

April 29, 2020

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORK SESSION
SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF SALUDA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
400 WEST HIGHLAND STREET, SALUDA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29138

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman J. Frank Daniel, Sr. called the Budget Work Session to order at 11:04 A.M.

Present were: Vice-Chm. J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Coun. Justin Anderson
Coun. Jones P. Butler
Coun. Wayne Grice

Also present were: County Director, Sandra G. Padgett
Clerk to Council, Karen T. Whittle

B. INVOCATION

Coun. Grice delivered the invocation.

C. PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is noted by the Clerk herein, that in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the budget work session was given to the local news media and properly posted, to include the county website.

Due to COVID-19, the following notice was placed at the beginning of the agenda:

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE THREAT OF COVID-19, THE SALUDA COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS WILL BE RESTRICTED ACCESS TO COUNCIL AND REQUIRED STAFF ONLY. THE PUBLIC AND PRESS/MEDIA ACCESS TO THE LIVE BUDGET WORK SESSION WILL BE PROVIDED BY A LIVE STREAM. YOU MAY ACCESS THE LIVE STREAM WHEN THE BUDGET WORK SESSION BEGINS BY GOING TO THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.SALUDACOUNTY.SC.GOV, CLICK ON THE YOU TUBE BOX IN THE TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER AND CLICK ON THE APRIL 29, 2020 BUDGET WORK SESSION VIDEO.

D. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS Director Jacob Starnes reviewed the EMS budget with Council.

Mr. Starnes discussed with Council the possibility of purchasing a new ambulance to get the replacement of ambulances on a rotation. Mr. Starnes said after the replacement of 1 to 2 ambulances over the next few years, then for the next 20 to 25 years the boxes could be remounted on new chassis' since the boxes are warranted for 20 to 25 years. Currently all ambulances are paid for.

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Mr. Starnes requested to purchase five new cardiac monitor/defibrillators to replace the current monitors which will no longer be supported or repaired by the manufacturer at the end of 2020. Mr. Starnes provided Council with two quotes which did not include trade-in of old monitors or discounts, but both would be considered once purchase was approved. Mr. Starnes said lease payment options would also be provided once purchase was approved.

Mr. Starnes requested to purchase three new toughbooks due to the current ones becoming outdated and visible signs of wear and tear. Mr. Starnes said they currently use 6 daily, but were only requesting to replace 3 in order to stagger the purchases to prevent the costly replacement for all 6 at one time.

Sheriff

Chief Deputy Toby Horne reviewed the Sheriff's budget with Council, to include but not limited to: travel, training of officers, uniforms, vehicle maintenance, request for one additional digital camera and special operations equipment.

Chief Deputy Horne and Council discussed the increased amount for overtime was due to deputies providing all court security for the county, to include general sessions, civil, magistrate, and family court; and also deputies working overtime due to unexpected incidents. Hiring a third party for court security was discussed, but Sheriff Perry said if there was an incident a certified class one law enforcement officer would still need to be on the scene and perform the arrest.

Chief Deputy Horne addressed the increase on the WatchGuard hardware warranty and software maintenance contract for the body cameras and in-car camera systems, which was based on the age of the equipment. Chief Deputy Horne reviewed the various equipment that had been replaced at no cost and stressed the need for the contract.

Chief Deputy Horne requested Council's consideration for the WatchGuard Redactive software program on the body and in-car cameras due to FOIA requests.

Tri-County Public Defender

Tri-County Public Defender, Robert Madsen reviewed the caseloads and court responsibilities of his office for Saluda County and said another attorney was needed to assist with Saluda County's cases. The tri-county public defender's office currently has two attorneys representing Edgefield, McCormick and Saluda. Mr. Madsen requested an additional \$30,000.00 from Saluda County for the additional attorney, but understood due to the current situation due to COVID-19, if the additional funding request could not be funded in FY20-21, they would like the additional funding when things improved in order to perform the job as required.

RECESS

On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to take a two minute recess. (Recessed at 12:18 p.m.) Council returned at 12:22 p.m. for the budget work session.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director, Josh Morton reviewed the Emergency Management budget with Council and informed Council he was able to reduce some budget line items by transferring some expenses to be paid out of federal funds received.

Mr. Morton and Council discussed the radio communications to include, but not limited to, handheld radios for the Sheriff's Office were purchased through a JAG grant last year, but were not turned on to the new radio system, therefore there were currently no recurring monthly costs for the Sheriff's radios; the radio communication contract had been sent to the County Attorney for review; costs for all radios and equipment needed for county offices, law enforcement, EMS and fire departments were discussed based on last year prices; JAG grant had been the only successful grant in obtaining radio communication funding; and suggestion of applying for funding with non-profit organizations.

Saluda County Fire Service

Mr. Morton reviewed the fire board budget with Council and informed them the board was able to reduce the budget by 8%.

Mr. Morton informed Council line item #71 included \$40,000.00 for the SCBA cylinders (air packs) with the funds to be transferred to the fire board reserve account at the beginning of the fiscal year; \$30,000.00 to go toward replacing Hollywood VFD bunker gear and funds from the fire board rollover account would also be used to supplement the purchase; and remaining \$7,000.00 for miscellaneous items such as hoses, nozzles, firefighting foam, and chain saws.

Mr. Morton informed Council the final payment of \$92,105.00 had been made for the seven fire trucks purchased 15 years ago. Mr. Morton discussed plans with Council to continue budgeting the \$92,105.00 to be used toward purchasing more fire trucks (brush and pumper/tankers).

For FY20-21, Mr. Morton informed Council the fire board was proposing the \$92,105.00 be used for the following: 1)\$46,105.00 to go towards building a training center (basic burn building) on county owned property, which would help the County's ISO rating; and 2) \$46,000.00 to go towards assisting building a new station at Old Town VFD. Also the fire board was purposing for FY21-22, the entire amount of \$92,105.00 go toward the Old Town VFD building. Mr. Morton addressed conditions with Old Town's current building and concern for the fire trucks and equipment housed in the building.

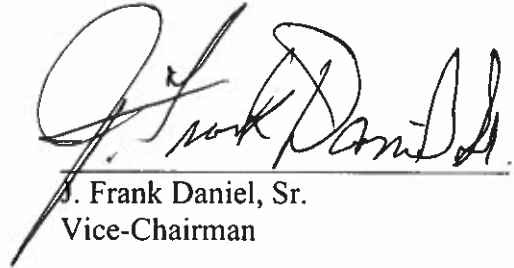
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E. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Coun. Anderson, seconded by Coun. Grice, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the budget work session at 1:01 P.M.



Karen T. Whittle
Clerk to Council



J. Frank Daniel, Sr.
Vice-Chairman

May 11, 2020
Date Approved