

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 19, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Budget Work Session for the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget in the third floor conference room of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday June 19, 2017 at 1:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Jimmy Walker
Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford
Commissioner James D. Booth
Commissioner Ronda Jones
Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards

Chairman Jimmy Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

INVOCATION

Chairman Walker asked Commissioner Jones to deliver the invocation.

Commissioner Jones delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Walker invited the citizens in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Chairman Walker entertained a motion to approve the June 19, 2017 Budget Work Session

Agenda.

Commissioner Booth moved to approve the June 19th Budget Work Session Agenda as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed having a limited time for each commissioner to speak versus having open discussion.

The majority of the Board wished to have open discussion.

Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget

Chairman Walker opened the floor for open discussion regarding the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Have a long way to go with this budget
- Lot of uncertainties
- Do not know what is going to happen with the potential art teachers
- Believe the art teachers will have to be left off table until some concrete information is provided to the Board

Chairman Walker commented:

- Vice Chairman Lankford and I attended a meeting in which we both had a chance to discuss the potential art teachers with the Representative Kyle Hall
- After the discussion, still had a lot of uncertainties about the situation

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Have talked to Representative Hall and received the same information provided to Vice Chairman Lankford and Chairman Walker – lot of uncertainties

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Got the impression from the Board of Education that Representative Hall was on board with the concept
- Have not personally spoke to Representative Hall, but did learn of the information provided at that meeting
- Was unable to attend that meeting – had out of town visitors
- Know the Board of Education is lobbying for these art positions
- Still too uncertain for me to make a decision
- Will have a situation if we give them the funding to put six (6) art teachers in the schools and then not fund them the next year
- If there is no state funding, the Board of Education will have to request local funding

- Be in a very difficult situation when funding is denied by the Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Think the art teachers could help regain some of the charter and home school students which we need
- Would like to see the art positions in the schools; however, I say we don't trust Raleigh- it would be a bait switch again
- Don't want to hire six (6) teachers and then next year have to say I sorry you don't have a job, plus the disappointment to the students
- If we had an honest answer, I would be on board 100%
- It is an economic driver – making schools better
- Very concern about this request
- Need for information
- Do want to see the schools' budget made whole – covering the extra costs
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the County has five (5) front line ambulances, five (5) spares/other uses, and one Life One unit
- Not going to cut back on ambulances
- Could have a situation where all are needed at the same time
- Will not cut back on stretchers – will have to purchase now or later
- Equipment will continue to increase

Chairman Walker commented:

- Confirmed with Commissioner Jones that making the school system whole would provide them funding for their current teachers and any extra costs that has increased since last year
- Confirmed with Commissioner Jones that she does not want to see the system lose needed teachers

Commissioner Jones continued:

- Would like to see the supplement increased to be more competitive
- Making them whole would be the extra funding recommended by Manager Morris
- Doesn't mean providing funding for the art teachers
- Want to make sure the needed teachers are there
- Have to remember that they have lost ADM funding

County Manager Morris responded:

- Understood Dr. Rice say that the school system would still have a shortfall of \$500,000 with the recommended budget
- Per Dr. Rice, there are six (6) local teachers in question – not sure what would be the consequences

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Have done my homework on this issue
- Have been in touch with Finance Director Moore at Central Office as of this morning

- Gathered quite a bit of information
- Trust the information provided by Director Moore – worked with her for five (5) years
- Director Moore stated that she would be glad to speak to any of the commissioners
- In their budget under current expense, they have listed two technology positions = \$147,417
- Director Moore has indicated if that is not funded, she would be able to fund that out of another allotment
- Can save \$147,417

Chairman Walker noted that he believed she had said the same thing at the joint meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall continued:

- Believe there were five (5) local teaching positions being funded, now they are asking for eleven (11) teaching positions
- Director Moore said there had been a lot of discussion about this among the Board
- Some are hoping the commissioners will fund the original five (5) positions; others are pushing for the additional six (6) positions
- There is a division there between the board members
- Do not know the consequences of not funding these local positions
- This information is not from Director Moore, this is my conclusion
- Asking for an additional assistant principal position for King Elementary –sharing an assistant principal position with Poplar Springs
- Just left a principal position in Virginia with about 200 students, high poverty, exceptional students and no part time assistant principal
- My opinion is that they can continue to share the assistant principal
- Have been principal at three (3) elementary schools with no assistant principal and no part time assistant principal
- Attended all those required meetings myself

Commissioner Jones questioned Commissioner Mendenhall what would be the threshold to indicate another full time assistant principal is needed with knowing about the autism class.

Commissioner Mendenhall responded:

- Don't know if there is a threshold – just a matter of opinion
- I am sure if you were a parent of an autistic child, you would want an assistant principal at your school

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Commissioner Mendenhall that no other elementary school in the county has an assistant principal position – only have half time in King area
- Only have assistant principals in middle school and high school

Commissioner Mendenhall continued:

- Being a principal at a high school is much more demanding

- Only had one assistant principal at North Stokes which worked well
- That is my personal opinion

Commissioner Booth commented:

- County only furnishes 1/6 of the school budget
- Lot of funding can be switched to different allotments

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Want everyone to know that I always try to take my education hat off while serving as a commissioner
- My personal opinion is that we should try to fund the five (5) local teaching positions that are already being funded by the county
- My opinion regarding the art positions is very skeptical after speaking to Representative Hall
- You bring in six (6) art teachers and then have to let them go next year
- They, along with the parents, are going to look at us
- I could not support the art positions at this time
- It is nothing against art in the schools
- When art went again, there was a rotation between art, music, physical education, guidance, and Spanish
- Only have music and physical education
- Could only get a “might be funded” from Representative Hall
- When I first spoke to him, Representative Hall was unaware of the art position funding

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Have been uncertain about this from the beginning
- Hard to understand how there was such a different opinion from the commissioners’ information and the Board of Education’s information

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding funding the art positions.

Commissioner Booth: can’t support the art positions

Vice Chairman Lankford: can’t support funding the \$320,354 requested by the Board of Education

Chairman Walker: can’t support the art positions at this point due to lack of information

Commissioner Jones: can’t support right art positions now – agree with Chairman Waller

Commissioner Mendenhall: can’t support the art positions

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- This is a two-year budget for the state – not a one-year budget
- General Assembly is going to do a study to see how many counties already have them
- Had a long discussion with Representative Hall
- Representative Hall could not provide a definite answer that funding would be available next year

- Actually we are not supporting the funding of \$320,354 requested in the budget
- We provide funding and the Board of Education allots funding

Finance Director Edwards noted that the funding had not been recommended by the manager in his budget.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Agree with what Vice Chairman Lankford is saying about not funding an appropriation instead of specific items like art positions

The Board discussed the request being made by the Board of Education indicated in their budget request as a one-time appropriation for the art positions.

County Manager Morris reiterated that the \$320,364 is not in the recommended budget.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- The \$320,364 is not included in the extra \$800,000 recommended by the manager

The Board unanimously agreed to not fund the \$320,364 requested for six (6) art positions at this time.

Chairman Walker noted that it could be brought back to the Board of County Commissioners if additional information is received.

Chairman Walker believes that the Board does support the concept of having art teachers in elementary schools, but just support funding the requested \$320,364 at this time due to the uncertainties.

Chairman Walker opened discussed on the shortfall presented by Dr. Rice in the amount of \$506,316.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Spoke to Director Moore who noted there were some funding issues with the yellow buses (\$130,000) – did not elaborate on the shortage

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Need to know what is the exact figure needed to make them whole
- Would also like to know what part of the school's budget is local, state, and federal

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I am sure Director Moore would be happy to explain the figures

Chairman Walker commented:

- Not exactly what we need to do with this information

The Board discussed the information provided by the Board of Education labeled as additional funding needed to maintain the Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget.

Chairman Walker requested if the Board would like to take advantage of Dr. Rice or Director Moore's offer to be at a next meeting to answer questions?

The Board unanimously agreed to get specific questions answered on their own.

Chairman Lankford questioned if Commissioner Mendenhall would like to take a stab at what we need to request from the school system?

Commissioner Mendenhall responded:

- Director Moore offered her assistance to any of the five (5) board members

Chairman Walker questioned who would be willing to call Director Moore regarding the shortfall being requested in the amount of \$506,316?

Vice Chairman Lankford noted he would be glad to speak to Director Moore about the shortfall amount of \$506,316.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Have to remember if we fund this \$506,316 this year, it will be recurring next year
- Lot of questions need to be answered

Chairman Walker commented:

- Believe Dr. Rice noted in our joint meeting that there was approximately \$800,000 shortfall from the manager's recommended budget

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Want everyone to remember, what impact this additional request would put on the county
- Recurring expense
- Still have a lot to do on the county budget

Chairman Walker opened the floor for further open discussion.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Had on my list to eliminate the two (2) technology positions which Commissioner Mendenhall stated can be taken care of with other allotments
- Would like to eliminate the assistant principal position
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that his recommended budget does not include the two (2) technology positions and the assistant principal positions
- Will have to start looking for other ways to decrease the budget

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the elimination of the two (2) technology positions and the assistant principal positions.

Commissioner Booth: decrease the budget by \$147,417 for two (2) technology positions

Vice Chairman Lankford: decrease the budget by \$147,417 for two (2) technology positions

Chairman Walker: decrease the budget by \$147,417 for two (2) technology positions

Commissioner Jones: decrease the budget by \$147,417 for two (2) technology positions

Commissioner Mendenhall: decrease the budget by \$147,417 for two (2) technology positions

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Reiterated that Director Moore has found funding from other allotments to fund these two (2) positions

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the assistant principal position.

Commissioner Booth: not fund

Vice Chairman Lankford: not fund

Chairman Walker: not fund

Commissioner Jones: not fund

Commissioner Mendenhall: not fund

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Reiterated that this funding \$70,623 was not recommended by the manager and if funded, would increase the recommended budget
- Their requested budget has an \$2 million increase over last year

Commissioner Mendenhall confirmed with Manager Morris that the County allocated \$9,721,900 for current expense last year along with a one-time \$200,000 special appropriation for the Golden Leaf Grant for chrome notebooks for West and South Stokes High Schools and \$95,440 for Poplar Springs Operating Expenses (total = \$10,017,340)

\$90,938 to cover one half of the teacher supplement plus matching grant for SRO Grant.

Clerk Bullins noted that the \$147,417 used by the school for technology positions was recommended by Manager Morris due to a 20% reduction in e-rate reimbursement for telephone expense which the school system had no control over.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that his \$800,000 additional funding did not include the \$200,000 special appropriation for chrome notebooks
- That \$200,000 should not have been included since it was a one-time special appropriation
- When you actually look at the school's current expense, it was increased \$1,052,390 over last year's appropriation, not \$800,000
- That would be about a seven-cent tax increase

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- The school's supplement is based off of the 2013-14 salaries
- It has not been increased since that time
- It does not equal their current salaries
- The Board of Education is asking \$193,000 to increase the teacher supplement

Vice Chairman Lankford noted the teachers have had approximately 25% increase in salaries over the past few years.

Commissioner Booth noted that principals are getting a 10% increase this year along with another 5% for teachers.

The Board agreed hold further discussion regarding the schools until Vice Chairman Lankford gets the detailed information regarding the shortfall.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion regarding any topic of the recommended budget.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Will not support the filing system for the Clerk of Court
- Will not support the voting machine – may be state funding for voting machines – may be jumping the gun on that item

Chairman Walker commented:

- Two things that are high on my list for this budget is economic development and the opioid epidemic (hearing these two items when I talk people)
- Support a full-time director for economic development
- To continue the way we are – we will be using a part time director for the third year who expertise is planning
- Believe the citizens are getting very restless from what I am seeing
- Believe they want to see more effort from the county regarding economic development
- The opioid crisis is probably one of the serious issues we had dealt with
- Know personal accounts of people who have been affected by the opioid epidemic
- To not do those two (2) things, we are not listening to our citizens
- These are two issues that are very important to me
- Feel very budget should reflect the needs of our citizens
- There is also the need for the classification study to see where we are at with our employees
- Losing employees because of wages
- We have to find a way to compensate our employees to try to keep them

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Agree with some of the things mentioned by Vice Chairman Lankford and Chairman Walker
- Don't see the need for new voting machines, don't know that we are having a great deal of trouble with all the machines
- Don't know rationale for the filing system for the Clerk of Court
- Very concerned about the drug issues in the county
- Believe there could be drug activity in my own neighborhood
- The requested amount of increase from the Board of Education this year for current expense was 23.6% - very high increase over last year's approved amount
- Complimented Manager Morris for bringing that increase down
- This is my first budget being a commissioner
- Just throwing this out – could we get the increase over last year's total budget down to possibly 5% - is that asking too much

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- The increase is 7.36% over last year
- Taking off the voting machines and the filing system will decrease the budget

County Manager Morris commented:

- Will get some more information regarding the voting machines
- That is one area that you can't wait and let them fail during an election
- Director Jason Perry has been telling us that the machines would need to be replaced by 2018 – not sure why that date, but will find out – may be end of life
- Director Perry has noted that they have to go out 3-4 times each election to swap out machines

- The Board of Elections voted to request these new voting machines

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with staff that there was a bill in the legislature according to Director Perry that would possibly allocate funding for voting machines, but not sure it is going anywhere
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the county received state funding to help purchase the last voting machines
- Requested Manager Morris to provide the Board with an update regarding the bill mentioned
- Could get ahead of the game if the county goes ahead and funds the purchase of new machines

Finance Director Edwards commented:

- With taking off the voting machines and the filing system, the increase would be 6.82% (reduction of \$269,280)
- Noted there is \$30,000 in capital reserve for the voting machines
- Confirmed with the Board members, the \$147,712 should be taken from the school's budget
- There is also \$10,000 in Public Buildings that needs to be taken out

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the new, reduced cost for EMS stretchers has not been taken out of the budget yet (\$120,000)

Finance Director Edwards commented:

- Taking out the voting machines, filing system for the Clerk of Court, \$120,000 from ambulance stretcher purchase, \$10,000 for painting fire escapes, & \$147,712 for E-rate reduction leaves the budget with a 6.22% increase over last year

Chairman Walker opened the floor for further discussion.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Recommend only six (6) stretchers for this budget

Commissioner Booth requested information about the current stretchers.

County Manager Morris responded:

- All stretchers are twelve (12) years old except two (2) which are ten (10) years old
- Stretchers are not supported after ten (10) years
- Hard to get parts for the stretchers

Commissioner Booth questioned why the stretchers could not be interchanged between ambulances?

County Manager Morris responded:

- First thing that must be done is spend about \$3,000 for each stretcher to get them in compliance for safety reasons
- The spare ambulances that does not get a new stretcher would have to have a tract system installed along with a hookup system – would have to get an estimate and actually see if that is all that would have to be installed
- Spending several thousand dollars (probably \$5,000 minimum) on each ambulance that does not get a new system
- Each stretcher is \$27,636
- The eleven (11) includes one for Life One which should be eliminated first
- New stretcher system should help to decrease worker comp claims – new ones lift itself up

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Sticking to eleven (11)
- Safety should be first in this county
- Know that EMS Director Collins has asked for new stretchers for at least two (2) or three (3) years
- Agree with Manager Morris that it would decrease worker comp claims
- Confirmed with Clerk Bullins that an employee has been out since December 2016 from a lifting accident
- Purchase of the new stretcher system will pay for themselves in no time
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that ambulances are also broken

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Clerk Bullins that the majority of worker comp claims are back injuries from lifting

Manager Morris explained the new stretcher concept.

The Board discussed the new system with Manager Morris.

Manager Morris noted that beginning 2018, all new stretchers purchased will have to be attached to the floor to keep them from moving if the ambulance overturns.

Chairman Walker commented:

- May need all the ten (10) units if there is ever a disaster
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that it takes the five (5) to keep the five (5) front line going (repairs – routine maintenance)
- Would like to know the cost to make the older spares compatible so that the new stretchers could be interchanged and the estimated cost to repair the old stretchers

Commissioner Booth commented:

- New stretchers can be interchanged with the older units
- Confirmed with Manager Morris the new stretchers come with the tracking system

- Need to consider the ambulance that will be coming off rotation this year and possibly next year
- Confirmed with Manager Morris that the tracking can be moved to another ambulance

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I will be honest, with using them twice for my two heart attacks, I am a little prejudice
- Not going to give a number at this point
- Would support getting as many as possible – personal opinion

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the purchase of new stretchers:

Commissioner Booth: six (6)

Vice Chairman Lankford: six (6)

Chairman Walker: six (6) to nine (9)

Commissioner Jones: eleven (11)

Commissioner Mendenhall: not ready to make a recommendation at this point – support as many as fiscally possible

Commissioner Jones confirmed with Manager Morris that the new ambulance will include the tracking system.

Commissioner Booth noted that the work comp claims are paid by the county's insurance.

Chairman Walker commented:

- The least number suggested by the Board to purchase was six (6)
- This would provide new stretcher systems for all five (5) front line ambulances which would help to decrease our worker comp claims
- There will also be a spare unit with the new stretcher system

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- The new ambulance will also come with a new stretcher system which would make seven (7) ambulances with new stretchers

Commissioner Jones noted that she could go with ten (10) since the new ambulance will be coming with a new stretcher system.

Chairman Walker confirmed with Board members that they would like to wait for more information.

Commissioner Booth noted he would like to know how many small boxes on the ambulances the county still has.

Commissioner Jones noted that she would like to know the life span for the new stretcher system.

The Board recessed the meeting for a scheduled Petree Board of Trustees Meeting.

The Board resumed the Budget Work Session.

Chairman Walker noted the Board had concluded discussion regarding the new stretcher system until further information was provided.

Clerk Bullins provided the Board with requested information from EMS Director Collins and Elections Director Perry:

- New stretchers have a life span of ten (10) years
- EMS Director Collins will be getting a quote regarding the cost to install tracking in the older units
- Will probably go back to remounts in about two (2) years, if the purchase of ambulances continue
- If the ambulance is approved for this budget year, it will take until probably June 2018 before it is on the road
- Director Perry does not have any further information regarding the bill for funding, will try to get update information – the bill would be retroactive if equipment was purchase before the adoption of the bill – will be a 50/50 match
- Director Perry noted that they have four (4) backup voting machines that serves twenty (20) election polls each time there is an election with an average of replacing two (2) each election
- The Board of Elections voted unanimously to include this in the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget request
- These voting machines are basically obsolete – they are no longer being made and no available new parts
- If parts are needed, they have to be taken off older machines

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the purchase of voting machines in this upcoming budget?

Commissioner Booth: would like to wait to see what the bill is all about

Vice Chairman Lankford: my position has not changed – would want to see if the bill passes

Chairman Walker: would want further information regarding bill

Commissioner Jones: wait for information regarding the bill

Commissioner Mendenhall: wait for information regarding the bill

Commissioner Jones would like to know the current condition of voting machines.

Finance Director Edwards noted:

- If the bill passed, the county's cost would be \$72,500
- Have \$39,680 already in capital reserve

Chairman Walker noted that the Board of Elections unanimously voted to include this in the budget request.

The Board discussed recessing today's meeting to 3:00 pm tomorrow – June 20th.

Chairman Walker opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Have been thinking about the poll taken by Chairman Walker regarding the purchase of stretchers
- I am ready to say that I could possibly go nine (9) to ten (10) for this budget year

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Believe seven (7) this year would be sufficient
- Don't believe we have all five (5) front line ambulances at the same time
- Got two (2) ambulances last year
- We have good equipment for EMS

Finance Director Edwards noted that each ambulance can be remounted twice.

Equipment Purchase

Security Gate – Forsyth Tech

The Board agreed to take equipment list item by item.

The Board began discussion regarding the equipment recommended by Manager Morris.

Commissioner Mendenhall noted that Manager Morris recommended a security gate for the Forsyth Tech Community College campus.

County Manager Morris noted that people are constantly going in and out during the night.

County Manager Morris noted this would come from the 4 cent fund – not the general fund

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the security gate.

Commissioner Booth: need to think about it

Vice Chairman Lankford: think we are ok - no

Chairman Walker: yes

Commissioner Jones: since coming out of the 4 cent fund – could live with it – but would like to think about it

Commissioner Mendenhall: supports the purchase

County Manager Morris noted that it is a great place to go hide.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Agree with Commissioner Jones' comments about other schools not having a security gate
- Poplar Springs Elementary School does not have a security gate and it is off the road

Information Systems

The Board had no objections with the equipment recommended by Manager Morris

regarding the equipment for Information Systems.

Jail – Van

County Manager Morris commented:

- Spending \$30,000 a year outsources prisoners to other counties
- Current van stays on the road
- Needs a van that is dependable
- Sheriff feels strong about the purchase of this mini van
- Van is eleven (11) years old

Commissioner Booth noted the current van only has 125,680 miles according to the vehicle list.

Chairman Walker polled the Board:

Commissioner Booth: no - because of the low mileage

Vice Chairman Lankford: no

Chairman Walker: yes

Commissioner Jones: yes – safety and security – will possible need with the new jail expansion

Commissioner Mendenhall: not ready to answer yet

Chairman Walker noted that we have a very conservative Sheriff and believe he would not ask if he truly did not need the van, support the Sheriff's request.

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- Don't understand Chairman Walker's rationale – he is like all departments

Chairman Walker responded:

- Another reason is providing employees with good equipment –can't pay like surrounding counties
- Maybe naïve or gullible, but when the Sheriff asks for it with his history and his track record over the years, being conservative – that is all I need to know

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- You must be talking about the first Sheriff

Chairman Walker responded:

- Talking about Sheriff Marshall and the first Sheriff

Chairman Walker commented:

- Amazed how he does what he does with his current budget
- Dealing with deputies leaving because of higher pay in surrounding counties

Commissioner Jones commented:

- A lot of our goals have been included in this budget, COLA – no tax increase
- Unless we want to micro manage, goals have been met

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Van only has 125,000 miles
- Can't see why it needs to be replaced

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Will support the purchase of the van for the Jail

Chairman Walker noted the purchase of the van was approved 3-2.

Chairman Walker questioned what can be done to done to speed up this process.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- I need to look at the vehicles for the Sheriff's Department
- Can't see the need for 8 vehicles this year

Commissioner Jones questioned how many vehicles were in the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Booth responded:

- According to the list - 86

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the Sheriff has 42 full-time sworn officers.

Commissioner Jones questioned why he had so many vehicles compared to the number of sworn officers.

Finance Director Edwards noted the Sheriff would have to answer that question.

Commissioner Mendenhall questioned how this process could be done faster.

Commissioner Jones responded:

- Suggested each member go home and come back with a list of things each commissioner can and cannot approve
- County Manager Morris met the Board's directives
- Don't know why we need to go line by line

Chairman Walker commented:

- Used a county car one time that I did not know if it would make it or not
- Need good reliable vehicles for our workers – for example: social workers who have to go out after hours in secluded areas
- Everyone has their own way of looking at equipment
- This is one area that I choose not to penny pinch
- Up to each individual commissioner

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Just want it clear that just because I don't support something in this budget, it does not mean that I don't support our employees
- You act like if we don't approve something that the manager recommended that was requested by the department, then we don't support that department or the employees
- If that is the case, we should go back and approve what the manager did not approve that was requested by the department head
- It was said that the manager did what he was asked to do, I don't remember asking him to include all this equipment

Chairman Walker responded:

- Do you think it would be a fair way if each commissioner took this list home and mark what we each can and cannot agree with?

Commissioner Booth responded:

- To make it fair, you would probably need to cut the equipment by a percentage to make it fair

Commissioner Mendenhall responded:

- It has a long meeting today
- Just because a commissioner doesn't vote for something, doesn't mean that commissioner doesn't support that department or department head
- I have been in Manager Morris' spot with being the superintendent
- I included items that I thought were truly needed, but my Boards would eliminate things that I put in – I did not go home and lose sleep over it
- Everyone has their own opinion
- Believe Manager Morris did a good job with the budget even though I see some things that I may not go with
- I can go home and mark what I can live with if that is what the Board desires

Vice Chairman Lankford responded:

- I can give you an example – EMS - their final budget was \$2,941,177 last year and this year it is \$3,856,379 – needs to be looked at

County Manager Morris commented:

- Everything is worn out

Chairman Walker questioned what the pleasure of the Board was going forth from today?

Commissioner Mendenhall questioned what has been asked by the Board?

Clerk Bullins responded:

- Information regarding stretcher costs – tracking systems for older units
- Election bill status – for voting machines
- Problems occurring with the van requested by the Sheriff

Adjournment

The Board discussed recessing today's budget work session until Tuesday, June 20th

3:00 pm.

Chairman Walker recessed the budget session until Tuesday, June 20th at 3:00 pm.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman