

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSESSION HELD

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019 AT 8:00 A.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held an FY 2019-2020 Budget Work Session on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the White County Administration Building. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, Finance Director Jodi Ligon, and County Clerk Shanda Murphy.

The Board of Commissioners received a presentation from each county department which detailed the department's budget request for the 2020 fiscal year. All departments were provided advanced guidance to include a 2.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the proposed budget.

Mr. David Murphy, Director of Public Safety, presented the proposed budget for Animal Services. He noted that the proposed budget of \$382,420.00 reflected a 2% increase from the FY 19 budget – attributed to the COLA included in the proposal. (Presentation included in meeting file).

Mr. Murphy presented the proposed budget for Emergency Management. He noted the proposed budget of \$208,488.00 reflected a 3.94% increase from the FY 19 budget. He attributed the proposed increase to additional funding for the CERT program, for Disaster Response Systems, and the COLA included in the proposal. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Mr. Murphy presented the proposed budget for 911 Communications. He noted the only increase within the proposal of \$1,019,240.00 was the COLA. He did state that the proposed county contribution for FY 20 was \$510,182.00. He also presented the FY 20 budget for the 911 Restricted Fund – with revenues estimated at \$100,510.00 and proposed projects for FY20. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Mr. Murphy presented the proposed budget for Fire Services. He presented a proposed budget which included a personnel line item increase of \$106,315.00 in addition to the COLA increase of \$22,104.00. The personnel increase reflected maintaining coverage enhancements made in FY 19 and adding one (1) additional full-time firefighter. Mr. Murphy explained that this increase would allow Station 3 (Sautee) & Station 4 (Mossy Creek) to be covered 24/7 and Station 2 (Leaf) & Station 6 (Tesnatee) to be covered as available by part time firefighters. He noted that this coverage is needed due to the decrease in volunteer response and the increase in call volume. He explained that the state requirements for volunteers mirror those requirements for paid staff – so it is increasingly difficult to find volunteers willing and able to devote the required time for training and response. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Mr. Robert Hamrick, IT Director, presented the proposed budget for Information Technology. The proposal presented included an increase of 1.7%. Mr. Hamrick also review potential capital outlay requests to be funded through SPLOST (Presentation included in the meeting file). Chairman Turner expressed the Board's consensus in the direction that security cameras be installed at the Yonah Preserve Sports Complex fields and parking lot as well as at the Yonah Preserve Hiking/Biking facilities.

Mr. Ken Payne, Maintenance Director, presented the proposed budget for Building Maintenance. The proposed departmental budget included an increase of \$102,513.00 (16.1%). He explained this was due to the transfer of \$43,400.00 in expenses from the Recreation Department budget which were maintenance related, the request for one (1) additional full time employee (\$46,894.00), and COLA / supply cost increase / additional facilities. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Mr. Dave Cangemi, Public Works Director, presented the proposed budget for the Road Department. The proposal included an increase of \$112,083.00 – due to the request of 2 part time employees (PT Project Manager & PT Admin Asst.) and an increase in various operational line items. Mr. Cangemi also reviewed potential capital outlay requests to be funded through SPLOST. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Mr. John Sell, Director of Community & Economic Development, presented the following proposed budgets for FY20:

- Community & Economic Development - \$132,686.00 1.6% increase due to COLA;
- GIS - \$110,375.00 1.7% increase due to COLA;
- Building Inspections - \$185,554.00 3.5% increase;
- Code Enforcement - \$60,913.00 9.8% increase due to the insurance expenses associated with the recently hired employee who also works half time in Building Inspections and the COLA included;
- Planning – \$134,898.00 35.5% increase due to the request for the addition of a full time Planning Technician;
- Solid Waste - \$104,364 5.6% increase. He noted that the revenue in this department covers the department’s operation; and
- SPLOST Request – included two (2) vehicles.

(Presentation included in the meeting file).

The Board asked that M. Sell explore the option of discontinuing the current part time permit tech position and utilize the funds saved toward the full-time planning tech position requested. They also asked that he prepare a proposal which would eliminate the current part time code enforcement position and replace this with a full-time code enforcement officer.

Mr. Joe Gailey, Director of Parks & Recreation, presented the proposed budget for Parks & Recreation. He projected an 11% increase in revenues (\$177,205.00) and a 2% decrease in expenses (\$712,614.00). He stated that decreased expenses were due to the expenses transferred to the maintenance department. Mr. Gailey also presented a SPLOST request for \$250,000.00 for replacement of the gym floor, repair to entryways, removal of old bleachers, installation of new bleachers, and weather proofing doors. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Ms. Barbara Overton, Director of Senior Services, presented the proposed FY 20 budget for the Senior Center. The total proposed budget was \$428,517.00 (a 4.6% increase) which resulted from the addition of the respite program and the addition of the COLA. She stated that the county’s local match would increase by \$3,406 to \$15,010.00 - with the additional expense to general fund for senior services increasing from \$254,511.00 to \$261,978.00 (+\$7,467.00). (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Ms. Jodi Ligon, Finance Director, presented the proposed budget for the Finance Department in the amount of \$166,772.00 which represented an increase of 2% - related to salary/benefits, training, postage, and dues/subscriptions. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Ms. Shanda Murphy, County Clerk & Director of Human Resources, presented the following proposed budgets for FY20:

- Countywide – Ms. Murphy noted that the revenue for this department would be any amount of fund balance needed to balance the FY 20 budget. She stated that in FY 19 \$1,186,982.00 fund balance was

used and that the current fund balance available is \$3,871,941 (2.5 months operating). The proposed revenues for this department were presented at \$2,162,156.00 (an increase of \$14,759.00 – related to the increased 911 contribution, a requested increase in employee relations, and a few operational line items.) She noted the agencies who had requested increases in their annual contributions;

- Board of Commissioners Office – proposed revenues of \$4,432,857.00 (an increase of \$72,066.00) were presented. The proposed expenses were \$575,082.00 (an increase of \$33,636.00 – due to the COLA, changes in individual health insurance enrollments, increases in advertising expenses, etc.);
- Human Resources – the proposed budget included expenses at \$112,726.00 (an increase of \$5,788.00 due to the COLA, increased advertising costs, wellness expenses, etc.).
- Hotel / Motel Tax Fund: the budgeted revenues had been increased by 10% to reflect the increased amount of H/M Tax being collected – revenues were proposed at \$890,900.00. The only agency requesting an increase in funding was the Historical Society, who was requesting an additional \$5,400.00 (in addition to the \$15,000.00 they currently receive). All agencies being funded through H/M Tax were discussed. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

Mr. Matt Bidwell, MSI Benefits Group, presented the summary of competitive quotes for the employee benefits plan received for the 2019-2020 plan year. The current health insurance provider – Alliant, proposed a no change renewal. The most aggressive quote came from CIGNA who offered a savings of \$308,180.00 over current. Following discussion, Chairman Turner asked Mr. Bidwell to give Alliant an opportunity to issue a more aggressive quote and to contact CIGNA to see if they would be willing to expand the savings by an additional \$50,000.00. There was a consensus that the award of the contract for the employee benefits plan would be placed on the May 6, 2019 meeting agenda. (Presentation included in the meeting file).

A brief discussion was had concerning the presentations which had been made and the meeting was adjourned.

The minutes of the April 30, 2019 Budget Work Session are hereby approved as stated this 6th day of May, 2019.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/Travis C. Turner

Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger

Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb

Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix

Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant

Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Murphy

Shanda Murphy, County Clerk