

(08-29-03)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
BUDGET WORKSHOP
AUGUST 29, 2003** **9:00 A.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners met August 29, 2003, to conduct a fiscal year 2003-2004 budget workshop. Attending were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Cooper, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Hersey, Clerk Norman, Jim Farrell, Marlene Stafford, Lisa Hall, Sheriff Milner, Randall Zipperer and Mark Crawford.

Chairman Cooper called the workshop to order at 9:13 a.m.

Mr. Marvin Rosier addressed the Commission regarding the need for a rescue unit in Lawtey and in the Graham/Brooker area. He would like the Board to either reinstatement the electric franchise fee, or implement an additional sales tax in order to provide the needed services. The City Council of Lawtey voted unanimously to build a building to house a rescue unit.

Sheriff Milner addressed the Commission regarding the budget for the jail and law enforcement. He stated that he has agreed to the formula suggested by Chairman Cooper for the jail, (August 22, 2003 workshop). The \$40.00 per day charged for contract inmates will be broken down as follows: \$25.00 coming back to the jail to cover the costs and the other \$15.00 being split in the Fine & Forfeiture Fund. The total budget being proposed for the jail and law enforcement will be okay on the jail side; however, it will be very tight on the law enforcement side. At some point in time, he would like to receive funds from the additional monies out of the capital outlay as the safety complex is paid off. For \$125,000.00 they can purchase four cars, plus \$25,000.00 for computers, repairs to the CAD system and other capital outlay items. Doing this would guarantee that there will be no budget amendments throughout the year.

Chairman Cooper said that the County has experienced a significant increase in the local inmate population. One of the goals in creating the formula establishing the base budget for the jail was to stimulate an incentive to keep that population as low as possible. Mr. Zipperer is asking that the average inmate count used in the formula be increased from 115 to 120. Given the inmate count throughout the course of the year, this is a reasonable number. The other figure used in the formula is the cost per day to house an inmate. The figure he used was \$30.00 per day, which was based on the last couple of years. The jail staff feels that the real number is more like 32 or \$33.00 per day, but they are proposing a daily number of \$30.50.

With this in mind, \$30.50 per day, per inmate, based on 120 inmates per day, brings the jail budget to \$1,335,900.00. A 3% raise would increase that budget by \$39,868.00, bringing the total base budget for the jail to \$1,375,768.00. This is more than what was proposed to the Board at the last workshop, considerably less than what was requested and less than what the budget began at last year.

The other issue discussed was taking the \$60,000.00 inmate major medical line item out of the jail budget and putting it in the Fine & Forfeiture budget. Mr. Zipperer has also asked that the cost of that insurance be placed in that line item as well. That cost is based on local inmate population and runs about \$30,000.00 per year. This brings that line item to \$90,000.00. There still must be an agreement

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that the profits from contract inmates goes toward that line item first to keep the funding level at the \$90,000.00, and any remainder is split within the Fine & Forfeiture Fund budget.

Chairman Cooper said that he and the Sheriff have had numerous conversations regarding the automobile situation and the need for capital outlay, and he understands that for at least this budget year, the one-cent sales tax monies are being spent on the courthouse reconstruction and renovation. When possible, he has no problem in developing a program, not just for the Sheriff's Office, but with the other departments, to use at least a portion of those monies for those types of capital improvements.

Sheriff Milner said that after dealing with Shands for months, he was advised yesterday that the County would at least be getting a Medicaid rate, which will be a great savings.

Chairman Cooper said that he would like a copy of all contract inmate billings provided to the Finance Department, and subsequently a breakdown of the \$25.00 per day that goes back to the jail once the payment is received. The \$25.00 can be paid monthly to recoup the cost, and the profit line item can be paid either annually or bi-annually.

Discussion ensued.

Sheriff Milner then steered the discussion toward repairs and maintenance for the jail.

Chairman Cooper called a recess at 10:05 a.m. Chairman Cooper called the workshop back to order at 10:20 a.m.

The next budget addressed was Emergency Services. Chairman Cooper said at the last workshop, this budget was out-of-balance by \$21,000.00.

Commissioner Hersey reviewed the few minor cuts that were made that reduced the overage to \$18,950.00. Chairman Cooper said that this results in the need of a Board transfer to cover the overage.

Commissioner Hersey inquired about the Recreation Budget. Chairman Cooper said that he would like to approach the City of Starke about assuming this responsibility since it is monies that are currently being paid to the City of Starke for some street lights and parking areas. If not, then the County can pay these utility costs out of the miscellaneous utility expense line item in the Facilities Maintenance budget.

Commissioner Hersey briefly reviewed the Volunteer Fire Department budget. Some line items within the budget are going to be very tight, and there is a possibility that the department will need more money at some point within the budget year.

Chairman Cooper recapped the adjustments that have been made to the budget as a result of this workshop, which totaled \$165,768.00. He suggested paying the adjustment by splitting the transfer of funds between the Board and the One-Cent Sales Tax. This balances the budget and utilizes less cash carry-forward money than what was used last year.

There was some discussion concerning the rollback of the millage rate.

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Percy Sullivan said that if the Volunteer Fire Department has to replace the air packs, it would run about \$175,000.00. Hopefully, they will be able to get a grant, if not, it will put the department out of business.

Chairman Cooper said that a proposed Animal Control interlocal agreement between the County and the City of Starke has been drafted. This budget includes \$25,000.00 for animal control as the anticipated contribution to the City of Starke. He has reviewed the agreement and feels that there are some changes that need to be made. It will be placed on the agenda for the first meeting in September for finalization.

Chairman Cooper then presented his proposal to develop a bonus plan that will encourage County employees to be fiscally conservative.

Commissioner Mann reported that the recent heavy rainfall is creating drainage problems throughout the County. He said that it seems that every time a ditch needs to be cleaned out it is on private property. The Board needs to make a decision and put something in writing that if it is an outfall ditch that has been previously maintained and cleaned, then the County needs to continue to do so, as long as you have permission from the property owner to cross their property.

After brief discussion, Chairman Cooper suggested that Commissioner Mann get with Terry Brown to develop a policy to be presented to the Board for consideration.

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

HERMAN JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

These minutes typed by:

Marlene K. Stafford, Deputy Clerk