

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a called budget worksession/meeting on April 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting was made public by Facebook Live and by conference call if requested.

**Members Present:**

Chairman Jimmy Hooper  
Vice Chairman Charles Turk  
Commissioner David Duckett  
Commissioner Danny Maxwell  
Commissioner Sammy Reece

**Staff Present:**

County Clerk Regina Gailey  
Finance Officer Randy Failyer

**1. Call to Order**

Ch. Hooper called the meeting to order.

**2. FY2020 Budget**

Department budgets were discussed as follows:

- **Sheriff/Jail** **Carlton Speed**

Sheriff Speed offered thanks to the Commissioners for issuing hazard pay to deputies and jailers. He said this was trying times but also learning times as we attempt to move on.

- **Coroner Salary** **Mark Savage**

Motion to issue a \$2,000 per year local supplement to the Coroner: Jimmy Hooper  
Second: Danny Maxwell  
Vote: 5:0  
All aye votes and motion passed.

- **GIS/Mapping Analyst Karen Burry Salary**

Motion to change Ms. Burry's salary from \$42,000 to midpoint of her scale at \$47,000 \*\* "with exemption of any other increase considered for the FY2021 budget year": Jimmy Hooper  
Second: David Duckett  
Vote: 5:0  
All aye votes and motion carried.

- **Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruark Salary**

***\*\*minutes amended 12/8/2020 to add wording in GIS/Mapping Analyst Karen Burry Salary & Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruark Salary: "with exemption of any other increase considered for the FY2021 budget year"***

Motion to change Officer Ruark's salary to \$48,000 effective April 20, 2020 and to pay the difference retroactive to January 1, 2020 at approximately \$1,831 \*\* "with exemption of any other increase considered for the FY2021 budget year": Jimmy Hooper

Second: Charles Turk

Vote: 5:0

All aye votes and motion passed.

- **Sheriff/Jail**

**Carlton Speed & Shawn Wilson**

Officer Wilson stated they were considering contracting with a local physician to come to the jail for prisoner care. The projected cost would be approximately \$178,700. Ch. Hooper stated it would provide an in-house physician ½ day for 5 days per week with maybe future wellness checks for all employees. He further stated he was very motivated to see this take place and was actively pursuing this possibility. Officer Wilson stated it could result in a decrease in health insurance premiums as well.

Salaries:

Officer Wilson stated there were two categories with increase requests as follows:

- 3% for Field Services Personnel
- 2% for Support Services Personnel

- **Fire/EMS**

**Steve Nichols**

Chief Nichols expressed thanks to the Commissioners for the hazard pay to Firefighters and EMTs.

Personnel:

- Mr. Failyer stated Chief Nichols made a request for 3 additional employees to man the new Station 25 nearing completion. Vice Ch. Turk stated pay increases would be considered later.
- Chief Nichols stated there was a \$12,000 increase in Education & Training in efforts to appoint a Training Officer and to provide for training that will take approximately 1 year. Ch. Hooper stated he agreed with the concept but doesn't know if this is the right time. Vice Ch. Turk stated this would be a big gamble, that it would be discussed later and left the line item at \$4,500.
- Vice Ch Turk stated volunteers are not participating and cut the budget from \$10,000 to \$3,000 to follow trend. Chief Nichols stated that the number of volunteers is increasing. Ms. Ivey stated she currently paid out the pay-per-call on a biweekly basis.

Vehicles:

Ch. Hooper stated a new truck will need to be considered to replace one involved in an accident lately. Chief Nichols stated he is not opposed to pursuing a low mileage used vehicle. All agreed to consider this later.

Ch. Hooper recessed the meeting at 10:47 a.m. to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

**\*\*minutes amended 12/8/2020 to add wording in GIS/Mapping Analyst Karen Burry Salary & Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruark Salary: "with exemption of any other increase considered for the FY2021 budget year"**

Ch. Hooper called the meeting back in order at 1:30 p.m.

- **Senior Center** **Tracie Hammond**  
Ms. Hammond stated that during the COVID-19 closure, she had been reaching out through letters, emails and phone calls to the patrons.

- **Public Transportation** **Tracie Hammond**

- **Recycling**

- **Recreation** **Brooke Whitmire**  
Ch. Hooper first congratulated Ms. Whitmire for the 3 awards that the program had received this year and commended her on keeping the grounds looking great. Ms. Whitmire stated it was disheartening being closed due to COVID-19 and was hoping to make it up to the citizens with new things going forward. Ch. Hooper asked the Board to consider an expansion to the current recreation center on the next SPLOST to provide for new programs such as pickle ball, archery and volleyball. She said currently the gymnasiums need painting.

Program Fees:

Ms. Whitmire stated they would be issuing a credit for cancelled sports through online accounts. Jersey will be given to the kids since their name is on the back but helmets, socks and pants can be used next season.

Storage Building:

Ch. Hooper stated the new storage building was nearing completion.

Ms. Whitmire thanked the Board for support as the program was awarded 3 times in 4 years. She also commended Kim McEntire and the staff and asked that increase be considered during budget time.

### 3. Adjournment

Ch. Hooper adjourned the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

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Chairman

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County Clerk

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