

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 3

The Edgefield County Council held a Budget Work Session at 6:00 PM Tuesday, March 16, 2021. Notice of this meeting was provided to The Edgefield Advertiser and others as requested.

Members present

Scott Cooper, Chairman
Albert Talbert, Vice-Chairman
Dean Campbell, Councilman
Dr. Jacqueline Kennion, Councilwoman
Tiffani Ireland, Councilwoman

202100002195
Filed for Record in
EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SC
CHARLES L. REEL, CLERK OF COURT
05-26-2021 At 08:57 am.
Notic nochs .00
OR Book 1886 Page 3 - 16

Others present

Tommy Paradise, County Administrator
Dana Waters, Finance Director
Taz Potts, Council Clerk and others as per list attached

Chairman Cooper called the meeting to order. Chairman Cooper made the motion to accept and amend the agenda with one revision that we add comments from the public and department heads at the beginning of the meeting. Motioned by Councilman Campbell and seconded by Vice Chairman Talbert. Motion Passes unanimously. Chairman Cooper stated that this is a meeting about the budget from the Finance Committee which consists of Vice-Chairman Talbert, Chairman Cooper, Administrator Tommy Paradise and Finance Director Dana Waters. The Committee met with every Department Head and Elected Official.

Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

*****Note- All persons speaking in this section are part of the official minutes*****

Charles Reel (Clerk of Court) spoke concerning a maintenance and safety issue within the Courthouse involving the hallways within the main courtroom which needed painting and the carpet needing to be replaced. Reel provided estimates of bids to Council for both the painting and the carpet projects and asked if Council would consider these projects in this year's budget or waiting until July 1. Chairman Cooper thanked Reel for the estimates, and stated that we would like to get it done if money is available. Councilman Campbell asked was the information that was provided given to the Finance Director when he met with them. Reel stated that it was not available, but he had mentioned to the Finance Director about the needed painting of the courthouse and the needed carpet replacement. Reel stated that it was suggested by Administrator Paradise, Chairman Cooper and Vice Chairman, to get three bids for these projects, so that they could have an estimate of how much is needed to complete the project.

Mary Jo Dawson (Director of ABBE)-Dawson passed out some historic information for Council concerning the beginning history of how ABBE was organized. Dawson asked for an additional \$28,000 in her budget for this year. Councilman Campbell asked, was the amount requested based on the percentage of the population that we should be paying this amount? Are the other counties with the ABBE paying their percentage? Dawson responded that until now, no other county has. Dawson stated

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

that she is making the same requests for the other counties as well. Dawson states that she's bringing all the counties where they need to be. Dawson stated that during the pandemic, she had several meetings with Aiken County Finance Director Lynn Strom, and after they went through all the financial forecast, concerning ABBE, they concluded that that the current amount was not enough, and this was for all the participants including Edgefield County. Councilman Campbell asked if we received the Census numbers that Edgefield has grown this year, would the percentage increase for next year. Dawson stated the request that was asked was based on the financial forecast that was provided by the Aiken County Finance Director, Lynn Strom of what the salaries for ABBE are going to be. Dawson stated that she is seeking other monetary funds from other Counties as well. Dawson stated that there is a possibility that it will not reach that amount, due to a vacant position, which that amount would have to be calculated. Councilman Campbell asked what if the amount was paid in half, for this year and next year to not pay it all at one time. Dawson stated that she is not trying to go back to this fiscal year, but to move forward for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Dawson provided an example: If Aiken County were to give a 10% COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) to all of its employees in 2023, what would that do? That would have to factor in and considered when reimbursements are made back to the County. Campbell asked what if were to pay half in 2022 and the other in 2023? What would be the impact with that? Dawson stated that she would have to report back to Aiken County Government, and discover from them, would they be willing to accept it? Dawson stated that it is a big change across one year, and Aiken is cognizant of that, and they would like to see some positive movement in the right direction, and if the gap can't be fulfilled across the board in one single year, all of the Counties feels that there is a merit to the Regional System. Councilwoman Ireland, asks if the Bookmobile still came to Trenton? Dawson stated that they are not using that outreach van at this time, due to the pandemic, all the vehicles have been stationary. Dawson stated that we will be resuming that service when we get notification. Councilwoman Ireland asked, would Trenton be served? Dawson stated that if there is interest there, we will be there.

Tonya Guy (Archives) - Gave handouts to Council and spoke in reference to needing more money for her budget. She explained the following:

- ◆ Edgefield County (established 1785) has the oldest and most complete set of historical County documents in South Carolina next to Charleston. One of the reasons for this is that the county has never suffered a courthouse fire and General Sherman did not pass through this area during the Civil War.
- ◆ Edgefield County is also the only county to have an Archives Department that is dedicated solely to housing and protection of these records. The facility includes a research room and a state-of-the-art 1,668 square ft. records vault that is fire proof and climate-controlled. The only other facility in the entire state that comes close to Edgefield's Archives is the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia.
- ◆ Therefore, the Edgefield County Archives handles 230 years of Edgefield County's history. There are over 1,750 books and over 300,000 pieces of paper.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 5

- ◆ Currently, the Edgefield County Archives is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 p. m. and by appointment when requested.
- ◆ From 2017-2020, 492 researchers, from fourteen states, signed the guest book. They were from 30 states, namely SC, GA, VA, TX, ID, NC, VT, FL, AR, TN, KY, IL, MD, PA, MI, AL, DC, NJ, RI, CA, UT, NY, MO, MS, IA, MA, AK, OK, IN, and KS, and two foreign countries, ENGLAND and DUBAI.
- ◆ From 2017 to 2020, 13 tours of the Archives were conducted to a combined total of 181 people. In addition, in 2019, two documentaries were filmed at the Archives about families from Old Edgefield District featuring some of the original documents on file.
- ◆ The Archivist
- ◆ From 2017-2020, at least 126 queries that were received by phone call, e-mail or letter were answered.
- ◆ From 2017-2020, monies in the amount of \$3,912.50 were collected for copies, research fees, and donations.
- ◆ From 2017-2020, rare documents were donated to the Archives, including a collection of original letters from the War Between the States era; an original bond from The Peoples Bank, Edgefield, SC; and two original plats dated 1760 and 1812.
- ◆ From 2017-2019, archival supplies were ordered to repair and preserve the books and documents in the vault. This is being done with advice from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.
- ◆ The vast majority of these books and documents are hand-written and an understanding of colonial script is necessary to index or transcribe them. In many cases, they are the only copy in existence and are irreplaceable, so they must be handled and stored with extreme care.
- ◆ The most fragile books in the vault are being placed into acid-free boxes to further protect them from wear and the environment. It is a goal to place all of the books into these boxes.
- ◆ The most fragile documents are being placed into acid-free mylar sleeves to protect them from further deterioration. Before being placed in mylar, the documents must be treated with extreme care. This includes but is not limited to unfolding them, piecing them back together, and removing tape.
- ◆ About ten years ago, a collection of records was discovered above the public library and in the old jail. These are labeled the "1770-1901 Miscellaneous Edgefield County Records," and contain 40,000 pieces of loose documents and an assortment of ledgers. Some of these documents have been

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument	Book	Page
202100002195 OR	1886	6

inventoried and microfilmed, but the rest have not. There are several items that are one-of-a-kind in the state, including a slave pass dated 1831 and the Edgefield District Federal Amnesty Oath book from 1865.

- ◆ In 2017, all of the Probate Estate Records and Equity Records were placed in acid-free file folders and had acid-free spacers added to their acid-free boxes to make them lighter, while keeping the files upright.
- ◆ In 2017, work began organizing the Judgement Rolls and Miscellaneous Records into acid-free files and boxes. This involves taking each document, unfolding it, placing it into a file, labeling the file, and then placing the file into a box in alphabetical or numerical order. It is very labor intensive and time consuming, but worth it. This process will protect the documents from further damage and make them more readily accessible. This project is still ongoing.
- ◆ In 2017, indexing of the "Crop Lien" books was started. This project was partially completed in 2018. Over 10,000 entries have been indexed in the database so far. These books are invaluable to many researchers, because they involve poor white and African American farmers who were tenant and sharecroppers. They will probably not be found in any other records in the vault. The General Sessions and Court of Common Pleas records are currently being indexed. These records contain the criminal and civil court records for Edgefield County and contain a wealth of genealogical information.
- ◆ In 2017, sorting and organizing the books in the vault began. In 2018-2019, for ten months, an inventory of the vault was conducted. There are over 1,750 books in the vault and they were in complete disarray. The first task was to sort and group the books into 20 series (i.e. Probate, Equity, Deeds and Conveyances, Court of Common Pleas, etc.). Then, they were sorted into volumes within each series (i.e. docket, calendar, journal, minutes, etc.) and placed into date order. Finally, each book was assigned a number based on Series, Volume, and Book. This means that each book in the vault has its own unique identifier. Furthermore, a database was created that lists each book, with a detailed description and identifiers. This will be made available to researchers to better assist them in finding records of interest. This project could not have been done without the help of a number of dedicated volunteers.
- ◆ Before 2020, we had a number of volunteers who assisted with these various projects, and we also had two employees with the Goodwill Program and were being paid by the federal government to work here. They are seniors being trained to go back into the workforce.
- ◆ Currently, we need to order more acid-free folders, acid-free boxes, and acid-free mylar sleeves. This material is all quite expensive because it is archival quality. This work was conducted with only a \$1,500.00 budget until 2019 when it was cut in half to \$750.00. I had no knowledge of this and have never been given a copy of my budget. I would greatly appreciate the budget for printing/office supplies being reinstated to \$2,300.00, with an additional \$100.00 for postage and \$300.00 for the telephone.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 7

- ◆ Additional needs of the Archives include a microfilm reader. The Canon microfilm reader in the Archives is twenty years old and has not worked in over seven years. It cannot be repaired because Canon no longer makes microfilm readers. This means that researchers have to use the original documents out of the vault and copies have to be made using these originals. Each time they are handled and exposed to light, they become more fragile. I have a quote from Palmetto Microfilm to purchase a new one for approximately \$10,000.
- ◆ Furthermore, there are at least ten oversized deed books in the vault that need immediate attention. They weigh up to 50 lbs and have broken spines. They need new binders and to be divided into two volumes to make them easier to handle. In 2018, the Clerk of Court's Office had this type of work done for some of their deed books and it cost about \$500.00 per book.

Guy explained that she that when she started in 2015 that her budget was 1,500.00 and in 2019 it was reduced to \$750.00 and that she can't really work with that budget, she is working with what she has in her budget at this time. Councilwoman Kennion asked how much was in her budget. Mr. Paradise replied \$750.00 for printing and office supplies. Councilwoman Kennion stated that she noticed (2) machines in the archives, and asked do these machines work? Guy stated that one of the machines is 20 years old and they do not service or make those machines anymore, and the other one is 50 years old, and you can look at old newspapers but you can't print anything. Chairman Cooper asked have you applied for any grants for any materials that you have used to complete this. Guy stated that she is looking for some grants opportunities, and that they are looking into getting some binder spines to separate some deed books that are broken, into two books.

Chairman Cooper stated that what has been done is tremendous, and that it is a great state tourism opportunity for us. Vice Chairman Talbert stated he visited the Archives a couple of years ago, and looking at the before and after photos, an excellent and outstanding job has been done. Vice-Chairman Talbert agreed with Councilwoman Kennion, that the budget is not great, and anytime that you are working on something, you have to have money, and understand that every department needs some money, but sometimes you have to bite the bullet and do what is necessary. Vice Chairman Talbert thanked Ms. Guy for explaining everything, and her budget will be taken under consideration. Councilman Campbell stated for clarification that her budget for this year is \$18,000 and the budget for next year is \$18,750.00. Councilman Campbell stated that he sees the line item for office supplies as \$750.00 but you haven't told us how much you need? Guy stated that she would like to have the printing and office supply budget reinstated to the same amount that the former archivist Tricia Glenn had, which was \$2,300.00 which would allow me to purchase the necessary things that is needed. Councilman Campbell asked, was the budget request presented to the finance committee?

Guy stated that it was, but it may not have been turned in at the right time. Guy also stated that she had never been given a budget or explained how to complete a budget, and this is why she came tonight to ask. Councilwoman Kennion asked Administrator Paradise to elaborate on this question, if you were never given a budget, why when Mrs. Guy took over for Tricia that she was never given a budget? Mr. Paradise stated that she was a contractor/vendor for the civic league that operates the Archives for us. Paradise stated that we've always done the archives budget, and in the future they can be given the budget request. Paradise stated that he did receive one from her after the finance

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 8

committee had already met and that she is not a Department of the County. Councilwoman Kennion stated that she understood, but whether she is a Department of the County or not, being that she works with archives, I think that it would be fair for her to have a budget so that she can know what is in her budget contractor or not. Mr. Paradise stated that the appropriate person would be the President of the Civic League to receive the budget request. Councilman Kennion stated that she works in your office and being that you know her budget, then she needs to know also and that I'm just trying to make things easy and fair, that's all, and I would like to see that done.

Jody Rowland (Sheriff) - Stated the following: I want to thank the committee who met with me earlier on the budget and I am grateful for all the hard work that was put into it, and I am grateful for everything that has been funded, it is desperately needed. My thought on this whole process is the same thing I campaigned on, that is stabilizing the Sheriff's Office, stopping the turnover rate, and all of these things are just pieces of the puzzle that I think all fit. Receiving new deputies will give us more deputies on shift and give us faster service, being seen in the community. New automobiles; I think we can all agree probably are the most crucial, the entire fleet is in horrible shape. We're working on the Jail and the Sheriff's Office and that's going to take care of itself in time, now that the special sales tax has been in place. Rowland stated that one item that did not make the budget cut were the salary adjustment for all of the deputies. He provided documentation for the adjustments for all of the deputies to Council. He stated that the top page is sworn personnel, second page is dispatch personnel, and that last page is only Jailers that actually qualifies. He stated that every dollar on this is new money. Rowland stated that he wanted to go to other counties and look at their salary scales, but after reviewing the numbers that we have, it is not possible. Rowland also stated that the department needs to be stabilized, we have made the right steps with personnel, we made the right steps with equipment, made the right steps in the jail now I've got to pay the folks that have been there 20 years. So I looked at the midpoints every position, put in a 6 months which basically is the end of probation. 1 year then the two to four years did The Five-Year midpoint so I can bring a deputy, and an employee to the midpoint in 5 years that is a breakdown of how that money goes. You may see a lot of zeros the percentage change column next to last, that is new hires that we brought in, they do not qualify for that 5-year. Some were brought in just a few thousand dollars more than others, this will bring everybody up to speed if we can get this done. Dispatch is a lot easier to look at, very few dispatchers they are qualified. It's a sad statement to tell you there's only one person in the jail that qualified for the longevity. Every deputy that you see on the left has been here more than 5 years or every raise you see has been for 5 years in addition to no disciplinary action. That is why I need to stabilize Personnel in the Sheriff's Office, stop the revolving door, letting them go to Aiken and North Augusta, keeping them here in Edgefield, where they live with their families, where their children go to school. This is the largest piece of the puzzle of how I would like to do this. Councilman Campbell thanked the Sheriff for providing the information and stated that Council is well aware that the Sheriff's Department takes up essentially one third of the entire budget, and it should, law enforcement is important to everybody, so we deal with your department having the most money, we have to deal with in one bucket. Councilman Campbell stated that there are a lot of things that your getting this year, and wanted to ask a couple questions. On the piece of paper that was gave to us, does this come up to about \$111,000 or just some other figure I'm not getting? Sheriff Rowland explained the budget figures to Council. Rowland explained that under the Deputies where I added the FICA that is 84,000, on the back right hand side of the

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 9

dispatch page it is 7,627.00. The one employee in the Detention Center is 4,786.00. Paradise didn't have a copy of the information that was provided to Council, but asked, did the figures include FICA and all of the withholding? The withholding's are almost 20%. Councilman Campbell stated that figures came up to approximately 96,000.

Councilman Campbell asked if Council was willing to do something? If we were to do partial money in 2022 could that in some way be done? Rowland stated that's he's willing to work with Council any way he can to make a step forward. Roland asked if we did it 50% this year and 50% next year would that be agreeable. Finance Director Dana Waters stated that Police retirement for certified 19.24% of gross wages, workers Comp is 3.46%, and FICA and Medicaid is 7.65% add those together that'll give you a total percentage to include on top of what you already have, which is approximately 26%.

Chairman Cooper stated the following: I'll just make a quick comment and I know this will be in the administrators report, but the finance committee reviewed all of your requests, we reiterated how important your department is. We value your department and over the course of the last 2 years, sworn officers have received a \$3,000 increase. All other team members received a \$2,000 increase, but we are working in that direction not as fast as any of us would like. In addition to the request that you're making, you asked for three additional deputies which we have funded because we want to add to your force. In addition to the three additional officers we added, we had 3 additional cars to what you had originally requested. I just wanted to share that with Council as we talked about that. Chairman Cooper stated that we want to do it all, we want to do it all yesterday but incrementally, I think we're headed in the right direction and maybe we can do more as we discussed, but I just wanted to share those some things that took place in our meeting. Councilwoman Ireland asked that the figures given are not just any figures, they're based on a scale, is that correct? Rowland stated that honestly he did not know there was a county pay scale, until he had a casual conversation with Ms. Anderson. Rowland further stated that he is using the County pay scale and is basing it off of 6 month, 1 year, 2 year and 3 year raises. Councilwoman Ireland stated that based on the scale this is where they should have been anyway. Rowland stated that he did not have that number in front of him, but there are a significant number of guys on here that have at least 20 years and they have never made mid-scale. We need to get that corrected. Paradise stated for council's information with everything added it would be about \$118,434.00 that would be all combined, and that would be a recurring expense. Rowland stated that this is the program that's how you retain deputies. I know that they got a bump coming in 6 months and got a bump coming in a year, three years, and five years even though we're still significantly under some of our neighbors. It's a huge morale booster, it lets them know that they are appreciated, their efforts are appreciated and we are going to reward them for their efforts.

Chairman Cooper thanked everyone that took the time to come out tonight and listen and also to share with us your thoughts and comments.

At this time Mr. Paradise reviewed the Budget Memo (found below) that he's prepared for Council:

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument 202100002195 OR Book Page 1886 10

Memorandum

To: County Council

From: Finance Committee

Reference: County Budget 2021-22

Date: March 10, 2021

Our theme for the coming year is "Bring Back Normal" and we believe the proposed budget reflects your goals and desire to provide citizens of Edgefield County the best service for the tax dollars spent.

We present this year's 2021/2022 budget for your review. This budget includes funding for 22 new patrol vehicles for the Sheriff's Office, an additional School Resource Officer for Douglas Elementary School, 3 additional Sheriff's deputies, additional building inspector, updated ariel mapping of the county, annual maintenance and calibration of election machines, and increased funding for the Aiken Barnwell, Bamberg Library System.

The Finance Committee is also proposing the budget has several special accounts renamed, including \$100 User Fee to Solid Waste Fee, the \$27 Road Maintenance to the Road Fee Fund, and the Industrial Park Fund to the Economic Development Fund.

The bond for vehicles from 2015 Vehicle Bond has a balance of \$64,460 and the 2020 Vehicle Bond \$745,508. The Sheriff's Office requested \$440,442 for 13 vehicles, Coroner's Office requested 1 additional vehicle at \$38,000, Building and Planning requested two additional vehicles at \$58,822, and a replacement vehicle for the Recreation Director at \$31,000. The total requests for vehicle are \$568,264. Staff recommends using the vehicle bond for the Coroner's Office, Building and Planning and Recreation with a cost to the bond of \$93,622. The Sheriff's Office can then lease 16 Sheriff's vehicles at a cost of \$148,102. The Sheriff's Office also requests funds to lease vehicles for the six School Resource Officers for \$47,496 or \$7,916 each. Edgefield County will receive reimbursement from the school district of approximately 83% or \$39,580 for the SRO vehicles.

The proposed budget also includes increased funding for Piedmont Technical College (\$65,000 to \$75,000) and funding for the Economic Development Partnership is increased also (\$65,000 to \$75,000).

The proposed budget also includes changes to the Countywide Special Contract line. This line included all of QS1 operational costs, janitorial service, computer purchases and the spay/neuter program. The QS1 operating costs have been incorporated within the budget of the appropriate department and the janitorial service, computer purchases and the spay/neuter program into their separate accounting line. This should provide better budget monitoring and accountability.

Based on the audited reserves of June 30, 2020, the General Fund has a fund balance of \$6,007,467 with \$5,035,964 in cash equivalents or investments. In FY 2020-21, Council designated \$460,230 from the fund balance. The fund balance less the \$460,230 is \$5,547,237. Our General Fund budget for this

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument 202100002195 OR Book Page 1886 11

year is \$11,625,280. After utilizing \$585,426, the County will have \$4,961,811 or 5.1 months of reserves available, which is an excellent cushion for the County.

Some of the highlights include:

Revenue

1. *NO TAX OR FEE INCREASE*
2. *Employee salary increase of 1 percent is included in the proposed budget.*
3. *To balance the general fund budget in FY 2019-20 we brought forward \$406,150 from the fund balance. This year we will bring forward \$585,426 for operational expenses.*

Requests for increases:

1. *The County Administrator requested an increase for telephone expenses from \$8,000 to \$12,000 and is recommended. An increase in professional services from \$15,627 to \$25,000 and an increase for Mount Vintage Reimbursement from \$11,250 to \$19,059 and both are recommended.*
2. *The Clerk of Court request an adjustment for salaries from \$228,969 to \$235,969 and related benefits to reflect accurate current salaries and benefits, this is recommended. Also requested is an increase for Special Contracts from \$47,000 to \$70,895 to accurately reflect the costs of computer software, this is recommended.*
3. *The Coroner's Office requests an adjustment for salaries from \$60,717 to 62,003 and related benefits to reflect accurate current salaries and benefits, this is recommended. Printing and office supplies increased from \$200 to \$300 with \$300 recommended. Also requested was an additional vehicle at \$38,000, this item is recommended to be paid by the vehicle bond and not from the General Fund.*
4. *The Veteran's Affairs Office requests a salary adjustment for staff resulting in an increase from \$60,840 to \$62,840 for salaries and associated increases for benefits.*
5. *The Building and Planning Department requests an increase in salaries from \$170,159 to \$228,084 and associated benefits to fund an additional inspector and the litter control/code enforcement officer position. This is recommended with 50% of the funding for the litter control/code enforcement officer position funded by the Solid Waste Fund. Also requested is an increase for Printing and Office Supplies from \$1,500 to \$2,000, an increase for Advertising from \$1,500 to \$2,000, an increase for Professional Services from \$31,640 to \$35,000, and an increase for computer software from \$3,779 to \$11,276 all of which are recommended. Also requested is a replacement vehicle and vehicle for the litter control/code enforcement officer*

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 12

totaling \$58,882. The vehicles are recommended to be paid by the vehicle bond and not from the General Fund.

6. *The Magistrate's Office requested an increase for Printing and Office Supplies from \$4,000 to \$4,500 and is recommended.*
7. *The Registration and Election Commission requested an increase in Maintenance & Service Contracts from \$15,000 to \$25,525 and is recommended.*
8. *The GIS/Special Projects office requested funding for Professional Services in the amount of \$4,171 and is recommended.*
9. *The Sheriff's Office requested an increase for Uniform and Clothing from \$16,000 to \$22,500 with \$16,000 being recommended. An increase in Machine and Equipment Repairs from \$25,000 to \$45,000 with \$40,000 being recommended. An increase in Maintenance & Service Contract from \$28,500 to \$43,000 with \$43,000 recommended. Automotive Operations is being split into two lines for better tracking. The request for gasoline is \$114,000 and Automotive Maintenance & Repairs \$100,000. These two lines total request \$214,000 compared to \$160,000 for Automotive Operating Expenses in FY 20-21. The Finance Committee recommends \$114,000 for gasoline and \$60,000 for Repair & Maintenance Automotive resulting in a net zero increase. A request to increase radio supplies from \$4,000 to \$6,500 with \$4,000 being recommended. Training was requested to increase from \$4,000 to \$10,000 with \$7,500 recommended. A request for \$440,442 for new automotive equipment was received, staff is recommending the use of a lease for these vehicles with the expenditure of \$122,824. The Sheriff also requested 17 tactical vest replacements at \$12,642, which is recommended. The addition of 48 fire extinguishers at \$250 each totaling \$12,440, staff recommends 43 fire extinguishers at \$100 each totaling \$4,300.*

Also requested is the addition of 3 additional deputies at a cost of 158,646, this is recommended by the Finance Committee with the addition of 3 additional leased vehicles with a total of \$183,964 (personnel and vehicles). Also requested are salary adjustments for deputies totaling \$111,560, which is not recommended.

Increases for expenses for School Resource Officers is requested to increase from \$79,881 to \$99,629 which is recommended. This includes an additional SRO and replacement leased vehicles.

10. *The Dispatch Office is requesting an increase from \$4,500 to \$10,000 for electric and gas with \$5,500 being recommended. A request to increase the Telephone fund from \$12,500 to \$25,000 with \$25,000 being recommended. Employee training was requested to be increased from \$400 to \$2,500 with \$1,500 being recommended. Salary adjustments were also requested at \$9,423 and is not recommended.*

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 13

11. *The Jail requested an increase from \$400 to \$1,000 for traveling expenses with \$500 being recommended. Maintenance & Service Contracts requested an increase from \$900 to \$2,500 with \$2,500 being recommended. Special Contracts requested to be increased from \$500 to \$1,000 with \$1,000 being recommended. Office machines requested being increased from \$500 to \$5,000 with \$5,000 being recommended. Employee training requested to be increased from \$3,000 to \$4,500 with \$3,000 recommended. Also requested was an increase of from \$113,300 to \$128,173 for Professional Services with \$113,300 recommended. Also requested are pay adjustments totaling \$13,552 which is not recommended.*
12. *The County Maintenance Shop requested an increase for Automotive Operating Expenses from \$4,500 to \$9,000 with \$5,000 recommended. Uniforms and Clothing is requested to be increased from \$1,750 to \$2,000 with \$2,000 recommended.*
13. *Animal Control requested an increase for Special Contracts from \$75,000 to \$125,000 with \$125,000 recommended.*
14. *County Council chambers requested \$40,000 for miscellaneous with \$5,000 recommended.*
15. *The old Auditor's Building requested \$750 for Electric and Gas with \$2,500 being recommended.*
16. *Department of Social Services requested an increase for telephones from \$1,000 to \$7,800 with \$2,500 being recommended. Also requested was \$8,500 for Miscellaneous with \$5,000 being recommended.*
17. *The Agriculture Building requested \$12,000 for Electricity and Gas with \$10,000 recommended.*
18. *The Neighborhood Center requested an increase for Electricity and Gas from \$2,400 to \$3,000 with \$3,000 recommended.*
19. *Piedmont Technical College request an increase from \$65,000 to \$174,602 with \$75,000 being recommended.*

Road Fee

The Road Fee Fund had a fund balance of \$324,716 at the end of FY 2019-20. Staff recommends using \$98,774 of the fund balance to offset expenses for FY 2021-22. These expenses include the purchase of a replacement dump truck for \$140,000 and the addition of two general labor employees. The fund transfer to the general fund is recommended to decrease from \$22,500 to \$15,000.

Solid Waste Fee.

The Solid Waste Fund had a fund balance of \$148,808 at the end of FY 2019-20. Staff recommends increasing the transfer amount to the General Fund from \$101,220 to \$121,730. This increase will

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 14

include 50% of the costs of the Litter Control/Code Enforcement Officer. This budget includes a \$8,500 increase to Tri-County Solid Waste and no increase to the Senior Center.

EMS Fund

The EMS Fund had a fund balance of \$184,802 at the end of FY 2019-20. The EMS Fund has seen a drop in the fund balance in recent years by not achieving the anticipated revenues.

The budget for FY 2021-22 is a balanced budget which includes a 10% (\$209,108) reduction in both anticipated revenues and expenses. The reduction in expenditures is possible because in FY 2021-22 there are no large capital expenses anticipated. EMS also implemented computer tablets that enables to capture billing information in the field, maintenance contracts for power loading stretchers and CPR machines and also an inventory and assets management software license with fleet maintenance to track and monitor medical supplies that provides better internal control of inventory and fleet maintenance.

Economic Development Fund

The Industrial Development Fund had a fund balance of \$165,260 at the end of FY 2019-20. An increase from \$65,000 to \$75,000 for the Economic Development Partnership has been requested and recommended.

Victim's Bill of Rights

The Victim's Bill of Rights Fund provides funding for the Sheriff's Office's Victim's Advocate. A portion of fines and forfeitures are returned to the county to fund this position. However, recent years funding has not adequately supported this position. The FY 2019-20 audit showed a fund balance deficit of \$24,319 as of June 30, 2020. Staff recommends transferring \$37,152 to the Victim's Bill of Rights Fund from the General Fund.

Councilman Campbell asked about the Solid Waste Fund budget balance and stated the following: Out the \$148,000 in the fund balance we're going to take away \$121,730 and another 8500 leaving \$28,000 or less. Paradise stated that Councilman Campbell was looking at the remainder of the fund balance, not of the revenue that will be coming in for this year, to replenish the budget. Councilman Campbell stated that even though we will have \$20,000 or less in the reserves at the end of the year, the money will be replenished within a year at about \$148,000. Paradise stated that these funds will be staggered out over time and not all at once.

Councilwoman Ireland asked about the Senior Center, was there a requested for an increase? Paradise stated that there was not a request, they asked and received a request in last year's budget.

Chairman Cooper said with this proposed budget we're going to utilize \$585,426 of our newly-established Reserves and that would leave 5.1 months in reserves. Paradise stated that half a million dollars out of you will have a big cushion in the fund balance, he would caution Council about additional recurring expenses. For example, one Time Project, Capital project, the paving of the road for the industrial park, providing signage for the Industrial Park, or maybe some if the items that you

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 OR 1886 15

have heard tonight that maybe a one-time deal, but if it is recurring, it will be there for the next year to be paid as well, so if you don't have a good year this year, it could be a bad for next year.

Chairman Cooper stated the last (3) budget cycles funds were added to the reserves, and that is what we would like to continue. Chairman Cooper asked all of Council if there are any of the items that were mentioned tonight that you would want to consider adding. Chairman Cooper also stated that we could maintain at least a (4) month cushion, and currently we have a (5.1) month cushion, and does anyone have any thoughts?

Councilwoman Ireland stated that she has been in several meetings before her present position and that Sheriff Dobey came in wanting the same thing. Asking for the deputies to be brought up to where they need to be and she would like to start looking at how to do that. She thinks now is the perfect time to do that because we are seeing growth, we're anticipating Generac coming, neighborhoods coming, we are setting ourselves up, to add this reoccurring. I think now is the opportunity to look at doing what think is long overdue. Of course you're going to call me bias, but it's okay. I am to some extent, but I think even if I were not married into this family of law enforcement that I would still be here. I'm campaigning for that, and so it's not a new request like I said, Sheriff Dobey has asked for years as well, I don't think we were situated as well as we are now. I do think now is the time that we need to give this some real thought. Chairman Cooper stated that I would just second that motion. Chairman Cooper also stated that when we sat in the finance committee meeting we really wanted to do both for the Sheriff's Office, and we think it is critically important when we were looking at one or the other adding the staff, three new team members, was the choice that we made, but looking at where we're ending now, and I do understand what you're saying about a recurring expense and the concern there, I think it's a legitimate concern, but so is getting them up to the midpoint. My recommendation would be let's go half way this year and see how the how the next fiscal year goes. Maybe we can do the other 50% next year. Vice-Chairman Talbert stated that he agrees with doing 50% for this fiscal year. Chairman Cooper stated that one of the things that was discussed with the finance committee today was utilizing that extra month and prior to what we just did this would have taken us to 4.3 months of reserve. Chairman Cooper stated some suggestions that Paradise had mentioned, which was to add \$400,000 to the road construction in the industrial park, which would be needed for Generac's expansion, which is a one-time expense, signage in which Councilman Campbell is working with Will Williams which is long overdue. Paradise suggested 100, 000 for that project, with those three items it would be at least \$540,000. Councilwoman Ireland asked would Charles Reels items that was requested, be on this year's budget, or the next year's budget? Mr. Paradise stated he had asked Reel for (3) quotes but there is no money in the budget for this year. Chairman Cooper asked was there any member opposed to revising the budget for the first reading adding the mentioned items. Councilman Campbell stated for clarification that there would be roughly \$500,000 from the reserves placed in the general fund which means that we're taking a million + 1.1 million for Generac and other items. Chairman Cooper stated that it would give us (4.2) months in reserves. Councilwoman Ireland asked could we increase Archives Office Supplies budget, considering what she has brought to us. Comparatively, her request is a drop in the bucket compared to these other things, and that we should definitely look at trying to accommodate that request. Councilwoman Kennion asked would that be enough to for what she is asking for, considering all the materials that is needed? Councilwoman recommended \$3,000. Paradise asked a question concerning the Courthouse should the request, be 27,000.00? Chairman Cooper stated \$30,000.00 considering the bids and the money to be spent. Chairman Cooper asked if there were any other questions. Councilman Campbell

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Instrument Book Page
202100002195 DR 1886 16

stated that everyone's request was granted, except for the Library Board. Paradise stated that their request was recommended.

Chairman Cooper motioned to take a 5-minute break, seconded by Councilman Campbell. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cooper called the meeting back to order and then went through each page of the budget
Page 8- Chairman Cooper stated to change 05224 from Sewer MOU funding to Industrial Park improvements

Page 13 -\$3000 for Archives.

Page 34 – Chairman Cooper asked has the delegation salary increased in recent history. Paradise stated that it has, he stated that it is part of Jennies salary. Paradise stated that she got an increase in salary the year when everybody got \$1,000 increase and then of course she will get a 1% raise like everybody else this year.

Page 67- Councilwoman Kennion asked what will be the salary for the SRO at Douglas Elementary School. Paradise stated that the person will be paid 10 months of his salary or 10/12th of all his expenses. Paradise also stated that they worked as an arrangement at Douglas a little bit differently, they would pay 75% from the school and 25% expenses.

ADJOURN

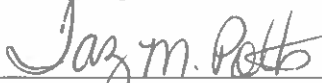
Chairman Cooper entertained a motion to adjourn, if there were not any other question or comments about the budget before first reading. Vice Chairman Talbert stated that this reading will go on the agenda for April. Chairman Cooper replied that was correct. I would entertain a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Vice Chairman Talbert. Seconded by Councilwoman Kennion. The meeting adjourned at 6:44pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Edgefield County Council



H. Scott Cooper, Chair

ATTEST



Taz M. Potts, Clerk to Council