Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of May 17, 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 following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

The Budget Committee minutes of May 3, 2022 meeting time of 4:30 P.M. and the minutes for May 10, 2022 meeting time of 4:30 P.M. were approved.

1. It was moved by James Bowens and seconded by Bobby Couts to recommend balanced budget amendment #48 in the amount of $1,981,742 for summer grants for the School System and six (6) pages of miscellaneous housekeeping items to the County Commission. All voted yea.

2. It was moved by James Bowens and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to deny adding two new Agency requests in the FY2023 Budget. Genesis Ice, CARES request for $50,000 and The Springfield/Robertson County Airport Board request for $41,424 were denied. All voted yea.

3. It was moved by James Bowens and seconded by Bobby Couts to approve the Contribution to Agency FY2023 budget amount of $639,954. Although $10,000 was added to Stokes Brown Public Library and $1,000 was added to Court Appointed Special Advocate as compared to the FY2022 budget, three (3) contribution to agencies totaling $15,000 were eliminated, making the FY2023 budget $4,000 less than the FY2022 budget. All voted yea.

There was a discussion concerning the approval of the FY2023 budgets. Jody Stewart stated that this year some Department Heads addressed the Budget Committee in March and because there was not an actual budget binder available, everything concerning the budget process was halted until the budget binder was available at the end of April. Jody said that there have not been any budgets approved at this time. At the end of the meeting last week everyone agreed to be sure all raises in the County Departmental budgets were 5%. Everyone wanted to make sure this adjustment to the budget was included. All agreed for Jody to add the 5% pay rate increase for County Commissioners in the FY2023 budget, and also add 5% for the Highway Commissioners and the School Board members. Jody expressed that she will make all changes to the County FY2023 budget.

Keith asked Jody about the Comptroller and their thoughts of the County passing the budget later than June 30, 2022. Jody stated her contact stated that passing the budget on June 30, 2022 is ideal, he said one-half of the Counties in the State pass by June 30th and the other one-half pass their budgets in August. Keith stated that he really likes passing the budget on June 30th, but with the School Fund FY2023 budget being approximately $9,300,000 more expenditures than revenues, it will be difficult to receive approval by the County Commission.

School Director, Chris Causey, was in the audience and the Budget Committee asked him questions about his budget and the certainty of his estimation of $96,000,000 for the new State funding for the FY2024 budget. Chris answered questions about his budget and there was a very lengthy discussion. Keith and James Bowens both expressed that waiting to receive final numbers for the School Fund may be best as there was not any need to send the budget back to the School Board at this time. All meetings were cancelled and everyone decided best to delay the budget process. After discussing when to meet all agreed the next meeting will be the regular budget meeting on June 7, 2022.

Jody stated that all Department Head requests have been added to the FY2023 budget except two payroll item requests. Keith and Faye do not think the Register of Deeds should be adding an employee when she is leaving office in September. Jody informed the Committee that the other payroll item was extra hours for the part-time employee in the Archives Department. After a brief discussion, Keith stated the Department Head needs to come to the budget committee to request this extra $3,500.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Keith Hoover, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director