

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in a Special Called Budget Meeting on Monday, June 7, 2004, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference room in Suite 100 at the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Greg Dunn, Chairman
Linda Wells, Vice Chair
Herb Frady
Peter Pfeifer
A.G. VanLandingham

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris W. Cofty, County Administrator
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant
Mark Pullium, Director of Finance
Mary Holland, Assistant Director of Finance
Tom Sawyer, Budget Officer
Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

Chairman Dunn remarked that this was a special called meeting to discuss the county's budget for fiscal year 2005.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2005 BUDGET:

EMPLOYEE SICK TIME:

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had some concerns that would affect a lot of the departments. He said one of his concerns was sick days. He said it was ironic to him that the county would afford an employee a benefit that would not penalize them if they were sick and then the county turns around and buys it back from them. He said he had a problem with that.

Commissioner Frady asked how many sick time hours an employee could accumulate.

Chairman Dunn responded 480 hours.

County Administrator Chris Cofty remarked that after an employee accumulated hours over that the county would buy it back at \$.50 on the dollar and give them a check for it.

Commissioner Frady asked if this was 50% of the employee's base salary.

Finance Director Mark Pullium responded yes.

Commissioner Frady pointed out that if an employee had worked for the county for 20 years, the county would be paying \$.50 on the dollar of their current salary.

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Chairman Dunn interjected that an employee would be paid at their current rate and not the salary they were making twenty years ago.

Commissioner VanLandingham felt this was an issue that the Board needed to look at closely.

Chairman Dunn felt some employees were programming their sick time. He said some of the senior personnel got a hefty check at the end of every year for their accumulated sick leave. He said these employees had operated under county policy that had given them this and it just could not be taken away at this point. He said it might be bought out and stopped. He said continuing to be frustrated over this issue every year was not the way to go.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he understood what had been earned could not be taken away. He said he was looking at the future. He said this was manageable right now but the future was what he was concerned with.

Chairman Dunn asked how much the county owed in accumulated sick time.

Mr. Cofty replied that annually it was \$350,000 to \$400,000.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that on top of that, the employees would get paid for sick time when they retired and Mr. Cofty replied yes.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that employees reaching the 480 sick hours every year would be paid every year for hours over that figure and then be paid for these hours when they retire.

Mr. Cofty said when an employee retires they get a check for \$900 maximum for 480 plus sick hours.

Finance Director remarked that the annual budget on this was \$326,000 plus benefits. He said the county was spending more than \$300,000 annually on the sick leave buy back program. He said if this Board were to take action to buy this out now it would probably be approximately equal of that amount. He estimated this to be approximately \$160,000 to \$170,000 to buy it out. He said the question was if this could be bought out now or bought out in December. He felt there might be some legal questions that would need to be answered in that regard.

Chairman Dunn asked Mr. Pullium what he was suggesting that needed to be corrected. He asked if it was the 480 hours or the annual buy out above 480.

Commissioner VanLandingham replied the practice itself.

Commissioner Wells suggested the hours above 480.

Commissioner Frady said he did not mind personnel accumulating their time and felt they should be able to do that but when it got to the 480 hours point it should stop. He said he was not in favor of buying that either.

Commissioner Pfeifer said it was possible that this was different in larger organizations and noted that he had typically worked for small and mid size organizations, but he had never worked any place where an employee could roll over or get credit for unused sick time. He said he could get vacation and other time off but never sick time.

Chairman Dunn remarked that in the Federal government employees could accumulate a certain amount of sick time and get paid for it but it was not an annual thing. He said the employee could get a match when they retired if they had accumulated it.

Commissioner Pfeifer said he would object to any kind of program and Commissioner Wells agreed.

Chairman Dunn said he did not have a problem with an employee accumulating 480 hours and paying that employee \$900 when they retired.

Commissioner Wells interjected that she was not in favor of paying that when an employee retired.

Mr. Pullium remarked that there was a limit on the people who would get the 480 hours. He said previous Board action had been taken so that anyone beginning employment with the county before 1998 would be eligible but any employee beginning employment after 1998 would not be eligible for the retirement portion. He recalled it was \$15 per day up to \$900 total that an employee could get.

Chairman Dunn clarified that the retirement had been resolved but the annual buy out was the issue that had not been resolved. He felt this program did not have any merit. He asked Mr. Pullium what he felt the impact would be if the county stopped doing this.

Mr. Pullium replied that one impact would be that the Board would not have to budget this cash. He said there was one other consideration and he was not sure how the employees would react. He felt what was occurring now was that employees who were sick were using annual leave instead of sick leave. He felt the annual leave would then begin to grow and there would be some shifting going on.

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Chairman Dunn asked if the county paid for annual leave when an employee retires.

Mr. Pullium replied yes and stated an employee gets paid for all of their annual leave when they retire.

Chairman Dunn asked if there was a cap on that.

Mr. Pullium replied yes there was a cap and it was based on how much an employee could earn in the current year.

Commissioner Frady asked if an employee needed a doctor's excuse for sick leave.

Mr. Pullium replied yes after five days absence from work.

Commissioner Wells said the Board could address both of these issues. She said the Board could budget in anticipation of cutting it out.

Chairman Dunn asked if the county paid more for vacation leave or sick leave that was accumulated.

Mr. Pullium responded the county paid more for vacation leave. He said the county paid 100% of the amount of vacation leave and \$.50 on every dollar of sick leave accumulated up to 480 hours.

Commissioner Frady felt vacation time should be something that should be taken within a certain amount of time. He said he did not think people should just be able to accumulate this. He said it was there for a purpose and he felt they should use it to rest, relax or whatever.

Commissioner Wells said this was there to prevent employees from burning out and getting sick.

Chairman Dunn asked how many vacation hours could be carried over.

Mr. Pullium replied that it would depend on the employee's current year earnings. He said if an employee earned two weeks vacation then they could only carry over two weeks.

Mr. Cofty said he felt the reason and whole intent of this buy back policy was to encourage people not to use sick leave when they did not need to. He said initially staff had reviewed this approximately a year ago and gave the Board of Commissioners support on that issue. He said there was no nominal difference between sick leave taken prior to the buy back policy being solved and sick leave taken now.

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Commissioner VanLandingham said this had not done anything except cost more money.

Commissioner Wells said philosophically she had a problem with it.

Chairman Dunn asked if the Board did not want to program any of this for next year and then just have a new policy in place by July.

Mr. Cofty said it was certainly the Board's discretion as to what it wanted to do.

Chairman Dunn said it would depend on just how fast the Board wanted to solve this problem.

Commissioner Wells replied by December.

Chairman Dunn asked if this would be done on a fiscal or an annual basis.

Mr. Pullium replied that it would be paid out in December and it was based on the records of January 1st through December 30th. He said the employees would have half a year in 2004 that had already accrued. He said to not include anything in this budget the Board would have to pay this out by June 30th, 2004.

Commissioner Frady said he was not saying to cut this off now but cut it off at the end of the year.

Chairman Dunn said this was not going to change the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department. He said some of their overtime could not be controlled.

Mr. Pullium said employees in those two departments did participate in this buy back program.

Mr. Pullium asked if the Board wanted staff to develop a policy.

Commissioner Wells responded yes.

Chairman Dunn remarked that if there was a policy in place that would start July 1st then the Board would have to pay the employees what they had accumulated up to July 1st or would it go to December.

Commissioner Frady remarked that an employee's year runs from January 1st through December 31st.

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Chairman Dunn clarified that the Board wanted staff to develop a policy to put an end to this program effective December 31st. He said the employees would be allowed to continue to accrue the 480 hours and after that they could not accrue.

Mr. Cofty said the purpose of the 480 was to bridge the cap between disability.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to authorize staff to develop a policy regarding the accrual of sick time for the current program to end effective December 31, 2004 and there would be no more accrual of sick time beyond 480 hours. The motion carried 5-0.

EMPLOYEE OVERTIME AND COMP TIME:

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked that the next concern he had was with overtime. He said it did not matter how many new employees there were or where they were added, overtime and comp time did not seem to decrease at all. He said he had a problem with this. He asked why personnel were being added if overtime and comp time were not decreasing. He felt this was an issue that the Board needed to review as well. He said he would like to look at overtime and comp time as the Board reviewed each department. He said he noticed through most every department that there had not been a decrease where personnel were added. He said personnel had been added to two departments for the past two or three years and there had not been any decrease in overtime or comp time. He said to him this was just not good business. He felt overtime and comp time become a way of life instead of a necessity and the Board agreed with him.

Chairman Dunn said one of the things that he had suggested in the past was not to give anyone overtime unless their exempt employee boss was present to supervise them. He said overtime would then go away. He said this was done in the Federal government and it went away.

Commissioner Frady said overtime to him was an emergency situation that would arise through attrition.

Commissioner Wells felt this should not occur on a weekly basis.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he questioned the practice of adding personnel and not decreasing overtime and comp time. He said several departments were asking for additional personnel this year but past practice had not cut overtime or comp time.

Commissioner Wells asked if the Board should address this issue department by department.

Commissioner VanLandingham felt that would be the time to do it.

Commissioner Frady felt the Board had addressed this as far as the Sheriff's Department regarding the fifteen minutes overlap.

Commissioner Wells said this had not made any difference at all.

Chairman Dunn asked for the current policy on overtime. He clarified that exempt employees did not get overtime and Mr. Pullium replied that was correct.

Mr. Pullium remarked that employees who were exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act and specifically written into the law as being exempt did not get overtime. He said staff had also eliminated comp time for people who were exempt by buying that back. He said the only employees where overtime applied were those who were specifically named or not excluded as non exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Chairman Dunn felt the supervisor or division chief was responsible to get the work done during the normal work day. He said if something happened and this could not be done, then the supervisor needed to be present when the employee was working the overtime rather than having underlings that did not know what they were supposed to be doing hanging around after hours and getting paid for it.

Commissioner Wells said the Board could address that issue department by department.

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE AFTER RETIREMENT:

Commissioner VanLandingham commented on another concern that he had and that was with employee insurance after retirement. He said this was going to end up being a very costly program for the county. He said he was not sure if the county could weather this program after four or five more years when a lot of county personnel would start retiring. He said he was not sure what the answer to this problem would be but he did not want to leave an employee out there thinking that they were going to have this coverage and the county not be able to fulfill. He said the county was going to have to start carrying this as a liability under the new GASB 34 and it would have to be funded. He said this was going to be in the millions of dollars in just a few years. He felt this was not fair to the employees and not fair to the taxpayers to have a program like this that could not be funded without raising taxes of a great amount of money.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the policy currently in place stated that an employee who had worked for the county twenty five years and was age fifty five when they retired could remain in the county's insurance pool until they were eligible for Medicare. He said it was almost negligible what it had done over the last few years. He said the employee's family could stay in this plan but the employee would have to pay for their coverage. He said this

did give the employee who had worked twenty five or thirty years here and still not old enough for Medicare an opportunity to stay insured. He said the county was trying to take care of the long term outstanding employee and just had a few years until retirement. He commented on the issue that had occurred that caused this to happen. He said there were a couple of firefighters and one of them was 62 years old and had emphysema so badly that he could not walk upstairs but continued to go out to fight fires. He said the only reason that he would not retire was because he could not get any medical care until he was 65 years old. He said there were two or three cases where people were hanging on just to have health care. He said the county was paying them a high salary and also paying for their health care but the county was not getting as much work out of them as it should have because of their health problems and their age. He said the Board had come up with this as a way of taking care of good employees and to help retain the good work force.

Commissioner Frady asked if this had the potential of becoming very expensive.

Chairman Dunn said he was not sure. He said the information that the Board was given a couple of years ago indicated that it would not because there were not that many people who lasted twenty five or thirty years with the county.

Commissioner Frady felt this could become very expensive. He said if a lot of people retired in three years time, the county might have to pay out millions of dollars.

Mr. Pullium said the biggest change that had come about was that when this was passed, the accounting rules for this were cash basis accounting rules. He said there had been some changes in the private sector accounting whereby some large corporations who had a similar plan in place found that they did not have enough money. He stated when the financial accounting standards board changed the accounting rules and said this had to be recognized as a liability under actuarially accrued methods. He said this meant that the liability would have to be accrued for forty years worth of layers and forty years worth of experience. He said when one goes through this process and determine the present value of the forty years worth of cost it was a huge number. He said GASB did this and said there were governments out there with this same type of plan in place. He said it made sense if the private sector was doing this that the public sector should account for this liability under the same methodology. He said GASB has adopted this procedure and that was where the new rules come into play that would require the county to have an actuarilly accounted plan to determine the liability on an actuarilly determined basis. He said this number was not known but remarked that the Board would need to take the necessary steps to either fund the program or whatever the Board sees fit. He said realistically the impact could be significant if the county had to report a liability on its balance sheet.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the private sector was a little bit different when they were doing these kinds of things for young people as executives who were 35 years old and they would be paying them for forty years. He said the county's plan would be to pay the employee here after that employee retired and only until they were 65 years old and they must be with the county a minimum of twenty five years. He said there was a relatively small number of employees that fit in that category. He said every county employee was not part of this.

Mr. Pullium said every county employee would be eligible if they met the criteria but every employee did not meet the criteria.

Chairman Dunn said this was the information that the actuary would have to determine. He said the age of the work force would also have to be considered. He said the average age of the county work force was pretty high.

Commissioner VanLandingham said that meant that this would hit the county quicker.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that a lot of employees would retire before they were with the county twenty five years.

Commissioner Frady noted that the county had thirteen employees who had been with the county for twenty five years, twenty four employees who had been with the county for twenty years and forty one employees who had been with the county for fifteen years.

Mr. Pullium said there was a couple of other factors that would enter into this. He said the county had been fortunate here in terms of the average increase in health insurance, but the other factor that was a tremendous unknown was how much the cost of providing health insurance was going to rise. He said it was unknown what the health insurance inflation factor was going to be. He said it might be normalized at 2%, 3% or 4% or would it be the double digit numbers that had been seen over the last three or four years. He said this was probably the biggest wildcard in this entire scenario.

Chairman Dunn said it would be hard to know what to do with the elderly employees who were not capable of doing their job and he felt there would have to be some kind of plan that was a bridge.

Mr. Pullium agreed that was a good point. He commented that he and Mary Holland had attended a workshop in regard to the new GASB. He said one of the points that was made by the presenter was that there was a social factor from employees who have had long term service and now who need this coverage to get them from age fifty five to the Medicare eligibility. He said this Board would have that issue to work on and how it could be addressed.

Chairman Dunn remarked that based on new accounting procedures this was a change that the Board would need to review. He said when the Board was presented the data it was not noxious at all.

Commissioner Frady and Commissioner Wells disagreed and said that it was certainly noxious. They said they had voted against it.

Commissioner Frady reminded Chairman Dunn the way in which this had come about. He said it regarded a discussion of firemen who were older and still going into a fire. He said it was his belief that a fireman who was older and not able to go into a fire could certainly change the hoses on a fire hydrant. He said these employees could have other jobs that they could do.

Chairman Dunn remarked that as the conversation was expanded back then it became obvious that every employee with a situation would have to be covered. He said some employees might get cancer and would not be able to work but could not afford to retire.

Commissioner Wells felt there was a general consensus of the Board that they would like staff to obtain the actuarial facts and get this information back to the Board in a short period of time. She said then the Board would have all of the data and could make a decision.

Chairman Dunn said the Board would definitely have to look at this issue.

Mr. Pullium said there was a budgetary figure to do an actuary study. He said the figure that was quoted was approximately \$20,000. He said he would be getting competitive bids from various firms.

Commissioner Wells said she would not want this to languish. She said it could be put on a list and just keep getting put off.

Mr. Pullium said the Board and staff could not afford to let this issue to languish. He said decisive steps needed to be taken to minimize any liabilities and to keep the county's balance sheet looking strong. He said this would be in the best interest of the county.

Chairman Dunn said there was also a balance of keeping good employees long term.

Commissioner Frady said he wanted to make it clear that he was not trying to get rid of employees. He felt they could be put in other positions so that they can work if they can work. He said he was not trying to put employees out to pasture before they had to.

Chairman Dunn remarked that funding for this was in the budget. He said it would first have to go out for bid.

ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Wells questioned an item in the public relations category on page 11. She questioned the \$10,500 for cost of art work design and printing of an annual report to be distributed to the public. She said she was not in favor of spending \$10,000 to tell the public how wonderful everything was in color and print.

Mr. Cofty said he had put this in the budget. He remarked that this was a popular report that showed the state of affairs for our government. He felt the county did not do a very good job of telling people about Fayette County and how fiscally strong the county was. He said this was a report that would not be mailed but a report that would be distributed to departments that could be handed out. He said the report was called a Popular Report. He said a lot of governments used these. He said he had put the money in this budget to try and tell the citizens of Fayette County what a good job the county was doing. He said most citizens did not distinguish the difference between Fayette County government and Fayette County Board of Education or the Mayor and Council. He said he constantly hears from people who say that the county had raised taxes and the county had not raised taxes in four years.

Commissioner Wells said she was not sure that handing this out through the departments was the way to go. She commented that most people coming into the county departments had a gripe and a complaint.

Mr. Cofty felt a lot of new citizens who come in to get permits or build homes and did not know a lot about Fayette County could pick up these brochures and would utilize them.

Commissioner Frady felt Carol Chandler could get with John Thompson at The Citizen Newspaper and draw up one of these about once every month.

Commissioner Wells said she would much rather see the county's money being spent in the newspaper so that it would reach a wider number of people.

Executive Assistant Carol Chandler remarked that money for that was built in the Board of Commissioners' budget.

Chairman Dunn clarified that this would be the same type of report that Chief Krakeel had prepared for the Fire Department every year.

Commissioner Wells agreed and said she found this offensive.

Commissioner Pfeifer commented that most people did not know how good their county was and there needed to be some way to tell them.

Commissioner Wells said she did not feel that this was the way to do it. She said if she was a new citizen and went to the Tax Commissioner's Office to get her tag and then off to the City of Fayetteville for something else, they would be giving her pamphlets and she would just be putting this stuff in a pile. She said she would plan to try and read it but she might be in the process of moving. She said most people would never have time to read this.

Commissioner Frady said this should not be something that would take someone thirty minutes to read. He said it should just be something that would be flashed in front of you.

Chairman Dunn felt the money would be better spent if reports were just sent to the newspaper or even space purchased in the newspaper.

Commissioner Wells said glossies could even be put in residents' water bills.

Commissioner Frady said that would only reach 24,000 citizens.

Commissioner Wells questioned how many people would come to the administrative offices and pick up this report and read it.

Commissioner Frady felt this should just be allowed to happen as an experimental thing.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he agreed with Commissioner Wells on one point. He said he definitely did not think this report should tell the citizens just how great the County Commission was but he felt the citizens needed to know how great the county was operating and the reason it was operating that way. He said this was because the citizens were allowing the Commission to do it. He felt the report should contain the county's future plans and how these were going to be accomplished. He said he did not feel this could be done in the newspaper. He said part of it certainly could and there were plans for that.

Commissioner Frady said they get everything done in the newspaper.

Commissioner Wells said there could be a County Manager's corner and the newspapers could be contacted and on a regular basis and articles could be put in.

Commissioner Frady remarked that the former City Manager of Peachtree City used to write a letter to the newspaper about once a month or so.

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Mr. Cofty said the whole concept of the popular report was not just to tell how great the government was but to give people an insight as to what they can do for recreation and so forth.

Chairman Dunn interjected that the county already had those publications.

Mr. Cofty said this was just more of a glossy effort. He said it was certainly up to the Board as to what it wanted to do. He said he had been hearing for years people saying that they did not know a lot about Fayette County and could not distinguish between some things. He felt this was an effort to try and do something different and to promote the good job Fayette County does in managing its resources that it has.

Commissioner Frady said the issue of having a place in the county for various organizations to hold meetings was being discussed. He felt this would be something that could go in the article.

Chairman Dunn said he recalled one of the issues that he and Commissioner Wells had objected to when they were running for office. He said that issue was the \$250,000 public relations program that both of their predecessors were supporting. He said he referred to this as the "I love me stuff" and it was in the amount of \$250,000.

Commissioner VanLandingham felt the county needed to be promoted. He said this was a very inexpensive way to do it.

Chairman Dunn asked how much was already in the budget for newspapers.

Mr. Cofty said there was \$10,000 in the Commissioners' budget for newspaper ads and this would make another \$10,000 here for a total of \$20,000.

Commissioner Frady said some of the articles might come from The County Line.

Commissioner Wells said this information could also go on the website and the Fayette County government television channel.

Commissioner Pfeifer remarked that at the Chamber of Commerce meeting that he had just attended they had asked him if Fayette County was making any plans if something were to happen with Delta Airlines or base closing. He said as a county government, the Commission could not really affect base closings or the closing of Delta Airlines. He said Fayette County had overcome other closings such as Eastern Airlines was by substituting that business for another business. He felt the Fayette County Development Authority had done precisely that. He said the Development Authority had tried to shift the focus. He said one of the things that he had said was that it was marketing this community to let

everybody know how good it is. He said if there were people coming in to relocate their business or whatever and their concern was education, then they would know that it was the best in the State. He said people need to know what was great about this county.

Commissioner VanLandingham felt it would be a good idea to have the Chamber of Commerce and the Development Authority enter into this report.

Carol Chandler interjected that these organizations already had publications.

Chairman Dunn remarked that there were a lot of little reports being done and there were four or five already being done by county staff. He said at this price, he did not have any trouble trying this for just one year.

Chairman Dunn said he had a question on page 10 regarding the automobile allowance for the County Administrator. He asked where they had gotten the figure of \$12,000 for Mr. Cofty's automobile.

Mary Holland responded that this figure was based on a pre-tax basis.

Chairman Dunn said Mr. Cofty was receiving \$600 and Ms. Holland remarked that figure was the net.

Chairman Dunn asked why it cost the county \$12,000 to pay Mr. Cofty the \$600 monthly car allowance. He said this was \$7,200.

Mr. Pullium responded that this was the way this had been calculated in the HR area.

Chairman Dunn said Mr. Cofty receives \$600 total for the car every month.

Mr. Cofty remarked that it was \$600 after tax. He said this was the way this had always been.

Chairman Dunn said it was intended that Mr. Cofty walk away with \$600 each month but questioned why it cost \$12,000 to accomplish that.

Mr. Pullium replied yes, it did.

Chairman Dunn asked how much tax the county was paying on \$600 per month.

Commissioner VanLandingham said the county was paying \$4,944.

Commissioner Frady said the highest rate was 36% and it would not be backward.

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Mr. Pullium said this figure was not backward when Federal and State were taken into consideration.

Chairman Dunn asked for clarification that the county was not paying Mr. Cofty more than \$7,200 each year and Mr. Pullium said that was correct. He questioned it costing \$12,000 each year for Mr. Cofty to receive the \$7,200 car allowance.

Mr. Pullium remarked that this was the way it was done under the Georgia State laws and the I.R.S. for Mr. Cofty to net \$600.

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked that this was costing the county \$4,944 in taxes if this was what was being done.

Chairman Dunn said he found this hard to believe that the county would have to pay these kinds of rates.

Mr. Cofty said he wanted to make it very clear that he was not netting anything from this but \$600 per month.

Chairman Dunn said he did not want anyone in the public sector to read this document and think that the county was paying Mr. Cofty \$1,000 per month for a car.

Chairman Dunn questioned why staff had recommended \$1,075 in the Administrator's budget which was more than he had requested.

Chairman Dunn said \$600 more was put in office equipment, \$225 more in communication services and \$250 more in miles and parking.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he also had a question on page 14 regarding furniture. He asked how much Mr. Cofty had spent last year.

Mr. Pullium responded that Mr. Cofty had spent \$470.

Mr. Cofty said if any chairs were broken during the year then it would cost this much to replace them and this was his reasoning.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he noticed it because of the decrease from last year and no expected needs for furniture.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Frady to approve the Administration budget. The motion carried 5-0.

Animal Shelter

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had some questions regarding account no. 523400 and 531114 and printing, binding and office supplies. He remarked that both categories included ticket books.

Budget Officer Tom Sawyer said he had received a call today from Donna at the Animal Shelter who indicated that no money was actually spent out of office supplies for ticket books and that she had inadvertently included that text. He said she felt they would need the \$600 for the office supplies.

Chairman Dunn asked if the ticket book cost had been added into both categories.

Commissioner VanLandingham replied no and said this was just wording and no money involved.

Mr. Pullium felt a note needed to be made delineating that ticket books could only be purchased out of the printing category.

Chairman Dunn suggested that ticket books wording be taken out of office supplies.

Commissioner Pfeifer questioned the category gas vendor on page 272. He asked how gas costs were being tracked.

Mr. Cofty replied that when they fuel the cars up the employee must use a key that they need to insert into the pump. He said the key was coded to a certain vehicle. He said the employee must log in their social security number as well as their mileage.

Commissioner Pfeifer remarked that the cost of gasoline was currently very high. He asked if any adjustments had been made for higher per gallon cost.

Mr. Pullium said when the departments had prepared their budgets the dollar level of gasoline had not gone to the current level. He said there would need to be an adjustment for inflation. He felt that rather than delineate this in each department that it be reviewed at some point later in the year in a contingency fund similar to what had been done in the past when the potential of rising cost was anticipated. He felt the contingency fund was sufficient to cover this need.

Chairman Dunn asked if any monies would have to added to the contingency for this purpose and Mr. Pullium replied no.

Mr. Cofty interjected that \$480,000 had been programmed in the contingency fund. He said the Board of Commissioners also had an emergency contingency fund that only the Board could touch but it was significantly higher.

Chairman Dunn said the money would be there if any departments justified the need for additional funds for gasoline.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to approve the Animal Control budget as recommended. The motion carried 5-0.

Building and Grounds Maintenance

Commissioner Pfeifer said a lot of over time was indicated in this budget.

Commissioner Wells commented that \$2,000 was listed for over time. She said this was not a tremendous amount and the personnel were on call to work after hours.

Commissioner VanLandingham said there were certain departments where over time was not a serious problem but there were some where it was serious.

Commissioner Pfeifer asked if this was a case where a supervisor would need to be present in order for the employees to be paid for over time.

Chairman Dunn said it was obvious to him that if maintenance personnel were on over time that their boss would definitely need to be with them and not have them working alone.

Mr. Cofty said he agreed and commented that some of this particular over time was not because this department had not achieved what they needed to achieve during a normal forty hour work week. He said these were things such as pressure washing this particular building. He remarked that this could not be done during the normal working business hours.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had a question on page 71 regarding heating and cooling. He said this figure was almost double and he did not see a real reason for this. He stated a replacement program had been started and he asked if that program was going to be accelerated.

Commissioner Frady said he did not know if this program would continue but his personal heating and air conditioning had more than doubled.

Commissioner VanLandingham pointed out this was the maintenance category for the heating and air conditioning. He said this was for replacement of units.

Commissioner Wells remarked that it stated that currently only units that failed were being replaced. She said, however, that it was anticipated that \$30,000 would need to be spent based on the fact that 90% of the 55 units at the Administrative Complex were at least fourteen plus years old. She said this was an anticipatory budgeting.

Chairman Dunn said this was also for maintenance as well.

Commissioner Wells responded yes, for maintenance and replacement. She commented on the number of units being that old and added that the units at the old courthouse were over thirteen years old.

Mr. Pullium interjected that at the current time there was \$7,738 expended.

Chairman Dunn remarked that in last year's budget it started out at \$40,000 for that category and only \$15,000 was used.

Commissioner Wells asked if this budget needed to be adjusted.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he would not put \$25,000 in it. He felt that would be excessive.

Commissioner Frady asked if one air conditioning unit cost \$7,738.

Chairman Dunn said he was not sure but a new unit had been installed in the Commissioners' Office last week. He said the old unit had totally gone out.

Chairman Dunn said he had no problem leaving this at \$25,000.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he would love to see it cut to \$15,000.

Chairman Dunn said in the budget this department was saying that these old units were going to start going out and would need replacement.

It was the consensus of the Board to go with \$15,000 for the heating and air conditioning category.

Commissioner Wells commented on page 72 under communication services. She remarked that this category involved the building and grounds maintenance personnel and \$5,350 was being budgeted for cell phones, pages and long distance calls. She felt this was excessive for this particular department. She asked how many phones this

department had and how many long distance calls were being made when working outside on ground maintenance.

Mr. Cofty replied that there were very little long distance calls.

Mr. Pullium agreed that long distance was negligible but there were four cell phones for the supervisors. He said they used the cell phones to communicate with vendors. He said it was his understanding that when these individuals were out in the field and they needed something that they sometimes would contact a vendor about a job. He said they also communicated to vendors regarding deliveries.

Commissioner Frady asked why this could not be done at the office.

Commissioner Wells agreed and commented this was a lot of money for four cell phones.

Mr. Cofty said the maintenance crew also used the cell phones to communicate with each other on sensitive issues.

Commissioner Frady interjected that he could not think of one issue.

Commissioner Wells said she had looked at a lot of the departments and the number of people who were using cell phones. She felt this was excessive for four people in this department.

Chairman Dunn questioned why these employees would need cell phones and pagers.

Mr. Cofty said there were some other issues included. He said there were some non departmental budgets included and the maintenance department had picked these up as well. He said this included non departmental costs, cell phones, long distance, Ultimate Security monitoring plus any repairs that Ultimate Security would have to do.

Mary Holland pointed out the fact that the Building and Grounds Maintenance department was a separate building they were able to charge that department directly with their Bell South for some other departments in this complex.

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked that the Building and Grounds Maintenance Department's phone, security system and cell phones were also included in this category.

Chairman Dunn questioned why anyone this day and age would need both pagers and cell phones.

Commissioner Wells pointed out that these employees had both pagers and cell phones.

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Mr. Cofty replied that he had both. He said when he gets a voice mail on his office phone, he would be paged immediately.

Commissioner Pfeifer asked why Mr. Cofty's voice mail would not page his cell phone.

Mr. Cofty said they had tried to accomplish this via cell phone but it was too costly for text messaging. He said it was significantly cheaper to have a pager and a cell phone.

Chairman Dunn said this came to over \$1,200 for each person.

Commissioner Wells said this was excessive compared to the other departments. She said this was costing the county \$201 per month.

Mr. Cofty replied that this was for all four cell phones.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that Ultimate Security had a lot of costs included too and they were \$230 minimum per month.

Commissioner Wells questioned page 73 under seminars and dues. She said this department had requested \$2,550 and staff had approved \$4,025.

Mary Holland remarked that three maintenance personnel were scheduled to go to school to be playground inspectors. She said that would cost \$465 each.

Chairman Dunn questioned the need for three people to be trained for playground inspectors and asked how many playgrounds there were.

Ms. Holland said they needed back ups.

Commissioner Wells said the Board had no justification for funding this and the request was for almost twice as much.

Ms. Holland said the Maintenance Department had actually submitted separate paperwork for the training. She said the four Level I management classes were also included for \$1,800. She said there were also some accounting classes for the new director in the amount of \$550. She said there were additional dues for the Georgia Turf Grass dues for \$205.

Chairman Dunn asked what had happened to their request for \$2,000 last year.

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Mr. Pullium said the Maintenance Department had made a clerical error in the paperwork that they had submitted. He said their request had not added up to \$4,025 with the paperwork they had submitted. He said for whatever reason staff had not notated that and the Finance Department took full responsibility for that error.

Chairman Dunn asked what this department had requested last year and what they had actually used.

Mr. Pullium said they had asked for \$2,000 in 2004 and Chairman Dunn interjected that they had only used \$912.

Chairman Dunn remarked that now their request was going from \$912 to \$4,000.

Mr. Cofty remarked that these were for different programs.

Commissioner Wells questioned the Finance Officer Program Level class. She asked what this was for.

Mr. Cofty responded that the department head was going to the G.F.O.A. at the Carl Vinson Institute at U.G.A.

Commissioner Wells and Commissioner Frady asked why they would need to go.

Mr. Cofty replied so they would be familiar with how to put a budget together so the Board would not ask questions.

Commissioner Wells interjected that it was the Board's responsibility to ask questions.

Chairman Dunn said next year this department would want to hire somebody because they would have people in training all the time.

Commissioner Wells asked about the department head who would attend this finance officer training program. She asked who this person was.

Mr. Cofty replied it was Greg Ownby.

Commissioner Wells said her next question was on page 75 under other supplies. She said \$6,500 for replacement of expendable items under \$100 such as hand tools, wrenches, sockets, tool boxes, screw drivers, blades, bits, electrical tools, etc. She felt this was a bit excessive and questioned allowing personnel to lose things of this nature on a regular basis so that every year they need to budget \$6,500 for them to lose them. She questioned what kind of accountability there was there. She said if these employees go

out with tools in the morning then they should come back with tools in the afternoon. She said if these tools break or wear out then that was one thing but to just disappear was another.

Commissioner Frady said the employees could be issued the tools and if they lost them they would have to buy them.

Commissioner Wells remarked that in 2003 the figure was \$8,000 and now this year it was \$6,500. She felt these individuals were being encouraged to be irresponsible.

Commissioner Frady interjected that Delta Airline mechanics get a tool box and they have to purchase their own tools and you can be sure that they lock them.

Commissioner Pfeifer noted that some items such as blades and bits would wear out.

Commissioner Wells questioned \$6,500 worth of these items wearing out.

Chairman Dunn asked how many new tool boxes an individual would need.

Commissioner Wells felt there needed to be some type of accountability for that and felt these employees were being encouraged to be irresponsible.

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned \$900 for medical supplies. He said it was his understanding that nothing was done except for band-Aids. He said he had a serious question about the county's liability when medical aid was applied to somebody. He said he was in favor of gauze pads to stop blood flow and surgical gloves for protection but questioned \$900 for medical supplies.

Commissioner Wells said she would like to see that cut in half and also see an accountability set up for those type of tools.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if this department could come up with some type of program. He asked how many people were in the building and grounds department.

Mr. Cofty replied 30. He said this department did provide more than just band-Aids and medicine. He said bee sting kits, eye flush kits and so forth were also included.

Chairman Dunn felt the employees needed to sign a hand receipt for the tools that they receive. He said if these employees lose these tools then they should buy them.

Mr. Cofty said he was only speculating but felt this pertained to cutting saws and so forth where the blades wear out. He said they did not last too long cutting concrete.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked Mr. Cofty to get a breakdown on what this money had been spent for.

Commissioner Wells pointed out that thirty employees in this department were each averaging \$220 per year every year on throw away items.

Commissioner Frady asked if this department provided an inventory every year and Commissioner Wells replied no.

Commissioner Wells said she would like to have further information on this.

Commissioner Wells questioned the replacement of four vacuum cleaners, two blowers, three weed eaters, drills, saws and various other electrical equipment costing over \$100. She asked if it was known for sure that all of these items had already worn out. She said she just did not want this to become an annual request and assume that these items needed to be purchased every year.

Mary Holland said she had spoken with Greg Ownby today and he said that they had ten vacuum cleaners of which two were new and the rest were 1999 models. He said they were looking this year to do a couple of replacements.

Commissioner Wells asked if these vacuum cleaners were being replaced because they were 1999 models or because they did not work.

Ms. Holland said Mr. Ownby had stated they were basically worn out and non functional.

Commissioner Frady noted that this department had only spent \$2,400 last year and asked why staff was recommending \$4,000.

Commissioner Wells expressed concern in giving a lump sum here and not being accountable. She said she would like it much better if money was put under safety supplies for replacement of safety glasses, goggles, vests, gloves, back belts and things of that nature. She said only \$1,000 was being budgeted there and there were 32 employees.

Commissioner Wells said she would like further information on these items. She said she would like to implement a sign in and sign out sheet for these tools.

Commissioner Pfeifer said he had a question on page 76 regarding propane. He said they had used \$1,460 thus far and staff was recommending none based on a three year average.

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Mr. Pullium said this was a non departmental item.

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned the uniform category,

Commissioner Wells said there were 32 uniforms and this came to \$11, 648 per year.

Mary Holland remarked that this was for cleaning of the uniforms.

Chairman Dunn said he had a question on page 77. He asked why business machines had gone down to zero. He said this department was counting on getting the copy machine from the Zoning Department.

Mr. Pullium interjected that with the remodeling of Planning and Zoning there would be a consolidated copy room.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to adopt the Building and Grounds Maintenance budget as presented with the caveat that an inventory would be started on the items under \$100 in order that next year there would be greater accountability; and also to reduce the heating and air conditioning category to \$15,000. The motion carried 5-0.

Confiscated Federal Property

There was no discussion on this budget.

County Commission

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had a question about the airfare category.

Commissioner Wells asked who was going to Hawaii.

Commissioner VanLandingham said it needed to be determined who would be going so that this could be budgeted.

Chairman Dunn said he recalled the three individuals going to Hawaii were Chris Cofty, Commissioner VanLandingham and Commissioner Frady.

Commissioner Wells interjected that the last N.A.Co. meeting she had attended was held in Las Vegas and she thought it was the biggest boondoggle that she had ever been on in her life. She said she would not go at taxpayers' expense again.

Commissioner Wells noted that one round trip ticket would cost \$1,600.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to adopt the County Commissioners' budget as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

CORONER

Commissioner Wells questioned \$17,000 for Coroner's Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Mr. Pullium interjected that the coroner had three employees and the county was paying for his and the employees' family coverage. He said the county pays a portion of the dependent coverage. He noted that the three coroner employees were working for his private business and were also county employees.

Chairman Dunn asked why there were positions for deputy coroners. He said one coroner was elected and he asked if there could be deputy coroners.

Mr. Pullium said the county had authorized the positions that the coroner had working for him. He said this was not new. He said these individuals were authorized and were employed by the county.

Mr. Pullium remarked that the three year average on insurance was \$14,600.

Chairman Dunn commented that the previous budget indicated zero and Mr. Pullium replied that had to be a clerical error.

Mr. Pullium said the county had always covered the Coroner's staff who were authorized and worked full time and were bonafide employees of Fayette County. He said these employees used to have a PPO and now that they had HMO coverage the rates had decreased.

Commissioner Wells questioned technical services listed on page 266 regarding funds to cover ambulance trips. She said this was to pick up bodies. She commented that in 2004 it was \$2,500 they had made in their base request and they were approved for \$4,000.

Mary Holland said they had spent \$3,800 to date and this was how the \$4,000 was arrived at.

Chairman Dunn asked who had developed the Coroner's budget and Mr. Cofty said staff had prepared his budget.

Chairman Dunn said the Coroner needed to understand that he needed to submit a budget.

Mr. Pullium said he was the person who had prepared the Coroner's budget based on history.

Commissioner Wells said the Board had previously agreed that anyone who did not submit a budget in a timely fashion that staff would create one and that department would have to live with it.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the County Coroner's budget as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

COUNTY EXTENSION

Commissioner Pfeifer said he had a question on page 338. He said staff was recommending zero dollars for travel and so forth because they used county vehicles. He said he agreed that normally this would be the best policy for the extension office employees, however he felt the County Extension Service was unique amongst all of the other departments in the kinds of people that they were using and what they asked them to do and where they asked them to go. He felt reimbursing them for travel if appropriate would be appropriate here.

Commissioner VanLandingham pointed out that Sheldon Hammond also received calls at home and he goes out and takes care of the problem. He said a lot of that occurred on weekends. He said Sheldon would have to drive to the complex to get the vehicle and then drive back which would probably take three times as long.

Commissioner Pfeifer agreed and said he would not want to give the Extension Service county vehicles.

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked on the 4-H supplies on page 339. He said these were the awards that the Extension Office gives out. He said the banquet was scheduled for some time next month. He said Sheldon had requested that this be reinstated because they had not spent any money this year but they were going to.

Commissioner Pfeifer said the awards had just been purchased and did not show up in the budget when it was prepared.

Commissioner Wells asked how the mileage had been handled in the past.

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Chairman Dunn said the Extension Office personnel had been paid for using their own cars. He said Mr. Cofty was saying that staff was recommending that the Extension Office have county cars for use.

Mr. Cofty interjected that this was the recommendation that staff had made with everybody in the budget. He pointed out that this would save the county significant tax dollars. He said there were vehicles available to give them. He said he could understand on occasion if Sheldon got called out. He said he would like to see more justification from Sheldon in terms of how often he gets called out and had to use his own vehicle. He said in terms of seminars there were plenty of vehicles that Sheldon could use and the county not have to pay him \$.37 per mile for his vehicle.

Chairman Dunn asked why the county paid \$.37 per mile and Mr. Cofty responded that was the I.R.S. regulation.

Mr. Cofty felt this amount was going to increase significantly because of the current cost of gasoline.

Mr. Cofty remarked that several other parties utilized county vehicles as well and these individuals were covered as long as the Board authorized them to use the vehicles.

Chairman Dunn asked Mr. Cofty if he meant the employees would come to work in their private cars and while at work use the county vehicles and then return home in their private vehicles and Mr. Cofty agreed.

Commissioner Pfeifer said some employee did not come to the complex to go on duty. He said some of the Extension Office employees report to work at a school. He said these employees used their private vehicle to go to the school but if they had to come to the complex, they would get a vehicle and then drive to the school. He said then after work that employee would have to drive the county vehicle back to the complex and then get in their car and drive home.

Mr. Cofty said normally he would drive to the complex and get a county vehicle to drive. He said Sheldon had not mentioned this issue to staff.

Commissioner Pfeifer asked if this item could be put on hold until further explanation could be obtained from Sheldon.

Chairman Dunn said if one of the Commissioners wanted to postpone an item then this could certainly be done. He said it was the consensus of the Board that this item be postponed for further discussion.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

Chairman Dunn remarked that this just applied to the bond and Mary Holland agreed.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to approve this budget. The motion carried 5-0.

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Chairman Dunn and Commissioner Wells said they had no problems with this budget.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to adopt the Development Authority's budget. The motion carried 5-0.

STATE COURT CLERK

Sheila Studdard and Susan Thompson appeared to discuss this budget.

Sheila Studdard remarked on account 522231 regarding office equipment. She said she had an issue on the copier maintenance. She said \$200 per month for twelve months was average for this item.

Susan Thompson pointed out that during the first several months all of this was taken out of Superior Court instead of State Court. She said she had spoken with TriCopy and they were splitting this invoice. She noted that the amount of \$611 actually turned out to be repairs on the time filing clocks and the postage machines.

Chairman Dunn said the problem Finance had was when these come in and there was an invoice against a certain line item in the budget.

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked that postage meters were everywhere. He asked if there was a central area where the mail was delivered and dispersed.

Ms. Studdard replied that there used to be a mail room but it was now a maintenance storage room.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if there could be a central area or two or three locations to stamp the mail instead of having a meter in every department.

Ms. Studdard said her department had a post office box and this was where their mail was delivered. She said she had discussions with the Fayetteville Postmaster. She said the Post Office wanted to come and drop the mail when it came into the building and they did not want to go to individual departments. She said U.P.S., Fed Ex or whoever would not do this either. She said any mail was left on the table just inside the front door.

Ms. Studdard remarked that there were more copiers in Superior Court than in State Court.

Commissioner Wells clarified that the \$2,400 of that \$4,500 was the other part of the TriCopy agreement.

Ms. Studdard said she had six copiers in Superior Court.

Mr. Pullium remarked that as of this date, \$5,316 had been spent in both courts and staff had recommended over \$10,000 in budget for these two line items. He said it may be too much or it may not be enough but it certainly appeared that it was enough to fund these two areas at this time.

Commissioner Wells said she had a question about pens and pencils. She noted that in the recent past there were some pens that had Ms. Studdard's name on them specifically and there had been some discussion here that this was personal advertising. She asked if those pens and pencils were going to have advertising on them this next year.

Ms. Studdard replied that nothing came out of State Court for that and the answer was no. She said the pencils just said Fayette County Superior Court Clerk. She said this was the same language on her letterhead.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve the State Court budget as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

Sheila Studdard questioned the building maintenance category on page 95 which was 522235. She remarked that the Finance Department had modified this fund to zero. She said there had been some suggestion that this money come from the bond money. She asked if this was correct and Mr. Pullium replied yes.

Ms. Studdard commented on the software budget on page 96 which was category 522236. She said this was an annual contract maintenance agreement and this was the contract for the next fiscal year. She said she did not have any control over that. She said the contract was going to be in the amount of \$3,024 this year.

Mr. Pullium said he was in support of putting the \$3,024 back in the Superior Court Clerk's office based on this information.

Ms. Studdard commented on category 523591 for lodging and meals. She said Finance had recommended \$1,500 based on a three year average. She said when she had pulled her averages she had figured \$1,845 as the average. She said in the current 2004 year there was one outstanding conference that she had not attended and that money had not been used yet.

Mr. Pullium apologized and stated that he had used a four year average.

Ms. Holland remarked that it would be \$1,800 if a three year average was used.

The Board agreed on the \$1,800.

Ms. Studdard remarked that on item 523593 meals and parking. She said the three year average would go to \$684 from \$600.

Ms. Studdard said Susan Thompson had a fantastic idea about category 531114 regarding office supplies. She said the first issue was deed books. She asked if it would be possible to pull the deed books out of the office supplies so that its growth could be watched up and down. She said this was what took most of her money. She said they had used 372 at \$140 each which was \$52,080. She said if the Board was only going to allow her \$57,000. She said she gets 550 pages in each book.

Commissioner Wells noted that the current actual was \$71,000. She asked why \$57,000 was being recommended.

Chairman Dunn noted that the \$57,000 was a three year average.

Mr. Pullium said Finance would be glad to separate this out from the rest of the Clerk's budget. He said if real estate sales continued climbing, staff could review this budget mid year to determine if there needed to be a supplemental appropriation.

Ms. Studdard said they had experienced a decrease in filings in February and March but they went right back up in April.

Mr. Pullium said there was information out there that indicated the Federal Reserve Board might raise interest rates. He felt this would not occur until after the election in November.

Chairman Dunn noted that last year Ms. Studdard had requested \$70,000 and the Board recommended \$50,000. He said she had spent over \$70,000.

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Commissioner Frady asked Ms. Studdard how many books she had in inventory.

Ms. Studdard replied there were twenty that would get her through the end of the month. She said she would not need to make another deed book purchase before this fiscal year.

Mr. Cofty said this amount could be budgeted and break out the deed books and then do a supplemental budget if necessary.

The Board said that would be fine with them.

Chairman Dunn wanted it make clear that if the deed book requirement increases then the Board would supplement her budget.

Ms. Studdard felt this would give a better representation to the office supplies that she uses.

Commissioner Wells said she had a problem with having pencils printed up with the Clerk's name on them. She felt this was advertising with county money.

Chairman Dunn asked if this was campaign paraphernalia.

Ms. Studdard replied if the pencils said vote for her then it would be.

Chairman Dunn asked Ms. Studdard why she had to identify herself on the pencils.

Chairman Dunn said no one else did that.

Ms. Studdard replied yes they do. She said the District Attorney did.

Chairman Dunn asked if the county was funding the District Attorney's pencils and Commissioner Wells said the Board would be reviewing that budget too.

Ms. Studdard remarked she had only had a pencil order twice since she was elected.

Chairman Dunn said the discussion had been if any of the Commissioners were running for office in a certain year and order pencils with their names on them and handed them out that people would really get upset.

Susan Thompson interjected that a people tended to walk off with pencils and pens with nothing printed on them.

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Commissioner Wells said to have Clerk of the Superior Court printed on the pencils would be fine but not to have a specific person's name on it. She said this was just advertising. She said this would be campaign material paid for with county money.

Mr. Pullium remarked that staff was proposing that \$36,000 be set aside in the line item for deed books and \$21,000 in the line item for office supplies for a total of \$57,000. He said subject to a mid year review in terms of the need for deed books.

Ms. Studdard said that would be fine. She said she could review her figures in December.

Ms. Studdard questioned category 542391 which related to furniture. She said she wanted to discuss the plat cabinet. She said she wanted to make sure to ask for this out of the bond money.

Chairman Dunn said the recommendation stated to use existing resources. He asked if there were any plat cabinets that were not being used.

Commissioner Wells asked if all of the money had been spent for these cabinets.

Mr. Pullium responded that all of the money had already been spent for this item. He said when they had gone through the budget there was some money left in the budget but apparently this department was over budget at this point in time.

Ms. Studdard remarked that this was because of office supplies. She said this had put her over \$22,000.

Commissioner Wells asked why this occurred since the money had not been budgeted.

Mr. Pullium said the biggest thing was the deed books in the amount of \$21,000. He said this department was also over because of some additional employees that were brought on board.

Ms. Studdard remarked that it was a temporary employee.

Mr. Pullium remarked that under other supplies which would include the deed books there was \$50,000 budgeted and the department had expended \$71,000. He felt it would be appropriate to add some money to those deed books out of the contingency. He commented on the overtime and the regular salaries. He said those two line items were over and had not been budgeted. He said the regular salary was over \$10,000 and the overtime was over \$8,400. He said those were the two major categories.

Commissioner Wells said the supplies and deed books were one issue but she felt the overtime and salary were quite another.

Chairman Dunn pointed out there were other line items where the Clerk was under budget and she had the right to move the money anyway she wanted. He said the key was to not go over the budget.

Ms. Studdard said she was aware that there had been some mistakes made with an employee's money. She asked if all of these had been corrected because that money had been coming out of her budget and also out of the Commissioners' budget.

Ms. Holland said she would have to check and make sure the budget dollars were added for this employee.

Susan Thompson questioned if the Clerk's budget had received the correct amount to begin with.

Ms. Studdard said she was showing a surplus when this took place. She said they had seen a huge jump in the budget and it was said that this was a result of this certain employee.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that the total budget was over spent by \$14,000 at this point. He asked Mr. Pullium if he was saying that \$21,000 was a result of deed books. He noted that Ms. Studdard would have no control over the deed books.

Mr. Pullium replied yes that was exactly what he was saying.

Chairman Dunn said even if the Clerk had hired somebody, she would have been under budget. He said as a constitutional officer, Ms. Studdard could certainly move her budget around as long as she did not go over. He noted that there was still a couple of weeks left to go in this budget.

Mr. Cofty remarked that there would probably need to be more money than just that.

Ms. Studdard interjected that sometimes Human Resources had taken out the monies for this employee out of her budget instead of the Commissioners' budget. She said then her department had a huge credit. She said then she saw that Finance had recommended that position permanently be put at the Superior Court. She said she then called Mr. Sawyer and was informed that there had been some accounting mistakes with this employee.

Commissioner Wells felt it would be helpful in the future if the Clerk saw that she was going over her budget significantly in one area and she might not be able to cover it in another area, she could make staff aware.

Ms. Studdard replied that she certainly agreed with that.

Commissioner Wells clarified that this budget was going to be over the \$21,000 but the figure was known at this time.

Chairman Dunn felt it might not be either. He said with this employee's salary it might be fine. He said the difference was going to be very minor. He said it was agreed to pay for the rest of the deed books.

Commissioner Wells asked what was being recommended as far as employees whether part time or full time.

Mr. Pullium responded one full time employee and three part time employees.

Chairman Dunn asked if the Clerk was able to get the work caught up with the part time employees, would she plan to eliminate these positions.

Ms. Studdard said that was what she was about to propose. She said when they revisit the deed book issue, the temporary positions could also be reviewed.

Susan Thompson interjected that one was for the criminal division.

Chairman Dunn asked if these positions were 29 hour positions and Ms. Studdard replied yes.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that there would be no benefits for someone working 29 hours a week. He commented that thirty hours a week would qualify an employee for benefits.

Commissioner Wells questioned the hiring of new personnel and overtime still being paid and anticipated. She said these new people were added but the request for overtime was double what it was last year. She felt if personnel were added, the overtime should decrease.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked where the overtime occurred.

Ms. Studdard replied the majority this year was in the real estate division with the conversion. She said she had also had some in civil and criminal court but not near as much as real estate. She commented that all of the new employee positions would be for

real estate except for one and that would go to the criminal division. She said she really worked hard to have an 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. office.

Commissioner VanLandingham felt the amount of overtime should be reduced as much as possible.

Ms. Studdard asked if this would be an issue that the Board would be willing to revisit with the people and the deed books in six months.

Commissioner VanLandingham said if it was reduced now then it could be revisited.

Commissioner Wells said the Board had discussed this at the beginning of the budget meetings. She said every department that was budgeted overtime and then asking for additional employees would be given serious review.

Commissioner Frady felt this budget could be reduced by \$5,000 and see how it works.

Ms. Studdard replied that she would agree with that.

Chairman Dunn asked Tom Sawyer to recap what had been decided on this budget.

Mr. Sawyer replied that the software maintenance be brought back up \$424 with the contract with Icon. He said lodging and meals was adjusted up to \$1,800 for a three year average. He stated that office supplies was changed to \$21,000 and a new account would be set up for the various deed books and minute books. He said the \$36,000 would go into that account with a note to address this mid year based on the volume. He said overtime would be reduced from the recommended \$10,000 down to \$5,000 and also to address that issue at mid year. He said the mileage category went to \$684.

Commissioner Frady exited the meeting at this time.

Chairman Dunn asked what these figures would do to the total budget amount.

Commissioner Wells asked what resources would the cost of the plat cabinet come out of.

Chairman Dunn said there was enough money in the furnishings category to take care of the plat cabinet.

Mr. Sawyer remarked that the Superior Court was actually going to be reduced by \$4,192.

Ms. Studdard said she would bring the issue of the deed books in December for further review.

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On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to adopt the Superior Court Clerk's budget as discussed and agreed upon. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent.

Chairman Dunn noted that Commissioner Frady had just stepped out of the room for a few minutes but said Commissioner Frady did not object to this motion but he was not present for the vote.

Ms. Studdard commented on House Bill 1EX concerning indigent defense. She remarked that 51 issues had changed.

Commissioner Frady re-entered the meeting at this time.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE - ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Holland stated this was listed on page 153.

Chairman Dunn remarked that staff was recommending \$39,000 less than what was asked for.

Linda Jones of the Sheriff's Office said she would like to discuss their request for a records clerk 511105. She said they currently had two ladies working in records who handled all of the arrest booking reports, incident reports, traffic citations, crash reports, deal with the public, handle requests from insurance companies, help with administrative duties and so forth. She said the large reception area in the new building was totally unmanned and would probably have to remain that way for a while. She said there was currently a switchboard operator who was acting as a receptionist and helping with some clerical duties. She said when this person was out, they have to take a person from the records division to fill in for the receptionist. She said recently they had been so short of help that she and Olivia had to work the switchboard for her. She said there was just not enough help to cover everything. She said she had some statistics on the amount of work that was being done in that division. She said basically these two ladies were handling all of the work for all of the deputies in the patrol division. She said this was a \$20,000 a year position that was being requested. She asked for the Board's consideration to approve this position.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that staff had cut that position because there was not enough information.

Mr. Pullium said each department had been asked to justify any position requests in terms of service delivery and the impact on the department if it was not approved. He said

alternatives such as part time employees needed to be considered. He said the justification that staff had received did address those specific criteria.

Commissioner Wells clarified that the numbers did not support an increase for an employee.

Mr. Pullium responded that staff did not have that justification.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if every patrol car had a computer in it.

Ms. Jones replied no.

Chairman Dunn pointed out there were computers on board the patrol cars in the City of Fayetteville.

Mr. Pullium remarked that in terms of the form that was to be completed there was a series of seven items that were to be addressed in the justification category. He said those seven items were on the form for the position request.

Chairman Dunn asked Ms. Jones if there were any other issues she would like to address.

Ms. Jones replied that she would like to address the position of the housekeeping supervisor again. She said she was aware that they had requested this last year. She said the entire department felt like there was a strong enough need for that person. She said she had two divisions who offered to give up positions to place her. She said they had transferred a deputy position to keep her. She said there were three buildings that she was responsible for overseeing and cleaning. She stated these buildings included a portion of the jail, all of the building that they currently occupy and the C.I.D. building. She said there was a problem when trustees did the cleaning they had to be supervised. She said the trustees could not just go in and out of these offices. She said they were aware that the county did not have staff to take care of this cleaning.

Chairman Dunn remarked that last year they had gotten this slot.

Ms. Jones replied that they were using a deputy slot.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that last year Sheriff Johnson had stated that he would rather do that than take one of those deputy slots and convert it to this.

Ms. Jones said her priority was the records clerk if she had a choice. She said they would like to be able to give the deputy position back to the patrol division and fund this position.

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Chairman Dunn interjected the fact that two departments were willing to give up a deputy sheriff kind of implied that there were too many deputy sheriff slots.

Ms. Jones disagreed. She said this would affect every division.

Chairman Dunn said this had already been discussed and the position had been transferred and that reduced one deputy slot. He said then the position was converted to housekeeping. He said at that time the Board had not agreed with that but the Sheriff did it anyway.

Ms. Jones said they went ahead and did this because they could not see any other way to get their buildings cleaned. She said they did what they had to do.

Chairman Dunn said he used to run a big jail with 1,200 prisoners and he had prisoners cleaning the jail with guards supervising them.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had one question on page 153 where it stated that the increase of this figure was due to the recent transfer of two employees from C.I.D. to administrative services. He asked if this had been so noted in the C.I.D. budget that these two were transferred out into this.

Mr. Pullium said the personnel were not budgeted in both places. He said staff has the names, the positions and the dollar amounts for each.

Commissioner Wells asked Ms. Jones if she had any other issues.

Ms. Jones said she had one in the promotion that was requested from sergeant to a lieutenant. She said the Sheriff had requested that promotion. She said the Sheriff had transferred a sergeant as his assistant/public information officer and he felt because of the responsibility of her job and the importance of the position that it warranted a promotion during this budget year. She said the Sheriff was asking for the funding to promote this employee. She said this employee represents the Sheriff in a lot of the homeowners association meetings and does functions at the schools for him.

Commissioner Frady asked who this person was and Ms. Jones replied Belinda McCastle.

Ms. Jones said she would like to request again that this funding be added back in.

Mr. Pullium remarked that in their justification they had delineated the need for rank to demand the respect of other officers. He said there did not appear to be any additional supervisory functions added here.

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Ms. Jones remarked that this employee did not directly supervise anyone but was the Sheriff's assistant now.

Commissioner VanLandingham interjected if this employee was the Sheriff's assistant, then other employees would respect her.

Chairman Dunn said he felt this was just a way to get this employee a raise.

Ms. Jones said it was an issue of rank. She said the Sheriff wanted to promote this individual and this was the reason she was bringing this item to the Board.

Chairman Dunn said the county had 750 employees and there was no Public Relations person anywhere here working for the county.

Ms. Jones said she would like to comment on the category of legal services. She said she had requested \$20,000 for legal expenses and \$7,500 was recommended based on the current FY'04 budgeting levels. She said currently they had spent \$12,500 through April, 2004. She said this was just the normal routine charges and nothing extraordinary.

Mr. Pullium remarked that the three year average was \$10,500 for the entire Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Frady asked if the Sheriff's Office was using the county attorneys for this work.

Ms. Jones replied yes, but they still had to be paid.

Commissioner Wells interjected that the technical service for the jail division was budgeted separately.

Mr. Pullium responded yes that was correct. He said the \$10,500 figure represented the entire Sheriff's Department including the jail.

Ms. Jones remarked that this figure was just for the day to day legal services and did not include the current lawsuit with the Commissioners.

Ms. Jones said she would like to comment on the public relations portion of the budget listed on page 156. She said the Sheriff had supported "My Favorite Book Program" for several years. She said the current budget did not have any funding in it because in last year's budget they had enough money to pay two years. She said this was going to come up for renewal. She said this was a book that was given to all of the first graders in the county that related to safety. She said this cost \$750. She said there was another

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program that the Sheriff had also started this year. She said this book would be sent to the church kindergartens and preschools. She said this was called "The Little People's Guide to the Big World Books". She said the Sheriff would also like to fund this.

Commissioner Wells said she did not have a problem funding the \$750 but she expressed concern about sending these to the county's churches. She said this might cause a problem.

Chairman Dunn asked the Board if they were in agreement with \$750 and it was the consensus of the Board that they were in agreement.

Commissioner Wells questioned the category technical services 521316 and how much had been spent this year.

Ms. Holland responded that \$4,097 had been spent thus far.

Ms. Jones commented on the software maintenance category 522236 on page 158.

Mr. Pullium said the Sheriff's Department had indicated that they needed another \$257 for a maintenance agreement item. He said staff had recommended the amount that was requested and the Board agreed.

Ms. Jones said they had not received the bill until long after the budget had been prepared.

Ms. Jones commented on the lodging and meals and seminars and dues on page 159 which was category 523591. She said they had filled out all of the forms and justifications for the seminars that they would like to attend.

Mr. Pullium said staff had recommended \$6,700 for the lodging, meals, seminars, dues, mileage and parking. He said staff had taken the year to date 2004 expenditures and annualized them and it would be \$5,992. He said staff was actually recommending \$708 over and above the anticipated actual expenditures for 2004.

Commissioner Wells stated that this was actually giving them \$700 more than what they had spent in 2004.

Chairman Dunn remarked that in lodging and meals staff had recommended \$5,000 less.

Mr. Pullium agreed and stated that staff had recommended \$2,500. He said in seminars and dues staff had recommended \$3,000. He said that was an increase of \$1,200 in that account.

Ms. Jones said they had spent pretty much everything in the seminars and lodging categories and actually went over budget in lodging and meals by \$1,000.

Mr. Pullium remarked that in terms of law enforcement administration, this included some additional staff and was \$170,000 more than their current budget.

Ms. Jones said it also included some dues such as the Georgia Sheriff's Association in the amount of \$800. She also commented that there were two salaried positions that were transferred to her division that were not in this current budget. She said this was the difference. She said they would be transferred July 1st.

Chairman Dunn asked where they would be coming from and Ms. Jones replied from C.I.D.

Ms. Jones said this was approximately a total of \$100,000 in salaries.

Chairman Dunn said it really did not matter where these two positions were carried.

Mr. Pullium interjected that these two positions were only budgeted once and not twice. He commented that in C.I.D. the actual recommended funding was an increase over the 2004 budget.

Chairman Dunn said this was because they were asking for more slots.

Commissioner Wells remarked that they were adding a school resource officer plus equipment, plus the car and so on.

Ms. Jones asked Mr. Pullium for the figure of the portion of her budget that related to those two positions.

Mr. Pullium said there were \$127,000 for these two positions and this was just for salaries.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he had a question on page 158 communication services. He said the county had just spent approximately \$8 million on communications. He asked why some of the Nextel telephones could not be eliminated now that there was a communication system that covered the county. He asked if Nextel was still needed in view of the county's improved communication system. He said they had a radio that they carried with them, they had a Nextel phone, a car radio and then they had pagers. He said he was having a hard time understanding the need for all of that.

Ms. Jones responded that a car radio was not secure communication. She said there was a need for the deputies to communicate and not be on the air where it would not be secure.

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Chairman Dunn asked Ms. Jones if they had long distance covered in their cell phone contract. He asked why there needed to be \$1,000 in the Sheriff's budget. He commented that most cell phones had unlimited long distance when there was a contract.

Mr. Pullium said some of the calls for long distance would be made on a land line in their office. He said these would be charged out accordingly.

Ms. Jones said she had a question about category 531111 relating to the meal supplies for canines. She said they had requested \$900 and \$600 was recommended with the notation that they could get food from the Animal Shelter. She said she was told that the majority of the food that the Animal Shelter received was in bags that were given to the Shelter by businesses. She said the bags might have been burst open leaving the possibility of rodents and bugs to get inside and contaminate the food. She said the deputies said they would not feed the expensive blood hounds this type of food.

Chairman Dunn said he used to be in the canine business and he certainly would not do this either.

Commissioner VanLandingham said if the Animal Shelter did not have the same food that these particular dogs were used to eating and they were given a strange food, then they would take eat it. He said if the dogs did eat the Animal Shelter food and the stable food was returned, they would not eat it.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the \$900 for the dog food.

Ms. Jones asked if the Board had made a decision on the clerical position that she had requested.

Chairman Dunn asked Mr. Sawyer to review the figures in Ms. Jones' budget. He said the Board had not agreed to do anything on the positions.

Tom Sawyer remarked that legal services would be increased by \$500 to \$8,000. He said public relations would be \$750 with a note not to recommend any money for the booklets for the area churches. He said software maintenance increased by \$257,000 based on the current invoice and the dogs' meals increased from \$300 to \$900.

Chairman Dunn asked the Board if anyone wished to revisit the request for the three slots or was the Board going with the staff's recommendation. It was the consensus of the Board to go with staff's recommendation on these slots.

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On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the budget for Law Enforcement/Administration as just delineated. The motion carried 5-0.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - TRAFFIC DIVISION

Wayne Hannah and Bryan Woodie appeared on behalf of this budget.

Chairman Dunn remarked that they had asked for \$906,000 base and staff was recommending \$895,000. He said they had asked for \$84,000 in new programs and staff had recommended \$54,000.

Wayne Hannah said he would like to discuss vehicle repair 522233 on page 228. He said he understood that they had devised some type of formula to arrive at \$5,000. He said the department was requesting \$17,000.

Chairman Dunn clarified that the department was asking for \$17,000 and staff recommended \$5,000.

Commissioner Wells pointed out that they had already spent \$9,654 which was more than the staff was recommending.

Mr. Hannah said his figures showed they had spent \$9,900 to date.

Mr. Cofty commented that Wayne and Bryan had told him that the Sheriff's Office did not use Alan Vigil that much for vehicles repairs. He said staff had taken actual repair bills and the majority of these bills were from Alan Vigil Ford. He said Vigil was charging a labor rate of \$70 per hour.

Tom Sawyer stated that approximately 60% of these bills was labor and staff had discounted this to 40%. He said most of the parts for the vehicles had a 20% add on and staff had discounted that back and this was how the \$5,152 was arrived at. He said this was 40% discounted by another 20%. He said it was staff's recommendation to use Fleet Maintenance.

Wayne Hannah commented that he had determined if they used Fleet Maintenance it would cost \$8,570. He said it would cost \$10 for an oil change per the Fleet Maintenance Department. He said they were paying \$22 to \$24 at Alan Vigil for an oil change.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that there was no break out on labor that was being paid there and the labor was included and Wayne Hannah agreed.

Chairman Dunn asked how much it cost to have Fleet Maintenance do an oil change.

Mr. Pullium replied that it would not be that high.

Mr. Hannah said Fleet had told him it would cost approximately \$10 for an oil change and a filter.

Mr. Pullium said he determined \$4.50 for the labor and parts and materials would cost another \$5.00 for a total of approximately \$10.

Mr. Hannah said he had also included the insurance deductibles in the amount of \$2,000 for crashes which was an unknown. He said with everything included for vehicle repair the amount was \$8,570.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve \$8,570 for vehicle maintenance to be done at the Fleet Maintenance facility.

Chairman Dunn questioned the department's request for \$990 and staff was recommending zero.

Ms. Holland said she thought this was tied in with the investigator position.

Bryan Woodie replied yes there was an investigator position and a car was associated with it. He said that car would require servicing which would not be covered under vehicle warranty.

Mr. Woodie said the Board had funded the investigator position.

Mr. Cofty said staff had recommended this position.

Commissioner Wells said she did not agree with that. She said this appeared under regular salary where they asked for two new people – one was an investigator and the other one was a secretary. She pointed out that staff's recommendation was not to approve the secretary but to approve the investigator.

Commissioner Wells pointed out that this department was asking for a new secretary and a new investigator and also asking for the exact same amount for overtime. She said it should be assumed if personnel was increased, that overtime would decrease and it was not.

Mr. Woodie said there were several factors as to why overtime would not decrease. He said traffic was not a twenty four hour position. He said this department was the fatal crash and serious accident division and investigators which also would include court time. He remarked that these incidents occur when people were off duty. He said even if they

added another position, they were not asking for enough to go twenty four hours a day. He said crashes happen that non exempt employees/investigators have to be called out on and they still require overtime. He said adding a new position was not going to address the 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. accidents or the times when other personnel must be called in to assist. He said these were specialized positions. He said in addition court would happen invariably when a deputy was off duty and they would have to be paid for that. He said this overtime was usually paid to someone to come in and work because they did not have enough people. He said this overtime would typically cover those things associated above and beyond regular duty.

Commissioner Wells asked how much had been paid to date for this.

Ms. Holland replied approximately \$31,000.

Commissioner Frady asked how many employees were in this division.

Mr. Hannah replied there were currently 12 employees.

Commissioner Wells clarified that they currently had 12 employees and were asking to add one more person.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that they had asked for two more.

Bryan Woodie said they had also asked for a secretary to help coordinate everything in the office thereby leaving more time for the deputies to be on the street. He said there was no way to predict when these accidents would occur. He said there was a fatal crash on May 24th and associated with that they had personnel who had been called out at 4:00 a.m. and worked out six or seven hours and then they went home and then came back and worked their regular shift that evening. He said there were three people in that category.

Commissioner Wells asked Bryan and Wayne what division the three deputies were from who served the Commissioners with the papers for the latest lawsuit.

Bryan Woodie responded that these deputies were not from the traffic division.

Chairman Dunn said he did not understand why it would take three deputies to serve one person a piece of paper.

Commissioner Wells said she was trying to determine which division served the Commissioners and Mr. Hannah replied that it was not this division.

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Commissioner Wells asked Mr. Pullium if the justification for this position met the qualifications for a new position.

Mr. Pullium replied yes and commented that they had done an excellent job in their justification especially for the traffic investigator. He there was more traffic, more congestion and more accidents. He said they had a very good and well thought out documentation that met the criteria. He said it was staff's recommendation to approve this position.

Chairman Dunn asked how many cars this division had and Mr. Hannah replied 13 with one spare vehicle.

Commissioner Wells felt the investigator, if approved, could use the spare vehicle.

Mr. Woodie said the spare vehicle had 86,000 miles on it.

Chairman Dunn remarked that some of the divisions over there had more than two cars per person. He asked why one of the cars from another division could not be transferred. He asked how many cars were listed in the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Wells replied that there were 140 vehicles in the Sheriff's department.

Chairman Dunn interjected that there were no where near that amount of officers in the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Dunn asked if the new vehicle was listed in the capital budget and Mr. Pullium replied yes.

Mr. Pullium remarked that all of the equipment related to this position was included in the capital budget.

Chairman Dunn asked Tom Sawyer for a recap on this budget.

Mr. Sawyer replied that \$3,418 was added to vehicle repair and one new position was approved.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to approve the traffic division of the Sheriff's Department. The motion carried 5-0.

SOUTHERN CRESCENT - SEXUAL ASSAULT

Commissioner Wells said she wanted to discuss the \$5,000 for the Southern Crescent on page 306.

Commissioner Wells said she was not in favor of funding this. She said the majority of their services were not provided within Fayette County.

Commissioner VanLandingham interjected that this agency was also based outside of Fayette County.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Wells not to participate in the Southern Crescent Sexual Assault program. The motion carried 5-0.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Commissioner Wells said she was not in favor of this request. She said this was supposed to be for utilities and be a direct reimbursement.

Chairman Dunn noted that they had traditionally asked for \$10,000 and this year they were asking for \$20,000.

Commissioner Wells suggested that this particular budget be maintained at \$10,000 as it had been and not to increase it to \$20,000. She said this agency had stated that currently they were not receiving any State or Federal money and this was not correct. She pointed out that they were currently receiving money from the Department of Human Resources.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to continue with this budget in the amount of \$10,000. The motion carried 5-0.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

Commissioner Wells questioned Mr. Pullium on the verbiage listed on page 21 that stated "Includes new assistant Solicitor General hired in April 2004 needs training and for the change of Solicitors in 2005". She asked if the Board had previously approved this in a budget. She said she was in favor of bringing this request down from the \$20,000 requested figure back down to \$10,000.

Mr. Pullium replied yes and stated that the Board had approved the new position for the Solicitor's Office and it was to be funded out of this program. He said he was not sure what year it was in.

Chairman Dunn asked how many assistants there were currently in the Solicitor's Office.

Commissioner Wells replied at least two.

Chairman Dunn said the last thing he recalled was when the Board approved one new assistant for Solicitor Steve Harris but not two.

Mr. Sawyer said there was already one and one of them had quit. He said this was a new hire.

Commissioner Wells said if this was correct, then the Board would be adding new money.

Mr. Pullium said there were three positions approved in the Victim Assistance Fund. He said there was an attorney, a secretary and a victim witness advocate for Victim Assistance.

Commissioner Wells remarked that one of those was in the District Attorney's Office.

Chairman Dunn said the county was just paying partial for that position.

Commissioner Wells said a grant was picking up the other part of it.

Mr. Pullium said this one position had been approved in the 2003 budget but it was funded out of the Victim Assistance Program.

Mr. Pullium said there was an Assistant Solicitor General that had been approved four years in a row full time in the State Court.

Commissioner Wells interjected that in the State Court Solicitor's Office there was Steve Harris, his assistant Laurel, and she was not sure about any other positions.

Mr. Pullium responded that there was an office manager, a secretary and a part-time control terminal officer for a total of 4.63 full time employees. He said this had remained the same for the last four years. He said the Victim's Advocate was being paid out of the Victim Witness Fund. He said in 2002 there was a Victim's Witness Advocate and that had been carried forward for the last four years. He said in 2003 an attorney and a secretary were added to be paid out of the Victim Witness Fund.

Chairman Dunn said he did not recall the Board approving a third attorney over there and Mr. Pullium replied yes, and stated this was done in 2003 during the budget discussions.

Commissioner Wells said she did not recall this either.

Mr. Pullium said it was his understanding that the one person dedicated in the District Attorney's Office is contracted out on a circuit wide basis. He said it was his understanding that the money that was under the control of the county for the Victim's Assistance Fund the county was not paying for a position for the District Attorney out of that particular fund.

Commissioner Wells said she found it amazing that the District Attorney's Office handled a lot more violent crime and they only had two victims advocates whereas the State Court Solicitor handles far less violent crime and they have a whole crew.

Commissioner Frady questioned the conferences, seminars and dues and suggested this be reduced to zero.

Commissioner VanLandingham commented on the VOCA grant on page 23.

Commissioner Wells stated that this was for four counties.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked why they were asking the county to put \$67,000 in with it.

Commissioner Wells said they were only paying for two employees. She said if the county put in the \$67,000 plus the other money they were receiving from the VOCA grant which would be \$91,000 that would be split among four counties.

Chairman Dunn said when this amount was split among four counties that Fayette County still gets approximately 40% of it.

Commissioner Wells pointed out that tires were also listed on here and she had no idea when the Victims group and the District Attorney's Office got a car.

Commissioner Frady said they had \$53,000 to start with and they had only spent \$40,000 and the request was to raise it to \$67,400.

Commissioner Wells said she was sure that this would not be approved.

Chairman Dunn clarified that staff was recommending \$67,000 in this account.

Mr. Pullium said staff had recommended this based on the request but ultimately it would be the Board of Commissioners who would make the decision on this. He said he agreed with Commissioner Wells that a lot of times although this money was intended for victims of crime it winds up for the hiring of attorneys.

Chairman Dunn said all of the programs in the circuit must really be scrutinized.

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Mr. Pullium said staff had recommended this budget and it was just a continuation of the same thing that had been funded in the prior year. He said this was the only justification that he could show the Board.

Chairman Dunn said staff was recommending \$14,000 more than last year's revised budget.

Commissioner Wells said the Board would need to revisit this budget and discuss it further.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

Gregory M. Dunn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 7th day of July, 2004.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk