Sentinel File Photo

BUDGET AND LEVY — Mount Vernon Outland Airport recently adopted its 2026-2027 budget and property tax levy, with the levy staying frozen at the prior year's amount of roughly $130,000.

MV Airport approves budget and tax levy

Levy will stay frozen at prior year's amount

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MOUNT VERNON — Mount Vernon Outland Airport has officially approved its 2026-2027 budget and property tax levy, with the levy staying frozen at the prior year's amount of roughly $130,000.

The tentative budget was approved at last month's Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners meeting, and was then held over for a 30-day public comment period.

Then, at the July 14 Airport Board meeting, the spending plan was officially adopted. The budget is balanced, showing total revenues

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of $1,765,358 and total expenditures of $1,763,858. Even so, some difficult financial circumstances prompted the airport to implement various rent increases for clients to help generate enough revenue for the facility.

As for the tax levy, it had remained frozen for eight years, but then the airport did a 4.99% increase in the levy in 2024. The levy was then frozen in 2025 and again this year for 2026, said Airport Director Chris Collins.

"I really believe we have profit centers here at the airport that allow us to live within our means, and we're going to strive hard to do that," Collins said.

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

The airport is currently facing a number of financial challenges. According to Sentinel archives, insurance costs for the airport are at around $250,000 a year and utilities are at roughly $120,000, while the airport's property tax levy is only at around $130,000.

Another issue is the fact that the personal property replacement tax revenue line item continues to decline despite corporate profits rising. All of this led the airport to impose rent increases, Collins said previously.

The new 2026-2027 budget includes a 10% rent increase on all lease holds at the airport. This affects clients who pay rent to store aircraft in hangars there.

Furthermore, the budget also includes a 10-to-15% rent increase for use of the airport's large T-Hangars, and a 15% shop rate increase for aircraft maintenance services, Sentinel archives state.

On the plus side, though, the airport's recent solar energy project is starting to reduce utility costs. Also, the airport made cuts in the maintenance budget for the airfield and fixed base operations to help balance this year's budget, Collins said previously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Also at the July 14 meeting, the Airport Board approved changing insurance carriers from Aetna Insurance to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The switch helped keep the cost of the airport's insurance package at the current level. If the airport had stayed with Aetna, the cost would have increased by roughly $56,000 annually, Collins said.

The board also discussed several ongoing airport projects, as well as Innovation Park Hangar #1. An executive session was also held to discuss contracts.

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