

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE  
BUDGET WORKSESSION MINUTES  
MAY 13, 2014**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, at 12:00 p.m. to continue 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

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

Absent: \*\*William B. Banning, Sr.

\*Mr. Townsend arrived after the meeting was already in progress.

\*\*Mr. Banning was absent due to illness.

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](http://www.lex-co.sc.gov).

**FY 2014-2015 - Department Presentations on Requests for New Programs - (Excluding Law Enforcement, Public Safety & Additional Staff)**

**Registration & Elections - Dean Crepes, Director - Book 1, Page 108 - New Program - Voting Equipment (Page 111)** - Mr. Crepes presented a new program request for voting equipment replacement at \$419,000 per year for the next five years. He reported the replacement cost for the current equipment would be approximately \$2.5 million but unsure about the cost of a new system. The current system was purchased through a statewide Federal grant in 2002 and they anticipate needing to replace within the next five years. Mr. Crepes reported they have requested the State to set aside \$10 million per year for the next three to four years to help offset some of the cost but no funding was set aside by the State last year. He said he did not know if funds had been approved or how much has been set aside for the upcoming budget. The Committee asked staff to provide Council the funding amount when approved by the State. Mr. Crepes briefed Council on the pending legislation as it relates to the registration and elections regarding the County paying the full cost for equipment from County sources with no funding from the State.

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

**Magistrate Court - Chief Judge Gary Reinhart - Magistrate Court Services - Book 1, Page 81 - New Program - Courthouse Security (Page 83)** - Chief Judge Reinhart presented a new program request for courthouse security at \$42,700. He said security in courts and government buildings is an issue for both staff and citizens. Judge Thomas Rawl, Lexington Magistrate District 1, and Judge Rebecca Adams, Irmo Magistrate District 2, provided additional information regarding security issues related to their court hearings and facilities.

Mr. Kinard said, as Chairman of the Justice Committee, he would like to propose Council form a committee comprised of members from the Justice Committee, Magistrate Office and the Sheriff's Department to look at possible alternatives whether it be scheduling, rearranging personnel or other ways to better secure these facilities. The Committee will consist of six members: two from the Justice Committee (he and one other Justice Committee member), two from Magistrate Court Services, and two from the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Kinard said we have monies in the General Fund to take care of a one-time capital item but before we set it aside and spend, we need to have a plan that would be workable. Mr. Jeffcoat requested the Council Chambers be included in the plan as well other County facilities.

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

**Public Works - Wrenn Barrett, Director - Book 1, Page 38 - New Program (2) Engineering Associate III at Grade 18 and Book 1, Page 42-43 - New Program - Alternative Paving with Soil Stabilization** - Mr. Barrett presented two new program requests with a Power Point presentation. He reported Public Works was working towards their goal of reclaiming and rebuilding 20 miles of dirt roads every year. He said staff compiled a cost analysis for a road reclaimer estimated at \$400,000. Mr. Jeff McNesby, County Engineer, provided an explanation of the cost comparison for current road rebuilding versus the road reclaimer equipment for 10 miles. Staff was asked to rank the priority for personnel or equipment or a combination of both. Mr. Barrett responded it is really hard to rank because we have so many things to get done; however, this piece of equipment would really make a big difference in terms of the two objectives Public Works has been tasked to accomplish. He said what was presented was actually very conservative because Public Works could do a lot more with this equipment and the cost savings is actually more than projected.

Mr. Mergo asked Mr. Barrett if adding just the one-time capital piece of equipment (reclaimer) without new staff provide Public Works with cost savings or does Public Works need to have everything requested including the three new positions and all the operating costs with reoccurring costs to reach those cost saving numbers or just the equipment.

Mr. Barrett replied that the way he would attack this would be to get the equipment and train existing staff because this would really take the place of what he sees as inefficiency in what they are doing.

**In Closing** - Mr. Mergo reported staff would provide the list of items for consideration and list the entire program with priorities. He also reminded Council they still have the Accommodations Tax recommendations to review.

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

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