

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Special Meeting – Budget Hearing #2**  
**August 7, 2017 @ 5:15 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kevin Greenfield, Chairman  
Jay Dunn  
Greg Mattingley  
Patty Cox  
Tim Dudley  
John Jackson  
Debra Kraft

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Judge Webber  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Lisa Wallace, Auditor's Office  
Lois Durbin, Circuit Clerk  
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office  
Rocki Wilkerson, Workforce  
Matt Snyder, ROE  
Pat Berter, Probation  
Ed Yoder, Treasurer  
Steve Bean, County Clerk  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chair Kevin Greenfield at the Macon County Office Building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting on 8/7/2017 was made by Ms. Kraft seconded by Mr. Jackson and motion carried 7-0.

**Budget Proposals**

***Regional Office of Education***

Mr. Snyder explained that most of the money goes to salaries. There are a couple of ladies that are close to retirement. There is one retiring this year and two the following year and then there will be a reduction. The budget has been reduced by the 6.2% as requested. There is a rolling lease on the building with 2 years left on it. He said they would like to eventually like to get out of that and save some money there too.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Ms. Kraft and the motion carried 7-0.

***Circuit Court***

Judge Webber reported that he could not make the 6.2% cut. That would mean a \$35,000 cut. A detailed letter to Finance Chairman Greenfield explained how he could cut out all non-personnel discretionary spending. That would mean no phones, no equipment maintenance, no postage, no training, and no office supplies. That would amount to \$19,750 and the cut still would not be made. The only way to do it would be to lay off one of the judge's clerks. There would be a judge without staff and the court's business could not be conducted. He explained that he would have to essentially close a courtroom on a rotating basis and reassign clerks to cover. The clerks do not have a bargaining agreement, but are covered by the handbook. The handbook provides for step increases every 24 months. The clerks did not receive step

increases in FY17. In a meeting with Chairman Dunn, it was suggested the Judge prepare a budget with a 2% step increase for the clerks which would come on their anniversary dates. The cost would be approximately \$5,000 because some would not actually get raises until calendar year 2018. The budget being presented includes a 2% increase for the clerks. Cuts that could be made to the discretionary spending were made. A large part of the budget is state mandated, non-discretionary spending which would include appeals, juvenile cases, termination of parental rights, translators, and a number of things like that. That leaves the total expenditures at an increase over FY17 of about \$4,800. The law library is self financing, but a raise for the law librarian was provided for. Otherwise, that is a flat budget. The law library is paid for by the law library fee paid by litigants in certain civil cases. Pursuant to the agreement with the board from last year, the law library fund is being reduced each year to pay for the judge's library which is, right now, essentially electronic research which is now the only source for the courts for decisions of the Appellate Courts, Supreme Court and Statutes.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 7-0.

### ***Circuit Clerk***

Ms. Durbin explained that she had been asked to cut 6.2% or \$64,000. She said she had cut it more than that or \$68,125. The changes are:

- Page 1- salary line which was moved to other funds. Per contract, staff was given 2% raise. Management did not receive raises this or last year.
- Page 2 - jury page was reduced by \$8,000. The parking is paid monthly, but since the jury weeks have been reduced, the parking was able to be reduced to \$4,800 for the entire year.
- Page 3 – Automation shows an increase due to the added salary. Line 5030, IT, will be retiring in the next 1 ½ months. That salary will probably be reduced by quite a bit, thus reducing the benefit as well. The EDP lines for both the Clerk and the Courts were reduced for a total reduction on this page of \$20,481 and will have more to come.
- Page 4 – Document Storage has some rearranged salaries and the Circuit Clerk EDP line here was also reduced. That page's reduction amounts to almost \$7,000
- Page 5 – Restricted Cash which is the \$36 a year child support maintenance fee will cover some of the salaries removed from the general fund lines so it shows an increase
- Page 6 – Clerk OP shows some raised fees because of the e-filing. Phase I of criminal & traffic cases is coming up. This will involve training, so both training and travel show an increase.
- Page 7 – The E-Citation funds are money that is received from certain fees and is strictly for the e-citation. Right now, the police department, Sheriff, & Mt. Zion are all using it. There will be a maintenance fee coming due around the first of next year. \$3,000 was allotted to cover this, but it is unsure exactly what it might be. That money can only be strictly used for the e-citation . It is very specific.
- Page 8 – Jury Agency page reflects a prior page of the budget.

Ms. Kraft thanked Ms. Durbin and made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Ms. Cox and the motion carried 7-0.

### *State's Attorney*

Mr. Baggett explained that he would be asking for a postponement in the presentation of the budget. He referred to a memo regarding the presentation that had been passed out to members of the committee prior to the meeting. Mr. Baggett explained that he had been asked by Chairman Dunn at the Justice Committee meeting on July 27 to eliminate the 4D program or Child Support Enforcement Unit. This is an intergovernmental agreement with the state for representation in child support matters. The intent was to ask Assistant State's Attorney, Ruth Waller, the supervisor of that unit to be present at this meeting in order to explain to the committee exactly what that unit does and the benefits of having that unit versus not having it. Unfortunately, due to a medical issue, Ms. Waller is not available and it is not known when she will be able to return to work. She has been out for about 2 weeks and there is no firm information on when she will return. Mr. Baggett said he would still like to give her an opportunity to appear before the committee and explain and give a first hand account of what the unit does than what Mr. Baggett felt he could give. He said he understands the committee's timetable. Chairman Greenfield asked Mr. Baggett if this was something he could do. Mr. Baggett said he was prepared to present the budget. Chairman Greenfield said he didn't see why Mr. Baggett couldn't do it. Mr. Baggett proceeded asking if everyone had had opportunity to review the memorandum which gives a fair amount of detail in regard to the cut, where they had come up short at Justice, Chairman Dunn's suggest and request that a budget be prepared that would eliminate the Child Support Budget and see what that could save the county. As Mr. Baggett said he had indicated to Chairman Dunn at Justice, the calculations are that between health insurance, copier expenses, postage and a little additional salary, eliminating the unit will save the county about \$26,750. It will save more than that because there are also paper and office supply expenses that could not be quantified, but with the one less unit, less should be purchased during the fiscal year. With the \$26,750, a budget has been prepared which accomplishes the requested 6.2% cut. About \$81,000 in personnel expenses still had to be eliminated. As shown on page 2 and as referenced in the memo, the State's Attorney over the course of the past several years has diminished it's requests as much as possible. Travel expenses and training expenses have been eliminated and they have contracted with different electronic research providers in order to cut expenses for legal research needs. The use of sexually dangerous and sexually violent psychology exams has been reduced from the budget through the pursuit of criminal prosecution more than civil prosecution as was done in the past. No further cuts can be made without losing the ability to function as an office. There is a contractual increase in non-personnel expenses that cannot be gotten around for electronic research.

Chairman Greenfield asked Mr. Baggett if the program they are cutting would be picked up by the state. Mr. Baggett said that the way that unit works is that SS funds are paid by the federal government to the state. The state sub-contracts with the Macon County States Attorney's Office to provide the services to provide the services that the federal government pays them to do. If we do not provide the service through an inter-governmental agreement, the Attorney General's office will represent in our courts and in these cases. Chairman Greenfield commented that instead of the state making us do it, we can go back and make the state do it. Mr. Baggett confirmed, saying that the only reason we do it is because of the inter-governmental agreement with the State where they give several hundred thousand dollars a year, although it has been cut in years past. There are cuts about every year. Sometimes it is a big cut and sometimes it is small, but is almost always a cut. About 4 or 5 years ago, they eliminated non-personnel expenses so the county had to start paying for all of that. Then about

2 years ago, due to a change in policy, the state stopped reimbursing for all of the health insurance based on the fact that they do not agree with the way our Auditor's Office allocates the costs to the departments. Because it does not actually cost us that much per employee because some employees do not take the insurance or some don't take family plus or the highest level of insurance, we don't get reimbursed based on that allocation.

Mr. Baggett explained that there are about \$81,000 in cuts to personnel lines and a small increase to the Law Library line. Otherwise everything stays the same as last year. When you include the \$26,000 with the \$81,000, that gets it to the \$106,000 requested cut over last year's operating expenses.

Mr. Baggett repeated that there is a virtue to having attorneys working in that building Monday through Friday every day of the week who meet with people and be on hand to argue these cases in front of local judges as opposed to having Attorney Generals who are traveling across the state and whose availability will not be the same to the public. There is a cost to eliminating the 4D unit. There is a cost to the people in this county who rely on child support and who rely on the state department as well as our judiciary to make these decisions and to enforce child support orders. Without strong advocates, the judiciary can't help these people. Having people who do not work and live here do the job will probably not get the job done as well. Mr. Mattingley asked about private counsel. Mr. Baggett said he was not sure exactly how they fit into it and he wished Ms. Waller was present to address it. He said he did not know what slack they pick up. They can't represent the department. Whether people who need the courts to become involved in their child support disputes can afford private attorneys is unknown. Mr. Mattingley said it is still a mechanism of the rule to show cause. Mr. Baggett agreed and said there have been a lot changes to the way the child support is structured with the rewrite of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution Marriage Act that he said he was not all that familiar with. It is not that the Attorney General employees are inconfident attorneys, it is just that the attorneys are not here in Macon County every day.

Chairman Dunn stated that Mr. Scott's memorandum explains everything and told Mr. Baggett that he had done an excellent job in explaining. We know it is probably going to be a detriment to some of our citizens, but there are going to be similar problems in some of the other offices if we haven't already. He commented about Steve Bean being present and how when Mr. Bean had come over to this office, he had 10 employees and now has 7. If we make him get his 6.2% cut, he's going to have to cut more. It is tough times and it is probably going to get tougher. Here is one example where the state wants to work an agreement with us and then back peddles and keep cutting the amount of money they give us over the years. There is a similar problem in Probation where they are not paying them the money for some of the things we do for them to save them countless dollars by warehousing prisoners for the state prisons. We save them a lot of money through out programs, but they want to delay payment or cut money from it. It is all unfortunate.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve the proposed budget and forward on for display, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Chairman Greenfield commented that he seconded what Mr. Dunn had said. It is a tough time and we can't spend what we don't have. The motion carried 6-0 with Mr. Mattingley voting present.

***Treasurer***

Mr. Yoder announced that he had made the 6.2% cut.

Mr. Dunn asked Mr. Yoder if he was aware of Cherie Meyer's upcoming retirement. Mr. Yoder said yes. Mr. Dunn asked Mr. Yoder if he was aware of any other upcoming retirements in his office. Mr. Yoder said no. Mr. Dunn said he'd heard a rumor that there might be at least one more before the end of the year. Mr. Yoder said it is news to him. He has heard nothing. Mr. Dunn asked Mr. Yoder about his plan now that he knows that Cherie Meyers is retiring. Mr. Yoder said he would hire another person. Mr. Dunn asked if that person had already been hired. Mr. Yoder said no. Mr. Dunn asked if Mr. Yoder had hired anybody lately. Mr. Yoder said no full time; only part time help. Mr. Dunn said that he is a little concerned knowing that Cherie's salary is approximately \$58,000 plus \$10,000 on insurance and you're talking almost \$70,000. You're probably talking another \$50,000 if anybody else retires from that office before the budget cycle is over. That is \$110,000 to \$120,000 and Mr. Dunn said he would prefer to table the budget and put it off till the end to see what is going to happen. He said he didn't think Mr. Yoder had made the 6.2% yet. Mr. Yoder said he had \$23,374 which is what the paper said. That's going from \$377,417 down to \$354,043. That is 6.2%. Mr. Mattingley said it's within \$26. Mr. Dunn said he'd still like to put it off because he has concerns that if another one is lost in the office, he'd like to know what the plan is.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to table the proposed budget, seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 7-0.

**CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**CLOSED SESSION** - None

**NEXT MEETING** -

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 @ 5:15 p.m. (next regular Finance Committee meeting)

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 @ 5:16 p.m. Budget Hearing #3

(Env Mgmt, County Clerk, Probation, Workforce, County Board, Recorder)

**ADJOURNMENT** - Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Ms. Kraft, motion carried 7-0, and meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office