



COMBAT Commission Meeting Minutes
June 10th, 2025 1:30 PM – 1:52 PM
Zoom Meeting

Present: Lanna Ultican, Arimeta DuPree, Larry Beaty, Susan B. Wilson, John Sharp, Teresa Grado

Also Present: Dawna J. Shumate, Joseph Loudon, Elle Larson, Major James Buck, Dan Cummings

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

APPROVE MINTUES – May 13th

Larry Beaty motions to approve the minutes; Susan B. Wilson seconds.

DISCUSSION:

Director's Report

- Dawna J. Shumate confirms that the budget has passed per communication from the Jackson County Legislature Chair. She emphasizes that Prosecutor Melesa Johnson and the rest of the COMBAT staff have been preparing since December for the legislative approval and are now ready to proceed. The budget will be placed on the agenda for Monday's meeting for final approval by the County Clerk's Office.

COMBAT Commissioners' Discussion Items

- Larry Beaty commends the Jackson County Drug Task Force, DEA, SWAT, and other agencies for a recent operation involving a dogfighting and narcotics case. Captain Dan Cummings provides further detail, explaining the year-long investigation led to the arrest of a felon in possession of a firearm and pending drug and dogfighting charges. Sixteen dogs were rescued—one gave birth to five puppies that night. Cummings reflects on the emotional impact and notes several detectives may adopt the rescued puppies.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dawna J. Shumate transitions the meeting to the election of Commission leadership. Larry Beaty opens nominations. **Arimeta DuPree nominates Larry Beaty for Chair and Lanna Ultican for Vice Chair. Roll call votes are taken for each position. Both candidates are unanimously approved and accept their roles.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Larry Beaty inquires about the search for a new COMBAT Director. Dawna Shumate explains that Prosecutor Melesa Johnson and her team are narrowing down the list of candidates.
 - o John Sharp asks whether the Commission has a role in the decision. Dawna clarifies the hiring is led by the County Prosecutor, reviewed by a committee involving the County Executive's Office and Legislators.



- Beaty recalls that during the previous process, the Chair participated in interviews and recommends that the current Chair or Vice Chair be involved. Dawna agrees to relay that recommendation to the Prosecutor.

MOTION:

Meeting adjourned at 1:52 PM

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Next meeting is scheduled for September 23rd at 1 PM