

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
COURTHOUSE ANNEX – COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
JULY 19, 2018
9:00 AM
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Joseph Parrish – Chairman, Noah Lockley-Vice-Chairman, Cheryl Sanders, William Massey, Ricky Jones

Others Present: Marcia M. Johnson-Clerk of Court, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Linda Phillips-Finance Director, Erin Griffith-Assistant Finance Director, Lori P. Hines-Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Chairman Parrish called the Budget Workshop to Order.

Mrs. Griffith read the following prepared statement:

The Property Appraiser is required to certify to the County Commission the taxable value of real property by July 1st of each year. The certified value is the basis for calculating a proposed millage rate. I am very pleased to announce Franklin County has an increase in taxable value of 3.54%. At this increase in value, one mill will generate \$1,890,192 in 2018. The proposed millage rate represents the amount of ad valorem tax proceeds per \$1,000 of taxable property value. In the current budget, the millage rate of 6.3065 generated \$11,513,485. In the preliminary budget for 2018/2019, the current millage rate of 6.3065 would generate \$11,920,497. The rolled-back millage rate is the rate that nets the same ad valorem proceeds that a taxing authority operated on in the prior budget year (this does take into account the effect of amounts transferred to tax increment districts in the prior year). The rolled-back rate is 6.1524 and would generate \$11,629,219 in ad valorem proceeds – the millage and proceeds required to fund the preliminary budget as presented today is currently 3.15% over the rolled-back rate, which equates to \$365,919 over in ad valorem proceeds. The difference between tax revenues from one year to the next excluding the effects of the tax increment values is \$481,653. The Commission encouraged all requests be turned in at the same level as last year, if an increase was still requested, the department or constitutional appeared before the Board to explain the increase. The constitucionals and departments that have requested increases are as follows: Sheriff's Department \$114,075, Sheriff's Department capital improvement request items \$295,000, Supervisor of Elections \$11,500, Parks and Recreation \$6,200 and Extension Office \$35,000. There were several items that increased that are beyond the control of the Board. The county is a compulsory member of the Florida Retirement System and the contribution rates are set by the Florida Legislature each year. The rates increased on July 1st and the additional cost in the next budget year will be approximately \$64,011. As the cost of health care increases each year the cost of employer provided health coverage also increases. Capital Health Plan has

renewed at a 7.3% increase which equates to an increase in cost of \$144,486. Capital Health Plan has proven to be a lower cost plan with single digit price increases that are less than industry average. Even with the 7.3% increase in the renewal rate for 2018/2019, the premium is \$1.19 per month less than the last stand alone renewal quote received from Blue Cross Blue Shield at the October 2012 renewal. There are two tax increment districts within the county and both districts increased in taxable value. This rise in taxable value increased the budgeted transfer to the districts by \$12,393. On a positive note, other revenues increased by \$19,061 in the general fund, transfers to other funds decreased by \$47,545 and the Sheriff's Department is receiving reimbursements in the amount of \$135,645 for the School Resource Officer Program.

In the preliminary budget that is presented, there is no funding set aside for any cost-of-living adjustment or raises for employees - any funding for such would need to be made up with cuts to the items that increased above. Items that increased the budget (\$682,665) less those with decreases (\$202,251) result in a net increase that is approximately the difference in budgeted ad valorem proceeds.

The summarized increases and decreases that make up this difference from the 17/18 budget to the 18/19 budget are summarized in the table below.

INCREASES TO THE BUDGET	AMOUNT
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET	\$114,075.00
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REQUEST LIST FOR JAIL	\$295,000.00
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS	\$11,500.00
PARKS & RECREATION	\$6,200.00
EXTENSION OFFICE	\$35,000.00
INCREASES IN TRANSFERS TO THE TAX INCREMENT DISTRICTS	\$12,393.00
HEALTH INSURANCE – 7.3% Rate Increase	\$144,486.00
FRS RETIREMENT RATE INCREASE	\$64,011.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED INCREASES	\$682,665.00
OFFSETS/REDUCTIONS TO THE BUDGET	AMOUNT
INCREASES IN STATE SHARED REVENUES	\$19,061.00
DECREASES IN TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	\$47,545.00
SHERIFF SRO FUNDING FROM SCHOOL BOARD & ABC SCHOOL	\$135,645.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED DECREASES/OFFSETS	\$202,251.00
TOTAL SUMMARIZED INCREASES LESS DECREASES/OFFSETS	\$480,414.00

In 2018, Homesteaded Properties with just values exceeding taxable values, saw an increase in assessed value of 2.10% based on CPI. A homeowner with a house valued at \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would have paid \$631 in county taxes in 2017. At the proposed 2018 rate and the CPI adjustment to value, that homeowner would pay \$655 in county taxes. A homeowner with a house valued at \$100,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption with the CPI increase in value, would have paid \$315 in county taxes in 2017 while paying \$331 in 2018.

Mrs. Griffith reported there have been some late changes to the budget as the Sheriff's Department reduced their initial request by \$83,586.00 and on Tuesday the Board approved the replacement of the control panel in the current budget from the Sheriff's Department Capital Outlay priority list. She stated these two items will change the millage from 6.3460 that were original presented to 6.2772. Mrs. Griffith said the Supervisor of Elections submitted her budget this morning with a \$10,000 reduction and that has not been taken into account yet.

The Board addressed the budget for the Sheriff's Department. Mrs. Ginger Coulter, Sheriff's Department, appeared before the Board. Chairman Parrish asked the percentage of the increase in this budget. Mrs. Coulter stated the increase is .59%. She explained the increases are in motor fuel, bonds and insurance. She reported there are other increases but decreases in other areas help to offset them. Mrs. Coulter stated there is about a \$30,000 increase from last year. Commissioner Sanders said she appreciates them working on this budget because the Board was trying to decide what to do about the budget. She reported the County Commission taking over the capital outlay project list was a move forward. Commissioner Sanders asked if the Finance Department is okay with this budget. Mrs. Griffith responded it seems reasonable. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget. Commissioner Jones asked how much the actual increase is. Mrs. Griffith stated the increase is about \$30,000. Commissioner Jones said he wants to know overall because he knows in order to do some things they want to do there are going to have to be cuts. Mrs. Griffith answered to get to the roll back rate they would need to cut an additional \$235,828.00. She stated the capital outlay priority list was discussed Tuesday and she understands the agreement with the Sheriff for next year is to do the phone stations for \$40,000.00 and replace the air condition unit in the Administration Building for \$15,000.00. Mrs. Griffith asked if there is anything else on the list the Board is planning to do next year. Commissioner Sanders reported the Board agreed at the end of the year they would review the funds in the capital outlay and decide if they can go ahead and replace the phone stations. Commissioner Lockley stated they will replace the control panel this year and the other two items in next year's budget. Mr. Moron explained they will look at this list the middle of next year and see if they need to make any changes. Mrs. Coulter stated they are also looking at some grant options and at USDA. Mr. Moron agreed he has a call into USDA. Commissioner Jones asked about the electronic key management system on the priority list. Mrs. Coulter answered that item is for the jail.

Mrs. Rhonda Skipper, Franklin County Property Appraiser, appeared before the Board. She said her budget is the same as last year. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Richard Watson, Franklin County Tax Collector, appeared before the Board. He reported his budget is basically the same as last year. Chairman Parrish said there is a slight decrease. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved the budget.

Mrs. Marcia M. Johnson, Franklin County Clerk of Court, appeared before the Board. She stated her budget remains the same as last year without an increase. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget.

Mrs. Heather Riley, Supervisor of Elections, appeared before the Board. She stated her budget remains the same except for the items they discussed about equipment and maintenance. She said her grant came through for these items so they were removed from the budget. Supervisor Riley reported the grant does not cover the continued maintenance which would be the last couple of months of the year. She pointed out next year her budget will increase by the amount of the maintenance for the server with Homeland Security. Commissioner Sanders asked if her budget is \$342,722.00. Supervisor Riley answered yes and that is with a .4% increase. Commissioner Massey inquired about the email Supervisor Riley sent to Commissioners. Supervisor Riley stated an engineer is coming out Monday because there are some serious structural issues in her building. She said Mr. Harry Arnold, owner of the building, has been invited to attend the meeting. Supervisor Riley reported she also has some security issues that Homeland Security pointed out. She asked for the Board's thoughts on whether they should leave the building or put money into a building that is not theirs. Supervisor Riley stated she knows of one building that is available that has warehouse space and fencing around the back. She said in the past the owner was willing to make the necessary changes to bring it up to security standards but she has not talked with him in a couple of months. Commissioner Lockley asked if there is a safety issue. Supervisor Riley reported there are serious safety issues as well as security issues. She explained no county wants to be the county that did not do everything in their power to make sure their elections were secure. She reported Mr. Arnold will have to address the structural issues. Commissioner Massey stated Mr. Arnold should have to fix the problems since the county is renting the building from him. He said the county should not use their money to make these repairs. Supervisor Riley reported the county would need to pay for a fence around the area. She explained the county would not want to pay for these repairs and Mr. Arnold decide to sell the building since they are only on a year to year lease. Mr. Moron said the structural engineers are coming down on Monday and after that meeting they may know what to advise the Board to do. Supervisor Riley discussed a problem with keeping the server room under lock in key and how it overheats when she closes the door because there is no ventilation in those two rooms. Commissioner Sanders asked Supervisor Riley to keep them informed as they may need to look into other avenues. Commissioner Jones agreed and said security is only going to get tighter and he agreed they need to decide at what point they are going to stop putting money into a facility they do not own. Mr. Moron agreed to update the Board next week on this issue. Commissioner Lockley made a motion to tentatively approve the Supervisor of Elections' budget.

Mr. Howard Nabors, Superintendent of Public Works, appeared before the Board to address the Road & Bridge Department Budget. He stated his budget is basically the same as last year but there will be some issues in the next couple of years with the motor grader. He explained the motor grader is 15 years old and giving them a lot of trouble. Commissioner Sanders said they also brought up a new building for their department. Mr. Nabors stated he is talking with someone in Eastpoint about the building. Commissioner Sanders directed him to keep working on it. Commissioner Massey asked if Mr. Nabors has checked into purchasing a motor grader. Mr. Nabors answered no, as he is hoping to get two more years out of it. Mrs. Griffith pointed out one of the large pieces of equipment in his budget is being paid off next year so the county

will have the ability to finance a building or the motor grader. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Moron addressed the Courthouse Maintenance Budget. He explained it stayed the same but within that budget there are changes to allow for security enhancements in the State Attorney's Office and Public Defender's Office. He reported they have talked with Court Administration and there are funds earmarked specifically for what they think some of these security enhancements will be. He explained the proposed security enhancements. Mr. Moron said not all of the cost is coming out of Courthouse Maintenance but the county's portion will be. He reported they are hoping the Chief Judge will provide some of the funds for these enhancements in addition to some other funding sources. Mr. Moron discussed a film that can be purchased to go over the first floor windows that will stop a certain level of ammunition and is cheaper than replacing the windows and doors. Mrs. Phillips reported it is about \$5,000 to do all the windows and doors. Mr. Moron said the budget has an increase but they are decreasing the county's portion. Mrs. Phillips commented Court Administration will contribute money. Mr. Moron reported the report from the active shooter drill is not available because Mr. Grant Slaydon, Court Administration, has been called up for active duty. He said they are holding some money until they get the report to see what the security suggestions are. Commissioner Lockley stated it is the Board's responsibility to keep the employees safe. Chairman Parrish said this budget does not have an increase it is just the way the money is being moved around to address these issues. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved this budget.

Mr. Moron discussed the Building Department and Administration Services. He explained they moved the money from the Building Department to Administration Services to cover Mrs. Whitney Barfield's salary. He reported there is no increase, just a transfer of funds from one department to the other. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget of the Building Department and Administration Services.

Mr. Moron said there is no increase in the Planning & Zoning Budget. Commissioner Sanders approved the Planning & Zoning budget.

Mr. Fonda Davis, Solid Waste Director, appeared before the Board. He said this budget has no increase. He explained the payment for the compactor is being moved over to the Tipping Fee fund. Mr. Davis requested another knuckle boom truck and a passenger van to transport inmates to and from the work camp. Commissioner Lockley said this budget has no increase. Mr. Davis answered yes, the payment plan they have scheduled for the compactor will be paid off so they will use these funds for the knuckle boom truck and the van. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget. Mrs. Griffith explained it makes sense to do payment plans for large equipment because there is a good interest rate and incentives but for passenger vehicles it is more difficult. She stated there is about \$500,000 in the Capital Outlay Fund and she would like to purchase the vehicles out of this fund and then use the payment money available in the different budgets to transfer back into the Capital Outlay Fund. She reported

this will save the county from paying interest and the departments from have the regulation from having payments and within 5 years they could purchase another piece of equipment. Mrs. Griffith stated it will work like a revolving fund. The Board agreed this is a good idea. Commissioner Jones asked where it will put his department if he gets another knuckle boom truck. Mr. Davis responded they will have 4 knuckle boom trucks but 1 is in bad shape so they will take it off the road and use it in the yard. Commissioner Jones asked for the age of the other trucks. Mr. Davis answered a 2009 or 2010 and a 2015.

Mr. Davis reported there is no increase in the Animal Control Department Budget. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Davis addressed the Parks & Recreation Budget and said there is a slight increase due to purchasing another van. He said the van that the DOC officer uses to transport the inmates around in is worn out. Mrs. Griffith reported the van will be purchased from the Capital Outlay Fund and then the Parks & Recreation Budget will be making the payment to the Capital Outlay Fund.

Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Davis stated he has no control over the Solid Waste Grant Budget. Commissioner Lockley asked how much this grant is for. Mr. Davis responded \$90,909.00.

Commissioner Jones asked if anyone has contacted Mr. Davis about increasing the grant to allow for used oil collection sites in the county. Mr. Davis responded he received an email but has not reviewed it yet. Commissioner Jones said they were talking about increasing the grant to pay for the sites and the county needs to do it if it is not too late. Mr. Davis agreed to review the email.

Mrs. Pam Brownell, Emergency Management Department, appeared before the Board. She stated there is no budget increase but they would like the same financing Mrs. Griffith mentioned to purchase a Ford 250. Commissioner Massey suggested purchasing a four wheel drive. Mrs. Brownell agreed that is what they are looking at. Chairman Parrish asked how old their other vehicles are. Mrs. Brownell reported the F-150 is a 2007 and was purchased with state funds. She stated the truck will not pull their mobile command trailer and she would like to have it looked at. Mrs. Brownell reported the Blazer can be turned back over to the county because it will not pull either. Commissioner Sanders suggested Mrs. Brownell work with Mrs. Griffith on this item. Chairman Parrish reported the budget has no increase and he asked if there is money in the budget to pay for the vehicle. Mrs. Brownell answered yes. She reported there is no change to her budget but the payment is already built into the budget. Commissioner Lockley and Mrs. Brownell discussed the weight of the trailers they are pulling. Commissioner Lockley said they might need a F350. Commissioner Sanders said most of the time they are using the truck they are in storm mode and she does not want her breaking down taking a trailer somewhere. She suggested Mrs. Brownell look at whatever she thinks will work. Commissioner Lockley stated she needs to check the weight load on the trucks. Mrs.

Brownell was not sure how much the trailer weighs but said she will weigh it on the scales at the landfill. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget. Commissioner Jones asked if all the motors they have operate on gasoline. Mrs. Brownell answered yes. Commissioner Jones stated she might want to consider a diesel designed to pull more weight. Mrs. Brownell agreed to meet with Mrs. Griffith about the vehicle. Mrs. Brownell reported last year her Department replaced their stove with a new gas stove and they have the electrical one that is still good. She stated one of the new trailers the Sheriff's Department purchased does not have a stove and she asked if they can donate the electric stove to the family.

Commissioner Massey made a motion to donate the stove. Chairman Parrish asked if this is surplus equipment that is not used. Mrs. Brownell answered yes, it is not used. Chairman Parrish asked if this matter can be handled at the budget workshop. Mrs. Griffith reported the Board should donate the stove to a charity and then the charity can place the stove with someone. Mrs. Brownell stated they can donate the stove to Franklin's Promise. Chairman Parrish explained this action will have to be ratified at another meeting. Mr. Moron agreed they will address this at another meeting and he recommended Attorney Shuler and Mrs. Griffith discuss this matter. Mrs. Griffith agreed there are certain rules they have to follow about surplus property. Mr. Moron agreed to contact Attorney Shuler about this item. **The motion failed for lack of a second.**

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

The meeting reconvened.

Mrs. Lisa Lance, Franklin County Library Director, appeared before the Board to discuss the Library Budget. She reported her budget is the same as last year with no increases. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Charles Elliott, Veterans' Service Office, appeared before the Board. He said there is no increase in his budget. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Erik Lovestrand, County Extension Direction, appeared before the Board. He explained there are three line items in the budget that are above last year's budget. He reported one item is half of the utilities for the new facility which is \$4,000. He stated the request for a vehicle is still in the budget and there is also \$500 in the budget related to vehicle insurance. Mr. Lovestrand reported it was a significant increase because \$31,000 was in the budget for the vehicle. Chairman Parrish stated the Board talked about paying for half of the utilities and the Board was agreeable. Mr. Lovestrand said the \$4,000 is for 9 months of utilities. Commissioner Sanders said no to the vehicle. Commissioner Jones asked if they can handle the vehicle the same as the other ones they talked about financing. Commissioner Sanders reported the county has never provided a vehicle for this department. Mrs. Griffith agreed they could handle it the same way and it would be about \$6,000 out of the Capital Outlay Fund instead of \$31,000. The Board and Mr. Lovestrand discussed a vehicle for his department versus the county paying mileage. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Moron to call the surrounding

counties and find out what they supply for their Extension Agent. The Board agreed to re-address this budget request at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Budget Workshop.

Chairman Parrish asked how the county will budget for auditor fees when they have just received Request for Qualifications (RFQ's) for auditors. Mrs. Griffith reported \$93,050 was budgeted for the auditor fees which are the same as the current year. Chairman Parrish questioned what will happen if the quote comes back higher and they cannot increase the budget. Mrs. Griffith stated the Board can negotiate a price. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget.

Mrs. Griffith reported Capital Health Plan (CHP) renewed the health insurance at a 7.3% increase. She reported it will cost \$620.49 for the employee only coverage. She stated a rate quote was received for the dental insurance but they have not heard on the life insurance. She reported the dental insurance is \$240 per month. She said she estimated a 10% increase on the life insurance but she will be surprised if it comes in that high. Mrs. Griffith informed the Board the increase is a good increase because the rates are still lower than the Blue Cross/Blue Shield rates from 2012. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget.

Mrs. Griffith stated the Carrabelle Redevelopment Trust is \$84,566.00. She said there is an increase and it is based on the 1996 base year taxable value. She explained the districts are entitled to any tax proceeds from the increase in growth in the tax increment district. Commissioner Sanders asked when the sunset is on these districts. Mrs. Griffith was not sure but said she will ask the Property Appraiser. She stated the increase is \$12,393.00 between the two districts. Mrs. Griffith said Apalachicola also saw an increase and their base year was 2014. Commissioner Lockley asked if the City of Apalachicola developed anything. Mrs. Griffith was not sure of their plans. Commissioner Sanders commented the City of Carrabelle improves the boat ramps around the pavilion.

Mrs. Griffith provided the grants in the budget. She reported the U.S. Treasury Restore Funds has \$275,779.00 remaining which is part of the planning grant. She said there is also FEMA Project Worksheet (PW) 591 for the relocation of Gulf Shore Boulevard. She reported there is \$379,880 for work that remains to be done. Mrs. Griffith reported the Hurricane Hermine St. George Island Seawall and Access Road Repairs have \$67,449.00 for repairs they plan to do in the next budget year with FEMA funds. She stated the FDOT Grant for the design and construction of the North/South Taxiway at the Apalachicola Airport is \$1,015,323.00 which is work that still needs to be done. Mrs. Griffith reported \$230,363.00 is remaining in work to be done on the Airport Stormwater/Sewer Upgrade. Commissioner Sanders referenced an email they received from Senator Bill Nelson's Office informing them the county received \$300,000 for the Apalachicola Airport Master Plan. Mrs. Griffith reported there is also \$350,000 in SHIP Funds.

Mrs. Griffith presented the special funds. She stated the Law Enforcement Educational Fund is a \$2.00 fee that is collected on county criminal, county traffic and circuit criminal cases according to Florida Statute 318. She reported Florida Statute 938.15 specifies how these funds

can be spent and she described the eligible expenditures. She said there is \$88,032.00 in this fund.

Mrs. Griffith reported Fund 123 the Law Enforcement Trust Fund has a balance of \$3,184.00 to be used for investigation expenses by the Sheriff's Department. She explained the balance is from years ago when the county commission received the proceeds from forfeitures.

Mrs. Griffith stated the Health Care Trust Fund is the health care discretionary sales surtax of 1% that was passed by voters and took effect on January 1, 2008. She reported the estimated proceeds this year will be \$2,338,160.00. She explained 50% of the sales tax proceeds each year act to defray the operating costs of Weems Memorial Hospital. She stated \$120,000 goes to support Clinical Operations and the balance of the sales tax proceeds as well as 100% of the interest earnings is held for capital outlay projects. Mrs. Griffith reported at the end of 2019 barring any additional capital expenditures from the fund there will be approximately \$4.25 million available in the fund.

Mrs. Griffith said Fund 139 the Bald Point Trust Fund has been in existence since 1999 when the state purchased a large tract of land on Alligator Point and the county received approximately \$500,000. She explained per the agreement dated October 20, 1998 \$50,000 was to be used to asphalt the realigned main road along the new right of way. She reported the \$450,000 balance was placed into a county trust fund where it's principal and interest may only be used for expenditures in the Bald Point/Alligator Point area. She stated this fund has been utilized over the years as grant match for FEMA funds and the county is currently working on a FEMA mitigation project (800 Linear Ft. of Gulf Shore Blvd.) and the estimated total project cost is \$420,000. She said 92.5% of the funding for this project will be paid by FEMA. Mrs. Griffith reported there is approximately \$379,880 in work remaining to be done on this project.

Mrs. Griffith brought into discussion the Local Option Gas Tax Road Paving Program. She said the Local Option Gas Tax was voted for in the early 1990's and it was a \$.05 tax on every gallon of motor fuel and diesel fuel sold in Franklin County. She reported in August, 2016 the Board voted to increase the Local Option Gas Tax rate to \$.06 per gallon. She pointed out Franklin County was the only county in Florida that had not adopted the \$.06 and for that reason the county was not eligible to apply for SCRAP program grants from the Florida Department of Transportation. She stated the state revenue estimate of sales tax collections for next fiscal year is \$307,778. Mrs. Griffith reported the authorized transportation expenditures provided for by these sales tax proceeds is governed by Florida Statute 336.025. She stated upon conclusion of the current paving project and the end of next budget year there will be approximately \$1,521,262 accumulated in this fund to go toward future paving projects.

Mrs. Griffith reported Fund 143 is the Boating Improvement Fund. She stated boating improvement fees are deposited monthly from fees collected by the Franklin County Tax Collector. She reported the estimated annual fees deposited to the fund are around \$14,500.

She explained this fund provides a local grant match for projects funded by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission Boating Improvement Grant Program. Mrs. Griffith said in the upcoming budget there is approximately \$37,181 that can be used as grant match for future applications.

Mrs. Griffith said Fund 144 is the St. George Island Fishing Pier Fund. She explained in 1999 Franklin County entered into a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with DOT to take ownership of the ½ mile remnants on both sides of the bay of the old Bryant Patton Bridge to St. George Island. She explained this agreement transferred the \$1.52 million that the state would have incurred to tear down the old bridge over to Franklin County. Mrs. Griffith said the County received the \$1.52 million on February 22, 2006 and now has fishing piers on St. George Island and in Eastpoint. She went on to say in June, 2012 during Tropical Storm Debbie a barge broke loose from a Progress Energy Construction Project and demolished 165 feet of the St. George Island fishing pier. She explained to provide access to the severed pier the County paid \$654,367 to bridge the 165 ft. gap. Mrs. Griffith stated in January, 2016 through mediation a settlement agreement was reached and in February, 2016, the County received a check in the amount of \$575,000 as payment for the damages. She said at this time there is \$1,594,317 available in the fund. She explained the JPA with the state specified that with receipt of the funds the county agreed that it would accept full responsibility for the maintenance of the portions of the bridge transferred and shall assume sole liability for these portions. Mrs. Griffith pointed out in the event the fishing piers are damaged in a storm the repair or demolition of the remnants of the old bridge are the responsibility of the county. She explained the responsibility of the repair and maintenance should discourage any expenditure not relative to the direct and necessary repairs of the fishing piers. Mrs. Griffith stated the county also received funds from Hurricane Hermine to do repairs along the access road to the St. George Island Pier. She said the repairs are estimated to cost \$67,450 and have not yet been completed.

Mrs. Griffith reported Fund 151 is the Revolving Loan Fund. She stated in 1996 when disastrous flooding occurred in the county the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) awarded the County an Emergency Assistance Community Development Block Grant. She stated Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) handled administration of the grant and in 1997 the CDBG grant provided emergency loans for individuals and businesses involved in the seafood industry. She explained the idea behind the grant was for the County to set up a revolving loan fund to use in future emergency situations. She stated many loans have been repaid however ARPC turned the administration of the loan program back to the County and the County has been unable to recoup some of the loans due to insufficient collateral. Mrs. Griffith said DCA inquires on the delinquency of these loans when they complete their annual monitoring visits. She said the Revolving Loan Fund has a balance of \$292,958.

Mrs. Griffith said Fund 160 is the Municipal Service Benefit (MSBU) Fund. She explained this special assessment fund provides funds for the fire departments throughout the county. She reported revenues for each district are estimated from the rolls created by the Tax Collector's

Office. She stated the total estimated operating revenue for the MSBU Fund for the next fiscal year is \$527,539. She said the volunteer firefighters of each district are covered under the Worker's compensation policy for the county. She stated the transfer out to each district takes the estimated revenue for each fire district less the share of expenditures. Mrs. Griffith explained the MSBU was set up in 1987 and the rates currently in effect were set by a Resolution dated August 18, 2009 for all districts except Alligator Point and St. George Island. She said voters approved an increased rate on single family residences for Alligator Point and St. George Island and the rates were revised for those districts by a Resolution dated May 21, 2013. She provided the current rates for the Board.

Mrs. Griffith reported Fund 163 is the E911 Fund. She explained revenue for this fund is generated by fees collected by each voice communication service provider located within the county at a rate of \$.50 per month for each service identifier. She reported the intent of the fee is to provide funds to the county governments to pay certain costs associated with their E911 systems. Mrs. Griffith stated Florida Statute 365.172 outlines eligible expenditures.

Mr. Griffith stated Fund 170 the Airport Fund is self sufficient in the next year. She said revenues for this fund include the annual lease with TP Auto Transport that will generate \$12,000 next year, the annual lease with CAZ for airport land that will generate \$1,500, an annual lease with Smiling Skies that will generate \$6,000, an annual lease with Forgotten Coast Flyers that will generate \$30,000 and Fixed Base Operator (FBO) rent that will generate \$30,000. She explained these revenues will defray the cost of operating expenses for the Apalachicola Airport including insurance expenses for the hangar facilities and storage tank liability policies. She stated there are several grant projects for the airport in the next fiscal year and provided the information on the projects.

Mrs. Griffith said Fund 180 is the Affordable Housing Assistance Trust Fund. She reported the county will receive \$350,000 for rehabilitation or down payment assistance for residents.

Mrs. Griffith reported Fund 301 is the Capital Outlay Reserve Fund. She said in the fund there will be \$136,299 available for mandated future GIS mapping for the Property Appraiser's Office and \$558,090 available for infrastructure or other capital improvements. She pointed out the vehicles will be purchased out of the \$558,090.

Mrs. Griffith stated Fund 302 is the Landfill Management Escrow Fund. She explained the county must keep this fund for future closure and long term care requirements of the landfill. She reported at this time there are adequate funds to meet the minimum funding requirements of Rule 62-701.63 Section 5, Florida Administration Code.

Mr. Moron reported the Soil and Water Conservation District is in a meeting but there are no changes to their budget. Mrs. Griffith stated the budget is \$11,405.38 and it is a portion of a shared employee and operating expenses of \$798.50. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget.

The workshop recessed until 1:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Mrs. Helen Cook and Mrs. Lisa Hogan, Franklin County Health Department, appeared before the Board. Mrs. Cook stated they are asking for the same budget of \$49,000. She reported this is a percentage of a nurse's salary and that is what the money has always been used for. She discussed the Department of Health's performance measures and priority goals and said they work toward the goals every day. She provided the Board with an overview of the services they are providing. Commissioner Massey stated they are doing a good job. Mrs. Cook pointed out these are the same nurses that treat residents during hurricanes and disasters. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Jordan Fulkerson, CEO at Weems Memorial Hospital, said they are requesting the same budget as last year. He said they expect to see some increase in revenues. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget. Chairman Parrish asked if this is the ambulance subsidy. Mrs. Griffith answered yes, and the budget is unchanged.

Mr. Curt Blair and Ms. Deb Davis, Tourist Development Council, appeared before the Board. Mr. Blair said the budget is essentially what it was last year. He stated they are projecting a 2.5% increase in revenues. He explained they will receive \$1.2 or \$1.3 million and are only budgeting \$1.1 million. He stated at the end of the fiscal year they will have the difference and it will be used as a cushion in the event the revenues go down. Mr. Blair reported the expenses are the same as last year. He highlighted the items in the budget and the proposed plans for the year. He discussed payments on the Lombardi loan. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved the budget.

Mrs. Elizabeth Garber, Court Administration, was present on behalf of Chief Judge Jonathan Sjostrom who is in court. She stated there are no increases in the budget. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Jack Campbell, State Attorney, said his office is working on diversionary and treatment programs to better serve the community through alternative resolutions. He stated their budget request of \$24,150 is the same as before. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget. Commissioner Sanders asked Mr. Moron to discuss the security improvements since the State Attorney and Public Defender are present. Mr. Moron reported some Courthouse Maintenance funds have been earmarked for security improvements. He explained as soon as Mr. Grant Slaydon, Court Administration, gets back from his military deployment then they will sit down and work out the details. He explained they are hoping the Chief Judge will release some money for these improvements. Mr. Campbell reported there is a Safety Committee and they have met about these improvements. He said Clerk Johnson is one of the first Clerks to go paperless in the state and is a leader in the statewide Clerk's Association. He

stated his office is going paperless in the next year and it will save money. Commissioner Sanders stated the Board knows they have a very good Clerk and they are proud of her.

Mr. Andy Thomas, Public Defender, appeared before the Board. Mr. Thomas thanked Clerk Johnson and said the renovations at their office are fantastic. He introduced Mr. Courtney Miller, Chief Assistance Public Defender, and said they are putting more resources in this county because there has been an increase in arrests. Mr. Thomas said his Chief Assistant, Mrs. Nina Moody, is now coming down here part time and assisting Mr. Miller. He explained they will provide whatever resources are needed to serve this community. He said they are serving them in a holistic manner to get them help. He pointed out there are programs being discussed to assist the citizens. Mr. Thomas stated their budget request is the same as last year and he thanked the Board for their support. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget. Chairman Parrish asked if security has also been included for the Public Defender's Office. Mr. Moron agreed they will also use fobs at their building.

Ms. Deborah Moore, Guardian an Litem, appeared before the Board. She said their office has been paperless for 2 years and it was a major transition. She stated the last time she appeared before the Board they were trying to recruit more advocates and more children were coming in for assistance. Ms. Moore said they have recruited and trained 5 new advocates that reside in this area. She stated she appreciates the support. Ms. Moore stated she is glad to have a committed trainer who came here and trained a couple of Saturdays. She reported the children deserve support and having advocates that traveled from Tallahassee was not ideal. Ms. Moore explained part of the success was visiting with faith based resources and churches. She reported in 2 of the churches they have been able to address a big issue because the Department of Children and Families were struggling for a place for the families to visit. She said they are working on a plan to remedy this problem. Ms. Moore stated there are still no foster parents here to care for the children so if the children cannot stay with family they will be housed outside of the area. She stated they need about 5 more advocates because the numbers are increasing with the children coming into the system. She reported there are 11 now but they need about 5 more. Ms. Moore stated they are the first in the state to have 2 advocates on each family when necessary. She said she is proud of the service they are providing but they have a way to go. She explained a lot more education needs to be done. Chairman Parrish asked if she is continuing to try and find more advocates. Ms. Moore responded yes. Ms. Moore said they currently have 17 children and that is low for them because the average is usually around 25. She commented they definitely need 5 more advocates and are trying to develop a relationship with the faith based resources. She said she addressed the Chamber of Commerce, met with the Superintendent of Schools and addressed the congregations of 4 churches. She stated they are trying to do outreach. Commissioner Massey tentatively approved the budget.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Joseph A. Parrish - Chairman

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson - Clerk of Courts