

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
COURTHOUSE ANNEX, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
JULY 27, 2023  
9:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Ricky Jones-Chairman, Jessica Ward-Vice-Chairman, Noah Lockley, Cheryl Sanders, and Office Amison

Others Present: Michele Maxwell-Clerk of Court, Michael Shuler-County Attorney, Michael Moron-County Coordinator, Erin Griffith-Fiscal Manager/Grants Coordinator and Linda Phillips-Finance Director

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

**Prayer and Pledge**

Chairman Jones led the Board in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Budget Information**

**1. Budget Update - Mrs. Erin Griffith**

Mrs. Griffin presented the following from her report at this time.

The Property Appraiser is required to certify to the County Commissioner the taxable value of real property by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The certified value is the basis for calculating a proposed millage rate. The certified value is the basis for calculating a proposed millage rate. I am pleased to announce Franklin County has an increase in taxable value of 14.64%. At this increase in value, one mill will generate \$3,039,509 in 2023. In the current budget, the millage rate of 5.4707 generated \$14,504,787. In the upcoming budget, the current millage rate of 5.4707 would generate \$16,628,186. 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 the amount transferred to the tax increment district and omits the added value of new construction from the calculation). The rolled-back rate is 4.8734 and would generate \$14,812,748 in ad valorem proceeds – the preliminary millage 5.4707 with \$16,628,186 in property tax proceeds is currently 12.26% over the rolled-back rate of \$1,815,438 over in ad valorem proceeds. The total difference between budgeted property tax revenues from one year to the next excluding the effects of the tax increment districts and the value of new construction is \$2,123,399.

The preliminary budget totals \$96,491,109. The change in total budget can be attributed in part to some of the special funds: the balance in the Health Care Trust Fund will grow by more than \$2.44 million, Weems Memorial Hospital Fund is more than the prior year by \$3.28 million, and the Tourist Development Fund grew by almost \$1.58 million due to the additional 1% levy and the airport fund has an additional \$2.44 million dollars in grant funded projects in the upcoming year.

In 2023, Homesteaded Properties with just values exceeding taxable values, saw an increase in assessed value of 3% based on the Save Our Homes Cap Increase (which is the lesser of CPI or 3%). A homeowner with a house valued at \$150,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would have paid \$547 in county taxes in 2021. At the proposed 2022 rate and the 3% adjustment to value, that homeowner would pay \$564 in county taxes.

Items that increased the operational budget (\$2,510,684) less those with decreases (\$424,344) 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 22/23 budget to the 23/24 budget are summarized in the table below.

REVENUE LOSSES/INCREASES TO THE BUDGET	AMOUNT
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET INCREASE	\$278,486
PROPERTY APPRAISER BUDGET INCREASE	\$10,254
TAX COLLECTOR BUDGET INCREASE	\$26,227
CLERK OF COURTS	\$1,372
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS	\$152,587
ROAD DEPARTMENT BUDGET INCREASE	\$47,000
PARKS & RECREATION	\$78,335
ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET INCREASE	\$6,122
PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET INCREASE	\$109,989
LIBRARY	\$2,039
PLANNING & ZONING	\$21,028
CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT SERVICES	\$50,000
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUDGET INCREASE	\$11,892
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUILDING REPAIRS (AC & ELECTRICAL BLDG ROOF)	\$20,000
MOSQUITO CONTROL BUDGET INCREASE	\$39,957
EXTENSION OFFICE	\$3,393
GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM	\$3,285
AUDITOR FEE	\$1,950
CARRABELLE CRA – INCREASE IN TRANSFER OUT	\$37,085
HEALTH INSURANCE (7% INCREASE & INS FOR NEW POSITIONS)	\$84,647
YEAR 3 PAY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	\$350,777
FRS RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RATE INCREASE	\$267,763
INCREASE IN PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$100,000
INCREASE IN TRANSFER TO LIBRARY FUND	\$10,477
INCREASE IN TRANSFER TO ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$224,928
INCREASE IN TRANSFER TO MOSQUITO CONTROL FUND	\$50,000
INCREASE IN TRANSFER TO CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND (TO FUND CAPITAL PURCHASES)	\$252,452
DECREASE IN TRANSFER FROM TIPPING FEE FUND TO GENERAL FUND	\$54,256
INCREASE IN RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCY	\$214,383
<b>TOTAL COST INCREASES TO THE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$2,510,684</b>
OFFSETS/REDUCTIONS TO THE BUDGET	AMOUNT
INCREASE IN STATE SHARED REVENUES & AD VALOREM OFFSET	\$264,344
CUMULATIVE INCREASE IN BUILDING PERMIT FEES	\$160,000
<b>TOTAL OFFSETS/REDUCTIONS TO THE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$424,344</b>
<b>TOTAL SUMMARIZED REVENUES LOSSES/INCREASES NET OFFSETS/REDUCTIONS TO THE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$2,113,770</b>

Supplemental Attachments:

20 Year Millage Rate Comparison

Market high of 4.112 billion in taxable value with budgeted ad valorem proceeds of \$15,808,934 and 191 budgeted positions in fiscal year 2006/2007. 15 years later: 3.09 billion in taxable value with proposed ad valorem proceeds of \$16,628,186 and 190 1/2 positions.

Summarized Total Budget by Fund

Budgeted totals by fund preliminary budget for 23/24. County operating funds include the General Fund, Fine & Forfeiture Fund, Library Fund, Road & Bridge Fund, and Mosquito Control Fund. The total budget is \$96,491,109 – county operational funds (day-to-day operations) account for \$28,694,074 – others are special purpose.

## Public Comments

Mason Bean encourage the Board to work with elected officials to trim \$500,000 from the budget. Debi Jordan apologized for not attending budget meetings in the past. Ms. Jordan asked the board to consider the salaries of P&Z and requested those funds not be used as the enforcement of the S4 district zoning.

**9:00 A.M.**

### 2. Sheriff

Ms. Ginger Coulter presented the following to the Board. To keep budget costs down, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office has worked diligently with vendors and providers to obtain services and supplies within our budgetary limits.

While many of the costs are controllable, there are a few that are not. I have created a spreadsheet to highlight the areas of increase.

These increases are due to several driving factors including Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Mandatory Compliance, as well as increases passed on by vendors. For example, our Travel, Training & Per Diem budget has increased because of the U.S. General Services Administration {GSA} per diem and mileage rates increase, which is out of our control. We have been consistently over budget each year in this line item, but with this Federal GSA increase, we have reflected that in our budget this year. I will note that to save money, we do as much online training as possible, but most trainings are "in-person".

Several of our line items are directly or indirectly tied to FDLE mandatory compliance. Due to stringent FDLE requirements, this includes IT services, supplies and expenses associated with line items as follows: Professional services, Communication, Office Supplies and Machinery & Equipment. Other increases are listed on the spreadsheet. The total operating increase is \$92,309. We do not feel this is unreasonable, especially when factoring in the mandatory costs and the increases of other items on a national level.

The Sheriff's Office works HARD for Franklin County. With over 24,000\*\* calls for service we believe the level of service far outweighs the budget increase requests.

The Sheriff's Office is the ONLY County budgeted office that works 24/7. This has a huge impact on our overall budget. Our communications center not only dispatches for our Sheriff's Office, but also for both Cities, EMS, FIRE, and other emergency services.

It is also fair to note that our budget includes the county jail budget of \$2,219,124. If you breakout the jail, the grants and other funding sources, the Sheriff's Office County budget is \$4,841,506 which includes law enforcement services, investigative services, victim advocate services, support staff, communications center and judicial (courthouse) services.

With the continued level of high-quality services, the Sheriff's Office must receive funding that adequately correlates to the needs of the County, including the large influx of tourism each year. Without sufficient funding, many of our programs will suffer accordingly, and as a result, the community we serve will eventually feel the effects of that.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to provide excellent services to the citizens of Franklin County as our budget allows.

\*\*Calls for service DOES NOT include Victim Advocate call outs, walk-ins to the front office, calls to the office, etc. This number only captures items that are entered into the CAD system. The actual calls are

much larger than this. Chairman Jones noted that the legislature has amended some of the TDC statute this year. We are required to do several things. Number one they must have a statute. Then it will go to the TDC board for their recommendation. Then the TDC plan will have to be amended. Chairman Jones said he believes there is something in there that says it cannot be a supplement to the sheriff. If we can get that worked out before the budget is approved. Chairman Jones noted the cost of fuel and the expenditures. Said he would like to consider that cutting it back to \$200k and if it is more then the board could cover that. Ms. Coulter noted that it does not include June, July, August, and September. Ms. Coulter said we can look at it. We will have a better understanding when June billing comes in. Commissioner Sanders noted that she concurred with Chairman Jones on the fuel funding, and she believes it needs to be lowered. Commissioner Sanders said the Board has always given whatever is needed for them even if they go over the budgeted amount. Ms. Coulter said they would look at and get back with Erin to do some adjusting. Mrs. Griffith noted it was HB7063 10% spending allocation. We previously did not qualify but now that we are a fiscally restrained county. She noted that we are not able to supplement his budget with these funds. We cannot shift the expenditure over. The proper procedure would be for the Sheriff's department to submit a funding request to TDC. At the TDC recommendation, the Bboard act on it. Then the TDC would need to amend their spending plan. Then we would go through the process of adding those people to the budget. Mrs. Griffith read the authorized uses of revenue as provided in the statute. Commissioner Lockley said he agrees with the other commissioners. Noting the money for the fuel would basically be put in reserve and they would need only to request. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget with changes as discussed.

### **3. Property Appraiser**

Mrs. Megan Shiver presented the Property Appraiser's proposed budget noting the increase is \$10,254. This increase includes the mandated salary increase for Mrs. Skipper in the amount of \$7,246 and DROP cost of \$2,428. Mrs. Shiver noted that Mrs. Skipper did not include any raises for her employees. However, she is under the impression that other constitutional officers have. If raises are approved for any other offices, she will expect raises for her employees also. Chairman Jones said as we have done so far with the salary increases. That we have used to address solely that we must increase everyone to \$15 minimum wage, and we had a big time for compression. Mrs. Griffith said the way the Evergreen plan did a market plan approach. They addressed the internal compression issue. Mrs. Griffith explained the plan and how it works. Chairman Jones this budget we are looking at includes year three implementation. Erin the number on the sheet is the year three of the pay plan. Year three 350,770 implementation. Mrs. Griffith noted that we will not distribute more than what was 1%. Commissioner Lockley said Evergreen did a good job on some of it. But not sure how they did a 1% per year. Chairman Jones noted we tasked them with moving everyone to \$15 an hour. Commissioner Lockley noted the way they got it going to be staying at \$15. You back at the same thing in five years. Mr. Moron said we charged them with doing the compression issue. They used job classifications to put people due to compression. Some of our employees did not fill out the assessment tool. That is what they used to place people. In addition to that they did that plan in mind to do everything in one year. The way it was designed was to fix it in one year. We forced them into a five-year plan. They did not recommend doing it. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget.

### **4. Tax Collector**

Mrs. Amy Cook and Mrs. Shawna Martina presented the proposed budget to the Board. 4% increase in the budget. First increase in the budget in the last six years. The increases included 8k tax software, 8k travel expenses, 8k statutory increase salary, 10k training on DMV software program. Mrs. Griffith noted on the capital improvement request that was the 15k for replacement of 10 desktop computers and 7 monitors. The Board recently approved a new server out of those proceeds. These items will be up for approval at the next meeting. Chairman Jones said the only thing that concerns him is the \$10k postage budget. Postage went up twice this year and the actual amount expended last year was \$18k. Mrs. Cook noted that she will need to get with Mr. Watson and possibly amend. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved the budget.

## **5. Clerk of Courts**

Clerk Maxwell presented her proposed budget noting a slight increase of \$1,372 which was caused due to statutory increase for the Clerk's salary. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved the budget.

## **6. Supervisor of Elections**

Mrs. Riley presented her proposed budget to the Board. She noted the IT expense was the main increase, changed grant from cyber security to ADA grant. She noted this would be a two-election budget cycle, PPP and primary. The pole workers' pay increase and postage increase also contributed to the budget increase. Mrs. Riley noted that before the general election next year the voting server and booths will need to be update. Mrs. Griffith noted that she had not included these in her budget; however, the board had included in their budget since it was ranked as an immediate need. Mrs. Riley said a small budget county survey was done and the median increase was 15%. We are around that without the inclusion of the IT service. Mrs. Riley noted that they are replacing the roof at this time. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the building and if they needed a new facility. Mrs. Riley said with time constraints they are stuck, unless there could be something done immediately. If we can keep patching to get us through the next election year. Commissioner Lockley said it is time to tear the old jail down and put something there. Mr. Moron said on Tuesday at our regular meeting we will be discussing a plan that may or may not work. It consists of moving Mrs. Riley to the annex and moving us out. He noted that he will contact Mr. Lockley to discuss. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved the budget.

## **7. Road Department**

Mr. Nabors presented his proposed budget with a \$47k increase. Mrs. Griffith noted that he had several items that were an immediate need. Two 2024 F250 trucks, fuel master upgrade and a perradius four tank controller. Fuel master serve the entire county minus the sheriff's department and have been included in the county's budget. Commissioner Amison inquired about the primary use for the F250. Mr. Nabors noted they will used to pull the zero turns and trailers. Commissioner Amison asked if it would be cheaper in the long run to purchase diesels. Mr. Nabors noted it would be about \$25k more for diesels. Mr. Nabors noted that the typical life span for gas trucks is 20 years. Chairman Jones said is there a way we can locate the fuel facility so that it is easily accessible. On the north side could we fence of just the fuel farm. Just a thought. So that way people are not having to access the yard. Just think it would be a smoother process if we could address it. Mr. Moron said we could also ask the sheriff if that is why he does not use the fuel farm because it is not easily accessible. Ms. Ginger said it is a great idea but due to the different zones that officers work in. Commissioner Ward said all the departments that are under the board. Why can't our departments give employees additional raises if their budget allows for it? It is only fair that they get that some opportunity that the constitutional offices. Chairman Jones said we are looking to Evergreen as far as a HR department. That is something we may could address with Evergreen. Commissioner Ward noted the inmate shortage does not provide for adequate coverage. May need to investigate additional employees in the future. Mr. Nabors noted that the overtime has helped. He noted they have been getting some inmates. Commissioner Ward said I see if Mr. Nabors see that some of these employees are going over and beyond, he should be able to give these people a raise if its within his budget. Mr. Moron said the only concern I have with that is that you may undo the compression done by Evergreen. Commissioner Ward noted that the starting salary is not a livable wage. Theres a way we can do it. Mr. Moron said he thinks this is something we could propose to Evergreen. Commissioner Lockley noted that they are asked each year to cut back. Commissioner Sanders said she believes it should be performance based. The way it is now, we are saying we are giving this man this and this one that. The employees are scrutinized. They are doing their jobs and the supervisors should have the discretion. If they work with the amount of money, we give them they should be able to do it. Mrs. Griffith said the elected officials are accountable to the public as well. Mrs. Griffith noted that the sheriff can go out and take loans out without the board's approval. He can also go to the governor should the board deny his budget for reconsideration. Commissioner Amison said you are rewarding everybody. When you have certain employees who go above and beyond. When you reward everyone the same it does not make sense. Commissioner Amison noted that the city of

Apalachicola seemed to be getting more inmates. Commissioner Lockley noted that the county must split theirs up between the other departments. Mr. Moron said he agrees with empowering the department heads. Know that no matter what happens, the county commissioners are going to catch it. Mr. Moron asked how many had received calls from constitutional offices. There were none noted. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved. Chairman Jones noted that Commissioner Amison brought up earlier was that he observed that the city had a work crew, and the city had the county work crew in the city. Chairman Jones said he is fine with helping them but have that helped us. Maybe we should take care of the county first. Mr. Nabors noted that he will need to replace the loaders in the next few years. Mrs. Griffith noted that on the payment plans for the road department, we will be doing the trade in again this upcoming year. We have just purchased the caterpillar and that was a four-year repayment period. We also have a tractor which has been on back order, approved in the 2021-22 budget. We are going to be paying off some things in the next few years. Mr. Nabors noted that the M315 is the most important. Chairman Jones noted that there is nothing in this current budget to address this need. Mrs. Griffith noted that it is included in their capital outlay request for \$278k. That one is listed as a high need in the next one to two years. Commissioner Lockley said let us make that one of our priorities. Chairman Jones said let us look at doing some type of payment plan to get those taken care of.

#### **8. Solid Waste, Solid Waste Grant**

Mr. Davis presented the solid waste with no increase. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved. Solid waste grant remains the same around \$90k. The oil collection is coming out of the solid waste budget.

#### **9. Animal Control**

Mr. Davis presented the animal control budget with a 2.6% increase. We have asked the Board for a new pickup truck. This is included in the budget. Mrs. Griffith said this will be part of payment plan coming out of the capital outlay. Commissioner Ward inquired about the vendor and if they are the cheapest, we have found. Mrs. Griffith noted that we use them through the Sheriff's Association. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved.

#### **10. Parks & Recreation**

Mr. Davis presented the parks and recreation budget with a 9.53% increase. We are asking for an additional employee and two pickup trucks. Two of the trucks are 2007 and one is 2009. Two of them were vandalized some years back but we were able to patch them up. Mrs. Griffith said parks and recreation budget has been severely impacted due to tourism. Mrs. Griffith said there are a lot of community needs being made through this department. TDC makes a transfer into the parks and recreation budget annually for \$99k. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved. Mr. Davis noted that the compactor for land fill is getting close to needing replacement, but we are waiting to see what we are going to do with the transfer station. Mrs. Griffith noted that we will have a long lengthy discussion when we get to the landfill escrow account budget. Its about doing the transition to the landfill station. Mr. Davis noted about the incentive pay and asked the Board to investigate that. Mr. Moron said awhile back we talked about a call-in policy. He has a couple draft policies and will be bringing those to the Board later. Commissioner Lockley said instead of bringing Evergreen in on this incentive, why cannot Mr. Davis and Mr. Nabors get together and tell us what kind of idea they are thinking about. Mr. Moron said he is looking to put a policy in place. Mrs. Griffith said basically they will be creating the evaluation system.

#### **11. Library**

Ms. Roundtree said she has five employees, four full time and one part time. I think the starting salary before was \$25k, now it is \$26k and some change. Ms. Roundtree said this was not much of an increase. Does not feel that her employees fill a minimum wage position. If you look at other libraries, they have different positions for each job description. My staff fills many roles. Ms. Roundtree noted that she did not receive the updated review from Evergreen. Chairman Jones noted that some of that is the Board spread this over five years. Ms. Roundtree said it is very lateral and very flat. We may want to look at library assistant one, and two. Ms. Roundtree presented the library budget with basically no changes. Mrs. Griffith

said the Friends of the Library have approached staff about assuming their loan with USDA. Now we pay the Friends a \$2k rent monthly. The county would then own the building and pay USDA directly. The payment is roughly around \$1k. It will basically be about the same amount of money out of pocket monthly. Chairman Jones said it will allow Friends to promote the programs that they want to do. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved the budget.

## **12. Courthouse Maintenance**

Mrs. Griffith presented the courthouse maintenance budget with no increase. Mrs. Griffith noted that this line item provides for maintenance and repair of (7) different locations – main courthouse, courthouse annex in Apalachicola, new courthouse annex in Carrabelle, SOE office building, old jail storage location, public defender building and Chapman auditorium location – using courthouse maintenance budget to remedy small items of concern noted in the written inspection report, to use American Rescue Plan funds for roof replacement. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved the budget.

## **13. Building Department**

Mr. Steve Paterson presented the building department budget with no increase, with an eighty-three-cent decrease. Mr. Paterson noted that the permit techs are making \$27,648 based on the 35-hour work week. Mrs. Griffith said Evergreen will be changing their class codes. Mrs. Griffith noted there were several other changes made which will be discussed on Tuesday. Mrs. Griffith noted that the building inspector and permitting clerk position is still vacant. The permitting clerk cost will be shared between planning and zoning and the building department. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the recommendations for the employees proposed Evergreen. Mr. Paterson expressed disagreements with the pay scale for several of his employees. Mrs. Griffith noted that their recommendations is based on comparison to other like positions and not necessarily the person. Chairman Jones noted that at the end of the day these jobs are public service, and the job is to get the job done. If it is too job maybe, they are not a fit for the job. Chairman Jones noted that the Board did the Evergreen project to make things better. We are doing what we can do. It seems the more we try to do better the worse off it gets. Commissioner Amison said since I have been here, we run this county on a skeleton crew. When you have people there that are wearing many hats, the downside is quality of service. They are going to put the hours in but there is only so many hours in the day. Mr. Moron said we are trying to fix a problem that has been created over many years. There is no way to completely correct the problem in five years. It is going to take time and patience. Mrs. Griffith noted that it is also a balancing act between looking out for the taxpayers and providing the services. Mrs. Griffith noted that it is a monumental task, and it has been difficult. The Board discussed the Evergreen plan further. Commissioner Ward noted that we need to plan for next year noting she anticipates the tax base to be significantly lower. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved the budget. Chairman Jones asked with some of the cuts we have already talked about today do we have enough to do two years at one time. Mrs. Griffith said she did increase contingency around \$214k. She \$1.214 million in contingency. Chairman Jones said with the reduction of fuel costs and the subtraction of the two new employees with sheriff, would we be able to cover. Mrs. Griffith noted that we do have the funds to fund this. She noted we would need the amended budget request from the sheriff.

## **14. Planning & Zoning**

Mrs. Griffith presented the planning and zoning budget increased by 11.86% due to the shared employee expense with the building department. Also, budgeted is a contractual code enforcer. Mr. Moron noted this includes the complaints received also. Commissioner Ward said she wants someone proactive and not reactive. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved the budget. Mrs. Griffith said for those services we would most likely go out for RFQs.

## **15. Administrative Services, Fiscal Manager / Grants Coordinator**

Mrs. Griffith presented the administrative services, fiscal manger/grants coordinator budget with no increase. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget. Mrs. Griffith noted that Mr. Curenton has entered the drop program, and he serves as the county planner. In the future we are going to have to

pursue another avenue. Likely handled by ARPC. Now Mark also handles nearly all your transportation grants. By having an assistant come in to play, they would work partly with him on these. Once he leaves, Mrs. Griffith would move into that position and the assistant would work under her. Mrs. Griffith noted that she will need assistance with insurance, county portal, etc. Chairman Jones said we also provide the access to both cities to be able to apply for those grant services. \$80 million dollars of our proposed budget is comprised of grants.

#### **16. Emergency Management**

Mrs. Griffith presented the emergency management budget with an increase in the amount of \$11,892. Mrs. Griffith noted that the increase in part is operational, but the state also cancelled their agreement with Everbridge which is the emergency alert system. Should the county continue with them, they will be responsible to cover this cost. Mrs. Griffith noted she needed a small roof replaced and an HVAC replacement which will be handled on the board side. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the alert system. Mrs. Griffith noted they are dropping the system, but Jenny thought this was helpful and wanted to keep it. Mrs. Griffith noted that they are also retrofitting the lighting and soundbars to comply with standards. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved the budget. Commissioner Ward said she had mentioned to Erin that the sheriff's office may have some lights and sirens that could be used. However, she got to thinking they may need to retrofit them to their specific vehicles, and they probably have cut wires, etc.

#### **17. Mosquito Control**

Mr. Polous thanked the Board for everything they had done. He presented the mosquito control budget with 12.83% increase in the budget. Some of that is just stuff that has been neglected over the years to keep the budget low. He did increase the fuel. The pesticides we have had 10-15% increase. We have had to add a chemical rotation. Training, etc. Mrs. Griffith noted that part of the increase was the sharing of the excavator purchased with road department. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget. Mr. Polous noted the geo software they are using is outdated and will need to be updated.

#### **18. Veteran's Services**

Mr. Elliott presented the veteran's services budget with no increase. Commissioner Lockley tentatively approved the budget.

#### **19. Extension Office**

Mr. Lovstrand presented the extension office budget with an increase related to 20% of his salary that the Board covers. Trying to make up for two years of raises as he failed to request last year's increase. Actual expenditures from last year, was only \$1960, the difference is related to the two years of county director's salary. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved the budget. Commissioner Lockley inquired about the percentage the Board pays. Mrs. Griffith noted the county pays 20% of his salary.

#### **20. Health Department**

Ms. Quaranta presented the health department budget with no increase. We are requesting a renewal of the \$49,000 to support the core public health services to residents of Franklin County. BOCC Core Contract funding is used to support core public health services in Franklin County. These services include Communicable Disease Control Services and Medical Services such as immunizations, maternal and child health services, family planning services, and vital statistics. Attached you will find a summary of our 2022-23 Clinical Budget. 100% of the \$49,000 is allocated to the salary of a local nurse. Commissioner Amison inquired about the maintenance of the building. Mrs. Griffith noted that we do have a line item in the budget to maintain the health department locations. Mrs. Griffith noted that the county also insures the vehicles. Ms. Quaranta noted that the health department also puts funds into maintaining and upkeeping their buildings to keep them appealing to the community. Commissioner Amison noted that he does not understand the county paying for the state's services. Ms. Quaranta noted that it is a percentage of the



salary for the services provided to our county. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved the budget.

## **21. Weems Hospital**

Mr. Walker presented the Weems Hospital budget noting the request to transfer \$1,694,618 from sales tax revenue fund for hospital operations and \$120k for clinic operations. Ambulance service at \$764,252. The total budget estimated at \$11.8 million. Mr. Walker noted that they are looking at ways to increase revenues in the coming year by increasing admissions and swing bed patients. They are also looking at a 3% increase in ER visits. Mr. Walker noted that the hospital board approved a 4% wage increase across the board for all employees as well as a salary parity for all nurses. Mr. Walker noted they included inflation increases when factoring in the supplies and maintenance costs. Mr. Walker noted that EMS also increased their salaries and wages by 4% effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Walker noted that approximately \$2.5 million will be taken from healthcare trust fund. He noted the capital outlay budget is approximately \$11.2 million and they do not normally touch it unless they have matching grant opportunities. Mr. Walker noted the grant item was left blank; however, he anticipates there will be available grants to apply for such as the Rural Hospital Improvement Program. Mr. Walker noted that they want to upgrade the oxygen system and CT machines in the future which they will be going out for grant funds for. Chairman Jones inquired about the revenue side it has the balance of the board's side of the capital outlay fund at \$11 million included in the revenue for the hospital. Chairman Jones said then on the other side we have listed \$9 million for capital improvements. Mrs. Griffith noted that it should say \$11.289 million. It was determined the board did not have the correct page in the documents scanned. Chairman Jones asked about ambulance gross revenue does that include the \$764k from the county. Mr. Walker noted that it does. Commissioner Ward inquired about the board meeting and the raises. Mr. Walker noted that this is something that the board chairman wanted us to get done. We made a presentation around springtime. Commissioner Ward asked if that was included in the proposed budget and Mr. Walker confirmed. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved.

## **22. Tourist Development Council**

Mr. Solomon presented the Tourist Development Council budget noting promotions budget reduced and infrastructure per statute budget increased. The property insurance for the county owned visitors' centers and museums. Mrs. Griffith noted that the budget adopted by TDC those items do feed into our line items. Our projected revenues are \$3,313,344. We kind of make the internal adjustments and recommendations from TDC. You also have the additional 1% \$3,032,199 She noted that the sheriff may be sending in a request for the two additional employees that would be funded through the TDC by the new legislative ruling which allows these funds to be used for. Chairman Jones said in hiring a lobbyist some of the things we tried to do was include language in the statute that pertained to fiscally constrained counties. We were really trying to get it in another paragraph. We do not collect ten million therefore there is a limitation on what we can do with the revenue collected. But if we can get them to put it into statute 'or fiscally constrained county' there would be a lot more we could do. Mr. Solomon noted they were also working on this and the 10% for beach facilities along with the law enforcement provision. Chairman Jones noted that they discussed earlier the sheriff pushing that request to the TDC that way they could recommend it to the Board and move the channels to properly qualify. Commissioner Sanders asked when we stop receiving "Visit Florida" grants. Mr. Solomon noted they quit about two and half years ago when they got on the chopping block. They now do coops that we do through our promotion funds. Hoping with new funds they received this year, things may change. Commissioner Sanders asked if he was aware what Orange County was doing with their funds. They are taking 6% and feeding the hungry. They are a county that can do anything with their funds. Commissioner Sanders noted that it is going to take us a long time to get up with some of the other counties. Mr. Solomon noted that we are still paying for the bathrooms because the project exceeded the 10%. Mrs. Griffith summarized that you funded one new dune walkover on island and now we are under contract for the full replacement of three dune walkovers. There was a \$60k, payoff bathrooms, grant match for restoration of the Carrabelle Beach restrooms. Mr. Solomon noted they have replaced multiple air conditions in museums. Mrs. Griffith noted the channel dredging also. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved.

Sheriff Smith spoke to the Board at this time regarding the two new deputy positions. I know there is TDC funding that may be available. Where we intend to put these deputies are to St. George Island. There is no doubt a lot of people are going there. We get a lot of feedback about our county because it is safe. If we want to continue to have that high level of service and quick response time. We have had more traffic accidents on our roads, and we are not getting any help from FHP. We need these new positions to handle the stuff that is going on in Franklin County. Sheriff Smith said he is dealing with retention of employees due to pay. He said we try to have a very high level of service. We do a lot of outreaches in the community. There are a lot of things that I would not be able to do without the assistance Northwest Florida. Think about how we can do this. The staff I have is very committed to providing a high level of service. Please keep that in mind as we move forward. The number one complaint is traffic. Chairman Jones said it is not a matter if we are going to use these funds for extra deputies it is just funneling through the proper channels. We are committed to funding this request. Mrs. Griffith noted that we need you to revise your budget removing those two deputies and submit the request to the TDC.

### **23. Circuit & County Judge**

Mrs. Griffith noted that there was no change to their budget. Commissioner Amison tentatively approved.

### **24. State Attorney**

Mrs. Griffith noted that there was no change to their budget. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved.

### **25. Public Defender**

Mrs. Griffith noted that there was no change to their budget. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved.

### **26. Guardian Ad Litem**

Mrs. Griffith noted that there was an increase of \$3285 to their budget based on our pro rata share of abused and under privileged children. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved.

### **27. Franklin Soil & Water Conservation**

Mrs. Griffith noted that there were a few dollars difference in the retirement rate to their budget. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved.

### **28. Dog Island Conservation District**

Mr. Brady presented the Dog Island Conservation District budget and there was no increase. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved.

### **29. Apalachee Center**

Mr. Dean Holton presented the Apalachee Center budget and there was no increase. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved.

### **30. Auditor Fees**

Mrs. Griffith presented the auditor fees at \$95k with an increase of \$950. Mrs. Griffith noted that the Board may want to consider going out for RFQs. Chairman Jones noted that we need to make sure we get the reports in a timely manner. Commissioner Ward noted that she likes the way the recent Weems audit was formatted. She also noted that we may need to go out for RFQs road paving and engineers. The Board and Mrs. Griffith discussed going out for RFQs. Commissioner Ward said the district paving funds needs to go into one pot. She is not having to pave a lot of the money in the city because it is being funded by city. She discussed combining the funds to facilitate the road paving throughout the county. Possibly the Board creating a priorities road list. Commissioner Sanders said that is why she asked for a letter of support for the City of Carrabelle a few months ago. It takes the pressure off the county to do the city

roads. Commissioner Sanders noted that when she came on the Board there was no paving project. She noted that she was reelected two times. People like to see new pavement. Commissioner Ward noted that there are some places that do not want their roads paved. Mrs. Griffith noted that we collect approximately \$321k and it is split five ways. Just last year since the economic downfall, coming down from our high for the first time we contributed to road pavement from ad valorem funds of \$334k a year. However, the cost of resurfacing is about a million dollars a mile. Commissioner Ward noted that with the increase of electric cars, we will have a reduction of funds. Mr. Moron noted that residents need to remember that gas may be a little higher here, but they are helping themselves and the county buy purchasing fuel here.

### **31. Insurance**

Mrs. Griffith presented the insurance budget to the Board noting she has not received the rates yet from Capital Health Plan. Hopefully, it will not be 7% but that is what she used to calculate which is a total \$84,647 increase. She noted they had reached out to the Florida Sheriffs Association to see about getting a self-insured risk pool. They sent back a rather funky questionnaire asking for our employees' health history. They were trying to gauge the health quality of the group. They are not able to give us an accurate quote. Commissioner Ward noted that she had spoken with Erin about this. When you look at the premiums it is not cheap to have family coverage. The FSA has a high deductible. Chairman Jones said we had the same discussion yesterday with Eastpoint Water and Sewer, they have not given us the new rates either. Commissioner Ward tentatively approved.

### **32. Carrabelle Redevelopment Trust**

Mrs. Griffith presented the Carrabelle Redevelopment Trust distribution increased to \$123,544. The expansion of the district cost for 2023 will be \$26,701. Commissioner Sanders tentatively approved.

### **33. Apalachicola Redevelopment Trust (Removed)**

Mrs. Griffith noted that the Apalachicola CRA had to refund the two years proceeds to the county. Those funds are being held in account to be contributed to the repairs of Leslie Street whenever that happens.

### **34. Grants**

Mrs. Griffith noted that grants move around from year to year. For the ones included in this budget we have:

SCRAP CR 67 Phase II \$181,440

SCOP Hickory Dip Design Project \$14,498

CIGP Patton Drive Design Project \$21,840

SCOP Womack Creek Bridge Culvert Repair \$1,589,213

FEMA C30 Washouts – issue with GPA coordinates – arguing and going back and forth with them.

FWC Boat Ramp Grant \$21,250

CDBG Housing Grant \$700,000

Airport Stormwater \$902,576

Pavement Apron Project \$600,000 (FDOT) \$113,974 (FAA)

Triumph Airport Fuel Farm Project \$2,229,607 (RESTORE Program)

American Rescue Plan Funds

Courthouse Roof Replacement/Sealant \$900,000

Supervisor of Election Office \$734,205

Beach Parking Improvements \$350,000

### **35. Other Funds**

The Franklin County landfill consists of an active Class III landfill (yard debris, construction, and demolition only), a closed and inactive Class I landfill, a composting operation, a yard trash processing operation, a waste tire collection center, operation of a transfer station, operation of an air curtain incinerator, serves as a clean materials recovery facility and processes composting wastewater. In May, the landfill's five-year operating permit was renewed. Every five years, a comprehensive review and analysis is done to assess the remaining useful life of a landfill site. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is the permitting agency and as part of the landfill licensure process, licensees must demonstrate financial assurance that funds are available to meet the costs of closure. Financial assurance requirements have been in place since the early 1950's to ensure proper and adequate resources are available if closure becomes necessary. The unprecedented amount of storm and construction debris processed in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael has shortened the remaining useful life (capacity) of the landfill to approximately ten years from 2022. The cost-recalculation for closure is \$4,493,486 and \$1,631,799 (\$54,343 per year) for long-term care post closure. Based upon the specified inflation factor in the report of 1.07, the county will need a balance in the landfill Management Escrow Fund of \$4,081,242.26 by the end of next fiscal year ( $\$4,493,486.36 \times 1.07 / 43$  years of estimated total life =  $\$111,814 \times 34$  years of actual life =  $\$3,801,698$  + annual funding requirement to meet annual long term care cost by closure date  $\$7,275.11$ ). Mrs. Griffith noted that the inflation factor for 22/23 was 4.1% and in 23/24 it is 7%. Mrs. Griffith noted that we will transfer out of tipping fund \$200,00. She noted that she has come up with some cost estimates on transitioning to a transfer station and building a new landfill. A transfer station would cost roughly \$5 million, whereas a brand-new landfill, construction costs only would cost about \$17 million. Mrs. Griffith noted new regulations required to have triple lining. In most cases, waste is being transferred away from the coast. We would just lose the ability to do construction and demolition. Mrs. Griffith noted that she will be presenting a RESTORE grant application in the future to the board.

Mrs. Griffith noted County is now responsible for mowing of runway areas.

The Airport manager: annual contract \$18,000

Repair & Maintenance: \$65,000 for regular maintenance expenses

Insurance: County coverage of approximately 18 different structures, five pieces of large equipment valued at more than \$15k, fuel storage tank liability insurance

Capital Outlay: Replace aging equipment

Triumph Fuel Farm Project: County match pledge for additional funds allocated by Triumph to complete fuel farm project

### **36. Resource Information**

#### **37. Franklin's Promise**

#### **38. Carrabelle Food Pantry**

#### **39. Franklin County Humane Society**

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#### **40. Refuge House**

#### **41. Gulf County ARC - Transportation Disadvantaged**

#### **42. Area Agency on Aging**

#### **43. Franklin Foods**

#### **44. Additional Discussion as Needed**

Mr. Moron asked the Board if they plan to fund the non-governmental entities. Commissioner Ward asked if they were all asking for the same amount as last year. Mr. Moron noted that he had spoken with Commissioner Lockley, and he was okay if the rest of the Board was for the non-governmental. Commissioner Sanders noted that we need to bring up fact that on the Area Agency on Aging that we are in the process of trying to get the old Garden Club there. Whatever money would put towards Area Agency goes towards that building and get them into it. Commissioner Amison tentatively approved all the

nongovernmental agency budgets.

Mrs. Griffith noted the public hearings need to be set. The Board set the hearings for Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. and the second on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Commissioners' Comments & Adjournment**

#### **45. Commissioners' Comments**

There were no further comments.

#### **46. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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**Ricky Jones – Chairman**

**Attest:**

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**Michele Maxwell – Clerk of Courts**

The audio is available upon request. Please e-mail [jgay@franklinclerk.com](mailto:jgay@franklinclerk.com), call 850-653-8861 to speak with the Administrative Assistant, or submit a request in writing to obtain audio of this meeting.