

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORK SESSION II**

May 22, 2018
4:00 PM

Board Members Present: J. Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

Others Present: Wayne Morris (Tax Assessor), Brian Williams (Community Development), Bobby Ammons (Vehicle Maintenance), BJ Elliott (Vehicle Maintenance), Monty David (E911), Clint Chastain (Finance Officer)

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Lange called the meeting to order and said the purpose was to continue the discussion of the proposed budget for FY 18/19.

Tax Assessor (Department 05). Wayne Morris, Chief Appraiser, appeared before the Board and said that basically his budget is the same as last year, but that he wanted to discuss the Capital Outlays. Regarding the vehicle, which was cut by the County Manager, it is needed as a replacement vehicle.. Regarding the large format printer/copier/scanner, the one they currently have is 11 years old and is used daily; and that the repairman has indicated that it is not worth repairing and has recommended a new one. Regarding the aerial flight, which was cut by the County Manager, one hasn't been done since 2014, that it is recommended by the Department of Revenue a flight be done every five years; that the results of same would be used not only by his department, but by Building Inspection, 911, EMS, Sheriff's Office; that the cost would be spread over three years; and that there are a multitude of ways that the aerial could be used. Mr. Morris concluded by saying that his order of preference for the Capital outlay items is (1) large format printer/copier/scanner, (2) aerial flight, and (3) vehicle.

Community Development (Department 29). Brian Williams, Community Development Director, appeared before the Board and distributed information regarding building permits and staffing over the past 15 to 20 years. He said that a vehicle has been included in his budget, and while it is needed as a replacement vehicle, he would be willing to give it up in order to have his part-time Administrative Assistant become full-time; that he needs more assistance in the office than he does a new vehicle; and if that happens, the vehicle repair line would need to be increased to \$6,000. Discussion included that the IGAs with Hamilton, Pine Mountain, Shiloh and Waverly Hall need to be reviewed in connection with the provision of county services.

Vehicle Maintenance (Department 17). Bobby Ammons, Vehicle Maintenance Director, appeared before the Board and said that he is in need of another full-time mechanic to help reduce the work load on him and the other three mechanics; that he has reduced the amount of work being outsourced in order to save costs but resulting in more work for the department; that he and his mechanics are AES certified; that with another person, they would be able to concentrate on tractors, bush hogs, mowers, weed eaters, and chain saws, in addition to working on other vehicles and equipment; that the tire balance purchase last year has been a great benefit to the department; that in addition to County vehicles, his department also works on fire trucks, Hamilton's vehicles, and Shiloh's vehicles that in general the ambulances are in bad condition. Discussion included that the IGAs with Hamilton and Shiloh need to be reviewed to make sure the County's costs are being covered, and to consider alternative methods for financing ambulances.

E911 (Department 13). Monty Davis, EMA & E911 Director, appeared before the Board and said that his generator is 17 years old; that they normally last 10-15 years; that the current one could be transferred to the Community Center, which is listed as an emergency shelter but doesn't have a generator in the event of no electricity; that a replacement vehicle is needed because the one driven by the Assistant Director has lots of issues, and if not replaced, the repair line needs to be increased; that the parking lot is in bad shape, particularly in the EMS/ambulance area; that it is in dire need of resurfacing; and that it has not been resurfaced since it was installed, and is soon going to be a hazard to everyone. Discussion included that the CAD & 911 system are doing great, everyone is pleased with the system, there are no issues, and personnel from other counties have visited to look at the system; and that regarding the radios system, it's not so great, more infrastructure is needed in the form of towers and controllers or changing the system. Discussion also took place regarding the possibility of broadband using the system.

There being no other Department Heads or Constitutional Officers present, Chairman Lange suggested that the departments not yet discussed be done alphabetically. There were no objections.

Administration (Department 02). Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that there has been a slight reduction from FY 17/18, mainly to due Workers Comp expenses and a transfer to Board of Elections of half the salary & benefits of the Election Supervisor/Registrar; and that legal fees are up, but that overall, all is status quo.

Coroner (Department 14). Same as FY 17/18.

Extension Service (Department 04). Slight increase due to the employee that changed from part time to full time early this year.

Facilities Maintenance (Department 06). About the same as FY 17/18; two vehicles and another person requested, but both were cut by the County Manager.

Jail (Department 11). Sewer and water expenses were added to get a better idea of the total cost of this department.

Magistrate Court (Department 23). Basically same as FY 17/18.

Non-Departmental (Department 35). There was discussion regarding opting out of the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority, with consensus being in favor of doing so and to use the \$33,000 for economic development.

Sheriff's Office (Department 10). Basically same as FY 17/18.

Outside Agencies. Same as FY 17/18, except for slight increase for Library due to a larger facility.

Special Revenue Funds. Same as FY 17/18, except for E911 being slightly less.

Long Term Debt. Debt on lease purchase equipment in Solid Waste and Water Works set to roll off at end of fiscal year.

In attendance on May 29. The following Department Heads/Constitutional Officers will be at the May 29 meeting: District Attorney, Probate Judge, Tax Commissioner, IT Director, Public Works, and possibly VFD Chief of Chiefs.

NEXT BUDGET WORKSESSION. Randy Dowling, County Manager, announced that the next Budget Work Session is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, beginning at 4:00 PM in the Commission Chambers (Room 223) of Courthouse.

ADJOURNMENT