

# Mount Vernon Airport eyes tentative budget

*Budget has expanded compared to prior years*

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**MOUNT VERNON** — Mount Vernon Outland Airport's new tentative budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 is a balanced spending plan, with total revenues estimated at \$1,733,162 and total expenditures estimated at \$1,731,662.

The budget also shows the airport having \$132,650 in cash on hand as of May 1, 2025, and \$134,150 in cash on hand as of April 30, 2026.

The Mount Vernon Airport

Authority (MVAA) Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 10, approved the tentative budget and appropriations, and laid the document over for a 30-day public comment period. The budget will be available in the airport office for public view until the budget hearing, which will be held just ahead of the regular MVAA Board meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 12.

"We're managing a lot and it's all shown in the budget," said Airport Director Chris Collins.

Collins said that the budget has expanded significantly compared to previous years. This is due mostly to the fact

Please see **Airport**, Page 2A



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**TENTATIVE BUDGET** — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority (MVAA) Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 10 approved the airport's tentative budget and appropriations for 2025-2026, and laid the document over for a 30-day public comment period.

## Airport:

*Continued from Page 1A*

that the airport on Dec. 1, 2024 purchased SRT Aviation, which provides fixed base operations (FBO) at the airport. FBO typically refers to fuel sales, aircraft maintenance,

flight instruction and aircraft rentals.

The airport handled its own FBO from 1989 to 2000. Then, from 2000 to 2006, AirEvac provided the fixed base operations. That changed in 2006, when SRT Aviation started to provide the FBO, Sentinel archives state.

In 2008, Mount Vernon Airport began sharing the refueling part of the fixed base operations with SRT, but SRT still handled the maintenance duties. Now, Mount Vernon Airport Authority's acquisition of SRT Aviation's maintenance department on Dec. 1 places the airport authority in direct control of all FBO services.

The acquisition created a new entity, SRT Flightline, which boasts an experienced aircraft maintenance department with an extensive list of customers from Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana, the archives state.

"Now, the airport is in direct control of all the fuel sales, aircraft rentals and the aircraft repair shop," Collins said, later adding, "Our payroll has doubled because we have twice the amount of personnel to cover."

The airport's budget now includes "fixed base operations" as a line item for both the revenues and the expenditures. These are the highest individual line items in the budget. For the new tentative budget, the FBO line item for revenues is estimated at \$686,591 and the line item for expenditures is estimated at \$316,578.

"There's five rental aircraft that we're in control of, and four air frame power plant technicians (airplane mechanics) that the airport is now responsible for," Collins said, adding that two of the rental airplanes are owned by the airport and rented to pilots while the other three airplanes are privately owned but leased back to the airport.

Collins said that he's pleased with what the budget shows so far when it comes to fixed base operations. The airport only had five months of financial data to go by for FBO regarding both the air-

port technicians and the aircraft repair shop. However, things look promising so far, Collins said.

"The budget did include a little bit of extrapolation for the aircraft repair shop," Collins said. "(We) only have five months of data on that. We took over on Dec. 1."

Collins also pointed out that the budget has some "healthy financial entries" for the Innovation Park. This reflects completion of the new Air Evac Joint Base Jefferson County, which went operational in January of 2025. The revenues for Innovation Park in the new budget are estimated at \$234,638 while the expenditures are estimated at \$259,638.

In addition, Collins said that one of the budget's expenditure line items, for solar debt service, is related to two solar projects that the airport is pursuing. Right now, the line item is estimated at \$37,296. However, the airport is financing one of the solar projects currently and will pay off one of them soon. This will reduce the line item by about \$12,000, Collins said.

For more information on the tentative budget, contact Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

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