

(08-09-04)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY
FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 BUDGET WORKSHOP
AUGUST 9, 2004 10:00 A.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners met August 9, 2004, to conduct a fiscal year 2004-2005 budget workshop. Attending were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Cooper, Clerk Norman, Jim Farrell, Lisa Hall, Sheriff Milner, Bill Dampier and Nelson Green.

Chairman Johnson called the workshop to order at 10:05 a.m.

Mr. Farrell reported that the Fine and Forfeiture Fund Budget has been trimmed considerably; the deficit is now \$1.1 million. Emergency Medical Services is out-of-balance by \$304,000.00. There is excess in the General Fund of \$895,000.00, which can be used to meet some of those needs.

Fine and Forfeiture Fund Budget:

Commissioner Cooper said that he met with the Sheriff and they have reduced his budget request to \$3.182 million. It is still more than last year, however, it is the number that realistically the Sheriff is going to need to maintain current staffing and current operations level. It does not provide for any additional staff, but does provide a \$1,500.00 base pay increase in the correctional officers' salary, which was made possible through savings in other line items.

The one area he and the Sheriff differ on is capital outlay money. Commissioner Cooper said that he is thinking about \$50,000.00 per year in capital outlay. The Sheriff would probably accept that figure for year one to get him started, but he is looking for \$150,000.00 in capital outlay.

Sheriff Milner said that he is willing to live with the budget as has been presented by Commissioner Cooper but would like the Board to consider using a portion of the sales tax money to fund the \$150,000.00 in capital outlay for the first year and \$50,000.00 each year after.

At the request of Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Cooper said that the jail side of the budget request is \$1,514,000.00, which is a \$139,000.00 increase from last year. The law enforcement side, exclusive of capital outlay, is \$1,668,000.00, an increase of \$290,000.00 from last year.

Mr. Farrell said that the 04-05 proposed budget on the Board's side includes a 3% raise and is based upon 9.5 mills.

Commissioner Cooper said that there is a 3% pay increase in the Sheriff's budget request.

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Emergency Medical Services Fund Budget:

Mr. Green said that we are due for a rate increase in 2005. If we do not charge the authorized Medicare rate, we do not get the full benefit of Medicare. Since the increase would not take affect until January, it appears that it would generate an additional \$50,000.00 for fiscal year 2004-2005. The rate increase requires Board action prior to January 1, 2005.

Clerk Norman inquired as to how much the proposed additional employee would increase the revenues. Mr. Green said that \$20,000.00 would be a conservative figure.

Mr. Farrell said that there is no cash carry forward included in the budget. He asked Mr. Green to project the cash carry forward amount. Mr. Green said that it should be around \$80,000.00, based on the \$150,000.00 carried over from the previous year.

At the request of Commissioner Cooper, Mr. Green explained the reasons for the increase in the budget, which was not limited to but included increased salaries and benefits, 3% raise, F.S.L.A. policy changes, Board personnel policy changes and operations' costs.

Commissioner Cooper said that by increasing the revenues and including the cash carry forward, the budget is still out of balance by about \$149,000.00.

Discussion ensued regarding the request for the additional two 12-hour days, which is an increase of \$42,500.00.

Commissioner Cooper suggested adding \$75,000.00 to the revenue side and tasking Mr. Green with finding the \$149,000.00 shortage, possibly by reducing the additional two shifts to one.

Discussion returned to the **Fine and Forfeiture Fund Budget.**

Chairman Johnson asked where the Board stands regarding the capital outlay request.

Clerk Norman reported that the Board allocated \$300,000.00 of the sales tax money for a payment on the construction of the new library. Although not a guarantee, more than likely it will be a year before that payment will be due, or it will be at least into two-thirds of the budget year before the library is completed. The Board would have the option of taking a portion of that money to grant the Sheriff's request of \$150,000.00 for the first year and \$50,000.00 for each year thereafter.

Sheriff Milner reiterated the need for the increase in capital outlay.

Mr. Green said that he also asked for some of the sales tax money in his budget request. He asked the Commission to establish a process that will allow department heads to make their capital outlay requests during the budget process and that the Board prioritize those requests.

Commissioner Cooper said that he does not want to promise the Sheriff \$150,000.00. However, if this Board would be inclined to do so, then he would like the opportunity to look for the money first.

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Transportation Trust Fund Budget:

Commissioner Cooper reported that the Road Department is out of balance by \$100,000.00. However, he is confident he can get it balanced.

There was brief discussion regarding the **Eighth Judicial Court Fund Budget.**

The next budget workshop was scheduled for August 19 at 6:00 p.m., prior to the regular meeting.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY**

HERMAN JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:_____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

These minutes typed by:

Marlene K. Stafford, Deputy Clerk