

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 20, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Recessed Budget Work Session (from June 19, 2017 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 Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 3:00 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 – absent
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards

Chairman Jimmy Walker called the recessed Budget Work Session to order and welcomed those in attendance.

INVOCATION

Chairman Walker 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.

Budget Work Session – Continuation

Chairman Walker opened the discussion regarding the equipment recommendation in the county manager's recommended budget.

Clerk Bullins presented the Board with the following updated estimate for the cost of Performance Pro stretchers which was requested by the Board:

- Stretchers (6) \$16,641.00 – Total \$99,846.00
 - Includes stretcher for Life One
 - Stretcher in Life One would be transferred to spare ambulance
- Maintenance Agreement (7 yrs) \$4,217.00 – Total \$25,302.00
 - Lifetime 7-10 years
- Tracks (9) \$5,316.00 – Total \$47,844.00
 - 4 tracks would be for spare ambulances
 - Does not include tracking for Life One
- Track Installation \$1,600 – Total \$14,400.00
- Mass Casualty (9) \$750.61 – Total \$6,755.49
 - This helps locks the stretcher in case the ambulance rolls over
- Total cost = \$194,147.49 estimate
- Repairs to remaining stretchers – (4) \$3,000 – Total \$12,000 (estimate)
- Questioned EMS Director Collins why tracking needed in the spare ambulance:
 - Stokes Stomp
 - Graduations
 - Hanging Rock Special Events
 - Add on a Unit 6 during busy days and when county ambulances are out of the county
 - Mud Run – Pinnacle
 - Church events as requested such as Vacation Bible School
 - New hire orientation with training officer
 - Snow/extreme weather events
 - Football/basketball games

Clerk Bullins also provided information about a bill that would possibly provide funding for voting machines:

- Elections Director Jason Perry stated that the bill has language allocating funding for voting machines was HB655
- Director Perry noted that language in the bill states the State Board of Elections shall offer matching grant to county of up to \$500,000 for purchasing voting equipment that complies with the requirements of federal law and Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, including hardware and software; Any amounts spent by the county on or after January 1, 2016, on voting equipment that complies with the requirements of

federal law and Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, including hardware and software shall be counted toward the county match.

- I called House Representative Kyle Hall who was not familiar with HB655
- Representative Hall returned a text which states: it wasn't included in the State Budget, so there is no funding for it. The bill could be considered next year

The Board continued discussion regarding the request for stretchers.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Confirmed with Clerk Bullins that maintenance would be approximately \$602 per year
- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the bariatric stretcher that is in Life One was purchased in 2010

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the purchase of stretchers for EMS:

- Vice Chairman Lankford:
 - (6) stretchers
 - Not sure about maintenance agreement– don't know about a maintenance agreement on a new piece of equipment
- Commissioner Mendenhall:
 - Would like to go with purchasing (7) which would save an tremendous amount from the manager's recommendations
- Commissioner Booth:
 - Will go with (6) stretchers
- Commissioner Jones:
 - Will go with (7) stretchers
- Chairman Walker:
 - Will go with (7) stretchers

Chairman Walker commented:

- Have three (3) commissioners – (7) stretchers
- Have two (2) commissioners – (6) stretchers
- Majority – (7) stretchers

Clerk Bullins confirmed with Chairman Walker that the majority vote includes

(7) stretchers, (7) maintenance agreement, (9) tracks, (9) track installation, and (9) mass casualty = \$215,005.49 along with \$12,000 for maintenance.

The Board discussed Physio Control LifePak 15 monitor/defibrillators (requested (7) @\$34,857.14).

Finance Director Edwards noted:

- Defibrillators and TruCPR Coaching Device (7) @\$1,700 go together (have to have both)
- Can't get parts for defibrillators any longer per EMS Director Collins

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that EMS requested (4) defibrillators last year and none were approved.

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the purchase of Physio Control LifePak 15 monitor/defibrillators and TruCPR coaching devices for EMS:

Commissioner Jones: (7)

Commissioner Booth: (4)

- If (4) new ones are approved, then there will be 4 spares for backups
- If additional ones are needed because parts are unavailable, a request can always be brought before the Board

Vice Chairman Lankford: (4)

Chairman Walker: (7)

Commissioners Mendenhall: (4)

Majority – (4) Defibrillators = \$139,429 & coaching devices = \$6,800

The Board discussed:

District Resource Center – Weed Eater and Leaf Blower

- Approved unanimously

Finance – Folder/insert machine

- Approved unanimously

Forsyth Tech – Front Entrance Security Gate

- Did not approve

EMS – Scope Stretchers – replaces 20 year old stretchers – needed for a change in protocols

- Approved unanimously

The Board discussed the request for EMS Toughbooks and software (7).

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Would like to know why they are needed and what kind of problems are occurring
- Don't quite understand why new ones are needed if the current ones are working

Finance Director Edwards responded:

- IT Department recommended purchase
- Having issues with computer
- Put some in last year's budget, but none were approved
- Used to transmit data to hospitals

Commissioner Booth stated he would like to know what problems are occurring before a poll is taken.

Chairman Walker requested staff to obtain information about the problems.

Chairman Walker noted the Board would come back to this item after information is received from IT about problems.

The Board discussed Animal Control Truck.

Commissioner Mendenhall confirmed with staff that with the additional officer – one truck is for the new position and one truck is a replacement truck with very high mileage – mileage for current fleet: 351,744; 289,145; 177,612.

Commissioner Booth: will go with only one (1) because of possible changes that may be required in the near future

Vice Chairman Lankford (1)

Commissioner Mendenhall (1)

Chairman Walker (1)

- Can come back during budget if needed

Commissioner Jones (2)

The Board discussed the voting machines.

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the voting machines:

Vice Chairman Lankford: none

Commissioner Jones: none

Commissioner Booth: none

Chairman Walker: none

Commissioner Mendenhall: none

Chairman Walker noted that the Board of Elections recommended the director put the request in this year's budget.

Commissioner Mendenhall noted that during his election, he did see one machine having to be replaced at one of the polls.

The Board agreed that the County needs to wait and see what happens with HB655.

The Board discussed Emergency Communications – Mobile AVL Mapping Site License.

Finance Director Edwards commented:

- This is an automatic vehicle locator – dispatch can track vehicles through GPS
- Justification – safety for emergency responders

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Were recently installed on the schools' yellow buses
- Can locate where a bus is

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the Mobile AVL Mapping Site License:

- Commissioner Mendenhall – yes
- Commissioner Jones – yes
- Chairman Walker – yes
- Vice Chairman Lankford – did not need to vote since there was already three (3) votes
- Commissioner Booth – will remain neutral
 - Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that this could not be paid with E911 funding

Chairman Walker noted a majority approved the Mobile AVL Mapping Site License

The Board discussed the Emergency Management – Panasonic Toughbook. (for EMS

Director)

Chairman Walker polled the Board:

Vice Chairman Lankford: yes

Commissioner Booth: yes

- Could get to the scene before the ambulance arrives

Commissioner Jones: yes

Chairman Walker: yes

Commissioner Mendenhall: yes

Approved unanimously

The Board discussed the Fire Marshal requests:

Airpack Replacement

Finance Director Edwards noted the following justification for the airpacks:

- Ten (10) years old
- Needed for safety and accountability
- Requesting to replace one airpack each year

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the airpack replacement:

Vice Chairman Lankford: yes

Commissioner Booth: yes

Commissioner Jones: yes

Chairman Walker: yes
Commissioner Mendenhall: yes
Approved unanimously

Fire Marshal Camera:

Chairman Walker polled the Board:
Vice Chairman Lankford: 1
Commissioner Booth: 1
Commissioner Jones: 2
Chairman Walker: 2
Commissioner Mendenhall: 2
Approved unanimously

AED Replacement:

Chairman Walker polled the Board:
Vice Chairman Lankford: yes
Commissioner Booth: yes
Commissioner Jones: yes
Chairman Walker: yes
Commissioner Mendenhall: yes
Approved unanimously

The Board agreed unanimously for the purchase of two (2) replacement switchers

The Board discussed the van for the Jail.

Commissioner Jones presented the following information regarding the request from Sheriff

Marshall:

- Jail is doing 130 transports a month
- Not reliable - has broken down during the transport of an inmate
- Has several issues
- Only gets 12 miles to the gallon
- According the Sheriff, the vehicle list for the Sheriff's Department contains ATVs, trailers, lot of the cars are assigned to the Sheriff's Department but used in other departments

Chairman Walker noted that the Sheriff would not ask if he did not need it.

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the van:

Vice Chairman Lankford: no

Commissioner Mendenhall: yes

Commissioner Booth: no

- A van with only 125,000 should be dependable
- Have other vehicles in other departments with 250,000 that makes daily trips
- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that this is a replacement van which can be used in another department when the new one arrives

Commissioner Jones: yes
Chairman Walker: yes

The Board discussed the Parks – Zero Turn Mower request.

Commissioner Mendenhall confirmed with staff that this is for Moratock Park.

Vice Chairman Lankford confirmed with staff that District Resource Center does not mow the park.

The Board requested more information.

The Board discussed Public Buildings request.

Finance Director Edwards noted that the Fire Escape sandblasting/paint for the Old Courthouse and Artist Way will be removed due to that being done in this fiscal year.

Commissioner Booth requested information about the Arts Council roof replacement.

Clerk Bullins noted:

- Only roof on the buildings owned by county in downtown Danbury that has not been replaced
- Large amount of funding was spent on the Arts Council Building last year
- Funding comes from capital reserve

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the Arts Council roof replacement, Health

Department roof:

Commissioner Jones: yes to both items
Vice Chairman Lankford: yes to both items
Commissioner Mendenhall: yes to both items
Chairman Walker: yes to both items
Commissioner Booth: yes to both items

The Board discussed the Register of Deeds computer request which comes from the Register of Deeds Technology fund.

The Board unanimously agreed to approve the request.

The Board discussed the Senior Services request for six (6) computers for the Walnut Cove Senior Center Computer Lab.

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the Senior Services computer request.
Vice Chairman Lankford: 3 computers
Commissioner Mendenhall: 3 computers
Commissioner Booth: 3 computers
Chairman Walker: 6 computers
Commissioner Jones: 3 computers
 ○ Can request during the fiscal year if computers go down
Majority approval: 3 computers

The Board discussed Sheriff's Department requests:

Vehicles: request of 6

SUV: request of 2

Chairman Walker polled the Board:

Vice Chairman Lankford: 4 cars and 2 SUVs
Commissioner Mendenhall: 4 cars and 2 SUVs
Commissioner Jones: 4 cars and 2 SUVs
Commissioner Booth: 3 cars and 2 SUVs
Chairman Walker: 6 cars and 2 SUVs

- Confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the Sheriff's Department received 6 vehicles last year
- Believe the Sheriff is conservative with his requests and would not ask for 6 cars and 2 SUVs unless he needed that amount

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Not questioning whether the Sheriff is conservative or not
- Can remember when former Sheriff Joyce went several years without getting cars especially when there was a tight budget

Vice Chairman Lankford noted the recommendation for the Sheriff's budget this year is \$6,620,278.

Commissioner Booth continued:

- The list shows that his department has 80 some vehicles which I think is a good number

Laptop Computers (2) for vehicles
Computers (3) office
Body Armor Vest (5) match for grant
Office Equipment (Desks/Chairs)

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the laptop computers for vehicles (2), computers for office (3), body armor vest – match for grant (5), and office equipment (desks and chairs).

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Finance Director Edwards that the Sheriff did not get any computers last budget year.

Commissioner Booth also confirmed with Finance Director Edwards the desks and chairs are for replacement of old desks and chairs.

Commissioner Booth noted that the Sheriff did have other funds that could be used for certain items.

Commissioner Mendenhall: everything but office equipment

Commissioner Booth: everything but office equipment

Commissioner Jones: everything but office equipment

Vice Chairman Lankford: everything but office equipment

Chairman Walker: Staying with my trend of trusting the Sheriff, if he says he needs office equipment, I think he has good reason for requesting it - everything

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I want to say something – I trust Sheriff Mike Marshall
- Have known him since he was a kid
- Trust him but sometimes you just have to cut and believe he can wait on the office equipment

Chairman Walker suggested cutting the amount.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Do not question my trusting the Sheriff

Chairman Walker responded:

- I am not questioning anyone's trust in the Sheriff

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- We understand, just do not need to say it after each item

Commissioner Jones commented:

- If I see the office equipment next year – it will be yes

Chairman Walker responded: time to move on

The Board discussed Social Services requests:

- Two (2) cars
- Van
- Only \$25,680 county funding

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the vehicles (3).

Commissioner Jones: 2 cars and 1 van
Vice Chairman Lankford: 1 van and 1 car
Chairman Walker: 2 cars and 1 van
Commissioner Booth: 1 van and 1 car
Commissioner Mendenhall: 1 van and 1 car

Chairman Walker reiterated the small amount of county funding for the 3 vehicles.

Clerk Bullins presented requested information to the Board:

EMS Toughbooks:

- Was suggested by the IT Department to EMS Director to start doing a rotation for the Toughbooks
- Toughbooks need to be replaced after 4 years – current Toughbooks are 3 years old
- Toughbooks are not like a desktop
- Have been having some major issues with docking stations
- Toughbooks are running 24/7 and are needed for transmitting data
- The seven are in the 5 front line, one for supervisor and one for training officer
- There are no spares for the spare ambulances
- Existing Toughbooks can be used for spares

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the EMS Toughbooks:

Commissioner Jones: 4
Commissioner Booth: 4
Chairman Walker: 4
Vice Chairman Lankford: 4
Commissioner Mendenhall: 4

Clerk Bullins presented information about the Arts Council roof:

- There is no specific data on the age of the current roof
- Estimate to be at least 25 years old
- Contractor who put the roof on The Art Place will replace this roof and provide a 25 year warranty for the entire roof because all the other roofing has been replaced

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the replacement of the Arts Council roof:

Commissioner Jones: yes
Commissioner Booth: yes
Chairman Walker: yes
Vice Chairman Lankford: yes
Commissioner Mendenhall: yes

Clerk Bullins presented the following information requested about the Parks – Zero Turn

Mower:

- 20+ years old
- Motor bolts that attached to the frame are worn out
- Maintenance getting very expensive
- Used for Autumn Square, sewer lines, and the Park
- Already replaced two seals
- Can use the old mower for the sewer lines

Chairman Walker polled the Board regarding the Zero Turn Mower for the Park:

Commissioner Jones: yes

Commissioner Booth: yes

Chairman Walker: yes

Vice Chairman Lankford: yes

Commissioner Mendenhall: yes

The Board discussed the requests for Solid Waste:

(8) replacement dumpsters

Replace transfer station scales

Finance Director Edwards provided the following information requested by Commissioner

Booth:

- Have spent \$13,937 for repairs to the scales
- Has been down more than 20 hours – can't weigh the customer when the scales are down
- Scales were installed in 1991

The Board unanimously agreed to approve the (8) replacement dumpsters and replace the transfer station scales.

The Board discussed the Superior Court Filing System.

Vice Chairman commented:

- Will not approve
- Clerk of the Superior Court did not do his homework – only provided one (1) bid
- Will look at his request when he does his due diligence

Commissioner Jones commented:

- Did some homework
- At full capacity
- Have filing cabinets that are broken and not secure – liability to the county
- Have asked for it before
- New system will free up 25% of space
- Will last a very long time

- Looked at the ones in Register of Deeds

Commissioner Booth commented:

- Heard there is a safe downstairs that was used by the Register of Deeds in Courtroom “C”
- Has not looked into seeing if that could be used
- Needs to be looked into before going forward with this purchase

Finance Director Edwards noted the justification provided by Clerk Tuttle.

- Running out of space
- New system would reduce the space being used for file cabinets
- Will get more estimates before purchasing
- High priority for Superior Court

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- Would want more than one quote
- Need three (3) bids
- Could get a cheaper system that is just as good]

Chairman Walker commented:

- Suggest that it not be approved
- Allow Clerk Tuttle to get three (3) bids and return the request to the Board of Commissioners for consideration
- Confirmed with Clerk Bullins that this was supposed to be financed

The Board agreed to send Clerk Tuttle a message to get three bids and then return to the Board for consideration and to look to see if storage is available in Courtroom “C”.

The Board discussed Vehicle Maintenance – truck, vehicle tire lift, and plasma cutting torch.

The Board confirmed the following with staff:

- Current vehicle is a used truck with 256,223 miles
- Director is on call – has to go out
- The vehicle maintenance costs continues to increase

Chairman Walker polled the Board

The Board unanimously agreed to approve the three items for vehicle maintenance:

- Truck
- Vehicle tire lift
- Plasma cutting torch

The Board discussed the Danbury Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and E911 Fund which are all separate funds.

Danbury Water:

4WD midsize truck (50% sewer fund)
1000' of 6" waterline and fire hydrant on Hanging Rock Forest Road

Sewer Fund

4WD midsize truck (50% sewer fund)

E911 Fund

Console Backup
Vista Move Host Side B Stokes to Surry Backup
Nexlog 740 Reorder-Backup
3 MPDS Cardset License Backup
3 FFDS Cardset License Backup
3 PPDS Cardst License Backup
(5) Headsets
(2) Headset Adapters
Chair

The Board unanimously approved the items recommended for the Danbury Water, Sewer Fund, and E911 Fund.

Chairman Walker reminded the Board that he would not be available after this Friday – out of town next week.

The Board discussed Chairman Walker possibly voting by phone.

The Board discussed recessing today’s Work Session until tomorrow at 1:30 pm.

The Board agreed to recess today’s meeting until tomorrow at 1:30 pm.

The Board discussed meeting on Friday if necessary at 3:00 pm.

Finance Director Edwards noted with the changes, the recommended budget had a 5.46% increase over last year.

Vice Chairman Lankford provided the Board with information he had received from the Director of Finance Lanette Moore, Stokes School System (2017-18 Current Expense Budget Review):

Cut 2 technology positions	-\$147,417.00
Cut 6 art positions	-\$320,364.00
Increase insurance (workers comp, liability vehicle)	\$13,160.00

Increase transportation - over state allotment - yellow buses	\$130,000.00
	-\$1,019,179.00
Board of Education - current expense budget request	\$12,317,051.00
Less adjustments	-\$1,019,179.00
Board of Education budget less adjustments	\$11,297,872.00
	-
County manager's recommendation	\$11,077,660.00
Additional funds needed to balance Board of Education Budget	\$220,212.00
2017-18 County appropriations based on county manager recommendation	\$10,774,290.00
2107-18 Poplar Springs Special Funding	\$94,570.00
Additional Funds Needed based on Adjustments	\$220,212.00
2017-18 Total County Funding	\$11,089,072.00
2016-17 County Appropriations	\$10,012,838.00
2016-17 Poplar Springs Special Funding	\$95,440.00
2016-17 Total County Funding	\$10,108,278.00
County Funding increase compared to 2016-17 including adjustments	\$980,794.00

Vice Chairman Lankford briefly discussed the information provided by

Director of Finance Moore.

Vice Chairman Lankford commented:

- Could support adding \$200,000 to the manager's recommended budget for the Schools Current expense

Commissioner Booth confirmed with Finance Director that adding back the \$200,000 would increase the percentage 6.22% over last year.

Commissioner Mendenhall stated there needed to be more discussion regarding the information provided by Director Moore.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- There could also be some fuel allotment overage which can be spent on anything

Commissioner Booth commented:

- If we maintain the school system this year, we will have to maintain again next year and the next year

Chairman Walker noted he would like the Board to review the information from

Director Moore before tomorrow's recessed meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Walker recessed the Budget Work Session until Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 1:30 pm.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman