, known as the blockchain, and also the means through which new units of cryptocurrency are released, through the use of Data Centers.

SECTION 2. MORATORIUM IMPOSED

A temporary moratorium is hereby imposed within Van Buren County, Tennessee, upon the construction, development, permitting, approval, establishment, expansion, or operation of any Data Center, as defined herein.

During the moratorium period:

1. No building permit, grading permit, site development permit, business license, certificate of occupancy, or other approval shall be issued for any Data Center;
2. No new Data Center shall be constructed, established, or become operational within Van Buren County;
3. No existing structure shall be converted into a Data Center; and
4. No County department, agency, board, or official shall accept, process, approve, or issue permits or approvals for any Data Center project.

SECTION 3. DURATION OF MORATORIUM

This moratorium shall remain in effect for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of this Resolution unless sooner repealed, amended, or extended by the Board of Commissioners as permitted by law.

SECTION 4. PURPOSE OF MORATORIUM

The purpose of this Resolution is to preserve the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Van Buren County while the County studies the impacts of Data Centers and considers the adoption of appropriate regulations, permitting requirements, operational standards, setback requirements, and other measures necessary to protect citizens and County infrastructure.

SECTION 5. STUDIES AND REGULATORY REVIEW

During the moratorium period, Van Buren County may undertake studies, analyses, public hearings, consultations with utility providers, planning reviews, engineering studies, environmental reviews, and legal analyses relating to Data Centers and their impacts upon Van Buren County.

The County may further consider whether to adopt development regulations, operational standards, permitting requirements, overlay districts, setback requirements, noise standards, utility regulations, or other lawful measures governing Data Centers.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or provision of this Resolution is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of this Resolution, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and following adoption of the County Powers Act pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 5-1-118, the public welfare requiring it.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

SPONSOR:

County Commissioner

APPROVED:

County Mayor

ATTEST:

County Clerk

Old Business

None

New Business

Budget amendment for the Health Department for an eye wash station, \$1,000.00

Terry Hickey made a motion, seconded by Michael Woodlee to approve the budget amendment for the Health Department in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Upon roll call: Michael Chandler, Jordan Delong, Tabitha Denney, Terry Hickey, Terry Hodges, Dusty Madewell, Kenny Smith, Tommy Frady, Michael Woodlee, and Cale Crain voted yes. Motion passed. **Budget amendment as following:**
School Resource Officer Grant Program & Governmental Grant Contract.
The School Resource officer Grant Program contract for the year starting July 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2027 needs to be accepted, signed and sent back to the State of Tennessee. Tabitha Denney made a motion, seconded by Michael Woodlee to accept.

New Business

**Van Buren Co. Executive
2026-2027**

**General Fund
Fund 101**

Function	Obj.	Description	Explanation	Debit	Credit
39000 55110	599	unassigned OTHER CHARGES	fund balance eye wash station	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
			Total	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00

osha requirement. Was put in on her budget they submitted to budget committee.

Upon roll call: Michael Chandler, Jordan Delong, Tabitha Denney, Terry Hickey, Terry Hodges, Dusty Madewell, Kenny Smith, Tommy Frady, Michael Woodlee, and Cale Crain voted yes. Motion passed. **Endowment Grant Contract as following:**

12-18-25 GG

 GOVERNMENTAL GRANT CONTRACT (cost reimbursement grant contract with a federal or Tennessee local governmental entity or their agents and instrumentalities)					
Begin Date June 1, 2026		End Date October 30, 2027		Agency Tracking # 34320-29626	
Grantee Legal Entity Name Van Buren County				Edison ID	
				Edison Vendor ID 0000002778	
Subrecipient or Recipient		Assistance Listing Number 93.798			
☒ Subrecipient ☐ Recipient		Grantee's fiscal year end			
Service Caption (one line only) The Purchase of One (1) Ambulance and lift in each of the 89 rural counties in Tennessee through the Last Mile Teams Initiative for the Rural Health Transformation Funds					
Funding —					
FY	State	Federal	Interdepartmental	Other	TOTAL Grant Contract Amount
2027		\$305,461.00			\$305,461.00
TOTAL:		\$305,461.00			\$305,461.00
Grantee Selection Process Summary					
☐ Competitive Selection					
☒ Non-competitive Selection					
The Purchase of One (1) Ambulance and lift in each of the 89 rural counties in Tennessee through the Last Mile Teams Initiative for the Rural Health Transformation Funds.					
Budget Officer Confirmation: There is a balance in the appropriation from which obligations hereunder are required to be paid that is not already encumbered to pay other obligations.				CPO USE - GG	
Speed Chart (optional) HL00019412		Account Code (optional) 71301000			



Jeff Long
Commissioner

Bill Lee
Governor

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER GRANT PROGRAM
SIGNATURE AUTHORITY CONSENT FORM**

I, _____ as the _____
Name of Person Granting Signature Authority (Printed) Title of Person Granting Signature Authority (Printed)

of _____
Name of Organization Receiving Grant (Printed)

hereby grant the person(s) identified below signature authority for the grant awarded by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security / Office of Homeland Security. The following individual is, or individuals are, entitled to sign all grant related documents on behalf of my organization.

_____ Name and Title (Printed)	_____ Signature
_____ Name and Title (Printed)	_____ Signature
_____ Name and Title (Printed)	_____ Signature

The above signature authority granted to the above individual(s) may be revoked by me or by my organization at any time by written notice to the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security / Office of Homeland Security.

Signature of Person Granting Signature Authority

Date

Commissioner Michael Chandler made a motion, seconded by Kenny Smith to replace missing signs off of Rock Fish Pike onto Slatton Bridge. All agreed by voice vote. 0-opposed. No changes to any vote. Motion passed.

Internet at the Van Buren County Historical and Heritage Museum (Old Courthouse)

It was brought to Commissioner Michael Chandlers attention that internet is needed at the Historical and Heritage Museum. (Old Courthouse) After discussion on this matter, Michael Chandler made a motion, seconded by Terry Hodges to purchase internet for the old courthouse.

Upon roll call: Michael Chandler, Terry Hickey, Terry Hodges, Dusty Madewell, Kenny Smith, Tommy Frady, and Michael Woodlee voted yes. Jordan Delong, Tabitha Denney and Cale Crain voted no. 7-yes votes. 3-no votes. Motion passed.

Comments from the General Public

A couple of Citizens address the Full Commission with their concerns with the flock safety security cameras and the bitcoin mining.

Adjournment

Terry Hickey made a motion, seconded by Michael Woodlee to adjourn. All approved by voice vote. 0-opposed. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Chairman Cale Crain

County Clerk Lisa Rigsby