Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of April 19, 2022 Meeting

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

Mr. Keith Hoover called the meeting to order and the following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

The Budget Committee minutes of April 5, 2022 were approved.

Connie Stroud, Register of Deeds, presented her FY2023 Budget request for her Register of Deeds Department, account number 51600.

Doug Vann, Planning and Zoning Director, presented his FY2023 Budget request for his Planning and Zoning Department, account number 51720.

Rosemary Sprague, Chancery Court Clerk, presented her FY2023 Budget request for her Chancery Court Department, account number 53400.

Kevin Clinard, Animal Control Director, presented his FY2023 Budget request for his Animal Control Department, account number 55120.

Cathy Hamsley, Administrator of Elections, presented her FY2023 Budget request for her Elections Department, account number 51500.

Michelle Adcock, Stokes Brown Library Director, presented the Library's FY2023 Budget. There is an additional amount of $10,000 she is requesting this year from the County and the same additional amount of $10,000 is being requested from the City of Springfield for raises. Michelle explained the average raises for the library staff is between 5.3% and 6.2% and their salaries are still considered low. Michelle informed the Committee that she has not made her presentation to the City of Springfield.

Paul Nutting, Springfield-Robertson County Joint Airport Board Chairman, requested funds for the Airport's FY2023 Budget in the amount of $41,424 from the County and he is also requesting this same amount of $41,424 from the City of Springfield. Paul was explaining that a portion of the funding will be needed for salary raises and that $40,000 was needed for a capital purchase of a forklift. Keith asked if the City has approved his FY2023 budget and Paul stated that he has not presented his request to the City of Springfield. Keith requested an exact breakdown of the funds being requested by the Airport and he also asked Paul to inform him after he made a presentation to the City of Springfield.

Leah Blocker, Representative from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), presented their contribution request for an extra $1,000 in the FY2023 budget for a total request of $5,000 this year. The two (2) big needs for this year are office space and part-time staff.

Greg Bell, CARES, non-profit agency principal, introduced his wife, Pamela Bell. Greg is requesting funds for contributions from the County for the first time in the amount of $50,000. Greg explained that his non-profit organization officially began operations in August 2021 and he has plans to request funds from other local agencies. Greg expressed that tonight was his first presentation to request funds for his non-profit organization. Greg stated the main focus of CARES non-profit agency was to improve the quality of life for Robertson County Citizens and at risk students.

The Committee listened carefully to all of the above nine (9) requests and asked questions. The Committee stated that they will need to review everything and then decide how to proceed. There was not any action taken at this time.

Jody Stewart presented the following information in the Committee Member Budget Binders: The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget for the General Fund, Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund, Highway Fund, Debt Service Fund, General Capital Projects Fund and Community Development (RCEDB) Red River Preserve Pilot Fund. She informed the Committee that Dr. Chris Causey, School Director, plans to present the School Board Approved, School Fund Budget on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022. Jody stated the property tax rate is $2.5759 for FY2023, which is the same as FY2022, FY2021 and FY2020 and she noted that the distribution rate was also the same for the fourth year in a row. The net penny value is $190,000 in the FY2023 budget. Jody said there are no County employee pay raises in the General Fund budget and no capital in the budget except regular yearly recurring capital. There is a 5% State mandated pay rate increase for elected officials and a 4.7% pay rate increase for the General Sessions Judge in the FY2023 budget. The utilities have been increased, the elections scheduled for August 2022 and November 2022 have been included and the increase for Local Government Software support for five (5) County Departments are all included in the FY2023 budget. Jody then explained the Statement of Estimated Fund Balance Reports for Funds 101, 116, 131, 151, 171 and 172.

Jody Informed the Committee about the letter she located for the FY2015 Budget. During that budget year the General Fund estimated ending Fund Balance was $2,322,250 and the expenses were estimated to exceed the revenues by $2,043,000. There were a few other items listed in that letter. Jody expressed the reason for sharing this letter was to make a comparison to the current budget year and also commend the budget committee for making the hard decisions about the budgets throughout the years. The estimated ending Fund Balance in the General Fund for FY2023 is $12,202,950.

Jody requested the Committee to turn to the green tab in their binders for the Debt Service Fund 151, General Capital Projects Fund 171 and the Community Development (RCEDB) Red River Preserve Pilot Fund 172. The estimated ending fund balance for the Debt Service Fund is $19,729,158 and the General Capital Projects Fund has an estimated ending fund balance of $1,816,000 in the FY2023 budget. Jody made note that the revenues in the Debt Service Fund exceeded the expenses by $2,900,000 in the FY2023 budget. She informed the Committee that basically all projects in progress will be completed during the current fiscal year except the Animal Control Facility. Jody also informed the Committee that the estimated ending fund balance for the Community Development (RCEDB) Red River Pilot Fund is $4,941,952 for FY2023.

The Committee turned to the orange tab for the Highway Fund 131. The estimated ending fund balance for the Highway Fund is $776,183 for FY2023. Jody informed the Committee that she received an email whereas the State Aid Project Capital Outlay line item 131-68000-726 will need to be increased from $225,000 to $375,000 due to the rising costs of hot mix and rock. Delvin Hester, Highway Superintendent, will present the Highway Fund 131 FY2023 budget next week.

The Committee turned to the blue tab for the Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund 116. The estimated ending fund balance for the Sanitation Fund is $1,586,766 for FY2023. There was a discussion about this fund being on a good track as compared to two (2) years ago when the Solid Waste Committee raised the rates as necessary. Korey Drake-Stewart, Solid Waste Director, will present the Sanitation Fund 116 FY2023 budget next week.

The Committee turned to the white tab for the General Fund 101. Jody stated that the estimated revenues for FY2022 will be approximately $800,000 short and that was due to the fact that the Prisoner Boarding Revenues are $2,000,000 under budget. The estimated expenses for FY2022 will be approximately $1,700,000 under budget and the estimated ending fund balance for FY2022 is $14,635,949. The General Fund FY2023 budget estimates are $38,193,000 for revenues and $40,626,000 for expenses which means the expenses will exceed the revenues by $2,433,000. The estimated ending fund balance for the General Fund is $12,202,950 for FY2023.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Keith Hoover, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director