

PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
May 1, 2017

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a budget work session on Monday, May 1, 2017 in the Community Room at the W.C. Witherspoon Memorial Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecil Perry, Chairman
Dr. William R. Sterritt, Vice-Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Jeff Dixon
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr
Frankie Meads
Bettie Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Rodney Bunch, County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

The work session was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chairman Cecil Perry. He called on Finance Officer Sheri Small to present proposed 2017-18 budget requests.

1. BUDGET WORK SESSION:

The Board reviewed the proposed budgets for the Sheriff's Department, School Resource Officers, Jail, Central Communications, Animal Control, Emergency Management, Volunteer Fire Departments, and EMS.

Ms. Small stated that the Sheriff's Department is asking for two additional positions. Sheriff Cartwright explained that several long-term employees have retired and there is a Bill introduced currently that could reduce the number of years for retirement from 30 to 25. He said even if it does not pass, there is going to be a significant turnover in the Sheriff's Department in the next two years. He said it is getting harder to find people because retirees do not want to come back and work part-time as they have in the past. He stated that we need to start doing something now so we are not hit all at once.

Ms. Small said there is a large decrease in the Sheriff's Department's Capital Outlay request for this fiscal year. Last year's revised capital budget totaled \$380,100. This year it decreased to \$284,169, mostly due to the phase in of the 800 MHz radios. The \$284,169 budget for capital outlay includes five new vehicles, with equipment, a server, and replacement of the intake area video system.

Sheriff Cartwright stated that the School Resource Officers proposed budget is relatively flat, with increases in salaries and benefits.

Ms. Small presented the proposed budget for the Jail. Sheriff Cartwright stated that he reduced the Tri County Jail budget by 10% due to the Jail's current fund balance. He noted that Federal inmate housing is up.

Ms. Small reviewed the Central Communications proposed budget. She said there are no major changes. Capital Outlay is reduced because the backup center was paid for with grant money and 911 surcharge funds. The Capital Outlay request of \$64,000 includes four consolettes and four radios.

Sheriff Cartwright reported that the Animal Control Budget increased slightly because their truck needs to be replaced, as well as salaries and benefits. Ms. Small said last year the SPCA received an increase of \$5,000 and they are requesting an additional \$5,000 in this year's budget. She noted that the proposed budget funds them flat at \$127,000 until all budget requests are reviewed. She noted that the City pays 50% of the Animal Control budget.

The Board briefly discussed options for transporting inmates. Sheriff Cartwright said the only other option available is video arraignment. He said he can revisit the cost if the Board would like for him to.

Ms. Small stated that the Emergency Management proposed budget remains relatively flat, with the exception of salaries and benefits.

Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator, Robert Boyce reviewed the proposed budgets for the volunteer fire departments. Ms. Small said the biggest increase in the Central Fire Department budget is in Capital Outlay for the purchase of radios. She noted there is a new line item which totals \$5,600 for supplemental insurance, which will cover all the departments in case a fire fighter is injured. Newland VFD is requesting \$70,250 and staff is proposing they be funded at \$65,250. She noted that they purchased a new truck last year. Weeksville VFD is requesting \$64,150 and staff is proposing a reduction to \$62,650. Providence VFD was funded at \$86,605 last year and this year they are requesting \$680,950. She said staff is proposing they be funded \$88,000. They requested \$510,000 for a new pumper truck and \$68,000 for two full time employees. Mr. Boyce said if the County does not fund the new truck he will continue to seek private, state and federal grants to try to get new trucks for both Providence and Nixonton. He noted that Providence currently has the capability to carry enough water to meet the criteria to maintain their insurance classification. Nixonton VFD is requesting \$45,114 and staff is proposing they be funded at \$44,614. She said the major difference in all the budgets is the fact that staff moved the pension line item for each department to the Central Fire Department budget and increases in salaries and benefits.

Ms. Small reviewed the Emergency Medical Services proposed budget. She noted that salaries and benefits increased. She said one of the major differences is in Capital Outlay. EMS requested \$391,478 and staff is recommending they be funded at \$138,576. The Board thanked Mr. Newell for taking on his new responsibilities at Central Communications.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Joe Winslow that the Board enter Closed Session to discuss Personnel. The motion carried unanimously.

All staff members were excused.

Upon the end of Closed Session;

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon that the Board return to Regular Session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board briefly discussed Airport operations.

There being no further business, Chairman Perry asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Frankie Meads to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD