

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
Budget Worksession
April 16, 2014

Members attending were: Brenda Sutherland, David M. Sexton, and Glen E. Rosenbaum. Kenneth R. Belton was absent and John K. Brewer arrived late.

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Brenda Sutherland opened the meeting. Glen E. Rosenbaum made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by David M. Sexton. Motion carried 3-0.

IN RE: OLD BUSINESS

None

IN RE: NEW BUSINESS

- Budget Presentation – First Draft

Jonathan D. Sweet presented the FY-15 budget tree – Budget Mission, Goals, Strategies and Objectives:

FY-15 Budget Mission

To collectively work to develop a balanced budget with a concerted effort and resolute focus on maintaining a healthy Fund Balance, effectively planning for future capital needs and strategically retiring a portion of the county's general obligation debt, all while delivering current levels of core services without raising taxes.

Goals:

- Maintain the delivery of core services
- Continue to work toward building and maintaining a healthy Unassigned Fund Balance
- Contribute to the Capital Improvement Program to plan for, prioritize and fund county-wide capital projects
- Maintain the existing tax structure
- Maintain the existing fee structure(s)
- Maintain the highest level of non-essential services
- Develop the FY-15 Budget with foresight toward future FY budgets
- Implement creative financial solutions where possible
- Establish expenditures based on conservative revenue projections

- Develop comprehensive financial operating procedures that include a review and audit of existing county contracts, agreements and invoices for potential savings and other best practices
- Adequately address employee compensation
- Maintain capacity to invest in economic and community development
- Invest in preventative maintenance of facilities and equipment

Strategies:

- Continue to evaluate new funding request based on their ability to leverage funding and/or resources, for their potential for return on investment and whether they will be an on-going expense that could potentially strain future budgets
- Engage departments toward creative opportunities to increase revenues and sources of revenues
- Look for and seize available and creative opportunities to decrease expenditures
- Deliver value-add across the spectrum of county services
- Increase efficiencies in departmental operations and systems through various approaches such as technology, day report labor, cross-training, shared support, etc.
- Continue to identify, diagnose, prescribe and treat specific financial ailments and thwart short- and long-term financial threats
- Continue to cultivate a culture of fiscal responsibility and strategic planning

Objectives:

- Arrive at a balanced budget
- Taxes to remain at current rates
- Fees to remain at current rates
- To protect the county's Fund Balance long-term, by not using any portion of it to fund 'operational' expenses
- Continue to build and maintain, at minimum, a 10% Working Capital Reserve
- To fund the Capital Improvement Fund at or near FY-14 levels to insure a functional 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan
- Maintain the current delivery level of core and discretionary services
- To develop and implement a Debt Reduction Plan and further improve the county's debt per capita ratio
- To keep overall county operational expenses within a margin of 3%

Jonathan D. Sweet explained/showed the layout for the department budgets and explained how to view the current requests from each department.

IN RE: BUDGET MEETING

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 will be the next budget meeting to hear requests from Department Heads beginning at 5:30 p.m.

IN RE: ADJOURN

John K. Brewer made the motion to continue the meeting until April 30, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.; duly seconded by Glen E. Rosenbaum. Motion carried 4-0.

Brenda Sutherland, Vice Chair