

Grayson County Board of Supervisors  
Budget Work Session  
May 2, 2023 – 3pm

Members attending: Michael S. Hash, Kenneth R. Belton, John S. Fant and R. Brantley Ivey.  
Tracy Anderson was unable to attend.

Staff attending: Stephen A. Boyer, Mitchell L. Smith, Leesa A. Gayheart and Linda C. Osborne.

IN RE: OPENING BUSINESS

Supervisor Fant made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by Supervisor Belton. Motion carried 4-0.

IN RE: BUDGET WORK SESSION

- GRAYSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – PSA & SPECIAL PROJECTS (CI)

- Request for \$375,000 (facilities) and the CIP of \$784,000 for (FY25); the rest is required local effort or debt service
- When ESRA money runs out there's approximately \$2.2M for CIP
- Original discussion was in order to access the money has it has to be on the CIP of the school plan when ESRA runs out in FY25
- Requesting the \$375,000 all in facilities – last year we funded 3 different categories (food, transportation, bus/maintenance vehicle) – above LRE funding and when they come out of the 3-year federal money, money will be fenced – we do not have a MOU with the school
- FY 25/26 will have to add money to the CIP
- Need to have same though for the County in planning to fund the CIP
- Appropriate it now and we authorize in the consent agenda
- \$375,000 above RLE – prior year was \$340,000 - \$380,000 – commit to put money in each year – any additional shows County commitment to the school – need to get together with the school to figure out the boundaries of the money
- Access funds: School brings it with the CIP priority list and BoS approves in budget process – need to list projects each FY – would help keep the fund healthy
- Need to use ESRA money to fix roof (CATE Center) and some of the other items that needs fixing
- Ask last year was \$1.8M; board agreed the County would put \$600,000 (1 time deal) towards the field in exchanged for the agreement with the Rec Department to use the facilities at school; School to use ESRA money to fix the CATE Center roof
- Vehicle tax – original intent was to fund school buses, which is a capital expense, may need to look at returning it to the original purpose which is to fund CIP at the school
- County needs to have a commitment for a rainy day fund – need dedication to the County – anything above \$1M to school, look to putting that money in the County - look at dedicating money to the County – may need to up the CIP funding for the County – generate revenue to do what needs to be done for the County – keep rate at .25 and do away with the vehicle tax, still above average revenue generated since vehicles have not decreased

- Fire/Rescue apparatus also mentioned
- Need to identify location fund – tell where it’s going – remove 1 tax – only thing to tweak would be the .25
- 20% are not land owner – not fair for real estate taxpayers to pay for everything; 80% of real estate citizens are paying the bills
- Simplify the tax process
- Discussion took place regarding doing away with the vehicle tax and manipulate the personal property rate – removing the \$25 fee on personal property tax simplifies it and it’s only 1 tax – need to keep the overall revenue goal – would loose \$410K by doing this and it would make a big difference in the budget and by not having the \$410K, it would affect our services and there would be no money to put on CIP (currently none in there now) even though we’re estimating to receive \$600K from the Casino money
- Financial forecast is stark and we have a flat budget (a declining budget – no increases in any taxes), no CIP investment in this budget, using \$600K of ARPA for ambulance and fire truck, request for 2 EMS positions, estimated state salary adjustment is 5%, no change to short term or long term disability for our employees, our health care cost for a family plan is not good, CIP for school \$784, can scale some administration cost, have personnel handbook updated and take care of the website
- Revenue currently on the books last year, don’t remove vehicle tax, simplify the tax, would have an increase of approximately \$600K – county tax would remain the same (real estate/personal property); only new revenue is the \$600K; ARPA money is available this year and next; by simplifying the tax, maintain the revenue
- Discussion took place regarding the personal property vehicle tax and the tax rate (by removing the vehicle tax, could capture that lost money in the levy) – personal property revenue line changed to \$700K plus estimating another \$600K from the Casino money
- Not funding EDA this year
- Expenses are growing due to inflation, revenues are not
- Would need to close the \$400K gap somehow
- Vehicle values will not be available until January 2024 – will not know if there’s a decrease or an increase
- Removing the vehicle tax, we’d still have \$300K increase
- Financial forecast – discussion took place regarding levy adjustment over period of time and how to close the gap
- Levy change
- Personnel adjustment – 2 additional EMS; 1 water and 1 planning – minimum wage increase will take place on January 1, 2026 (would go from \$12 to \$15)
- Total increase of budget expenditures from last year to this year is \$151K which doesn’t include CIP or EDA – does include the .2 for broadband
- New employees – 2 half times – 1 for water and 1 for planning – includes no benefits

PSA:

- \$25K addition due to a lead/copper study - mandated

- 1 Part-time position – currently splitting Mr. Anderson with building department and PSA – he is accumulating a lot of overtime and comp time due to the amount of work (reading meters, taking samples 3x per week, installing meters, working on leaks) – maintenance will help with an install or water leak - discussion took place regarding contracting some of the work out (no benefits, only 24 hours per week) and the part time person – water fund has to balance itself – rate increase has not happened for a few years - age of Fairview water system was established in the 1990’s – consensus of the Board is the part-time position is not needed – need for a part-time position has not been discussed with the PSA – if revenues cover the cost of \$30K and numbers match, OK to continue with part-time person
- Louisville Lane – we have to come up with initial capital to extend it– water sale would go into it – can get some grant funding for the extension –
- EMS positions – cost of \$168K for 2 additional hires – discussion on adding the 2 EMS positions took place along with retention discussion – paid service is failing – IVRS is now a paid service which has had to be rescued in the past; EC is a partly paid service - haven’t exhausted retention help – concerns on investing \$100K in people when there are more pressing issues – need to support volunteers – data collection has just begun, tentative approval after data collection in December – data would be available January 2024 – it’s a big commitment for 2 more people – more time/data will help
- Fire/Rescue – still interested in dividing out money each year to each department instead of rotating – Board is ok to divide money out but it should be earmarked for apparatus and need to codify on an MOU – each agency come and voice needs
- Against the 2 new positions for EMS – take a year and evaluate the position

Supervisor Ivey made the motion to approve the school budget; duly seconded by Supervisor Fant. Motion carried 4-0.

The Board took a break and 5:05 pm and the meeting reconvened at 5:09 pm.

- ARPA carry-over money was discussed, noting that some didn’t get spent last year
- Potential FY24 Capital Improvement Projects were discussed:

Request:	FY24 Cost	Source of Funding
- Access Road – Industrial Park/Rec Park -	\$400K	ARPA
- Broadband Expansion/Tower Construction -	\$332K -	ARPA
- Ambulance	\$225K	ARPA-Carryover
- Library Parking Lot	\$150K	ARPA-Carryover
- Public Works – Compactor Truck	\$315K	ARPA-Carryover
- Fleet Vehicle	\$ 35K	ARPA-Carryover
- Communication Housing-Point Lookout	\$ 25K	ARPA-Carryover
- Whitetop Heritage Center	\$150K	ARPA-Carryover
- Pool Repair	\$190K	ARPA-Carryover
- Facilities – Baywood	\$100K	Baywood Fund
- Library-Electrical Upgrade & Mini-Spit Heat	\$ 30K	Capital Improvement Fund
- Public Work – Recycling Compactor (bed)	\$ 85K	Capital Improvement Fund
- Fire Truck	\$450K	Casino/Capital Imp. Fund

- Lundy Property Improvements                      \$250K                      Grant/Capital Imp. Fund

- Community Support – staff has reviewed the list and will check to see if the Fries Community Center submitted a request for funds
- Airport – discussed loan payments and what is paid above the loan requirement – Request for this year is \$76K which is the same as last year which is well above the required loan payment – we need to be good regional partners and be diligent with the County money – consensus of the Board is to decrease the amount funded to the Airport
- Registrar: increase of \$100K – number of elections have increased and pay for officers of election and full time Deputy Registrar which is a County funded position

Adjourn

Supervisor Fant made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Supervisor Belton. Motion carried 4-0.

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Michael S. Hash, Chair