

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

May 30, 2023
4:30 PM

Commissioners Present: Rob Grant, Bobby Irions, Scott Lightsey, Greg Gantt. Commissioners Absent: Susan Andrews. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Clint Chastain, Chief Financial Officer; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Grant called the meeting to order and said the purpose was for the continued discussion of the proposed budget for FY 23/24.

Clint Chastain, Chief Financial Officer, advised that the County Manager and himself had received four different e-mails outlining four different suggestions from Commissioners and where there was a consensus have compiled that information. He said that the items were as follows: move \$65,000 for GIS to Federal ARP funding; decrease the \$40,000 for a Parks and Recreation master plan and make it part of the overall Comprehensive Plan; the basketball goal winch system had suggested ranges from \$25,000 to \$55,000; add \$37,000 for a new truck for the Tax Assessor; \$10,000 added back for bailiffs' pay in order to pay them \$100 per day; add back \$30,780 to move the Election part time position to full time; add \$210,000 for three Sheriff's cars to come from the General Fund and SPLOST 2019; decrease by \$120,000 the Comprehensive Plan allow RVRC to complete the Comprehensive Plan instead of a consultant; that the request to move a Road and Bridge Plan to TSPLOST was made but Mr. Chastain does not believe that is allowable as a plan is a soft cost and not attributable to a project; and add \$26,212 to move the Water Works position from part time to full time. He stated that the net consensus was to increase the General Fund by \$117,780, the 2019 SPLOST by \$210,000, and Water Works by \$26,212.

Chairman Grant inquired of the Board how they would like to proceed to discuss the proposed budget. Commissioner Irions would like to go through the items that were the consensus items and then go through some other items. Chairman Grant stated that there were still some department heads that would like to speak that hadn't yet had a chance.

Vehicle Maintenance - Vehicle Maintenance Director Bobby Ammons advised that he would like to discuss the items that were proposed reductions of the County Manager. He said that he wasn't asking for a raise but was asking to be compensated for duties that have been added to his job. He has now been tasked with negotiating vehicle purchases. He would like to be in charge of fleet purchases but believes that he should be compensated. He would like \$7,129.14 added for salary and benefits for his position and \$1,894.00 added for salary and benefits for the Parts Inventory Specialist position. Additional discussion included that he would still like a new full-time diesel mechanic position; roof repairs; and a new vehicle but he said that he can wait for that.

Discussion included GIS, a Park Master Plan, Field 7 at Moultrie Park; the basketball winch system at the Community Center, the truck for the Tax Assessor, the daily pay for bailiffs, the part-time position in Elections, Sheriff's vehicles, the Comprehensive Plan, the part-time position in Water Works, the requests of Vehicle Maintenance, the stipends for the Volunteer Fire Departments, Solid Waste fees, the request for \$70,000 for the AG complex master plan, the floor cleaner and the Repairs and Maintenance line item for the Community Center/Recreation, Pine Mountain Valley Park (maybe upcoming SPLOST), EMS supervisor truck.

In addition to consensus at prior budget work sessions, the Board had a consensus to make the following changes to the proposed budget:

\$65,000 was eliminated from the Information Technology professional services for a GIS system and digital zoning map and the expense was added to the ARP Act Grant Fund;

\$40,000 was eliminated in Recreation professional services for the preparation of a parks and recreation master plan;

\$125,000 was added to Recreation capital outlays to reconfigure the lights on Field #7 at Moultrie Park;

\$55,000 was added to Community Center for an electric basketball winch;

\$37,000 was added to Tax Assessor capital outlay for a replacement vehicle;

\$10,000 was added to Superior Court personal services and employee benefits to increase the bailiffs' per diem from \$75 to \$100;

\$30,780 was added for salary and benefits to the Board of Elections & Registration personal services and employee benefits to increase the part-time election worker to full-time;

\$80,000 was added to Sheriff's Office and \$340,000 was added to ARP Act Grant Fund for replacement vehicles;

\$120,000 was eliminated in Community Development for a consultant to update the County's Comprehensive Plan and have the services performed by the River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC);

\$26,212 was added for salary and benefits to the Water Works Fund to increase the part-time customer service representative to full-time;

\$9,083 for salary and benefits to add \$7,079 to Vehicle Maintenance Director and \$2,004 to Vehicle Maintenance personal services and employee benefits to increase the Parts Inventory Specialist's salary;

\$19,970 was added to Volunteer Fire Departments for repairs and maintenance to equipment (\$900), education and training (\$450), tires (\$2,500), equipment stipend (\$4,500), stipends for stations (\$10,317), and stipends for substations (\$1,103);

\$12,000 to Community Center for a floor cleaner; and

\$60,000 to Recreation for repairs and maintenance site improvements for field maintenance.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS. First Public Hearing will be held during the June 6, 2023 Regular Session, and the second will be held during the June 20, 2023 Regular Session, with adoption by resolution to follow.

REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION. Chairman Grant requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel with only the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gantt stepped out of the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION. Chairman Grant made the motion to go into Executive Session for personnel at 7:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Irions and passed unanimously (Grant, Irions, Lightsey).

Commissioner Gantt joined the executive session at 7:27 p.m.

RESUME REGULAR SESSION. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 7:44 p.m. by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Commissioner Gantt, and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lightsey, seconded by Commissioner Irions, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.