

Burton Fire District
Commissioners Meeting
April 24th, 2013
Station 891

PRESENT: Commissioner Gary Bright
Commissioner Cecil Lanier
Commissioner Herbert Burnes
Commissioner John Harris
Commissioner Thomas Peeples
Chief Rountree

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bright @ 18:20.

Commissioner Harris motioned to accept the agenda as written.
Commissioner Burnes seconded.
Motion approved.

Commissioner Burnes motioned to accept the March 27th, 2013 minutes
Commissioner Harris seconded.
Motion approved.

One error was corrected in QuickBooks. The fuel budget figure was entered incorrectly.
It did not have any major impact on our budget.
Commissioner Lanier motioned to accept the March 2013 financial statement including
the correction made.
Commissioner Peeples seconded.
Motion approved.

Budget

Chief Rountree and the other county Chiefs met with County Finance. They shared an estimated collection for this coming year of \$4,133,000 based on a \$68,690 mill value. The state is recognizing a 2.3% cost of living cap. Beaufort County is looking into a 2% or 3% raise for its employees and asked the Chiefs to be prepared with a 2% and 3% COLA budget.

Tonight Chief Rountree prepared a 0% COL budget.

The Capital Improvements budget presented (yellow sheet in commissioner's packet) shows that 2 notes will be paid off in fiscal year 2014.

Chief would like approval to use money from fund balance for the following items:

*New phone system at headquarters. We have been trying to get some answers from the county but have had no luck. We are at the point where phones aren't working and the whole system needs to be re-done and phones replaced. The budget shows an estimated \$10,000 (up to) to replace the entire system.

*Turnout Gear/Protective equipment – Roughly \$20,000 for 15 sets of new gear.

*Body Armor - \$35,000 for 53 vests. Each firefighter would get one that is their size. We purchased our last set in 2000 and they are only good for 5 years. Lieutenant Mills got quotes on good quality vests and that he recommends.

*Vehicles – \$70,000 Ralph and D/C Webb both have high mileage on their trucks and are starting to have a lot of issues. Chief has been looking into the state purchasing contract to see what is available versus what the needs are and are also planning to shop around to local dealers. We are looking to spend up to \$35,000 on a truck for D/C Webb and up to \$25,000 for Ralph.

Total proposed capital improvements budget for FY 2014 - \$135,000

OPERATIONS BUDGET –

The operations budget (green paper in packet) is exactly the same as the previous year with the exception of personnel costs. The longevity raises and promotions scheduled are the only increases in the salary figure.

The volunteer point's budget was decreased due to the number of volunteers on the department.

Last year we had unspent money at the end of the year so we were able to make a prepayment on our medical premiums in order to keep the employee costs down and not raise the budget significantly. This year we will see an increase again but most likely won't be able to offset that cost again. So the department and the employees are looking at cost increases. Sam Cable has been shopping other insurance companies and hasn't been able to find a significant difference worthy enough to switch. The increase figure (at this point, which could still be lowered) is \$96,000 to keep the plan exactly the same. Chief Rountree asked Sam to quote us with a slight change in our plan which would only cost the department an increase of \$57,500 (included in the budget presented). Right now our plan with Blue Cross is an 80/20 plan; this new plan would be identical except a 50/50 plan. The employees would have a 'dual- option' which would allow them to keep their same plan but would pay the entire difference.

The operations budget has roughly a 2% overall increase from last years budget.

The Commission asked Chief Rountree what the impact would be for the COLA raises that the county is looking at giving their employees. ROUGH figures for a 1% would be \$26,000 increase in the overall budget. 2% would be \$52,000.

Budget Presentations to Beaufort County Finance is Monday 4/29/2013 at 2:00 pm. All commissioners are welcome.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harris to approve the budget as presented; including the medical insurance change. He would also like Chief Rountree to include and present a budget with a 2% COLA.

Commissioner Lanier seconded.

Vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Old Business

Bridge – No new news on the Bridge out on Perryclear Dr.

New Business

None.

Chief's Report

None.

Commissioner Peebles motioned to adjourn.
Commissioner Harris seconded.

Meeting adjourned 20:00