

MINUTES FOR THE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019, AT 5:00 P.M. 201 S. HAMILTON ST., 5TH FLOOR, DALTON, GA, 30720

SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION

The Chairman called the work session to order.

The following members were present:

R. Lynette Laughter, Chairman
Harold Brooker, Vice Chairman
Barry W. Robbins, Member
Roger Crossen, Member (ABSENT)
Greg Jones, Member

Others Present:

Mark Gibson, County Administrator
Robert Smalley, County Attorney
Department Heads
Press
Citizens

Budget Workshop:

Chairman Laughter called the budget workshop to order at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Laughter noted this budget workshop is being held to further discuss the 2020 budget that is scheduled to be adopted on Friday, December 20, 2019 during a special called meeting at noon. Chairman Laughter also noted a public hearing on the budget will be held before the budget adoption.

District Attorney Bert Poston gave an overview of the DA's Office. Poston noted the personnel is 90% of the annual budget. The SPCR account will be reduced due to the retirement of an employee. Poston further noted they are requesting a vehicle in the capital expenditure account.

Deputy Director Jeff Ownby briefed the Board about the department's 2020 budget. Ownby noted there are some increases in the radio repair account; this is due to the radios coming off their warranty. Ownby further noted they will be purchasing new CPR mannequins for training. They are also requesting \$50,000 for capital expenses to update the EOC (emergency operation center) phones and computers.

Emergency Management Deputy Director David Metcalf briefed the Board about the department's 2020 budget. Metcalf noted they will be switching to a different reporting system to monitor the number of calls received and time it takes to answer a 911 call. Metcalf further noted 911 is almost fully staffed.

Superior Court Administrator Brad Butler informed the Board about their 2020 budget. Butler noted due to the outdated video system in the courtrooms they are requesting \$550K for updating the video system. Butler further noted the video system is over 15 years old.

Captain Woods from the Sheriff's Office addressed the Board about the increase in the salary line accounts for the Sheriff's Office. Woods noted the increase is to retain newly hired employees. Woods further noted they are investing at least \$50K per new hire to get them trained and mandated. Woods stated once they are trained and mandated and start their jobs they leave soon after to other business or agencies for higher wages.

Captain Fields from the Sheriff's Office addressed the Board about the request for additional capital security equipment. Fields noted the need for two walkthrough metal detectors and an x-ray scanner.

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Captain Lynch from the Sheriff's Office addressed the Board about the increase in inmate medical costs.

County Administrator Mark Gibson gave an overview of the Tax Commissioners budget.

The budget workshop adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

R. LYNETTE LAUGHTER, CHAIRMAN
WHITFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BLANCA CARDONA, COUNTY CLERK

DATE: / /