

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
BUDGET WORKSESSION MINUTES
MAY 6, 2014**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, at 12:00 p.m. to begin deliberations for the FY2014-15 Recommended Budgets. Mr. Jeffcoat, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

Johnny W. Jeffcoat, Chairman
James E. Kinard, Jr.
M. Kent Collins
Bobby C. Keisler
William B. Banning, Sr.

M. Todd Cullum, V Chairman
Frank J. Townsend, III
Debra B. Summers
K. Brad Matthews

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, County Administrator; Chris Folsom, Deputy County Administrator; Randy Poston, Chief Financial Officer; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and television stations, newspapers, posted on the County of Lexington website and bulletin board located in the lobby of the Lexington County Administration Building.

The Budget Worksession video for this meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the Lexington County Video Web Portal at www.lex-co.sc.gov.

FY 2014-15 Department Presentations

General Fund - Recommended Budget

Law Enforcement - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Book 1, Page 86 - Col. Paavel presented the Department's FY2014/15 Budget. He reported the budget submitted was balanced and includes all the department's existing programs as far as staff and personnel including some contract and grant matches for additional personnel. However, what is not in the budget are a lot of capital items and employee pay package. Staff is requesting Council's consideration in providing the CPI and population index increase adjustments.

Chairman Jeffcoat opened the floor for discussion. Discussion occurred with no action taken.

Fire Service - Brad Cox - Chief Coordinator, Public Safety/Fire Service - Book 1, Page 63 - Chief Cox presented Fire Service's FY2014/15 Budget. He reported Fire Service was in the fourth year of their 5-year Advancement Plan adopted by Council in January 2012. Staff is requesting Council's consideration of both CPI and population millage which would allow Fire Service to hire extra staff members per the fourth-year plan and also allow building a cumulative surplus needed once Fire Service starts buying fire apparatus in FY 2016/17. Chief Cox reported on the numerous cost savings that Fire Service has made.

Chairman Jeffcoat opened the floor for discussion. Discussion occurred with no action taken.

EMS - Brian Hood - Chief Coordinator, Public Safety/Emergency Medical Services - Book 1, Page 59 and Book Two, Page 103 - Chief Hood presented the EMS Department's FY2014/15 Budget with a Power Point presentation. Staff is requesting CPI and population growth. Chief Hood reported on the new program request for 10 new personnel at \$614,432 to staff one additional ambulance.

Chairman Jeffcoat opened the floor for discussion. Discussion occurred with no action taken.

Communications - Nikki Rodgers - Coordinator, Public Safety/Communications - Book 1, Page 57 and Book Two, Page 122 - Ms. Rodgers presented the Communications Department FY2014/15 Budget with a Power Point presentation. She also provided an update on their strategic plan. Staff is requesting an additional 4 Call Takers at \$176, 883.

Chairman Jeffcoat opened the floor for discussion. Discussion occurred with no action taken.

Department Presentations on Requests for Additional Staff

Registration & Elections - Dean Crepes, Director - Book 1, Page 110 - New Program - Clerk II Grade 5 at \$40,136 - Mr. Crepes and Mr. Eugene Wilber, Election Commission Chairman, presented a new program request for an additional clerk due to the increase in voter population.

Vice Chairman Cullum opened the floor for discussion. Discussion occurred with no action taken.

Public Works - Wrenn Barrett, Director - Book 1, Page 38-39 Administration - New Program (2) Engineering Associates III Grade 18 at \$212,981; Book 1, Page 42-43 Transportation/Maintenance - New Programs - 1) Alternative Paving with Soil Stabilization at \$2,078,233, 2) Dirt Road Rebuild/Rehabilitation; Book 1, Page 46 Stormwater - New Program - Reorganization in Public Works - Mr. Barrett presented several requests for new programs with a Power Point presentation. He highlighted Public Works' two objectives. First objective was to reduce the mileage of dirt roads maintained by the County at 8 miles a year for the next 5 years and second objective was to rehabilitate 20 miles of County maintained dirt roads each year over the next 5 years. Mr. Barrett reported on the current staffing needs, funding issues and equipment. He said it would cost approximately \$700,000 per mile to pave a dirt road at this time and it would take Public Works 150 years to pave all County dirt roads. Mr. Mergo reported in order to achieve the objective of rebuilding 20 miles or paving 8 miles a year. The three requested new programs total \$3,555,347. Staff was asked if they could figure out that in the 20 miles/5-year plan what is it that could they accomplish more quickly through alternative sources rather than the historical C-Fund usage.

Vice Chairman Cullum opened the floor for discussion. Discussion occurred with no action taken.

Closing - Mr. Mergo reported that the County automatically gets adjusted revenues by growth and this year the growth was impacted for the County Ordinary by 1.58 percent which in turn generates \$416,252. Therefore, revenues for the budget in the General Fund grew by \$416,000 of \$112 million. He reported Law Enforcement's revenue growth of 1.58 percent generates \$557,559 and Fire Service's revenue growth of 1.82 percent generates \$258,290. He discussed the reduction of the State Local Government Funds and

costs associated with state mandated agencies and noted over the last six years, the County has been cut by \$12,273,643.

Chairman Jeffcoat opened the floor for discussion. Discussion occurred with no action taken.

Motion to Adjourn - A motion was made by Mr. Kinard, seconded by Mr. Cullum to adjourn the Budget Worksession.

In Favor:	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Kinard
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Townsend
	Mr. Collins	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Matthews

Absent: Mr. Banning

There being no further business, the Budget Worksession meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

Johnny W. Jeffcoat
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk