

**MINUTES  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORKSESSION  
MAY 18, 2010**

**Present:** R. David Brown, David L. Ferguson, Mary Lynn Kinley, Kamau Marcharia, Dwayne Perry, Carolyn B. Robinson, Mikel R. Trapp, Council Members; Philip L. Hinely, County Administrator; Shryll M. Brown, Clerk to Council.

**Staff:** Davis Anderson, Laura Johnson, Adam Swearingen, Mike Tanner, Steven Gaither

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date, and location of this meeting: The Herald-Independent, The State, and Winnsboro Cablevision, and forty-nine other individuals.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

**2. INVOCATION**

Council Member Kinley led in the invocation.

{ Council recessed at 6:08 P.M. Returned from recess at 6:57 P.M. }

**3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Presentations: FY 2010-2011 Budget

**A. Grants Recap: Steven Gaither**

Current Projects Of Fairfield County

- COPS GRANT (\$500,000 ) – PENDING  
Applied for 4 additional deputies  
Community Oriented Policing  
Community Liaisons
- DIRECT JUSTICE ASSISTANT GRANT (JAG) (\$24,000)  
11 new computers  
To equip all cars with computers  
Status: In progress
- DIRECT JAG GRANT (101,000.00)  
Continuation of the 2007 project  
24 police vehicles to get computers @\$2100 each  
Includes all departments (investigation, narcotics, sheriff's department, etc.)
- DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY/SC JUSTICE DEPT (\$225,000)  
IT Infrastructure
- US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT - (\$15,400)  
Digital Audio Equipment
- US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT - (\$25,000)  
Parole Car Replacement
- US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT - (\$139,000)  
VC Summer - Buffer Zone ( Water Barriers)
- SC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (911)  
Center Office Equipment (\$36,400)

- SC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (911)  
Siren Grant (\$200,000) - Pending
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) - (\$12,000)  
Fluid warmers  
Community Safety Car seats  
CPR Adult & Child Manikins  
Training software
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) - (\$30,000)  
Exclusive Trauma Services  
Glassmaster Saw  
Ram Support  
Jaws of Life Kit
- SCDHEC- USED OIL GRANT- (\$14,700 – CURRENT)  
2011 Application (\$18,500)
- SCDHEC – WASTE TIRE GRANT – (\$16,500 - CURRENT)  
2011 Application (\$36,000)
- SC Railroad Museum Grant – (CLOSED)  
(\$160,000)
- Fairfield County Museum Grant – (\$2,500)  
Smithsonian Institute
- SC BUDGET & CONTROL BOARD- (\$52,000)  
County focus is to become energy efficient in the following: County Administration Building, Court House, Detention Center, Judicial Center  
Competitive Grant process – with other municipalities counties
- SC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – (\$180,000)  
New Transportation Buses for Fairfield County (Stimulus Money)
- WATER PROJECTS – (\$102,500)  
Ridgeway  
Jenkinsville  
Mitford  
Mid County
- FAIRFIELD COUNTY AIRPORT PROJECT  
Taxiway Extension  
Obstruction Clearing  
Perimeter Fencing  
Pavement Rehabilitation
- FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION – (\$787,260 – CURRENT)  
FAA (\$375,000 – Closed)
- SC AERONAUTICS COMMISSION - (\$16,200 - CURRENT)  
SC (\$181,800 - Closed)
- SC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - (\$1,000,000)  
Peach Road Industrial Park
- FAIRFIELD COUNTY QUICK JOBS (\$2,200,000)  
Council of Governments  
Conducting meeting with COG regarding details  
Reviewing detail plans with Architect  
Construction began January 2010
- The total revenue generated was approximately **5,472,700.00** over the past twelve (12) months.

#### **B. EMS Capital Request: Mike Tanner**

- Services: Basic and Advanced Life Support with Ambulance Transportation and Technical Rescue
- Lifeline Services: 111 customers
- Certifications: EMT-Basic (144 Class Hours and 5 patient Evaluations); EMT-Intermediate (80 Class Hours and 16 Clinical Hours)
- Paramedic Requirements: Hour Requirements, Skills Requirements, Assessment Requirements, Complaint Requirements, Calls. Totals: 1036 Hours
- EMT-Basic Procedures
- Intermediate Skills
- Life Saving Paramedic Procedures Including Basic and Intermediate Skills

- Equipment
- Map Books and GPS Systems
- Ability to Transport 3 Patients
- Ambulance Key Points: Reliability is paramount. Uniformity saves time. Time=Lives. Better Handling and Turning Radius. 40k+ calls w/o entrance or egress problems. Needed space to “properly” perform life saving skills even with multiple patients. Ability to transport 3 critical patients. Extra weight of equipment. Over 2,000 pounds not including Patients or Personnel. Extra mechanical and Electrical Load. Actual hours on Engines not reflected in mileage, 100 hours = 3000 miles. Units idle many hours every shift. Ambulances are driven a lot harder than commercial vehicles of the same type. Reduced operating cost compared to smaller vehicles, original study revealed \$1.07 per mile F350 .06 for MVP. Most important thing is getting you or your family member to a Medical Facility without mechanical breakdown or any type of incident.
- Equipment: Radiological Decontamination; Used for Fire Fighter Rehab and any Patient that might be suffering from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning; Thermal Imager
- 2009 Call Volume: 4,244
- Transport Destinations: Fairfield, Richland, Providence NE, Baptist, Providence, Springs, VA, Chester, Lexington, Kershaw, Newberry, Piedmont Medical
- Types of Calls: Cardiac Arrest, Gun Shot, Stabbing, Respiratory, DOA, Amputations, Psychiatric, Strokes, Cardiac, Diabetic, Pediatric, MVA, Trauma, Adult Medical, Environmental, OB/GYN
- Quality Assurance: Every Call gets reviewed by EMS Captain; Monthly QA Sessions with Med Control; Every Life Threatening call reviewed by Physician, Director and Training Officer; Monthly In-service Training; Daily Shift Training; Daily Crew Evaluations; Response Time Evaluation; Every Employee must maintain ACLS, BLS, PHTLS, PALS and State Certification
- Response Time Importance
- Our Response Time: Average for 2009, 9.07 Minutes. We Exceed the National Goal of 10 Minutes
- How much is the monthly fee for senior citizens?
- Do you have a grant for that?
- That is not any profit in there for you all, is it?
- One of the big things that we have talked about over the past years is the longevity of those trucks. I think we need to be really mindful of the expense of those trucks over a smaller box truck. We need to see how long we can keep one of those freight liners on the road because we’re talking about 47% to buy that unit. So, make sure we are keeping it on the road at least 47% more times to offset that cost of that big truck.

### C. Retirees Group Insurance

Brian Fuller, Wachovia Actuary, explained the retiree insurance concept and how the proposed policy will change the county’s liability. His explanation was as follows: GASB 45 gives Fairfield County an annual expense and it also calculates liability for the county as well. The expense is an accrual expense; an expense going on in the future for current retirees and the active ones who are earning their benefits for their future retirement benefits. The expense is much bigger than the cash cost for the retirees being paid today. When GASB 45 came in, the county had an expense for the benefits. The original calculations for these liabilities had a significant expense for the county (approximately \$2,540.00 per active employee). The most significant change being proposed focus on post-medicare benefits. The county has covered the expenses for a line share of the retiree’s liabilities as they arise through the current, with an annual cost of over \$4,000 for a retiree. The county is changing that post-medicare promise to promise \$100.00 per month or \$1,200 per year, which is a fixed cost for the retirees for post-medicare. The second change was that spouses will pay for themselves entirely from their own contribution. There will be no county contribution toward the spouses of retirees. The third was that these retirees can actually get the benefits a little earlier (pre-65); however, it will have a slight increase in the pre-65 obligations. Basically, these changes will have a significant impact on the annual expenses yearly. The expense before the aggregate for all of employees was over \$642,000 for 2008 and 2009. After these changes are implemented for just the actives, and leave the current retirees along, these changes would bring the expenses down from \$642,000 to \$405,000 per year. If you change the current active employees and the current retirees and move them to the new benefits, that would bring the \$642,000 down to \$245,000 yearly (approximately 62% reduction in the annual expense).

An overview of the presentation from Mr. Sam Gibson and Mr. Len Sills, Group Benefits, was as follows: This would be called a retiree health reimbursement account plan and we wanted to show you the features. What happens when I turn 65 as a retiree? On the first month of the retiree's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, the county will commence funding per month into the health reimbursement account for those retirees who do not elect to pay and keep the current state plan. If they want to stay in the state plan, they can. If they decide to stay in the state plan and not follow this plan, they would pay 100% of the cost and the county pays nothing. Our corporation currently offers several Medicare options and the cost of these plans range from \$99.00 a month up to \$200.00. We would meet with each individual and see what their needs are. WHAT IS A HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT AND WHAT CAN IT BE USED FOR? It is going to be used to pay these Medicare supplements for the retirees. Any unused balance can be used to reimburse that retiree and their spouse for any qualified medical or dental claims or you could just restrict to only medical prescriptions. Our claims are not covered by any insurance at all so they get the money and they use it for premium and it doesn't disappear at the end of the first year. It remains in their account. It helps them to either pay premium or to reimburse them back. IS THERE ANY ASSISTANCE FOR PAYING MY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS? The primary state plan does not have what is called doughnut. We suggest that you put up an additional amount of money into that account and allow the retirees to file claims in the doughnut hole after they get their \$250.00 reimbursement. Anything else, they would file the claim with us and we would reimburse them back during that gap period. HOW THE PLAN WORKS. The county would deposit the required monies into a health reimbursement account and I would be in charge of administering that account out of Spartanburg--providing each person with their accounts and transactions that they want to set up. Our corporation would also assist in the dis-enrollment under the state plan and getting all of those people into Part B as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. The state plan allows people to get a new plan under part B at a rather rapid timing and that is sort of a free service. Thirdly, we operate similar to a broker where we interview each retiree at meetings and a supplemental plan is chosen to meet their needs. There will be a charge of \$2 per month to do certain functions and premium payments. Any unused funds could be used to reimburse or their spouse could use it as well to buy their main supplement. The charge is \$5.00 out of their funds. In addition, we will have an annual limit of 5,000 dollars. We project this will cover the average cost of the people in that period of time. We can give you a report at the end of the year. To put up the health reimbursement account, we do the plan documents and set up the account completely, there would be an additional 1,000 dollars. You would have the \$1.00 or \$1.50, depending on what you choose, and you would have the 5,000.00 dollars and the \$1,000.00 for the claim and operations. This is a defined benefit contribution plan and it is exempt from GASB 45. The additional point on this special fund that the government set aside for the next four years is that it starts June 1<sup>st</sup> and any claims between \$15,000 and \$90,000 on any retirees 55-65, a form has to be completed. I have a list of all of the things that they are going to ask about it. The state is going to have to handle that information. What you need to do is find out what they are going to do with that. Are they going to apply for each one and if they do get the money, what are they going to do with it? The plan says that it has to come back to reduce cost or save the retiree monthly contributions. What is going to be done with that? This is what you really need to find out. The prescription card and the organization that we worked with is going to be Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina. Consequently, this would make these employees eligible for Medicare Part B, which they would be under, and that is the doughnut hole for those people that are retired and who have just purchased the Medicare Part D on their own.

- How long have you been providing your service to the Spartanburg group?
- If I am a retiree and I have been retired for 5 years, tell me how my life is going to change through this program?
- If I have been retired, Medicare is not already primary?
- The county has been paying for the supplementary program?
- If you are over 65, and people are living longer and want to continue working full-time, you do recommend they stay with the county insurance as primary and Medicare as secondary?
- What happens if an employee retires at 60?
- Mr. Gibson said in the presentation that there were plans from \$99.00 - \$200.00, but you would recommend the \$99.00 dollar plan. Would you just touch on the plan that goes up to \$200.00 dollars? What is the difference?
- Pre-existing conditions would have no affect on either one of these plans?
- Does the \$99.00 dollar include a prescription plan?
- If an employee retires at 65 and his wife is 63 or 60, and we are presently letting the spouse buy insurance at 100%, is it still going to be available through the state policy for her to buy insurance?

**4. ADJOURN**

The budget worksession was adjourned at 8:28 P.M., upon unanimous approval by Council.

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SHRYLL M. BROWN  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

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RUSSELL DAVID BROWN  
CHAIRMAN