Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of January 4, 2022 Meeting

The Budget Committee met at 4:30 P.M. with the following members present: James Bowens, Burton Glover, Faye Stubblefield and Bobby Couts were all present in person. Mayor Billy Vogle and Jody Stewart were also present in person. Keith Hoover was absent.

Mr. James Bowens, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order and the following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

The minutes of December 7, 2021 were approved.

1. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Burton Glover to recommend budget amendment #27 in the amount of $183,000 to fund a 10% match for the interstate exit lighting project for exit 120 to the County Commission as presented by Margot Fosnes, Robertson County Economic Development Board (RCEDB) Chief Economic Development Officer and Mayor Callis of Portland. This request was submitted to the RCEDB on December 14, 2021 and they voted unanimously to approve funding this project from the Red River Preserve Funds. This exit is an important economic development asset for the County, serving as the entry to some of the largest industrial/distribution industries. All voted yea.

2. It was moved by Bobby Couts and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend budget amendment #26 in the amount of $64,569 for the extra Primary Election required on May 3, 2022 per State law to the County Commission. This budget amendment requires two readings, because budget amendment #22 for this same need was tabled at the December meeting, the rules need to be suspended. All voted yea.

3. It was moved by Burton Glover and seconded by Bobby Couts to recommend balanced budget amendment #28 in the amount of $5,604 ($467 x 12 months) for the U.S. Bank direct deposit account for all County and all School Employees to the County Commission. These bank fee charges were caused by low interest rates since the pandemic as per U.S. Bank Management. All voted yea.

Jody Stewart stated that she thought there would be a budget amendment for the Emergency Radio System County Wide because $5,000,000 was approved last month. Chad Gregory stated that he didn't realize some items were missing and that Clink Zack, Sales Representative from Motorola, will have a detailed quote that should include all items needed for the County's Emergency Radio System on January 20, 2022. These are Motorola Mobile and Portable Radios and they will be National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant for an estimated cost of $5,000,000 that may increase to include needed items missing from the original quote. After some discussion, Jody stated maybe a budget amendment amount will be available for next month's meeting depending on the complexity of the updated detailed quotation of items needed for the complete package.

4. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Burton Glover to recommend a resolution to approve job benefits to part-time Board of Education employees, who work 25 hours per week to qualify for medical insurance coverage with an effective date of January 1, 2023 (Next year) to the County Commission. The School Board approved this resolution unanimously at their December 13, 2021 meeting. Clyde Richert, County Attorney, will need to prepare a resolution for the County Commission. Dr. Chris Causey, School Director, presented budget cost estimates with a maximum annual cost of $2,262,924 and minimum annual cost of $756,000. Chris stated that we are one of the few School systems not offering medical insurance to bus drivers and this will allow medical insurance offering from 30 hours per week as per the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to employees working 25 hours per week. They all believe this will help attract and retain bus drivers for the School System. All voted yea.

Jody Stewart explained that after January 10th, the December 31, 2021 mid-year financial statement numbers will be available and there will be some necessary budget amendments next month instead of waiting until the Spring to make all budget amendments. Jody stated that she has last year's budget adoption schedule and that she thought the plan was to continue to pass the budget by June 30th every year. She will have the Budget Adoption Schedule for the FY2023 Budget available next month for the Committee to approve. There was some discussion about the Department Heads coming to the Budget Committee to discuss any future needs. Faye Stubblefield said to offer any Department Heads that wanted to talk to the Budget Committee the opportunity to volunteer instead of making this a mandatory requirement. Burton Glover wants to make an official motion.

5. It was moved by Burton Glover and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend that Jody Stewart contact all Department Heads via email message the opportunity to meet with the Budget Committee in March on a volunteer basis. Jody mentioned that the email may be received better from the Mayor's office. All voted yea.

Bobby Couts has a question for the HR Consultant. He wants a salary comparison cost estimate for all County employees. There was a brief discussion about raises for County employees and the need for an actual salary compensation study.

6. It was moved by Burton Glover and seconded by Bobby Couts to recommend a salary compensation/comparison study for County employees. Jody will ask the HR Consultant for a quotation to complete the compensation study for the County and a time frame when the study will be completed. All voted yea.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Keith Hoover, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director