

Russell County Commission
Russell County Commission Chambers
Budget Proposal Meeting for FY 2021/2022 Minutes
August 19, 2021 9:00 A.M. EST

An adjourned meeting of the Russell County Commission was called to order by Chairman Corbett.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert called roll of the Commission. Member's present were Commissioner Rod Costello, Commissioner Cattie Epps, Commissioner Scott Chambers, Commissioner Larry Screws, Commissioner Gentry Lee, and Chairman Chance Corbett. Commissioner Ronnie Reed was not present. Also, present was County Administrator Paulette Colbert, who kept minutes

A quorum was established by County Administrator Paulette Colbert.

County Administrator Paulette Colbert presented a proposed budget for the 2021/2022 fiscal year that includes a 3% across the board salary increase. She noted that there is an escalated amount in the salaries due to an additional pay period in the 2021/2022 fiscal year. She added that the new health insurance premium amount has not yet been received but to expect at least a 5% increase, which was included in proposal. The appropriations were listed at the same amount as was budgeted last year and there is a column to show the entities' requested amounts. There were 3 new appropriation requests listed at the bottom of the appropriations page, and funding for those were not included due to pending Commissions' approval. Also included were budget requests from area agencies, elected officials, and department heads. The departmental budgets showed the amounts which were requested by the elected officials or department heads. Any additional salaries or positions requested were not included in the proposal. She stated that approval of the budget is not anticipated at this meeting but intended on presenting a balanced budget for approval at the September 8th Commission meeting.

Appropriations were approved as proposed with the following changes:

-Motion by Commissioner Corbett and seconded by Commissioner Lee to appropriate \$175,580 to Lee County Area Government. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously

-Motion by Commissioner Screws and seconded by Commissioner Epps to appropriate \$54,500 to the Extension Service. All Commissioners were in favor by saying aye. None opposed. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

-Commissioner Corbett pledged \$5,000 of his project monies to the Russell County Firefighters Association.

-Commissioner Costello pledged \$3,000 of his current year project monies and \$5,000 of his 2021/2022-year project monies to the Russell County Child Advocacy.

-Motion by Commissioner Corbett and seconded by Commissioner Chambers to appropriate \$1,500 to Liberty Learning Foundation. Call for vote was done by County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 3: Costello, yes. District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

-Motion by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Screws to appropriate \$30,000 to the Russell County Water and Sewer Authority. Call for vote was done by County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 3: Costello, yes. District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Departmental Budget Proposals were approved as proposed with the following changes:

County Administrator Paulette Colbert proposed adding an IT position in the County Commission with a salary of \$50,000. Motioned by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Chambers. Call for vote was done by County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 3: Costello, yes. District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Chief Appraiser Heath Crowe proposed a salary increase of \$5,900 between 2 employees. Motion request to be granted by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Chambers. Poll the Commission was done by County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 3: Costello, yes. District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Sheriff Heath Taylor proposed Dr. Ellis a salary for increase of \$20,000 in Line Item # 306 in the Jail budget for Medical and Dental Services. Motioned by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Chambers. Poll for vote was done by County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 3: Costello, yes. District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney proposed for the Sanitation Department an increase in Line Item # 304 under Contract Services by \$105,000 for new building purchase. Motion made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Costello. Poll for vote was done by County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 3: Costello, yes. District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

County Engineer Shawn Blakeney proposed changing line item 53100 530 Improvements other than buildings to \$822,312.00 and change line item 35500 000 Fund Balance to \$276,262.00 in RRR Gas Tax Fund. Motioned by Commissioner Lee and seconded by

Commissioner Chambers. Poll for vote was done by County Administrator Paulette Colbert: District 3: Costello, yes. District 5: Epps, yes. District 2: Chambers, yes. District 7: Screws, yes. District 1: Lee, yes. District 6: Corbett, yes. The Commission passed the motion unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Corbett.

The Commission budget proposal meeting was adjourned.