

The Banks County Board of Commissioners held a work session on April 26, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Banks County Courthouse. Present were Chairman Gene Hart, Commissioner Joe Barefoot and Commissioner Rickey Cain. Also present were County Clerk Jenni Gailey, Financial Officer Randy Failyer and Administrative Officer Angela Sheppard.

Roads – Wayne Andrews – Road Superintendent

Ms. Gailey stated that they were proposing the County paid portion of insurance rates from \$300/month to \$350/month to curve inflation and short term disability being added to employee benefits at a rate of \$134 a year.

Mr. Andrews stated that he is requesting \$50,000 to update the road barn with adequate office space and a restroom. Ch. Hart stated that the water department needed space for storage so he would rather move the water department to the old state barn. Comm. Cain stated that the building was already set up for the road barn. Ch. Hart also stated that he had thought about hiring a mechanic to do oil changes, changing tires, brakes, etc. because for as many vehicles as the County has it may pay for itself. Ch. Hart stated that he would like to add five miles of new paving and to decrease the cost of new paving he would suggest triple surface treatment. Comm. Barefoot stated that the new road paving was being increased almost five times. Ms. Gailey stated that since bridge work is going to have to be done in the future that we might be able to transfer \$50,000 from bridges into the capital fund. Mr. Andrews stated that they were asking for one new pickup to replace an eighty model truck.

DA Office – Allie Mauldin and Paul Hitchcock Assistant District Attorneys

They are requesting vehicle maintenance to be increased to \$750 because they now have a 1998 Concord that will be used more because it is in better shape than the vehicle they had, but needs new tires. Ms. Gailey stated that they were adding a copier lease line item and moving \$2388 out of supplies into the copier lease item. Mr. Hitchcock said they would also have to increase the gas and oil line item because they would be using the Concord more. The DA's office is requesting \$1,000 in capital because their computers are older and this money would be there if a computer was needed.

Recreation – Phillip Cronic – Director

Ms. Gailey stated that they moved Robert Norman to the maintenance/construction line plus a part-time employee. Also umpires were moved to temporary employees. Ms. Gailey stated that they were proposing the County paid portion of insurance rates from \$300/month to \$350/month to curve inflation and short term disability being added to employee benefits at a rate of \$134 a year.

Ms. Gailey stated they were adding a copier lease line item and moving \$600 out of supplies into the copier lease item. Mr. Cronic was requesting the amount left in electricity to be used for a \$12,000 sign for the recreation center. Comm. Barefoot stated that someone from the horse association had requested a sign for the horse arena. Mr. Cronic wasn't sure if they had requested a sign, but he would check on it. Mr. Cronic was going to buy a floor buffer out of this year's budget.

Comm. Barefoot asked Mr. Cronic why we need two new fields. Mr. Cronic stated more people needed more fields. He stated that he only had one t-ball field and this year there were eighty kids in t-ball. Comm. Barefoot stated that maybe we could work something out with the school since they are building a new facility. Comm. Barefoot stated that he had some concerns from parents about the color of pants for baseball that children were wearing. Mr. Cronic stated that next year he could state the color of pants the he preferred the children to wear so the teams would match.

Tax Commissioner – Margaret Ausburn

Ms. Ausburn stated that basically everything stayed almost the same. She increased the audit fee and general supplies and materials since postage is going up the middle of May. Ms. Gailey stated that they were adding a copier lease line item and moving \$3120 out of supplies into the copier lease line.. Ms. Ausburn stated that she was requesting a laser printer to replace the old dot matrix printer they were using. She stated she also needs a new typewriter.

Tax Assessors – Kevin Whitman – Chief Assessor

Mr. Whitman stated that they are requesting an additional appraiser that will be responsible primarily for field appraisal work and will carry an Appraiser II designation. The additional appraiser was recommended by the state. The appraiser's additional responsibilities would be to put up new construction, handle conservation use covenants as well as the manufactured housing digest. Ch. Hart stated they added a clerk last year that was supposed to be able to help in the field. Ms. Gailey stated that Personnel Officer Judy Greer said that an additional appraiser would cost approximately \$27, 133 plus benefits. Mr. Whitman said it was time for a revaluation and his department is going to try to do it all in-house if an additional appraiser was hired. Mr. Whitman said the fly-over should be complete by the beginning of the summer.

Mr. Whitman stated that professional and contracted services were as follows:

\$11,200 – Bi-Tek appraisal system which includes monthly and yearly maintenance.

\$6,000 – Flagship – mapping, web host, training and support.

\$40,000 – Traylor Business Services – Personal property audit mandated by state.

\$1,000 – Wingap – Personal property service fee

\$45,000 – Revaluation Contract – Office staff training and consultation

Mr. Whitman is also requesting an additional cell phone if a new appraiser is hired.

Probate Court – Judge Betty Thomas

Judge Thomas stated the figures in her budget were for two elections and the poll holders would be about \$12,000. She stated she wasn't sure if the maintenance agreement on the voting machines would go up or not so she would leave it where it was at.

County Probation – Judge Betty Thomas

Judge Thomas stated that nothing had changed in the probation budget except state law is requiring yearly training of the probation officer.

Technology- Lenard Burris

Mr. Burris is requesting one additional employee because Mr. Burris is on call all the time because he is the only technology personnel the County has. He stated the person would start around \$9.96 an hour

Mr. Burris stated that the technical item was broken down as follows:

\$1300 – Technet – Which provides patches and information updates to software

\$500 – ISP DNS

\$3100 – Anti-virus- Updated daily, paid on yearly basis

\$1210 – Black berry software service

\$5,500 – Web server software – gives departments more freedom to update their site

Mr. Burris stated that his hand tools included a lanalyzer which detected computer and wiring problems.

He said telephone included a Blackberry plus and additional cell phone for the new hire. Plus internet service will be provided through a Centrex line instead of through a fax line in the Registrar's office.

The technology capital outlay is broken down as follows:

\$6500 – a server - pending Blackberry service

\$600 – UPS - pending Blackberry service

\$2500 – Laptop – new employee

\$5,300 – Connectivity between county buildings

NRCS – Forestry Commission

The amount will remain the same as last year.

Building Inspection

Comm. Barefoot said there may be a change in personnel. The building official request is a laptop to do field work.

Commissioners – Governing Body

Ms. Sheppard stated that professional fees are for the comprehensive plan. Educational fees were increased because Randy Failyer will get his training for a Certified Finance Officer.

Courthouse

Comm. Barefoot stated that he would like Ms. Sheppard to check into the prices of attorney fees before the budget was finalized.

Clerk of Superior Court-Timothy Harper

Mr. Harper stated in the Technical item was Clerk’s software which had increased from \$2500 to \$4000. Also he stated that machinery included two copiers and one server lease. He stated that he anticipated revenue to be \$325,000.

Human Resources

Ms. Gailey stated that she suggested moving \$15,000 over to FY2008 for pay scale adjustment.

Fire/EMS – Steve Nichols Emergency Services Director/Gary Pollard Assistant Fire Chief

Mr. Nichols and Mr. Pollard proposed a plan to have Med 2 become fulltime. They presented three different plans for the commissioners to consider making the ambulance full-time. Mr. Nichols proposed Plan 1 to be the best which will include two full-time paramedics per shift.. He also stated that they didn’t have to have Blackberries but if they could they would like to have them. Mr. Nichols stated that in the building maintenance they were going to be remodeling the Fire/EMS headquarters and Station 410.

The work session adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Chairman

Assistant County Clerk
