



BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FY2023 BUDGET WORK SESSION/MEETING

Courthouse Annex Boardroom | 150 Hudson Ridge | Homer, GA 30547

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 1:30 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ch. Turk called the work session/meeting to order.

Members Present:

Chairman Charles Turk
Vice Chairman Danny Maxwell
Commissioner Keith Gardiner
Commissioner Bo Garrison
Commissioner Sammy Reece

Staff Present:

County Clerk Regina Gailey
Finance Officer Randy Failyer

2. AGENDA ITEMS

a. FY2023 Budget

Department budgets were discussed as follows:

- **Mapping/GIS** **Karen Burry**
 - Includes Oblique Imagery and 2023 Ortho Imagery & Data (flat down imagery)
- **Extension Service** **Susie Burton**
- **Elections**
 - Added election year expenses
 - Added expense if voting returns to multiple location voting precincts instead of a single voting precinct
- **Sheriff/Jail** **Carlton Speed/Shawn Wilson**
 - Requested additional pay that would equate to \$23.44/hr for sworn officers and \$22.89/hr for detention officers which would be approximately \$5,000+/year increase per employee to aid in recruiting and maintaining personnel. Requested that the increased pay match what Hall County currently pays in efforts to stay out in front with the pay. Total pay increase request would be \$633,000.

Ch. Turk stated the board had considered a 3% to 5% raise for other employees and asked if that would work for the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Speed stated he could not agree to that amount.

Comm. Garrison asked if the department was on the same insurance plan as the county. Sheriff Speed stated no, they are on a tiered plan which offers a lower family coverage with 100% still being paid for employees.

- Stated that there were more incidents per capita than neighboring counties
- Stated the need to attract and maintain personnel
- Stated there were 82 slotted positions but only 72 currently filled
- Stated there were 3 to 6 uniformed patrol per shift
- Capital requests:
 - Facility Security Update
 - Additional Firearms for the Court Division
 - Taser Renewals & Replacements
 - Body Cameras for the jail
 - CID-Investigations Building repairs/sidewalks
 - New Office Chairs
 - Cubicles
 - Training:
 - The training center and shooting range would be opening soon
 - A Simulator Grant was received in the amount of \$200,000 to train on de-escalation situations
 - Another De-escalation Grant was for \$32,000 to be spent on tactical equipment
 - Quonset huts would be used for training facilities to be paid from the 2017 SPLOST funds
- The prisoner work detail is currently underway

Ch. Turk stated the security items such as tasers, pistol shields, courthouse firearms, bodycams, etc. were most important. Total Capital request: \$175,530

Sheriff Speed stated the jail would need to be evaluated sooner than later and the process of evaluation and construction would take years. Currently 17 inmates were housed in another county.

Commissioner Gardiner asked if a tri-county facility had been considered. Sheriff Speed stated that would be up to the Commissioners but a Warden would be required in that situation.

- **Fire/EMS**

Steve Nichols

- Tires/Tubes: Tires are difficult to get now so the budget amount would have to be added to next year's budget in order to provide time for delivery
- Building Maintenance: Hollingsworth Fire Department is in need of repair currently
- Vehicle/Equipment: High mileage in current units make the repair costs high
- Collections: Trend is up in revenues which creates a rise in collection costs since it is based on percentage collected
- Training/Education: Over 6,800 hours of training had been logged within the last year with the majority of the training in-house due to the added training officer position. \$9,500 added for ACLS Trauma Center. Ch. Turk stated that could be purchased from SPLOST funding
- Telephone: All phones were recently transferred to Southern Link for \$29/month with better coverage which also backs up the radio system

- **E911/EMA**

Steve Nichols

- Technology: Need due to at least 5 attempted cyber-attacks already been detected and caught by the current security system
- Building Maintenance: HVAC repairs and tower floor replacement

Comm. Gardiner asked what could be done to keep employees. Chief Nichols stated there were currently 6 vacancies for Fire/EMS and stated the fact that dual certification is required in a combination department made it difficult at times. He also stated the pay and retirement benefits was a factor. He said volunteers are hard to find.

3. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the work session/meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Chairman

County Clerk