

MINUTES  
MAY 12, 2014  
FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 - BUDGET SESSION  
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – PUBLIC SQUARE  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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**ATTENDANCE:** COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT- County Council Chairman Jim Coleman and Vice Chairman Edward McDaniel; Council, Ted Nash, Keith Tollison, and Joe Wood.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT** – Council Members Diane Anderson and David Pitts.

**COUNTY STAFF:** Laurens County Administrator, Ernest Segars; Laurens County Clerk to Council Betty Walsh; Laurens County Attorney, Sandy Cruickshanks, and Finance Director, Lisa Kirk.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT:** Laurens County Auditor – Sally Lancaster; Laurens County Coroner – Nick Nichols; Laurens County Building Codes – Chuck Bobo, Codes Official; Laurens County Clerk of Court – Lynn Lancaster, Clerk of Court; Laurens County Communications/E911–Joey Avery, Director; Laurens County EMS – Chad Burrell, Director; Laurens County Magistrate, Paul Dean Lyles, Judge; Laurens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Andy Howard, Director ; Laurens County Probate – Kaye Fridy, Probate Judge and Laurens County Sheriff’s Department – Mickey Coates, Captain; Laurens County Human Resources Manager, Debi Parker;

**PRESS:** Vic McDonald, *The Clinton Chronicle*; Corey Engle, *The Laurens County Advertiser*.

**SCHEDULED MEETING AGENDA ITEMS** - 1.) Call to Order – Chairman Coleman; 2.) Invocation – Councilman Tollison; 3.) Pledge of Allegiance; 4.) Approval of Agenda for Budget Session – May 12, 2014; 5.) Draft Budget Updates – Ernie Segars, Administrator; 6.) “Closed - Executive Session” – Employment - Budgetary Matters: a.)Laurens County Auditor – Sally Lancaster, Auditor; b.) Laurens County Coroner – Nick Nichols, Coroner; c.) Laurens County Magistrate, Paul Dean Lyles, Judge; d.) Laurens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Andy Howard; 7.) “Open Session” - Departmental/Capital (page 53 & 58) Discussions - County Department Directors: a.) Laurens County Building Codes – Chuck Bobo, Codes Official; b.)Laurens County Communications/E911–Joey Avery, Director; c.) Laurens County Coroner – Nick Nichols, Coroner; d.) Laurens County EMS – Chad Burrell, Director; e.) Laurens County Clerk of Court – Lynn Lancaster, Clerk of Court; f.) Laurens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism - Andy Howard, Director; g.) Laurens County Probate – Kaye Fridy, Probate Judge; h.) Laurens County Sheriff’s Department – Ricky Chastain, Sheriff; 8.) Additional Comments / Requests; 9.) Scheduling of subsequent budgetary work session(s); 10.) Adjournment

**MEETING NOTIFICATION** - The County Council Members, Department Heads and the Press were informed of the budget session meeting in a timely manner.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Councilman Coleman called the May 12, 2014 budget session of Laurens County Council to order at 5:10 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse. Chairman Coleman invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation provided by Councilman Tollison.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to approve the AMENDED AGENDA as presented with Vice Chairman McDaniel SECONDDING; VOTE 5-0.

Administrator Segars explained that the reason the Agenda was modified was due to the closed executive session dealing with specific employees.

**DRAFT BUDGET UPDATES** – Administrator Segars informed Council that the South Carolina Association of Counties has advised local governments that the State has made an additional cut of close to five million dollars statewide with one hundred eighty nine thousand dollars (\$189,000) making the overall cut of funds for Laurens County close to one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION for Council to move into Executive Session at 5:15 P.M. to discuss four (4) Employment Matters with the Auditor, Coroner, Magistrate Judges and Parks, Recreation and Tourism. COUNCILMAN NASH SECONDDING; VOTE 5-0.

There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to reconvene in open session at 6:02 P.M.

Chairman Coleman reported that no action was taken.

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION(S) – CAPITAL:**

A.) Laurens County Building Codes – Chuck Bobo, Codes Official

CAPITAL NEEDS	REQUESTED AMOUNT
6 Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 LTE Tablets 6 Otter box cases for tablets	\$ 4,110.00
6 Mobile Printers	\$ 426.00
One time set up fee for Meritage Permit Software	\$ 1,014.00
Yearly Cost for Meritage Operating System (If approved will be added to expenditure account) \$7,200	\$ 7,550.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,100.00</b>

Mr. Bobo thanked Council for allowing him to review his capital budget requests and presented Council with a written request from the Planning Commission to allow the funds from the demolition account to continue to be carry forward in the new fiscal year.

Mr. Bobo informed Council that the present system of showing its age and is periodically shutting down on the department. If it goes down and stays down, the codes department will be in a mess. As an update the Meritage System is an online building code management software that includes a vast array of code enforcement options that allow anywhere / anytime access to the system by staff and contractors that do have permissible access of read only.

Councilman Tollison questioned if a phone service would be applied to the tablets. Mr. Bobo replied that his research on the service would be about thirty dollars (\$30.00) a month.

Chairman Coleman stated that it appears it would be an \$4,000 increase from last year.

B.) Laurens County Communications/E911–Joey Avery, Director

Communications	Shift Premium	FT	\$ 11,440.00
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Mr. Avery reviewed the shift premium request for those employees working from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM totaling eleven thousand four hundred forty dollars (\$11,440.00) for retention of those that work the night shifts.

Chairman Coleman asked if the department was fully staffed? Mr. Avery replied that one offer had been offered with hopes that a reply would come in soon.

Councilman Tollison asked what the turnover rate was within the Communications Department. Mr. Avery replied possibly twenty five percent (25%) or more and that it is known to be a training ground for some that move on to make more money.

Councilman Wood questioned the twenty four thousand dollar (\$24,000) increase in the salary line item? Mr. Avery replied that it consisted of a clean-up line item for part time salaries. Mrs. Kirk stated her reports state that based on what the department is spending right now, salaries is at four hundred sixty two thousand two hundred seventeen dollars (\$462,217) part time fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) and overtime at one hundred eighteen thousand dollars (\$118,000).

CAPITAL NEEDS	REQUESTED AMOUNT	
F-250 - 3/4 ton 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup Truck or Chevrolet Tahoe * Total Cost of vehicle is \$29,900 with grant money to pay 50% of the total cost.	\$14,950.00	\$ 14,950.00
Trimble Handheld GPS Unit and Software ** **Equipment expense is 100% reimbursable from the state	\$12,400	
	\$12,400	\$ 12,400.00
County-wide Aerial Flight to produce a new set of orthographic maps. *** ***Can split cost over two year period with two annual payments. Initial payment was approved in FY 14 budget.	\$30,000	
	\$30,000	\$ 30,000.00
Upgrade the Radio System in the 911 Center**** Total Cost \$330,000 - Annual lease payment option \$70,241 for five (5) years.	\$70,241	
	\$70,241	\$ 70,241.00
Upgrade Countywide Fire Radio System**** Total Cost \$220,000 - Annual lease payment option \$46,828 for five (5) years.	\$46,828	
	\$46,828	\$ 46,828.00
Scanning Solution for Implementing Fixed Asset Policy	\$16,033	
	\$16,033	\$ 16,033.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 163,452.00</b>

Mr. Avery said, “This was a request made last year. I have researched the costs and have found that I can have fifty percent (50%) of the costs reimbursed through grant funds. Total cost would be twenty nine thousand dollars (\$29,900) with the actual costs for the County being fourteen thousand nine hundred fifty dollars (\$14,950). The vehicle would be used by Emergency Management. This would be replacing a 1998 Dodge Pickup Truck”.

Councilman Tollison asked what the primary use of the requested vehicle would be used for. Mr. Avery replied that the pickup would basically come to him with the Blazer to the addressing department to be used out in the field.

Continuing Mr. Avery briefed Council on the following Capital requests:

- Handheld GPS Unit – a device that would be an aid to GIS by actually showing the contour of roadways and one hundred percent (100%) reimbursable through the E-911 fees.
- Aerial Flight for orthographic maps – this is a continuing cost from an initial eighty thousand dollar (\$80,000) cost split over two (2) years.
- Radio System at E-911 Center – this is the backbone of the radio system in the County that was put into place in 1993. A lot of the equipment has reached the end of life with replacement parts becoming obsolete. Counteractive moves have been made to purchase parts as they have become available to have available if needed. Total costs would be three hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$330,000) with a five (5) year lease option at seventy two thousand two hundred one dollars (\$70,241) with BB&T.

Chairman Coleman asked if the reimbursement process with the State would qualify in this process? Mr. Avery replied that it would not.

Councilman Tollison asked what the life expectancy on a system like this was? Mr. Avery replied that a notice from Motorola was received in November implying that the life of the components had been reached. It could last another five years, but I would be wrongfully acknowledging this with Council.

- Fire Radio Upgrades – this would help in the Waterloo and Cross Hill area towards clear communication. Total costs would be two hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$220,000) with a five (5) year lease option at forty six thousand eight hundred twenty nine dollars (\$46,829) with BB&T. Mr. Avery and Mr. Lindley have discussed this and it may be an item that could be placed within the Fire Budget discussions.

C.) Laurens County Coroner – Nick Nichols, Coroner

Van to replace 2005 Chevrolet van with 128,000 miles	\$ 28,000.00
	\$ 28,000.00

Coroner Nichols briefly stated that the van is used by Mrs. Cheek and is worn out and that the air conditioning is not working

D.) Laurens County EMS – Chad Burrell, Director

EMS CAPITAL EXPENDITURES REQUESTS	
Special Revenue Fund 128	
Description	Requested
Replacement Ambulance for Current Ambulance with 345 K Miles	\$ 135,300.00
Remount of Current Ambulance with 292 K Miles	\$ 115,300.00
Information Technology Needs	\$ 16,000.00
EMS Station Improvements	\$ 15,100.00
TOTAL	\$ 281,700.00

Mr. Burrell said, “We are currently suffering significant mechanical failures with our ambulance fleet due to the high wear and tear these units experience. According to the South Carolina Association of Counties, they

recommend that all ambulances be taken out of service at one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) miles. As it stands now, three (3) of our nine (9) ambulances are under one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) miles. I am requesting funding to replace two (2) out of date units in our fleet. Purchase a new one to replace the F350 with three hundred thousand four hundred (300,400) miles and experiences a loss of power on occasion. To remount and replace F450 ambulance with two hundred ninety two thousand (292,000) miles that has repeating electrical issues. With the approval of this request, we will be in a better position to establish a proactive vehicle replacement strategy in order to prepare for future replacement/re-mount issues. This would also serve to provide lower maintenance costs which are associated with this aging fleet. I would request for this to be approved utilizing a lease / purchase program. According to Mr. Wilson, the most recent rates were 1.3 to 1.5 % on a lease purchase program”.

POSITION REQUESTED OR SALARY REQUEST	FT/PT	REQUESTED SALARY ANNUAL
Additional Staff	FT	\$ 245,348.00
Paramedics	PT	\$ 77,621.00

Mr. Burrell explained, “With our current turnover rate of forty seven percent (47%), I am requesting a 4.5 % increase for field level Paramedics and Field Training Officers, a 6% increase for Lieutenant Positions, a 8% increase for Captain and above positions in order to aid in recruitment and retention of our Paramedic required positions. It is well known that even with the salary adjustments in recent years, Laurens County EMS is still one of the lowest paid departments compared to our main competitors for professional Paramedics. Our department has recently offered full time positions to qualified paramedic candidates which they respectfully declined due to low compensation. We have also recently lost Paramedics to surrounding counties who are offering more compensation as well as substantial sign on bonuses. We are unable to attract experienced Paramedics due to this low compensation with very high call volumes and unfortunately we are losing Paramedics once they gain valuable experience. Experience in pre-hospital medicine is a must for any service wishing to maintain clinical competency to the level needed in today’s emergency medicine practices. In order to be effective in our delivery of perhaps the most vital of the three major emergency services, we must maintain an equitable pay scale with that of our main competitors for labor, cost of living considerations and increasing fuel costs. An additional increase of \$41,741 to our salaries account and \$20,221 will be needed for the overtime account if approved. Call volumes for each unit is the primary reason for high turnover with compensation resulting as the secondary reason. I am requesting an expansion of our service and I believe this will help for a short term with our recruitment and retention needs, however we must continue to evaluate competitive compensation for EMS”.

NEW PROGRAMS	REQUESTED
Vacation Accrual for EMS	
Additional Staff / Equipment to Transition Medic 5 to 24 hours & add Medic 6	\$ 494,269.00

- a.) Vacation Accrual for EMS – Mr. Burrell said, “The increase to vacation accruals for our hourly employees is based on a normal schedule of hours worked versus the current accrual with a forty hour work week. The forty hour employee actually works 2080 hours annually. The normal scheduled hours in addition to overtime comes to approximately two thousand nine hundred twenty eight (2,928). Those employees typically work eight hundred forty eight hours more”.

Current Accrual

<u>Years of Employment</u>	<u>Reg Employees</u>	<u>Current accrual rate</u>
0-1	.02hours/normal scheduled hours	1.6 hrs/pay period for 2080 annual hours
2-8	.046hrs/normal scheduled hours	3.7 hrs/pay period for 2080 annual hours
9 plus	.058hrs/normal scheduled hours	4.6 hrs/pay period for 2080 annual hours

Requested Change for EMS

<u>Years of Employment</u>	<u>EMS Employees</u>	<u>Same accrual rate but based on hours worked</u>
0-1	.02hours/normal scheduled hours	2.3 hrs/pay period for 2928 annual hours
2-8	.046hrs/normal scheduled hours	5.2 hrs/pay period for 2928 annual hours
9 plus	.058hrs/normal scheduled hours	6.5 hrs/pay period for 2928 annual hours

Mr. Burrell explained that the transition with Medic 5 from a 14-hour ambulance to a 24- hour ambulance, service and keeping the Paramedic QRV in service 24 hours for the Young’s Community, and placing a new Medic 6 Ambulance station.

Continuing, “Requests for EMS service in our county is at an all-time high and this trend is only expected to continue. We responded to ten thousand six hundred twenty one (10,621) requests for service in 2013 which consisted of thirteen thousand three hundred sixty seven (13,367) individual EMS unit responses. Since the addition of our 14-hour 5<sup>th</sup> transport ambulance in 2009, we have experienced a 19% increase in responses, an 18% increase in patients treated, a 21% increase in patients transported, and a 72.5% increase in patients who were transported out of county which takes an ambulance out of service on average 2 hours. With the current fleet structure and call volumes, we are often experiencing difficulty in meeting demand on a daily basis. The lack of adequate resources results in the department not being able to assure the safety and well-being of the citizens, visitors, and EMS employees of our county. Due to these increases we are experiencing the adverse effects of increasing demand without increasing our resources .....full depletion of available ambulances which leaves the county without any available ambulances for responses to emergencies .....increased response times to those who request our services ....employee fatigue and related burnout which drastically affects morale and safety....high turnover rates and injury rates associated with fatigue and burnout....less potential for recruitment due to the known call volumes of our service and individual unit work loads....relying on other ambulance services for 911 response.... excessive wear and tear on our fleet leading to more maintenance costs and problems . I am requesting these additional staff and resources in order to ensure our emergency response and transport capability for the citizens and visitors of Laurens County”.

Continuing, “In 2009, we added a fifth ambulance which serves Laurens County 14 hours a day during our peak call volume times. In order to staff this transport ambulance, we have to shut down the Youngs Community QRV during this 14 hour period. This was the only option approved for FY 09 Budget in order to add the additional transport unit to our fleet. With our current operation, The Young’s Community is without its advanced life support response vehicle between the hours of 9:30 AM and 11:30 PM, and with the unavailability of this areas primary response transport ambulance due to our call volumes, most of the northern areas of Laurens County are often without advanced life support response capabilities. While our service provides emergency response county wide, the Western side of Laurens County currently does not have a transport ambulance stationed in that area. We have a QRV, but the closest transport ambulance would be medic 1 and medic 5 stationed in Laurens or Medic 4 stationed in Cross Hill. Unfortunately, these units are often also unavailable for response due to other emergencies throughout the county. Approval of this request will allow EMS to better ensure advanced life support response to the Young’s, Fountain Inn, and Gray Court communities by keeping the Youngs Community QRV open for 24 hours. Approval will also enhance service to the western areas of Laurens County by placing a 24 hour transport ambulance on the western end of 252 in the existing structure and relocating the current advanced life support Quick Response Vehicle closer to the Waterloo and Ekom communities. The western and south west side of Laurens continues to grow and requests for service in this area will only continue to increase”.

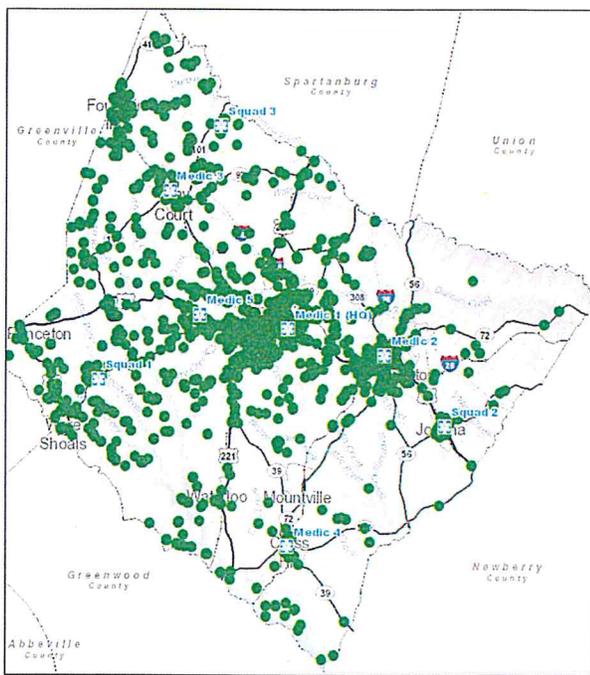
Administrator Segars said, “A possible funding option of a household fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) or a tax adjustment could justify establishing this. I see a need for this to come forward but I am certainly not requesting Council approval tonight”.

Reinstatement of Assistant Director position	\$ 39,000.00
	\$ 39,000.00

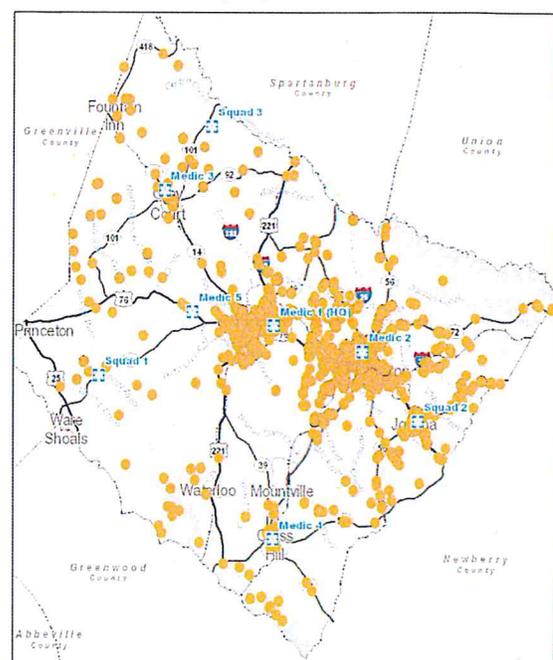
b.) Assistant Director Position Reinstated - Continuing, Mr. Burrell said, “In addition, I am requesting re-establishment of our department’s full time Assistant Director Position (an operations position with authority). Our current full time Administrative Assistant (a clerical position without authority) has resigned her full time position effective March 31st 2014. This clerical position was originally approved as a permanent part time position and converted to a full time position when our Assistant Director retired from our department. If approved, the clerical position would return as a permanent part time position as originally approved by County Council during the Fiscal Year 2011 budget process. Our department’s workload and administrative responsibilities have had a negative impact on the efficiency of our service. We are currently in extreme need of the restoration of this Operations Coordinator position but even more so if additional resources and staff are added. All Command Officers and Management Staff have had to increase individual responsibilities, assignments and workloads without any additional compensation. Maximum revenue assurance and administrative duties, optimal human resource and risk management practices, community support and educational program departmental relationships and training with in-county and out-of-county agencies, etc., are simply not being accomplished due to normal day to day operational issues and oversight”.

Vice Chairman McDaniel stated that he has always heard that Laurens County does not pay enough for their employees and that we are considered the training grounds for them while they move on to bigger salaries in the surrounding counties. Of recently the local news is talking of these other counties having to close down stations. Mr. Burrell replied that he is aware of a statewide shortage of Paramedics due to them being able to get into nursing careers making more.

Mr. Burrell provided the following maps that pinpointed call volume demographics

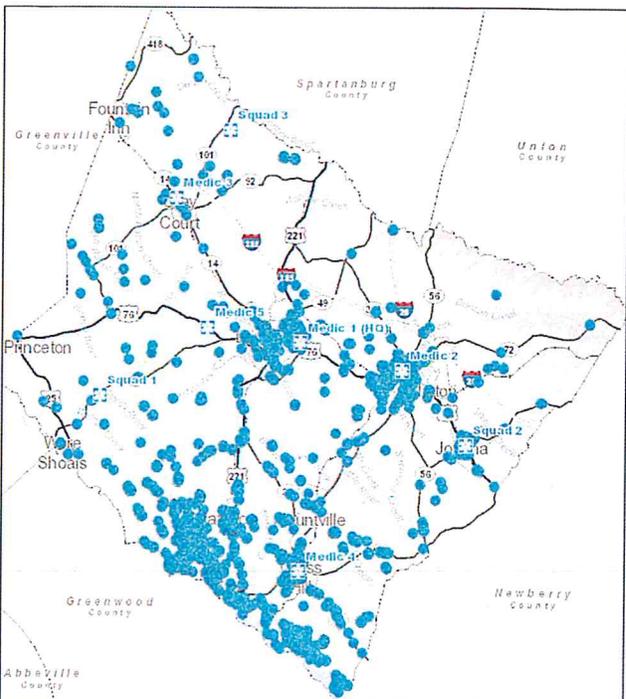
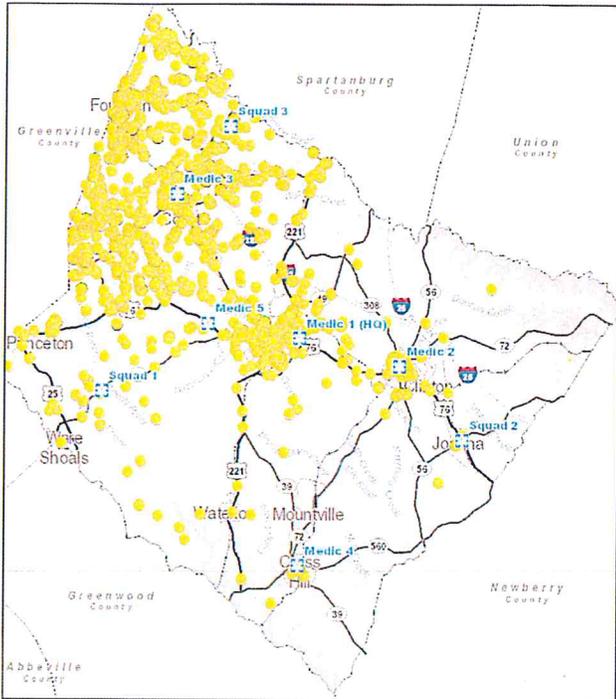


May 13, 2014  
 1:316,800  
 0 2.75 5.5 11 mi  
 0 4.25 8.5 17 km  
 EMS  
 ● Medic 1



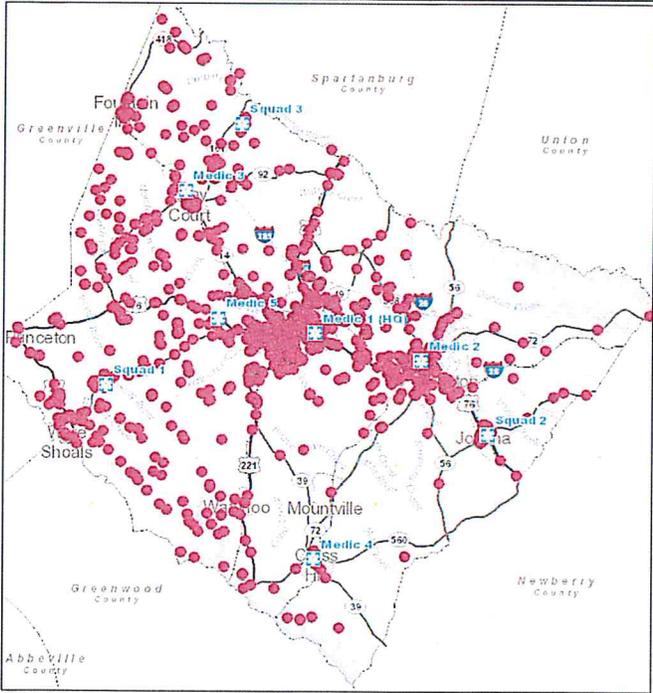
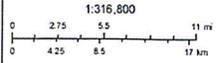
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LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL  
 MINUTES – MAY 12, 2014  
 FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 BUDGET



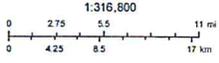
May 13, 2014

-  EMS
-  Medic 3



May 13, 2014

-  EMS
-  Medic 5



E.) Laurens County Clerk of Court – Lynn Lancaster, Clerk of Court

Jurors	\$45,350	\$66,154	\$70,000	\$20,454	\$170,000
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Mrs. Lancaster informed Council that she may have overestimated the costs for an upcoming murder trial and advised Council to reduce the jury funds for this trial to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000); total requested in jury line item should be \$120,000.

F.) Laurens County Parks, Recreation and Tourism - Andy Howard, Director

Cross Hill Park Improvements	\$	40,000.00
Computer for County Park	\$	1,000.00
Kubota F3680 Front Deck Mower	\$	18,000.00
Gravel for County Park Parking Lot and Drive	\$	5,000.00
\$7,000 per field for infield laser grading & infield dirt at County Park	\$	21,000.00
Possible Construction of New Park	\$	30,000.00
TOTAL	\$	115,000.00

Briefing Council, Mr. Howard reported the following:

- 1.) Capital – Cross Hill Park Improvements - \$40,000 – the park is in need of renovations. Planned renovations would consist of three (3) new picnic tables (\$1,5000); new playground equipment (\$38,000).
- 2.) Capital – County Park Computer - \$1,000 – to be used by the maintenance supervisor in monitoring security cameras.
- 3.) Capital – Kubota Mower - \$18,000 – with three (3) employees, this would bring the department another mower to assist with grass maintenance efficiently.

Chairman Coleman stated that he felt Laurens County needed to look into the use of hospitality tax for recreational purposes. Mr. Howard replied that the travel ball league uses the Spartanburg facility and brings in as much as sixty five thousand dollars (\$65,000) a weekend.

G.) Laurens County Probate – Kaye Fridy, Probate Judge

Probate Office	Additional Clerk Position	FT	\$21,300.00
	Additional Clerk Position	FT	\$21,300.00
			\$ 42,600.00

Mrs. Fridy said, “The present demands on court personnel far exceeds our current resources. My present staff is not able to meet the public demands of each day. New laws affecting the Probate Courts became effective in 2013 which also increases the demands on my department. Due to the “Baby Boomers”, we are seeing an increase in estate cases. The locations of various nursing homes, assisted living facilities and elder residential facilities within our County also places an effect on our case load. Since I began working within the Probate Office - 1976, there has been only one (1) addition to the clerical staff. I sincerely request these two (2) positions. I regret that we are operating at an undesirable level for the general public but we are doing all we can do”.

H.) Laurens County Detention Center – Major Chris Hudson – Addressing the need for funds, Major Hudson said, “We were recently provided the upcoming court schedules for July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> and it consists of twenty four weeks of court out of two (2) different court rooms. Plus we have to help cover Probate Court. When we made the adjustment in pay for the Jailers, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup> we have spent within the overtime account approximately twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000). In the prior year from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>, we spent sixty five thousand dollars (\$65,000); a marked decrease. What I see the need for us to do now is reinstate the funding for these sessions of Court.”

I.) Laurens County Sheriff’s Department – Ricky Chastain, Sheriff

50 Patrol Rifles	\$	50,000.00
2 Automated License Plate Recognition Systems	\$	35,000.00
5 In Car 800 Mhz Radios	\$	25,000.00
WTH Think Automatic Vehicle Location	\$	13,000.00
6 In Car Camera Systems	\$	40,000.00
35 Dell Laptop Computers	\$	35,000.00
1 Mobile Command Post	\$	450,000.00
4 Patrol Dogs	\$	100,000.00
	TOTAL \$	748,000.00

Explaining the capital requests, Captain Coates said:

- a.) Two (2) Automated License Plate Recognition Systems (ALPRs) - This is proven technology that will assist law enforcement in the detection of suspended tags, stolen license tags and stolen vehicles. ALPR systems capture images of vehicle license plates and instantly checks those numbers against a variety of "hotlists" held in a database. This technology will benefit law enforcement and the community by allowing the deputy using the equipment to scan license tags instead of calling in tags over the radio. Having the ability to scan multiple tags will make recovering stolen vehicles and possible wanted vehicle (AMBER Alert) greater and the process more efficient. The equipment interrogates with the current laptops we use and is compatible with our records management system. The system is portable, allowing it to easily move from one vehicle to the next.
- b.) Five (5) In Car 800 Mhz Radios -The Laurens County Sheriff’s Office covers an area of over 713 square miles. There are some areas of the county that the portable radios will not work and the deputy is not able to communicate with other deputies and/or dispatch. The purchase of 800MHZ In-Car Radios would increase officer safety by allowing deputies to communicate more successfully in areas where a portable does not work. These radios will be put in the new patrol vehicles we get this year. This cost will cover purchasing the radios and the install.
- c.) WTH Think AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) - This system is installed on the deputy's county issued laptop and is configured to record the location of the vehicle using GPS coordinates. The system can be used for real time location (mobile internet required) or used as a historical locator where the data is, recorded and uploaded when synched to our server. This technology will benefit the Sheriff’s Office and County in that the location of the vehicle will be always recorded. It will aid in the investigation of accidents by showing location/ speed of the vehicle, help with complaints by citizens in that we will be able to verify information and ensure that the vehicles are being used in the proper manner. This amount will cover installation of 35 patrol vehicles.

- d.) Thirty (30) Dell Laptop Computer - These computers will replace the current laptop computers in deputy's patrol car. Some of the computers are 5 years old and being exposed to the varying elements and used on a daily basis they are beginning to break and wear out. This allow us to replace old laptops giving them up to date equipment to perform their required duties.
- e.) Six (6) In Car Camera Systems - These in car camera systems will be installed in patrol cars that currently do not have the new system. The in car camera system will be and have been beneficial to the Sheriff's Office and the County by assisting in video recording incidents to be used in criminal prosecution, civil litigation, citizen complaints and in risk management. Each system has a sensor to detect the cars speed and if the vehicle is involved in a collision and if a predetermined threshold is reached the camera will begin to record. This enables key personnel to have a video recording of the event.
- f.) Fifty (50) Patrol Rifles - The LCSO would like to purchase .223 caliber patrol rifles to issue to the deputies. Research shows that today's American law enforcement officers are being outgunned during confrontational with criminal adversaries. The deputies at the LCSO are issued a 40 caliber Glock handgun and a Mossberg 12 gauge shot gun, both being effective at close ranges whereas the suspects are often armed with assault rifles or the standard deer rifle. The effective ranges for those weapons are 100 yards or more. Although law enforcement officers are unaware of the firepower the suspect may have, not having the proper weaponry will give the advantage to the suspect and place the officer and citizens in a dangerous and possible deadly disadvantage. Also, with the increase in active shooter situation (schools and workplace) the first personnel on scene will be the regular patrol deputy. The use of our Special Operation Response Team (SORT), who is equipped with the patrol rifle has an one hour response time. Waiting for the arrival of this team when an active shooter situation is occurring will cause more injury or death to the victims involved. Nobody ever wants to have an incident like Sandy Hook or Virginia Tech, but if or when it happens our citizens deserve to have its law enforcement personnel properly prepared to protect them.
- g.) One (1) Mobile Command Post - The LCSO would like to purchase a mobile command post to be used by the Laurens County Sheriff's Office and other Laurens County emergency responder to use in major incidents. The Sheriff's Office and Laurens County emergency responders does not have access to a vehicle capable of handling new technology, equipment, office space and facilities at scenes that may last several days or longer. It is only a matter of time before the next critical incident occurs in Laurens County and when it does, the Sheriff's Office and other first responders will have the proper equipment to control and take care of the incident and protect life, safety and property.
- h.) Four (4) Patrol Dogs - Patrol K-9's would benefit Laurens County Sheriff's Office by adding an additional tool. The K-9s would be assigned to each of the four uniform patrol shifts. This will allow a K-9 to be accessed 24 hours a day to help locate drugs, track and apprehend fleeing suspects, and locate missing persons. In the past, the Sheriff's Office would either call another agency or SLED to bring their K-9 team or not use one at all. Having a K-9 assigned to each shift would greatly reduce the wait time to have the K-9 on scene and increase the probability of apprehending the suspect, locating the missing person, or seizing the illegal drugs.
- i.) Two (2) New Deputy Positions- These positions would enable the Sheriff's Office to keep the deputies that were working at the Laurens County Hospital until the contract ended March 2014. These positions will be assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division and will work a split schedule (2 PM to 2 AM) to create a "power shift" to assist during the busy times of the day. By adding these new deputies to the Uniform Patrol Division should reduce overtime, create a safer work environment, create a safer county for its citizens and increase the quickness of response times

Councilman Tollison stated that it appears that no justification is in place to retain these two employees.

- j.) 5 New Part-time Employees- These positions will allow the Sheriff's Office to have part-time employees to cover the school crossing responsibilities at the five schools within Laurens County. The new employees will be dedicated to a school and cover both morning and afternoon sessions. This will ensure that a trained person will be at each of the schools in Laurens County to protect our children when coming and leaving the school and free up full time deputies to be able to concentrate on their primary duties without having to stop and cover the school crossings

NEXT BUDGET SESSION – There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to meet again on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. at the Historic Courthouse, County Council Chambers.

Administrator Segars noted that the Laurens County Museum and the Laurens County Disability and Special Needs Board wish to address Council at the next work session.

ADJOURNMENT – There was a COUNCIL CONSENSUS to adjourn the budget session at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh  
Clerk to Council