

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a called budget worksession/meeting on April 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room of the Banks County Courthouse Annex. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting was made public by Facebook Live and by conference call if requested.

**Members Present:**

Chairman Jimmy Hooper  
Vice Chairman Charles Turk  
Commissioner David Duckett  
Commissioner Danny Maxwell  
Commissioner Sammy Reece

**Staff Present:**

County Clerk Regina Gailey  
Finance Officer Randy Failyer

**1. Call to Order**

Ch. Hooper called the meeting to order.

**2. FY2021 Budget**

Department budgets were discussed as follows:

• **Tax Commissioner** **Becky Carlan**

Ch. Hooper recommended a glass counter shield be installed in the Tax Commissioners office as it had been in other Annex offices. Ms. Carlan agreed. Vice Turk stated it could be paid for out of the Capital Fund as the others have been.

• **Coroner** **Mark Savage**

Mr. Savage stated he was available 24/7 and now death certificates had to be issued within 10 days. He stated cremations had to be permitted by the Probate Judge. He stated he currently received \$175 per investigation fee. He asked for an increase from \$255.11/month to \$1,800/month plus death investigation fees. Ch. Hooper stated this would be a large increase and would be considered at a later date.

• **Tax Assessors** **Vicky Krieg**

Additional Employee:

Ms. Krieg asked for one additional employee to train as a field appraiser as per Department of Revenue recommendation. Ch. Hooper stated this would be addressed at a later meeting.

Technology:

Ms. Krieg stated they had outdated monitors and asked for at least 4 replacements, 2 printers, a field digital camera and a hotspot.

- **Contingency**

All agreed the Contingency would remain at \$100,000.

- **Commissioners**

- **Technology**

Mr. Failyer stated this would include going onto the Cloud and additional virus software. Ms. Gailey stated a county website should be considered and asked for \$30,000-\$40,000 for a rebuild and meeting management software to work with the website. She stated that did not include video and audio equipment that may be needed.

- **Courthouse**

- **Board of Equalization**

- **Annex Building**

- **Natural Resources**

- **Library**

- **Maintenance**

- **Hotel/Motel**

- **GIS/Mapping**

**Karen Burry**

Salaries:

Ch. Hooper stated Ms. Burry's salary would be considered in a later meeting.

Oblique Imagery:

Ch. Hooper asked if the imagery was valuable. Ms. Burry stated it was done every 3 years and was essential in her research and mapping capabilities.

- **Human Resources**

**Arlene Ivey**

Salaries:

Ms. Ivey stated Brianna Chastain would be receiving her required certification this year and asked for a \$1,200.

Professional Fees:

Ms. Ivey stated this amount included the Policy Manual and Digital migration ongoing.

Wellness Program:

Ms. Ivey requested \$2,000 for a wellness program for employees.

Employee Assistance:

Ms. Ivey said this \$8,000 would focus on public safety including Fire/EMS, EMA/E911 and Sheriff departments when handling trauma. She stated she had found that some of this cost may be built into the disability plan & health insurance plan. She stated this figure could decrease.

The Chairman called for a recess at 11:33 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

- **Planning & Zoning**

**Paul Ruark**

Salaries:

Mr. Ruark stated since the Building Inspection duties have now been contracted out he requested a raise up to \$48,000 retroactive to January 1, 2020 for taking on the other extra duties as a result. All Commissioners agreed it could be absorbed into the current budget.

- **Public Health**

- **Miscellaneous**

- **Department of Family & Children Services**

- **Adult Literacy:**

Mr. Failyer stated the increase was due to additional janitorial services needed for the multipurpose room.

- **Roads**

Comm. Duckett stated there had been an increase in Striping.

- **Public Utilities**

**Horace Gee**

- **Waste Water:**

Salaries:

Mr. Gee requested 2 new employees to accommodate the wastewater expansion to Martin Bridge. He asked to add 1 employee by August 1, 2020 to be in training. He stated once the project was awarded, he needed the other new employee in place by January 1, 2021. He said the department would be renamed Wastewater Distribution & Collection. He also stated Waste Management had also requested a line run to the landfill.

Capital:

Vice Ch. Turk stated any Capital expenditures could be paid out of SPLOST.

- **Water Administration:**

Mr. Gee stated 51 new customers had been added within the last 12 months.

Ch. Hooper stated a letter needed to be sent requesting all accounts to become current but that there would be no cutoffs this month.

o **Water Plant:**

o **Water Distribution:**

Salaries:

Mr. Gee asked for 1 additional employee considering 3 miles of new line had been installed in the last 12 months in addition to the 51 new customers.

Capital:

Mr. Gee asked the Commissioners to consider purchasing a new excavator at approximately \$42,000 and a small 6-wheel dump truck at approximately \$70,000. He stated this could be share among departments. Comm. Reece stated another skid steer should also be considered. Vice Ch. Turk stated this could be considered in a later meeting.

**3. Adjournment**

Ch. Hooper adjourned the worksession/meeting at 2:34 p.m.

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Chairman

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County Clerk

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