

**COMMITTEE of the WHOLE COMMITTEE
BUDGET WORKSESSION MINUTES
MAY 20, 2014**

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, May 20, 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. Cullum, Committee Vice Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

M. Todd Cullum, V Chairman	James E. Kinard, Jr.
M. Kent Collins	*Debra B. Summers
Bobby C. Keisler	K. Brad Matthews

Absent: **Johnny W. Jeffcoat, Chairman
 **William B. Banning, Sr.
 ***Frank J. Townsend, III

*Ms. Summers arrived after the meeting was already in progress.

**Messrs. Jeffcoat and Banning were absent due to illnesses.

***Mr. Townsend was out of town for his daughter's school field trip.

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 2014-2015 Outside/Other Agency Requests

Midlands Technical College - Dr. Ronald L. Rhames, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer - Book 2, Page 201 - Dr. Rhames reported Dr. White, College President, was retiring from MTC. He presented the College's budget submission for \$4,799,865. There are no additional requests other than what was submitted to the County Administrator.

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

Riverbanks Zoo - Mr. Satch Krantz, President and Chief Executive Officer of Riverbanks Zoo & Gardens - Book 2, Page 203 - Mr. Krantz presented the Zoo's budget submission for \$1,160,075. He reported they included \$33,789 for anticipated growth for the mill or cost of living; however, the real request is for the same amount as last year \$1,126,286. There were no additional requests other than submitted. Mr. Krantz gave a brief update on the new construction for the Children's Garden, seal exhibition and addition of 200 new parking spaces.

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

The River Alliance - Mr. Mike Dawson, Chief Executive Officer - Book 2, Page 107 - Mr. John McCartha, River Alliance Board Chairman, opened for Mr. Dawson thanking Council for their support. Mr. Dawson presented the River Alliance's budget request for \$51,000. He provided aerial view posters with updates on some of their projects such as the SCANA trails and tennis center, 12,000 Year History Park, South Carolina Department of Agriculture request for a equine trail, the Saluda River Walk project, and expansion of the Three Rivers Greenway.

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

Irmo Fire District - Chief Mike Sonefeld - Book 2, Page 204 - On behalf of Chief Sonefeld, Mr. Mergo reported Irmo Fire District echoes the same comments as Lexington County Fire Services in terms of where they are in meeting their services and expectations. Irmo Fire District requested budget amount is for \$2,300,000 and also requests to be considered for CPI and population staying in line with Lexington County.

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

Dickerson Center for Children - Ms. Carol Yarborough, Executive Director - Book 1 Page 10 - Ms. Yarborough presented the Dickerson Center's budget request for \$40,000 and included a Power Point presentation. She reported on the statute for Children's Advocacy Centers and how they are supported as a non-profit entity through relationships with governmental agencies such as the local law enforcement agencies, Solicitor's Office and Department of Social Services. Ms. Yarborough provided a chart reflecting the growing need for Child Protection Services within Lexington County.

Vice Chairman Cullum recommended placing the Dickerson Center request on the list for Council's consideration.

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

Transitions - Midlands Housing Alliance - Mr. Craig Currey, Chief Executive Officer - Mr. Currey presented a late request from the Midlands Housing Alliance Transitions for \$75,000 and included a Power Point presentation. He reported they received funding last year through the Lexington County's Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Currey highlighted the accomplishments from June 5, 2011 through May 14, 2014 providing services for homelessness clients from Lexington and Richland counties and other Midlands areas. He said they are requesting 9 percent support based on the number of Lexington County individuals they have served for a total amount of \$75,000. Mr. Mergo reported that the Midlands Housing Alliance (Transitions) budget is under Community Development Block Grant Program budget (Fund 2400) and has been recommended at \$30,000.

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

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands - Ms. Genny Waller, Executive Director- Book 1, Page 10 - Ms. Waller presented Sexual Trauma Services' budget request for \$15,000. Ms. Mary Dell Amick, Development Coordinator, provided handouts for the Committee. Ms. Waller provided an overview of their services reporting it is a public health organization providing direct service support for victims of violent crime specifically sexual assault. They also provide prevention and education curriculum in the local schools focusing on the middle and high schools. Ms. Waller reported they served more than 300 survivors in FY12/13 that were Lexington County residents which came to an estimated cost of \$100,000

for the agency not including administrative overhead. If they did not exist there would be no one providing the services that they offer such as responding to the eight local hospitals including Lexington Medical Center. They interact on a daily basis with law enforcement agencies within a four county area for Lexington, Richland, Newberry and Sumter serving a total of 1,700 survivors last year. Ms. Wall reported they receive funding from Richland and Newberry counties but have not received funds from Lexington in several years. She said their budget was \$800,000 and they are requesting \$15,000 from Lexington County.

Mr. Matthews recommended placing Sexual Trauma Services on the list for consideration. Vice Chairman Cullum opened the floor for discussion. Discussion occurred with no action taken.

Mr. Mergo asked the outside agencies to join with Lexington County in sending our state legislators letters that says your cuts to the local government fund is spilling over into very difficult funding decisions for services that the County provides. He said if the County was not being cut \$2 million every year for the last six years, close to \$12 million, some of these funding decisions may be a little more palpable on him as County Administration being able to recommend the funding for these agencies if the state was funding their obligation by statute back to the County.

Vice Chairman said the consideration list is just that and if funding is available then those would be considered.

Community Open Land Trust - Ms. Brenda Davis, Executive Director - Book 2, Page 107 - Ms. Davis presented Community Open Land Trust's budget request for \$15,000 and included a Power Point presentation. She said in 2009/10 they started the Lexington Greenways Alliance to address protecting open space and greenways in the four county areas that the Central Midlands Central Government serves. Ms. Davis reported on their partnership through the Lexington Greenways Program and Neighborhood Connectivity with "Eat Smart Move More" organization and plans for a Rural Resource Coalition. Community Open Land Trust is located under the Economic Development budget.

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

Outside/Other Agency Requests (Not Listed on Agenda)

Mr. Mergo reported letters were sent out on April 28, 2014 to all the outside agencies to confirm if they planned to address Council during the budget Worksession on May 20, 2014. He said he had received calls after the deadline for today's agenda from four agencies requesting to come before Council.

Vice Chairman Cullum addressed those agencies present but not listed on the agenda.

Richland/Lexington Disabilities Special Needs Board - Ms. Melanie Bradshaw, Finance Director - Book 1, Page 10 - Ms. Bradshaw presented the board's request for \$73,149. She provided a brief overview of what the board does for Richland and Lexington counties. Funds requested would be for a community education outreach coordinator for Lexington County.

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

Edventure Children's Museum - Mr. Louis Fawcett, Vice President of Development - Book 1, Page 10 - Mr. Fawcett presented the Museum's request for \$100,000. Funds requested are for renovation of one of their prominent exhibits called the Great Outdoors. Mr. Fawcett provided handouts of the schematics for the exhibit.

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

Central SC Alliance - Mr. Mike Briggs, President - Book 2, Page 107 - Mr. Briggs presented the Alliance's budget request for \$122,000. He said Central SC Alliance has represented Lexington County in their economic development efforts throughout the world for the past 20 plus years.

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

University of South Carolina Incubator Project - Mr. Bill Kirkland, USC Office of Economic Engagement Executive Director & Incubator Executive Director - Book 2, Page 107 - Mr. Kirkland presented the Incubator Project's budget request for \$25,000. He provided a handout of their spec sheet with highlights of the Incubator Projects.

Vice Chairman Cullum asked the Incubator Project be placed on the consideration list.

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

EngenuitySC - Ms. Meghan Hughes, Executive Director - Book 2, Page 107 - Ms. Hughes presented the EngenuitySC's budget request for \$25,000. She provided a brief explanation of what EngenuitySC does and their programs and a handout with list of opportunities for Lexington County.

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

Ms. Summers requested to place EngenuitySC on the consideration list.

Mr. Kinard wanted to state for the record that this year the County has received less than last year in Local Government Funds, therefore, we have less to work with. He said, in addition to outside agencies, we have heard from in-house agencies, County departments, Sheriff's Department, Fire Service, EMS, and 911 in an effort to increase the County's core services to our citizens by adding additional personnel in these departments to meet the goals that we are not even meeting that we set for ourselves. Mr. Kinard emphasized we have more requests for funds than we have available and the only way to way to fund any of these requests is either through tax increases or shifting money from some other department.

Mr. Mergo reported that the legislation caps County millage increases to just CPI and population in order to raise revenues. He pointed out within all the agencies within the County's General Fund, Library and SWM the total recommended budget by the County Administrator is \$131,524,854. Of this, 67 percent of that entire number is for Law Enforcement, Fire Service, EMS, Solid Waste and Public Works which are five of the County's core functions and add another 6 percent for the Library. Mr. Mergo said that is 73 percent and all these other agencies on this list come out after that. He said within those numbers 65% is personnel, 25% is operating and 7% is capital.

Accommodations Tax Fund - Book 1 Page 114 - Vice Chairman Cullum reported the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board allocated to each tourism related agency an amount based on revenues generated from local accommodations tax. He said a portion is appropriated statutorily to Capital City Lake Murray Country at 33 percent of the fund required to do by Accommodations Tax law. He said Council received a proposed amendment to the Board's recommendations.

Vice Chairman Cullum opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Kinard made a motion to recommend full Council adopt the proposed amended Accommodations Tax breakdown that was emailed with two choices (see list below). He proposed we select Irmo/Chapin Recreation Commission at \$10,500 and the Lexington Dixie Youth World Series Baseball at \$12,400.

	2014-15	Board	Proposed
	Requested	Recommend	Amended
Capital City Lake Murray Country	77,700	77,700	77,700
Columbia Metro Convention/ Visitor Bureau	25,000	25,000	18,000
West Metro Chamber of Commerce	15,000	5,000	11,950
Lexington Chamber of Commerce	55,500	5,000	10,750
Batesburg/Leesville Cham. of Comm.	5,000	2,500	3,750
Lex. Cty. Recreation Softball Tournament	30,000	30,000	23,500
Riverbanks Zoo	50,000	40,000	35,000
Lexington County Museum	15,000	2,500	5,250
Chapin Chamber of Commerce	8,500	2,500	5,250
Columbia Regional Sports Council	15,000	10,000	7,000
			12,500
			Or
Irmo/Chapin Recreation Commission	50,000	9,350	10,500
Lex. Cty. Recreation & Aging - Tennis	20,000	20,000	15,000
Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce	15,000	2,500	7,500
LCAA/Village Square Theatre	15,000	1,500	2,500
			10,400
			or
Lexington Dixie Baseball - Youth World Series	12,500	12,500	12,400
Total	409,200	246,050	246,050

No second, motion failed.

A motion was made by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend full Council reallocate funding for the Columbia Regional Sports Council proposed at \$7,000 to zero and redistribute \$1,000 to each of the five Chambers (\$5,000) and remaining \$2,000 to the Lexington County Museum. (see list above).

Vice Chairman Cullum confirmed funding as follows:

Capital City Lake Murray Country	\$77,700
Columbia Metro Convention/Visitor Bureau	\$18,000
West Metro Chamber of Commerce	\$12,950
Lexington Chamber of Commerce	\$11,750
Batesburg/Leesville Cham. of Comm.	\$4,750
Lex. Cty. Recreation Softball Tournament	\$23,500
Riverbanks Zoo	\$35,000
Lexington County Museum	\$7,250
Chapin Chamber of Commerce	\$6,250
Columbia Regional Sports Council	\$0

Irmo/Chapin Recreation Commission	\$12,500
Lex. Cty. Recreation & Aging - Tennis	\$15,000
Greater Irmo Chamber of Commerce	\$8,500
LCAA/Village Square Theatre	\$2,500
Lexington Dixie Baseball - Youth World Series	\$10,400
Total	\$246,050

Vice Chairman Cullum opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Collins called for the vote.

In Favor: Mr. Cullum Mr. Matthews
 Mr. Keisler Mr. Kinard
 Mr. Collins

Opposed: Ms. Summers

A motion was made by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Kinard to adjourn.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

M. Todd Cullum
Vice Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk