

**REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORKSHOP
OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

JULY 12-13, 2022

Present: Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, Chairman, District 1
Commissioner Douglas B. Underhill, Vice Chairman, District 2
Commissioner Steven L. Barry, Chairman, District 5
Commissioner Robert D. Bender, District 4
Commissioner Lumon J. May, District 3
Honorable Pam Childers, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Alison Rogers, County Attorney
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Elizabeth Kissel, Grants and Special Projects Manager,
County Administrator's Office

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Report prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

AGENDA NUMBER

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bergosh called the Budget Committee of the Whole (C/W) Workshop to order on July 12, 2022, at 9:04 a.m.

Chairman Bergosh called the Budget Committee of the Whole (C/W) Workshop to order on July 13, 2022, at 9:02 a.m.

2. Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The Board was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that the Budget Workshops were advertised in the *Escambia Sun Press* on July 7, 2022, in the Board's weekly meeting schedule.

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Overview of Budget

Stephan Hall, Finance Department Director, presented the County's Proposed Balanced Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/2023 in the amount of \$622,979,451 and provided the following information and updates concerning the budget:

- There is no change in the millage rates; the countywide millage rate is 6.6165; the Library MSTU (Municipal Services Taxing Unit) is .3590; and the Sheriff's MSTU is .6850.
- There are no other significant changes in tax levies anticipated in the budget.
- There is no change in the Fire Assessment Rates included in the proposed budget; the current rates are \$125.33 per residential dwelling unit, \$.0526 per square foot with a minimum assessment of \$125.33 for commercial; \$15.03 per parcel plus \$.03 per acre for unimproved; and vacant agricultural land is no longer assessable per Florida Statute.
- The June 1st taxable value certification for ad valorem is 13.93% above the July 1st certification of the previous year and the Law Enforcement MSTU is 15.32% above the July 1st certification of the previous year, resulting in about \$20.8 million more funding overall.
- The County may appropriate 95% of these revenue sources for a combined total of an additional \$19.8 million.
- The changes between the June 1st and July 1st taxable value are not included in the proposed FY 2022/2023 balanced budget.
- The July 1st taxable value certification resulted in additional funding in the amount of \$3.9 for ad valorem and the Law Enforcement MSTU, of which the County may appropriate \$3.7 million and this value is not included in the FY 2022/2023 budget.
- For FY 2022/2023, there is a budgeted reserve for contingency of \$20 million, reserves for operating of \$1 million, a Sheriff's reserve allocation of \$1,250,000, and a General Fund reserve of \$250,000 for targeted county maintenance as requested at the June 2, 2022, Board Meeting.
- The total budgeted General Fund reserves are \$22.5 million.
- There is a 4% pay increase for BCC employees included in the FY 2022/2023 budget for Board departments totaling \$4.5 million across all funds.
- The budgeted life and health employer contribution changed from \$12,000 per FTE (full-time employee) to \$11,250 per FTE.
- A handout has been provided to the Board that details all personnel transactions between FY 2022 and 2023 referencing position additions and deletions and various other changes in positions and personnel.
- The primary funds that were analyzed for position cuts were the General Fund and the Transportation Trust Fund.
- There are 86 deleted positions totaling \$2.6 million across all funds; the General Fund deletions total \$979,000 and the Transportation Trust Fund total is \$993,000.

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Continued...

- There are also 52 partially defunded positions in the General Fund totaling \$2.8 million; these positions are in Corrections and are not included in the personnel counts.
- Total position deletions and defunding total positions are 138 positions; there are a total of 101 position transactions that include position re-classes, reallocations, relief positions to full-time positions, and some added positions for the Board.
- Those total \$6.3 million across all funds with \$1.6 million in the General Fund and \$773,000 in the Transportation Trust Fund.
- The total net change in personnel cost is an additional \$852,000 with an overall net increase of 15 positions.
- The defunded positions total 52, subtracting from the 15 would leave 37 defunded additional positions.
- Community Partners and State Mandates that are included as part of our Community Partner funding include requests for \$145,700 for the Gulf Coast Kid's House for abused children and \$39,188 for the General Fund portion of legal aid court services; these funding requests are non-discretionary.
- There is a total of \$1,178,195 available in the General Fund for Community Partner funding requests for FY 22/23.
- In the Board's latest Community Partner listing, there are four funded agency partners and one community partner funding request totaling \$54,000 that may qualify for funding under the Children's Trust Agency.
- There is \$3.75 million included in the budget for the Department of Juvenile Justice State mandate, \$4.7 million for the Medicaid mandate, \$165,000 for the indigent cremation, and \$1 million for the State mandated Baker Act services; total mandated funding is \$9.8 million.
- For DOMES (District One Medical Examiner Support) and the Medical Examiner, there is \$2,664,160 included in the FY 22/23 budget for the Medical Examiner, however there was a later revision to the Medical Examiner budget increasing that funding request to \$2,890,897, or an increase of \$226,000, that will need to be funded by the Board.
- There is also \$6.4 million included for payments to the City for Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIFs), which is an increase of \$866,574 over the prior year's estimate.
- County CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) TIFs are maintained at the 75% increment level of funding for FY 22/23 resulting in an estimated \$5.4 million for the County CRAs and TIFs, which is an increase of \$1.1 million over the prior year's estimate.
- The CRA and the City of Pensacola TIF valuation's net change between June and July certification of values is estimated at an additional \$15,444 for the City TIFs and an additional \$51,000 for the County TIFs that will need to be funded by the Board.

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

3. Continued...

- There were approximately \$42.8 million in operational and capital enhancement requests that were made by Board departments that are not included in this budget.
- The Board was provided a detail of those budget requests and reductions.
- There are allocations of \$100,000 for the BCC internship program, \$250,000 for the BCC discretionary allocations, \$200,250 for the Block-by-Block project, and \$291,000 for the Low Income Utility Assistance Program and United Way in the General Fund.
- Also included is an allocation of \$251,000 for the Summer Work Programs in LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) IV.
- There are 12 months of planned LOST IV project expenditures totaling \$52.4 million in FY 22/23 proposed budget; staff expects to continue to refine the LOST IV project listing with the Board, and any changes made by the Board will be made to the LOST IV projects plan.
- The first year of a three year funding agreement with the Escambia County Sheriff is included in the FY 22/23 budget reflecting a total increase in the Sheriff's budget of \$5.9 million over the prior year.
- The Sheriff's FY 22/23 total General Fund request is \$77,425,917; the prior year was \$71,525,917.
- Also included in the funding agreement is a BCC budgeted Sheriff's reserve totaling \$1.25 million; this three year funding agreement in the form of an Interlocal Agreement will be presented on the Board's agenda at the July 19th Board Meeting for the Board's consideration.
- The Sheriff's initial FY 22/23 funding request reflected an increase of approximately \$7.9 million over the prior year.
- Other Constitutional Officer budgets increased approximately \$1.9 million over the prior fiscal year; the total increase for all budgets for Constitutional Officers is \$7.85 million.
- The Tax Collector's preliminary budget is annually submitted around July 3rd; the difference between the anticipated FY 22/23 budget of \$5.894 million and the submitted Tax Collector's budget of \$5,589,140 is a savings of \$304,860.

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

4.I. Constitutional Officers

The C/W heard an overview concerning the Proposed FY 2022/2023 Budgets for Constitutional Officers, as follows:

- A. The Honorable Chris Jones addressed the proposed budget for the Property Appraiser and advised that the budget included an increase of approximately \$448,000, or about 6.5%;
- B. The Honorable Scott Lunsford addressed the proposed budget for the Tax Collector and advised that the budget is \$5,589,140, which is about a \$214,000 increase and includes a 3% raise and the building relocation for the Marcus Pointe Office; the Board requested that Director Hall work with Mr. Lunsford to bring something back to the Board regarding the Marcus Pointe Office; Mr. Lunsford further advised that the Tax Collector's Office is building their own version of a mobile unit to serve outlying areas, adding armed guard licenses as a provided service, and creating a solution for homebound or facility-bound citizens to have access to Tax Collector services;
- C. The Honorable David Stafford addressed the proposed budget for the Supervisor of Elections Office and advised that there is an increase in the budget due to this being a general election year and that highlights include one additional FTE, raises for poll workers and temporary employees, capital outlay to get some needed IT infrastructure, and due to a policy decision with the Florida Legislature, an additional position was added during the early voting period;
- D. The Honorable Pam Childers addressed the proposed budget for the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller and advised that her office hired employees slowly based on assessed needs and that some funds from this year's budget will be returned; further advised that the current budget has increases related to the addition of two positions, the rest is required under the benefits and includes a 3% raise, which will be used for merit and promotion increases; and
- E. Henrique Dias, Chief Financial Officer, addressed the proposed Sheriff's budget and advised that the Sheriff's Office has requested the three year Funding Agreement; the Board discussed and expressed support for assisting the Sheriff's Office with future needs if they arise.

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

5. Medical Examiner

The C/W heard an overview concerning the Proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget for the Medical Examiner from Dan Schebler, Director of Operations for DOMES (District One Medical Examiner Support), as follows:

- The budget before the Board today is only the operational budget.
- Due to support from the Board, the Medical Examiner's Office now has the space and equipment they need, as well as adequate staff.
- The budget request total amount has not changed, but after discussions, the Medical Examiner's Office returned to the previous model based on case load of the prior year.
- The budget request is \$2,890,897, which is an increase of \$115,586 from the FY 21/22 budget and is necessary to fund the increasing case load.
- For this fiscal year, the Medical Examiner's Office budgeted for 1,383 cases and halfway through the fiscal year 706 cases were seen, so forecasting has been rather accurate.
- This budget includes 1,650 cases in this fiscal year.
- Drivers of the case increase include drugs and overdoses, with fentanyl overdoses increasing 450% in the last year, and pedestrian and traffic accidents, which have increased 40%.
- Cremation permits are up and appear to be the primary option for many people, and those permits must be approved by the Medical Examiner per State statute.
- Changes to drive down workers' compensation and healthcare costs have been made, which has kept the budget increase to a minimum.
- The funding for two additional employees is being sought through Impact 100 grants, but the fringe benefits that the grants do not cover are included in the budget.
- Additional requests include locum doctors that come to fill in and a capital request for a rapid DNA testing machine.

FOR INFORMATION: Commissioner Barry requested that Mr. Schebler provide the Board with the future cost of the employees that will need to be covered once the funding from the Impact 100 grants run out in approximately 1.5 years.

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

6.I. Departmental Reviews

The C/W reviewed the proposed FY22/23 budgets for County Departments, and:

- A. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for the BCC from Director Hall, discussed a potential gas stipend or mileage reimbursement for staff (including Commissioner aides) who travel as part of their job, and made no change;
- B. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for the County Attorney's Office from County Attorney Rogers, and made no change;
- C. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for County Administration from Director Hall, and made no change;
- D. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Animal Welfare from John Robinson, Animal Welfare Director, and made no change;
- E. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Building Inspections from Jennifer Hampton, Director's Aide, and made no change;
- F. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Corrections from Chief Rich Powell, Corrections Director, and made no change;
- G. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Development Services from Horace Jones, Development Services Director, and made no change;
- H. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Engineering from Joy Blackmon, County Engineer, and made no change;
- I. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Extension Services from Susan Hendrix, Director's Aide, and made no change;
- J. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Facilities from Rob Hogan, Facilities Director, discussed the importance of tracking warranties and service orders, and made no change;
- K. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Human Resources from Crystal Dadura, Human Resources Director, and made no change;
- L. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Information Technology from Scott MacDonald, IT Manager, and made no change;

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

6.I. Continued...

- M. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Library Services from Todd Humble, Library Services Director, and made no change;
- N. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Management and Budget from Director Hall, and made no change;
- O. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Purchasing from Jeffrey Lovingood, Deputy Purchasing Director, and made no change;
- P. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Mass Transit from Rodriques Kimbrough, Mass Transit Director, and made no change;
- Q. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Natural Resources Management from Chips Kirschenfeld, Natural Resources Director, and made no change;
- R. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Neighborhood and Human Services from Clara Long, Neighborhood and Human Services Director, and made no change;
- S. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Parks and Recreation from Adam Reed, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, and Susan Holt, Accounting Manager, and made no change;
- T. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Public Safety from Eric Gilmore, Public Safety Director, via Microsoft Teams, discussed developing a predictable replacement cycle for equipment, the need to budget for apparatus, the possibility of reducing the budgeted amount for vehicles, and made no change;
- U. Heard an overview of the proposed budget for Public Works from James Higdon, Deputy Public Works Director; heard the request from Commissioner Underhill and Commissioner May for information on the cost of paving 1/20th of the County's roads, and made no change;
- V. Heard a brief overview of the proposed budget for Waste Services from Susan Holt, Accounting Manager, and made no change; and
- W. Heard a brief overview of the Judicial Services budget, including the State Attorney, Public Defender, and Court Administration budget from Director Hall, and made no change.

AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. Community Partners

The C/W heard funding requests from Community Partners for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget, and:

A. Discussed General Fund Community Partners, as follows:

- (1) 211 (First Call for Help)/United Way - \$20,982 requested – \$20,982 proposed – Discussed the importance and need for ALICE Threshold data and made no change;
- (2) United Way – \$77,785 requested – \$77,785 proposed – Made no change;
- (3) Community Health Northwest Florida – \$414,750 requested – \$414,750 proposed – Made no change;
- (4) Council on Aging - \$45,000 requested – \$45,000 proposed – Made no change;
- (5) EComfort, Inc. – \$25,000 requested – \$5,000 proposed – Made no change;
- (6) General Chappie James Flight Academy – \$11,000 requested – \$11,000 proposed – Advised the organization to request funding from the Children’s Trust and made no change;
- (7) Gulf Coast Kid’s House, Inc. – \$150,000 requested – \$145,700 proposed – Heard comments from the Board requesting that State mandated funding be removed from the list and made no change;
- (8) Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council, Inc. – \$25,000 requested – \$11,875 proposed – Agreed to pencil in the proposed funding amount;
- (9) Health and Hope Clinic – \$30,000 requested – \$28,500 proposed – Made no change;
- (10) Pensacola Caring Hearts – \$42,000 requested – \$12,350 proposed – Made no change;
- (11) Human Relations Commission – \$134,015 requested – \$84,265 proposed – This request was not discussed, but the Board did acknowledge that a portion of the funding for this organization was a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development mandate;

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. Continued...

A. Continued...

- (12) Huts 4 Our Friends – \$1,000,000 requested – \$0 proposed – Made no change;
- (13) New World Believers – \$20,000 requested – \$10,250 proposed – Made no change;
- (14) James B. Washington Education & Sports – \$35,000 requested – \$10,250 proposed – Made no change;
- (15) Pensacola's Promise/Chain Reaction – \$25,000 requested – \$18,050 proposed – Advised the organization to request funding from the Children's Trust, discussed having staff work with the organization to obtain empirical data on children from Escambia County Schools and how that correlates with economic development, and made no change;
- (16) Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc. (REAP) – \$200,000 requested – \$0 proposed – Discussed the organization working with Corrections and Human Services to collaborate and made no change;
- (17) Sister Anointed to Lead Together (SALT) – \$5,000 requested – \$0 proposed – Agreed to place \$5,000 in the proposed column and advised the organization to request funding through the Children's Trust;
- (18) Sisters of Hope Corporation – \$30,000 requested – \$7,000 proposed – Made no change;
- (19) Whistleblowers of America – \$15,000 requested – \$0 proposed – Made no change; and
- (20) Wildlife Sanctuary – \$33,250 requested – \$33,250 proposed – Made no change;
- (21) Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. – \$124,688 requested – \$62,344 proposed – This request was not discussed due to comments from the Board requesting that State mandated funding be removed from the list; and
- (22) Northwest Florida Legal Services – \$19,594 requested – \$62,344 proposed – This request was not discussed due to comments from the Board requesting that State mandated funding be removed from the list;

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. Continued...

- B. The request for CDBG Entitlement Funds for the Human Relations Commission in the amount of \$49,920 was not discussed due to comments from the Board regarding mandated funding;
- C. Discussed Visit Pensacola's unified budget request of \$7,580,000 from the First Three Cents Tourist Development Tax (TDT) and made no change;
- D. Discussed funding requests from the Fourth Cent TDT, as follows:
 - (1) African-American Heritage Society – \$60,000 requested – \$50,000 proposed – Discussed tentatively moving \$60,000 into the proposed column;
 - (2) Pensacola Area Chamber Foundation – \$96,000 requested – \$75,000 proposed – Discussed tentatively moving \$96,000 into the proposed column and discussing the ask with the Tourist Development Council;
 - (3) General Daniel Chappie James Flight Museum – \$0 requested – \$100,000 proposed – Discussed leaving this as a placeholder for the statue pending other funding commitments per the Board's direction last year;
 - (4) Naval Aviation Museum – Marketing – \$0 requested – \$0 proposed – Made no change;
 - (5) Naval Aviation Museum – Operations – \$0 requested – \$100,000 proposed – Discussed leaving the proposed funding as a placeholder;
 - (6) Visit Pensacola (4th Cent Projects) – \$2,820,000 requested – \$2,820,000 proposed – Discussed the funding during prior conversation regarding the First Three Cents, and made no change; and
 - (7) West Florida Historic Preservation Board, Inc. – \$225,000 requested – \$200,000 proposed – Made no change;
- E. Discussed the information that Visit Pensacola did not making a funding request from the Fifth Cent TDT due to understanding the goals of the Board for future tourism facility development;

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. Continued...

F. Discussed funding Local Option Sales Tax allocations for Community Partners, as follows:

- (1) Center for Independent Living of Northwest Florida – \$60,000 requested – \$30,000 proposed – Discussed recommending that this organization submit a funding request through the Children’s Trust and that if successful, it would not supplant the Board’s funding, which would still be contributed;
- (2) Escambia County School Readiness Coalition – \$238,875 requested – \$238, 875 proposed – Discussed whether this funding could be requested from the Children’s Trust and made no change;
- (3) Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce – \$75,000 requested – \$75,000 proposed – Made no change;
- (4) PEDC (Pensacola-Escambia Development Commission) – \$600,000 requested – \$600,000 proposed – Made no change;
- (5) Town of Century Economic Development Initiative – \$0 requested – \$50,000 proposed – Discussed the proposed amount, was advised by Commissioner Barry that he would bring back any potential projects if they arise, and made no change; and
- (6) Studer Community Institute – “The Spring Entrepreneur Hub” – \$125,000 requested – \$0 proposed – Made no change; and

G. Discussed the Solid Waste Management Fund, the \$78,791 request from Keep Pensacola Beautiful and the \$69,149 proposed amount, and made no change.

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

7. Continued...

FOR INFORMATION: The C/W:

- Identified several organizations that should request funding through the Children's Trust and that the proposed funding would be kept as a placeholder for the partners in case the funding requests were unsuccessful.
- Requested that Director Hall work with Tammy Greer, Executive Director of the Children's Trust to provide measurable performance documentation the Board has collected for partners requesting funding through the Children's Trust.
- Discussed that it is unnecessary to include mandated partners on the spreadsheet going forward and that these include Gulf Coast Kid's House, Inc., Legal Services of North Florida, Inc., Northwest Florida Legal Services, and the CDBG portion of the Human Relations Commission.
- Was advised by Director Hall that the funding split between the Legal Services partners would be maintained.

Speaker(s):

Laura Gilliam
Chandra Smiley
Josh Newby
Timothy Hooks
Stacie Kostevickie
Sara Davy
Rodney Jones
Kristin Fairchild
Vinnie Whibbs
Syntoria Spencer

Gladys Scott
Jacqueline Garrick
Darien Schaefer
Dr. Cheryl Howard
Todd Thompson
Robert Overton
Carolyn Grawi
Bruce Watson
Rachel Gillette

8. Adjourn

Chairman Bergosh declared the Budget C/W Workshop adjourned at 10:53 a.m. on July 12, 2022.

Chairman Bergosh declared the Budget C/W Workshop adjourned at 10:51 a.m. on July 13, 2022.