

*Scotland County Board of Commissioners Budget Work Session
May 3, 2007, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg*

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
2008 Budget Work Session, May 3, 2007
Scotland County Administration, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg NC**

At 2 p.m. Chairman J. D. Willis reconvened the meeting for a budget work session. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners Leon Butler, Guy McCook, Joyce McDow and Clarence McPhatter. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioner John Alford. Staff in attendance: County Manager John A. Crumpton, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Chairman Willis delivered the opening prayer.

Health Department

Health Director Ron Sapp discussed his proposed Department's budget for FY 2007-2008 and discussed the need for a second animal control officer. Mr. Sapp said the animal control officer also covers the City of Laurinburg evenings and weekends, which makes it a 24/7 job. Mr. Sapp said that because the animal control officer is in the field so much, he barely has time to respond to his phone calls.

County Manager John Crumpton said the second position is not included in the proposed budget because it does not generate revenue. Mr. Crumpton said eliminating the second position from the budget was difficult because the need does exist.

The Commissioners discussed the animal control officer's responsibilities, the number of repeat violators, follow-up calls and under what circumstances violators are taken to court.

County Manager Crumpton said the salary range for a second animal control officer would be about \$24,000 plus benefits.

Chairman Willis directed the County Manager to add the second animal control officer to the budget, which could be reassessed at future budget work sessions.

Mr. Sapp also discussed the need for an environmental health administrative position instead of a fourth environmental health specialist. Mr. Sapp said the new position would do the paperwork, typing and filing, which would free the environmental health specialists to spend more time in the field.

Commissioner McPhatter suggested that the administrative position be filled through the Work First program and JobLink.

Chairman Willis directed staff to evaluate the Work First possibility for the environmental health administrative position before putting the position in the budget.

Department of Social Services

DSS Director Joe Knott said the agency is reorganizing in an attempt to do more with less. Mr. Knott did request that funding for an additional administrative position be placed in the budget because the number of calls to the agency has increased.

Scotland County Board of Commissioners Budget Work Session

May 3, 2007, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg

Mr. Knott asked the Commissioners to consider a one step increase for DSS employees who have been with the agency five years and longer.

Mr. Knott explained how one supervisor is supervising three programs, which is stressful. He explained how the reorganization would relieve that stress. He said the technicians are now doing more than what they are supposed to do. He asked that the technicians be increased to Caseworker I positions.

Mr. Knott said the agency's social worker who worked in the public school system will return to the agency. He asked the Commissioners to consider a reclassification for the social worker position.

The Board of Commissioners by consensus directed DSS staff to reorganize within the existing head count of the agency and report any additional costs for reclassifications and step increases.

Courthouse Roof Project

The Wooten Company Architect Tom Trowbridge and Roof Engineering, Inc. Vice President Ken Tyner discussed the condition of the Courthouse roof and wall system.

Mr. Trowbridge explained how the brick walls accumulate moisture. He said the placement of a sealant and caulking on the weep holes has provided a short term solution. Mr. Trowbridge said the best permanent solution would be to use a sophisticated sealant, rework flashes and weeps and redo bricks.

Mr. Tyner said the Courthouse roof is at the end of its typically anticipated life span. He said moisture inside the roof system was found, and it was getting through the membrane to the roof insulation.

Total cost for walls and roofing is estimated at \$900,000.

Motion was made by Commissioner McDow and duly seconded by Commissioner Butler to move forward with the Courthouse project and put it out for bid. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

The Commissioners took a break and returned at 3:35 p.m.

Scotland County Public Schools

Finance Officer Sharon Hales provided a local current expense summary, which showed an increase of \$461,193 for FY 2007-2008, bringing the total to \$11,769,046. Ms. Hales discussed how the increase would be expended.

One item is \$44,000, which includes salary and benefits, is set aside for a School Resource Officer for the Middle Schools.

Maintenance Director Roger Ammons reviewed the \$1,888,000 capital outlay budget and discussed the various capital projects and estimated costs.

County Manager Crumpton said the school still would have to prioritize its capital budget expenditures because the County is projecting less in lottery education funding at around \$600,000 to \$700,000.

Office of the Sheriff

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Sheriff Shep Jones requested funds for the purchase of additional equipment for the FY 2007-2008 budget. Sheriff Jones said the equipment includes vests to replace obsolete ones his office currently has; tasers, which would be another line of defense for his deputies; an additional position of resource officer for one of the three middle schools.

Sheriff Jones said the schools agreed to fund one resource officer in its budget and a State Governor's grant to is expected to fund a resource officer, too.

County Manager Crumpton said he recommended the two from outside sources. He said a resource officer fully funded by the County would require additional costs for equipment.

Sheriff Jones said the resource officers would not require much equipment, and they would use older cars in the Sheriff's fleet since the cars would be parked at the middle schools much of the time.

He added that the resource officers would work in the Sheriff's Office when school was not in session.

County Manager Crumpton said money has been budgeted to cover those who work overtime when court is in session. He said the overtime amounts to \$8,000 to \$9,000 a month.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of hiring an additional person in the hopes that would cut down on overtime expenditures.

The Commissioners by consensus asked staff to research how the hiring of a fulltime person might impact overtime at the Courthouse in bailiff duties and transporting inmates.

(Vice Chair Gholston was excused from the meeting at 4:40 p.m.)

Sheriff Jones said the request for approximately \$400,000 for FY 2007-2008 would help create a first-class department.

Commissioner Butler said he is concerned about the request because it is his job as a Commissioner to present a first-class budget.

Commissioner McCook commented that keeping older vehicles for resource officers might drive up maintenance costs when this could be avoided by having them rotated out.

Sheriff Jones said the maintenance would be routine, not major, since the vehicles would be parked at the schools most of the time to indicate the presence of law enforcement.

The Commissioners took a break and returned at 4:55 p.m.

County Manager Crumpton said the increases in the Jail budget for FY 2007-2008 are in health/professional services and in food provisions.

Mr. Crumpton said that in the FY 2006-2007 budget, the Sheriff asked for an additional \$70,000 to get his department through the remainder of the fiscal year. Mr. Crumpton said a \$70,000 budget amendment would come from Fund Balance.

Scotland County Board of Commissioners Budget Work Session

May 3, 2007, 507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg

Sheriff Jones said there was not enough in the budget to finish the fiscal year because of outstanding expenditures that were not anticipated.

Commissioners Butler and McCook said that \$70,000 is a lot of money, the citizens hold the Board of Commissioners accountable for the money it spends, and the Commissioners rely on the Sheriff to stay within budget.

Chairman Willis said this would be the time to correct that, and the Sheriff would move forward with the understanding that his department would stay within budget.

Commissioner McCook proposed that delivery of three new vehicles be postponed until the next fiscal year so the Office of the Sheriff can stay within budget this fiscal year.

Chairman Willis disagreed and said there should be follow-through now on the cars that were ordered.

County Manager Crumpton said he had asked for a hold on the vehicle delivery until the Commissioners considered the budget amendment request.

Motion was made by Commissioner McPhatter and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$70,000 for the Office of the Sheriff for FY 2006-2007, and authorize the Finance Officer to make the necessary arrangements to expend the money
Vote: In Favor: Chairman Willis and Commissioners McDow and McPhatter. Vote: Against: Commissioners Butler and McCook. Motion approved.

General Budget Discussion

County Manager Crumpton said many non-profit requests for funding have been received. He said some are asking for funding increases over FY 07. Mr. Crumpton said there are more requests from outside agencies because corporate giving is down and the City of Laurinburg will no longer provide funding to non-profits. He asked the Commissioners for direction on funding non-profits in future budgets.

Motion was made by Commissioner Butler and duly seconded by Commissioner McPhatter to adjourn. Vote: Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman