

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Greg Dunn, Chairman
Linda Wells, Vice Chair
Herb Frady
Peter Pfeifer (entered 9:45 a.m.)
A.G. VanLandingham

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

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - TRAFFIC DIVISION

Major Wayne Hannah and Captain Bryan Woodie were present to discuss this budget.

Major Hannah said he could live with the Finance Department's recommendation. He said the only issue that he wanted to question was the clerical position. He said he had indicated this in the justification.

Commissioner Wells asked how many people this department currently had working there.

Major Hannah replied that currently there were thirteen individuals in the training and no clerical staff. He said the deputies were having to do the clerical work and filling this position would really help this department the most. He said they were finding more and more of the investigators having to come into the office to do clerical work.

Captain Woodie said they had done an extensive task analysis of each of the investigator positions. He said they could ask for another investigator but they just did not think they would get what they needed. He said he had prepared some charts to indicate the need for the clerical position. He said the chart showed the time the investigators were spending on typing and clerical work associated with case preparation. He said the investigators were not out on the street as much as they would like to be because of the additional clerical work. He said addition of the administrative secretary position would allow them to take some of the clerical tasks and allow the deputies and investigators more time on the streets. He said they estimated that the administrative secretary would have the net effect in terms of efficiency of giving them two more people on the street. He said the addition of the clerical position would certainly be a less expensive alternative than adding more investigators.

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Captain Woodie said they expected to take the new person and teach them the procedure for traffic studies that were done on a regular basis. He said this person could gather the data needed for this report. He said this was just one area that would help the department.

Commissioner Wells asked if they could use the TANF Program (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.)

Mr. Pullium said this was a program where individuals have come upon hard times that were out of work and needed a job. He said as part of their condition for receiving assistance they must have a job. He said from time to time the county has availability of individuals who were available through this program. He said this offers them the opportunity to work and get back into the community.

Commissioner Wells said nobody had to pay their salary because they were already receiving assistance. She said these were just people for whatever reason things have happened in their lives and they were receiving assistance. She said part of the program was to get them trained and back into the work place and this was part of the training program. She said this was a good training ground for these individuals.

Major Hannah said this person would have to undergo a thorough background check.

Commissioner Frady said a lot of times these were just retired people trying to get back into the work force.

Captain Woodie remarked that they envisioned this position doing a lot of things that would require initial training.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked Captain Woodie if they would be willing to try this program.

Commissioner Wells said even if they went through the interview process and hired someone, there was no guarantee that a person would stay. She said the TANF individuals would have to go through the same type of screening and same type of background check.

Captain Woodie asked what would happen if a TANF worker got the job and then their program ran out.

Commissioner Wells said then the person could be hired.

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Chairman Dunn remarked that there was no guarantee that a person would be available for the skills that this department needed. He questioned if there were no TANF workers available, would a 29 hours a week be alright. He said the person would not have any county benefits.

Captain Woodie said they envisioned the person working 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day.

Commissioner VanLandingham said a part time person could eventually work into a full time person.

Major Hannah said this individual would enter in traffic citations, accident reports and things of that nature.

Mr. Pullium questioned the car system. He said it was his understanding that administration had the responsibility of entering data for traffic citations. He asked if this person would enter this data or would someone else be responsible for entering the information. He felt like this would be duplication of work.

Major Hannah said it was his goal to have this person entering what the traffic enforcement division handled as far as accidents and traffic citations.

Chairman Dunn said when the different requirements were reviewed across the board, it looked like there was no coordination among the Sheriff's departments for clerical assistants and so forth. He said every department was requesting another clerk instead of using one clerk to help with two departments. He said there were other areas where the Board saw authorizations for personnel that have not been filled in years. He said there was the question if the Sheriff could convert one of these slots for another department. He said it seemed like there were five separate budgets out of the Sheriff's Department instead of one large budget.

Commissioner Wells asked Major Hannah what other division his department worked closely with as far as entering data.

Major Hannah replied that they worked closely with the administrative division.

Commissioner Wells asked Major Hannah if it would be practical for the county to hire someone who could be sensitive to his department's needs as well as administrative needs. She asked if this person needed to be full time.

Captain Woodie said they envisioned some of the duties involving the handling of traffic citations. He said those duties would not need to be handled by the administrative services division anymore. He said the person could also handle accident reports.

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Chairman Dunn remarked that when Major Linda Jones appeared before the Board to discuss her departmental budget, she always requested a clerical position. He said if the Board approved a position for Ms. Jones' department and another position for this department, then the Board would have double slotted the same job. He said the Board was having difficult with this.

Major Hannah replied that he certainly understood what the Board was saying. He remarked that with five different budgets it put his department in a difficult situation as well.

Chairman Dunn said during the last four or five years some of these slots had never been filled.

Commissioner VanLandingham said there was a strong indication that the person was not really needed if the slot was not filled.

Commissioner Wells remarked if the Board approved this position would it reflect on the overtime requests or history.

Captain Woodie replied that it probably would not be significant. He said as they had discussed this in last year's budget that they did not find it efficient to assign someone to the 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. shift because there were so few wrecks.

Commissioner Wells said she was really inclined to consider approval of this request. She said she would much rather pay somebody clerical fees to be doing clerical work and to have law enforcement expertise out on the roads.

Commissioner Frady said he was included to go along with this request too.

Commissioner Wells remarked with the amount of paperwork that this department generated, she did not know how the deputies and investigators would be able to be on the roads where they should be.

Chairman Dunn asked Captain Woodie and Major Hannah if the Board approved this position would this reduce some of the requirements that Major Jones had requested. He said Major Jones did have some legitimate requirements but the Board could not justify both of these departments getting a full time clerical position. He clarified that if the Board approved this person for this department it would reduce the workload in Major Jones' office as well.

Major Hannah remarked that he would do his best to work this out with Major Jones.

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Chairman Dunn said the Board was sensitive that Major Jones did have some requirements too but she would have less requirements if the Board approved the clerical position for this department. He said he hoped that one day that all five departments at the Sheriff's Department could sit down and work together on their budgets rather than the Commissioners trying to do that during the budget discussions.

Commissioner VanLandingham said it was very difficult to try and pull five departments together because the requirements as Chairman Dunn stated overlapped greatly.

Chairman Dunn said he had questions about the firing range requirements. He said the Board had asked several individuals from the Sheriff's Office during the budget discussions and the answers were always different. He asked if the State requirement was for a deputy to go to the range twice a year to remain certified.

Major Hannah replied that technically the State did not have a requirement but the Sheriff's Office tried to get an annual requirement.

Chairman Dunn said some of the people from the Sheriff's Office said the requirement was twice and others said they go to the firing range every day. He said there was a lot of ammunition being ordered by every department at the Sheriff's Department.

Major Hannah remarked that the open range was offered twice each month. He said a person could attend one or the other or split fifty rounds.

Captain Woodie said the swat team trained on a more intense basis than the average patrol.

Commissioner Wells said she had found throughout the departments that it was averaging a little over a case of ammunition per person. She said this department had requested seventeen cases for thirteen individuals.

Chairman Dunn said the Board also discovered that a lot of the ammunition was not being used and the ammunition money was being diverted for other things. He said the Board was trying to give the Sheriff's Department all of the ammunition that it needed but the Board did not want to provide five times the amount.

Captain Woodie said his figure was based on firing twice per year and this was a department qualification and it was fifty rounds per person. He said the open range was held every month when there was not a department qualification going on. He said the departmental qualification for open range was fifty rounds per person per month and there were two opportunities to go every month. He remarked that approximately 23% of the people department wide required more than one time to qualify. He said this month this particular departmental qualification course there may be a thirty round course instead of

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a fifty round course. He said there was also shot gun information and rifle information included. He said there were only four rifles assigned to the traffic enforcement division. He said some of these had 250 rounds per case, some 500 rounds per case and some had 1,000 rounds per case.

Commissioner Wells said the request was for 2,000 rounds of ammunition and there were four rifles.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked if everybody qualified on the rifles too.

Captain Woodie replied just those individuals who were assigned rifles.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked what the rifles were used for.

Captain Woodie for enforcement measures if necessary.

Commissioner Wells felt this was excessive.

Chairman Dunn asked Captain Woodie when he was putting the budget together for this item was he assuming that all of his people were firing twice per month.

Captain Woodie replied they only fired once per month. He said there were two firing days per month but they only fired once per month. He remarked that there were also some individuals who had to put in a third time per month for expert qualification for night firing or stress course.

Chairman Dunn said the Board was just trying to find out what the policy was because it was trying to fund this. He felt there was a lot of overlapping in the ammunition requests in the Sheriff's Department. He said the Board was finding that there were a lot of rounds that were not purchased during the year and the designated money was going somewhere else in the Sheriff's Department.

Captain Woodie said he could address some of the issues in the past that were transitioned between one program to another. He said the Commissioners were instrumental in allowing them to get adequate office space which they moved into last February, 2005. He said this caused them several budgetary issues. He said they had to defer purchases toward the end of the year because they did not have storage space. He said they had not requested any duty ammunition for this fiscal year.

Chairman Dunn asked for the figure requested for ammunition for this department.

Mr. Pullium replied it was \$2,357.

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Chairman Dunn said it seemed to him like the department should order ammunition and disperse it to each department rather than each department requesting ammunition individually. He remarked that each division in the Sheriff's Department had requirements for certain jobs but there were certain things across the board that could be reviewed and purchased accordingly.

Commissioner Wells questioned 2,000 rounds of ammunition for four rifles. She asked if this was in line with what the Board should expect or was it high.

Captain Woodie replied that each person carried 180 rounds with them in case of an emergency. He said this was called a basic load and was per weapon.

Major Hannah remarked that they did not have anything budgeted for duty ammunition and they could use their existing supply.

Chairman Dunn remarked on the clerical position that was of most concern to Captain Woodie. He said the Board felt there was a legitimate requirement for this position. He asked Captain Woodie if the Board approved this position would he speak with Major Linda Jones and let her know that this position would also help with her workload and improve her situation as well.

Commissioner Wells remarked that the money for vehicle repair had increased almost \$10,500. She said her notes stated this was a result of more crashes and accidents involving patrol vehicles. She said the Board was noticing a lot of accident reports and a lot of insurance claims. She asked if there was a particular reason for that and questioned if this was being addressed through training. She asked if the officers needed more training.

Captain Woodie replied yes to all three questions. He said the Commissioners had funded defensive driving last year for law enforcement. He said they have the instructors in place and they have been training the officers as a way of educating them. He said last year they had more deer accidents than in any other year since his employment with the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Dunn remarked that there had been 74 insurance claims in four years from the Sheriff's Department.

Captain Woodie remarked that all accident reports were reviewed by the county safety committee and both he and Major Hannah attend those meetings. He said they would begin the defensive drivers training. He said all the material was in and the instructors were ready.

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Commissioner Wells asked if they were still using the facility in Forsythe for the defensive driving course.

Captain Woodie replied yes, when they could get in a slot.

Commissioner Frady said he appreciated their documentation on justification for the administrative slot. He said the patrolmen needed to be out on the road more than in the office. He commented on traffic citations issue. He remarked that the number of citations was less than in prior years. He asked for the approximate figure for citations this year. Captain Woodie remarked that several things had occurred. He said they had some people leaving the Sheriff's Department and they brought new people in. He said it takes time to get those personnel certified in use and speed detection equipment. He said the same figures from 2002 and 2003 were enlightening.

Chairman Dunn interjected if the enforcement was better then there would not be as much speeding.

Major Hannah said the officers had seen this in the seat belt laws.

Commissioner VanLandingham said one of the court representatives who had appeared before the Board said they were anticipating a 30% increase in traffic citations this year.

Captain Woodie said there might be a 30% increase in activity level and that would be somewhat disappointing to them. He said they aggressively pursue occupant protection violations such as seat belts because they saw a direct correlation between that and a reduced number of injuries. He said Fayette County historically had been recognized for having a low instance of people not wearing seat belts. He said it was actually difficult to find a seat belt violation.

Chairman Dunn asked if the Board had any further questions and there were none. He thanked Captain Woodie and Major Hannah for appearing to discuss their budget.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he wished the Board to decipher every budget as easily as the Board had deciphered this budget. He said it was very thorough and complete and the Board appreciated it very much.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Frady to adopt the Traffic and Training Division budget of the Sheriff's Department with the addition of the clerical position. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Pfeifer was absent.

PATROL DIVISION / SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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Captain Barry Babb said he was pretty much in agreement with what the Finance Department had recommended. He said the issue he would like to discuss with the Board was the issue of manpower.

Chairman Dunn clarified that this division had requested eight new positions and the Finance Department was not recommending any new positions.

Commissioner Frady questioned why the officers at the courthouse were doing a lot of administrative work.

Captain Babb replied that they needed personnel in the courtroom as well as different locations in the courthouse. He said they needed personnel at the x-ray machine, security office, two rovers that could be seen and officers in the courtrooms as well. He said there were evaluations that needed to be done on officers as well as payroll to be done.

Captain Babb replied that Lori Littlejohn prepared this budget. He remarked that Lori was also in the honor guard and had to attend to a funeral this morning.

Captain Babb said the deputies were at the mercy of the Judges. He said there were times when Judges needed certain things done and certain prisoners brought in. He said they made sure the front of the courthouse was heavily patrolled. He said they did not want to make mistakes like some of the surrounding counties had made recently with violence in the courthouse. He said this was the reason they were requesting additional manpower.

Chairman Dunn remarked that most weeks court was not even in session. He said there was no consistent workload factor for the courthouse. He said it was hard to plan to have personnel in all three courtrooms every day of the week.

Captain Babb said in most cases on a daily basis the Magistrate Court, State Court and Juvenile Court had something going on.

Chairman Dunn asked if attorneys were allowed in the courtroom without having their bags checked.

Captain Babb replied that for the most part everybody was checked although there were some individuals who were not checked. He said since the Fulton County incident, they had tightened down a lot. He said they could never let their guard down.

Chairman Dunn said he felt everybody coming into the courthouse should be checked.

Chairman Dunn asked if this division just needed more people and Captain Babb responded that he would not ask for more people if they did not need them.

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Captain Babb said they had sat down post Fulton County with the Fayette County Judges. He said the Judges were very pleased with the system that was currently in place here but they knew that there was still not adequate coverage. He said there were times when there were too many prisoners and not enough officers. He said it was hard to put down in numbers how many people would be necessary for the courthouse.

Chairman Dunn said he did not like to react from an incident in a surrounding county as justification for adding more personnel here. He said Fayette County had better trained people and better equipment and was not starting on the same level that Fulton County was when this incident occurred.

Captain Babb remarked that the majority of people coming in and out of the courthouse were involved in civil litigation and criminal acts and they were out on bond.

Commissioner Pfeifer entered the meeting at this time which was 9:43 a.m.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked how many days court was in session.

Captain Babb said there was a court term in March and some in April and another term in September. He said that was when they saw the bulk of the work.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he was reluctant to jump on and add more personnel because of what occurred in Fulton County especially with Fayette County being much more efficient than Fulton County was. He felt this would be a waste of manpower to load the system up to the fullest because it was not utilized full time. He said he had a problem with adding four additional people and he agreed with Staff's recommendation on this. He said this was something that was not fully justified.

Chairman Dunn said if something did happen it would not necessarily be because of a lack of manpower.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he also agreed that the front part of the courthouse was the most important because it was the first line of detection. He felt it was important to have that area fully manned at all times. He said the other area of concern would be in the area of the courtroom. He said there needed to be a little ingenuity on the entire department's attitude. He said on the heavy days it could very easily be two or three people pulled in from another department to assist in this. He felt cross training would be an issue but it could be done. He felt it would be more effective that way in lieu of adding more people.

Captain Babb said he would like to discuss utilizing more manpower. He said the other request was for four patrolmen. He said with these patrolmen he could fill the gaps in the department. He said out of all of the departments within the Sheriff's Department the

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patrolmen directly affect the citizens of Fayette County. He said when someone dials 911 the patrolmen were the ones who respond. He said there had not been a significant increase in this department for as long as he can remember. He said the call volume had not changed for the last three and a half years but the response times had steadily increased as well as the types of calls had changed. He said the traffic was getting worse in Fayette County every day. He said violent crimes were increasing every day. He said the Sheriff's Department could not stop these crimes from occurring here but they could adequately respond to them. He said his officers were responding to more violent calls and they needed additional backup. He said the response time was up to approximately twelve minutes which he felt was unreasonable for an average response time for an entire year. He said the officers did not feel adequately protected. He said they had gone from eight hour shifts to twelve hour shifts in order to put more patrolmen on the street at one time. He said the nursing industry had also taken this approach because of staffing levels. Chairman Dunn asked Captain Babb if there were still five patrol areas.

Captain Babb replied that they still had five zones but there were actually six zones.

Chairman Dunn remarked that there had been these same zones for a long time. He said the population figures were different now and there still needed to be the same five zones. He said there were different crime rates occurring in different zones.

Captain Babb responded that these zones had been adjusted. He said when he started with the Sheriff's Department approximately three to four years ago there were four zones. He said after 911 moved to its location, they had to deal with people coming to the Sheriff's Department with complaints. He said they could not leave staff alone to handle these complaints and they had to have an officer there who was fully armed and equipped. He said this actually created an additional position. He said this was actually the sixth zone that had to be manned every day for every shift. He said they had to take a patrolman off the street to man this watch office. He remarked that by law the GCIC machine had to be manned twenty-four hours every day. He said this position required a patrolman with the experience and the knowledge to deal with this. He said this required several years of training. He said zone five was the highest call volume area and also had the most traffic related incidents which included the S.R. 92 corridor. He said it also involved everything East of S.R. 85 and down S.R. 92 from McDonough Road and S.R. 54 South. He said this zone also had the most traffic related problems and the most calls. He said it was not a violent area of the county but it was the busiest part of the county. He said it had the highest response time. He said this zone takes manpower away from the other zones. He said zone 2 had the second highest response time.

Chairman Dunn said the Board understood what was being requested but he did not know if they would all agree that this could be provided. He asked Captain Babb if there were any further requests.

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Captain Babb replied no and said his department could manage on the rest of the budget but would appreciate anything that could be done with regard to additional officers.

Chairman Dunn said the Board would vote on this budget shortly and thanked them for presenting their budget.

Commissioner Frady said he would be in favor of approving two new officers for this division. He said the traffic at the courthouse had significantly increased.

On motion made by Commissioner Frady, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the Patrol Division budget of the Sheriff's Department with two additional officers for the courthouse, discussion followed.

Commissioner Wells said she was more inclined to approve two additional officers for patrol rather than the courthouse. She said there was a lot of down time when the courthouse was not busy and when it was busy they could pull officers from other areas to assist.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he agreed with Commissioner Wells. He said they could pull officers from patrol and put those officers in the courthouse if they needed to. He said it would be hard to pull officers from the courthouse and put them out on patrol. He said he would rather add people to the patrol.

Chairman Dunn said the data he had read was consistent with what he had seen his entire career. He said the department was trying to get the Board to resource the worst case rather than the norm. He said the taxpayers just could not afford that and it was not necessary for good law enforcement either to load up for the worst situation that there could be. He said every department must have ways of moving people around to compensate for the worst times. He said they had the ability to do that today and move people when an incident required it.

Commissioner Wells said she would prefer approving one patrolman. She felt there needed to be more coverage.

Chairman Dunn interjected that crime did not occur equally in the five zones nor did it occur equally on every shift. He felt nobody was looking at the other departments to determine when their workload was down so that personnel could be shifted to departments who needed the additional help. He said response times could not be calculated for the police force as they could be for the fire department. He said patrolman were not located in any one given location and it was hard to know when someone would be available.

Commissioner VanLandingham said the answer was not to transfer somebody when they were needed. He said the answer was to transfer the personnel before a situation occurred.

Commissioner Pfeifer remarked that every year this Board made its number one priority public safety. He said he included the courts in public safety. He said over half of the money in the budget went toward public safety and every year more money was spent on public safety.

Chairman Dunn remarked that there was a motion on the floor for the approval of this budget plus two additional officers. He called for the vote.

The motion failed 1-4 with Chairman Dunn, Commissioner Wells, Commissioner Pfeifer and Commissioner VanLandingham voting in opposition.

Chairman Dunn asked for the Board's pleasure in this matter.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve this budget with the addition of one additional patrolman. The motion carried 3-2 with Chairman Dunn and Commissioner Frady opposing the motion.

EMERGENCY SERVICES - ADMINISTRATION

Chief Jack Krakeel appeared to discuss this budget.

Commissioner Wells and Commissioner VanLandingham said they did not have any questions on this portion of Chief Krakeel's budget.

Commissioner Pfeifer questioned the computer equipment for \$7,000 on page 237 for a stand alone server.

Mr. Pullium said this item was over \$5,000 and would qualify for capital improvements.

Chief Krakeel remarked that this would come out of the \$53,000 grant that the department had received.

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned the outsourcing of the ambulance billing. He asked if this was costing the county \$49,000 to do this.

Mr. Pullium said staff did not have the cost for that yet. He said the \$49,000 was just an estimate from the budgetary information that staff had received. He said staff did not have an official quote from a firm at this point in time. He said this figure was based on the volume and the per unit cost.

Mary Holland remarked that it cost \$14 per unit and \$3,500 for transfers.

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Commissioner VanLandingham asked who was currently doing the billing.

Mr. Pullium said it had been voted on to reduce the staff in the Finance Department by one full time equivalent. He said the offset of this billing cost would be that the Finance Department would be losing a position in that Department.

Ms. Holland said the Finance Department had someone coming in on a temporary basis through a temp agency.

Commissioner VanLandingham asked how much the temporary person was being paid to do this job now.

Mr. Pullium replied the temporary person was being paid the standard rate for temporary help.

Ms. Venice said Chief Krakeel could respond to the necessary accuracy of ambulance billing due to the implications of liability that were not currently being addressed.

Chief Krakeel remarked that for the last three years he has had this conversation that he felt Fayette County was in a position of extreme liability regarding EMS billing. He said EMS billing was unlike any other kind of billing and was not like utility billing. He said it required a significant knowledge and expertise not only from the medical coding perspective but also from a regulatory perspective as it related to the primary Federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. He said the accounting process of taking a patient's name and logging it into a computer and calculating the cost of the service was not the issue. He said a temp could be hired to do that kind of work. He said somebody with the expertise could be hired to followup on a returned check from a third party provider that was less than the amount that was billed to that patient. He said this individual could argue the county's position for full reimbursement of the patient transport based on the rules and regulations that were in effect related to patient transports. He felt the county had done a fair job but not an excellent job on patient billing. He said it had been his recommendation to outsource this to a billing firm that has expertise in ambulance billing. He felt the return on the county's overall investment would be positive.

Commissioner Frady asked if the problem was with medical coding.

Chief Krakeel replied that this was just one aspect of the problem. He said rules and regulations also needed to be understood and medical codes needed to be translated. He remarked that there were over 20,000 hicpics codes and the county did not have the expertise to make sure it was not in a liable position. He noted that the fee schedule that was put in place in 2001 had changed seven times since April, 2001. He said the county must make sure that it does not find itself in a position of liability with Medicare and Medicaid.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he was not having a problem with the outsourcing part but with the person who would be left with nothing to do and then the position abolished.

Mr. Pullium said this position was already vacant.

Commissioner Wells remarked that Chief Krakeel would be instrumental in writing the RFP and choosing the appropriate firm to handle the outsourcing of billing.

Chief Krakeel replied that he had written the RFP and forwarded that to Mr. Pullium.

Mr. Pullium said he would be working very closely with Chief Krakeel on this.

Ms. Holland said if this did move forward then the Finance Department would have to complete the current accounts and this would be done with current staff.

Chief Krakeel interjected that the county's collection rate for ambulance billing would increase beyond what it was currently.

EMERGENCY SERVICES - TRAINING

Commissioner Wells asked if anyone had any questions regarding Emergency Services training and there were none.

EMERGENCY SERVICES - OPERATIONS

Commissioner Wells remarked that there were eight new people in this portion of the budget plus a new ambulance.

Chairman Dunn said staff had recommended approval of the eight new positions.

Mr. Pullium said that was correct. He said staff had made this recommendation because there were almost 400 to 500 calls where the response time exceeded the standard response time. He said units from other areas in the county were having to be sent into the zone affected by the heaviest demand. He said zone 4 had exceeded the national standards for a unit responding to calls. He said other units had to be called in to assist zone 4 with calls.

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned how adding people and not having a station in another zone was going to solve the problems.

Mr. Pullium said they were actually going to add another ambulance unit and put the staffing on that ambulance unit.

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Commissioner VanLandingham said that would be for an existing station. He asked how this would help with response time.

Chief Krakeel remarked that the problem was the volume of calls that originated in zone 4 which was the City of Fayetteville area and the surrounding unincorporated areas of the county. He said these calls had exceeded the demand level that they had established for an ambulance unit which was 2,000 calls annually. He said at that level personnel productivity would be maximized. He said this was the annual volume that one unit could handle. He said they would be adding another unit in addition to that unit that handled the demand that was being created in this zone. He said Medic 4 was the primary unit there and would be out on a call and then they would have to pull Medic 3 from Tyrone and Medic 5 from the Southside and Medic 2 from the S.R. 92 North station into the city. He said this had occurred on 566 occasions last year where Medic 4 was not available to respond to a call in the City and they had to pull another unit into the City to handle that call. He said conversely Medic 4 was also responded 398 times to calls outside of its zone because they were the next closest unit. He said by adding the second unit they would effectively be able to reduce those incidences thereby maximizing that particular unit. He said they were running in excess of 200 calls per year. He said the total number of incidents in zone 4 that required a medic unit response was 2,114 calls last year.

Chairman Dunn asked for the data on all of the calls received and noted that there was a great disparity on the areas.

Chief Krakeel remarked that this was an issue of geographic coverage, density where growth had occurred and recognizing the fact that there had been four ambulances covering the unincorporated area of the county.

Chairman Dunn interjected that people were receiving immediate attention and noted that first responders and fire trucks get to a scene before an ambulance arrives. He said people were already being treated at a scene when the ambulances arrive. He pointed out that the data did not indicate that an injured person was having to wait for medical care. Chief Krakeel said he agreed. He said this data reflected the response time of units to the scene of the incident from the notification point.

Commissioner Wells asked if in every single case a transport had been required. She questioned if emergency personnel responded and people were not actually transported.

Chief Krakeel replied that there would be some of those cases in which there was not a transport but never an incident where medics were not required to respond to a call.

Commissioner Wells asked if Fayette County was getting sufficient back up and assistance from the City of Fayetteville.

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Chief Krakeel replied that the City of Fayetteville responds to a majority of EMS calls that the County responds to. He said this was in terms of someone being on the scene prior to the arrival of Medic 3 or Medic 5.

Commissioner Wells questioned the area for Medic 2.

Chief Krakeel replied that Medic 2 was located at the station on S.R. 92 North covering the Northern part of the County. He said station 3 was located in Tyrone and station 5 was Highway 85 South at Bernhard Road.

Chairman Dunn asked for the call volumes for the other units. He recalled the figure of 2,114 for Medic 4.

Chief Krakeel said he would be glad to provide the Board with that information.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the call volumes for the other units was much lower. He said Medic 2 had 260 calls to respond.

Chief Krakeel interjected that figure was just for zone 4.

Chairman Dunn asked where the reserve units were located.

Chief Krakeel replied that the reserve unit was at station 4. He said there were two units there and one of those was a reserve unit that was required by law to be there.

Chairman Dunn asked if the reserve unit was manned.

Chief Krakeel replied no.

Chairman Dunn asked where the manpower squad was located.

Chief Krakeel replied they were at station 4.

Chairman Dunn said the manpower squad could man the reserve ambulance.

Commissioner Wells pointed out that the manpower squad located at station 4 was in addition to the personnel at station 4.

Chairman Dunn said there were two potential ambulances and two crews located at station 4.

Commissioner Wells asked how many ambulances the City of Fayetteville had.

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Chief Krakeel responded that the City of Fayetteville had no ambulances. He said the County provided all of the ambulance coverage.

Chief Krakeel interjected that there had been 45 days during the past year where there was no available personnel for the manpower squad. He remarked that 38% of EMS calls were for zone 4.

Commissioner Wells asked if station 4 was large enough to accommodate Medic 4, the manpower squad and another squad.

Chief Krakeel replied yes there was enough space.

Commissioner Wells asked if there was another bay area to accommodate another ambulance.

Chief Krakeel replied that they would move the reserve ambulance out to station 8 on Flat Creek Trail. He said the reserve unit was primarily designed to be put into service when one of the principle units was out of service for mechanical reasons so there would still be the level of ambulances that the law specified.

Commissioner Wells asked if there had ever been a situation where all of the County's ambulances had been in use at the same time.

Chief Krakeel replied yes, absolutely. He stated that this was becoming more frequent.

Chief Krakeel said the County brings first responder units who were the closest to a scene. He remarked that these were either EMT's or medics depending on the staffing configuration for that day. He said they had established a five minute average for response times and they were still meeting that time. He said they also had a performance bench mark of having an ambulance on scene within eight minutes of receipt of a call. He said they were not meeting that particular performance standard anymore. He noted that the more calls that they were answering where the principle unit was out of service and a unit was having to be brought from another part of the County then the overall response time would continue to increase. He said they had witnessed that fact over the last four or five years as a result of volume. He said this would be the first ambulance unit that they had added in twenty-five years. He said they had added personnel to the fire trucks from a first responder perspective to get medical care there quickly but they had operated four ambulances for the last twenty-five years.

Commissioner VanLandingham clarified that 65% of the time transports were required and Chief Krakeel agreed.

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Commissioner VanLandingham noted that within the 65% there were varying degrees of how fast the person needed to be transported depending on the critical issues involved. He said the response time for the ambulance was important along with the first responder being there.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the time an ambulance arrived at a hospital might not change.

Ms. Venice interjected that a first responder did not carry all of the equipment that an ambulance carried.

Mr. Pullium said the additional ambulance had been in the Capital Improvements Plan. He pointed out that the ladder truck purchase had been moved further out in the time line. He said the ladder truck had been included this year but Chief Krakeel suggested that they did not need it this year.

Commissioner Frady remarked that it had been in the Capital Improvements Program for a long time.

Chief Krakeel said he had included the ambulance in his analysis five years ago when the Capital Improvements Plan was done. He said this was pretty close to target in terms of the demand volume issue and everything else.

Mr. Pullium remarked if the 65% were transported it would come out to 361 calls where the eight minute standard was not met in this zone.

Chief Krakeel said this was a volume issue. He said his department was dealing with 2,119 calls every year that were occurring in this zone and the one unit was being maximized. He said the threshold capacity had been reached for this one unit.

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked if the County was going to purchase an ambulance why would the County not staff it. He said it was evident that the ambulance currently at that location had reached capacity. He said in his opinion if this request was delayed the County would be playing catch up rather than meeting the needs as they come. He said the County had the ability to meet the need.

Commissioner Frady said this was the reason a C.I.P. was needed and funded over a period of time. He said the money was available in the C.I.P. for this ambulance.

Chief Krakeel pointed out if the Board approved the purchase of this ambulance today it would not go into service until April 2006. He said it would take staff nine months to put this ambulance into service. He said he projected his department having 6,500 calls next year. He remarked that they had 5,972 calls this year and 5,200 last year.

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Commissioner Wells clarified that it takes eight people to run this and Chief Krakeel replied yes and said it was 24/7 for 365 days a year.

Commissioner Wells clarified that this would give Chief Krakeel one more medic unit.

Chief Krakeel said this would make a total of five transport units.

Chairman Dunn remarked that what Chief Krakeel was asking for was totally consistent with the Capital Improvements Plan that had been developed over time. He said this was running a little behind and the County was supposed to get this ambulance in fiscal year 2005.

Mr. Pullium said the original plan was to get the ambulance at the end of fiscal year 2005 and then start the staffing at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year.

Chief Krakeel remarked that once the Board adopted the budget it would take him eight to nine months to get the ambulance.

Chairman Dunn asked how soon the people would be needed to staff the ambulance.

Chief Krakeel said he had suggested the eight individuals be hired January 1, 2006. He said his department would probably get the ambulance in March, 2006 and he was looking at a recruit school that was going to take twelve to fourteen weeks. He pointed out that the eight employees that were going to be hired would not be the individuals who would be staffing the ambulance. He said they would be taking existing staff and putting them on the ambulance when it arrived and the eight employees would replace the slots of the current firefighter/EMT's.

Chairman Dunn said this projection was exactly what the Capital Improvements Program was for and this was on time and on target. He complimented Chief Krakeel on being able to prognosticate very well. He felt it was incumbent upon the Board to support the Plan.

Chairman Dunn asked Chief Krakeel if there was anything else in this budget that he wanted to make the Board aware of or asked questions about and Chief Krakeel replied no.

Commissioner Wells questioned the Fayette County Resource Council dues. She asked what this Council was.

Chief Krakeel replied that approximately ten years ago a Council of government agencies in Fayette County and private industry been established. He said \$250 in dues was paid every year to that Council. He said the Council operated under the Local Emergency

Funding Committee. He said the members of that Council essentially agreed to assist each other whenever there was a hazardous material incident so that the assets of private industry could be accessed without private industry having a liability issue in front of them. He said they had done several things over the last few years and typically all of the funding that was generated annually by the dues structure of the private and public sector agencies was reimbursed back to the hazardous materials team. He said there were industries in this County that had soda ash and when the County was confronted with an acid spill he simply made a telephone call and they bring that equipment. He said the Council was a consortium of affected agencies that come together particularly during situations involving hazardous materials and provide their assets and their expertise to mitigate those incidents. He said they were also instrumental in setting up the County's first call system where an area could be evacuated using a reverse telephone dialing system. He said they also instituted a self-monitoring program in industries and a program for self-improvement for industries who participated. He said Fayette County was the first entity to establish this Council and now it was being replicated throughout the State of Georgia.

Commissioner Wells questioned the purchase of portable radios so the County would have a reserve. She asked how many this department currently had and how many radios \$11,000 would buy.

Chief Krakeel replied that his department was trying to slowly build those radios over time. He said the radios cost approximately \$2,800 each and this would buy four units. He said this would give the County approximately 12 radios in reserve.

Commissioner Wells said she was opposed to the banking of 25 radios but she was not opposed to 12 radios. She felt the radios would be obsolete by the time the County purchased 25. She said she favored 12 radios in reserve and said the County could use those right now. She felt to have 25 radios in reserve would be building an obsolescence at \$2,800 per radio.

Chairman Dunn asked if there were anymore questions from the Board on this budget. Hearing none, the Board thanked Chief Krakeel for discussing this budget.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Frady to approve the Emergency Services' budgets per staff's recommendations. The motion carried 5-0.

FAYETTE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Randy Hayes representing the Development Authority appeared to discuss this budget. He said he would like to discuss one item in this budget which was #5270 Fayette University Center in the amount of \$25,000. He said a few years ago when they had met

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with the Board he was asked if the Development Authority would be doing an expense before hand and then request it the next year for reimbursement. He said the Development Authority had tried to live up to the communication that the Board gave the Authority at that time. He said when this budget was approved by the Development Authority Board a \$25,000 line item was put in there for the University Center. He said he felt "seed money" was not the right term for this University. He said this was an allocation that they had put in the budget in case the Authority could move forward this next fiscal year with some kind of promise of having Clayton State actually having a permanent facility here. He said this money would help in any kind of logistical means that the Authority could assist them with. He said other than that the Authority's budget basically remained the same.

Mr. Hayes said he would like to update the Board on the University Center. He said he was aware that some of the Commissioners had spoken with the President Tom Hardin and also with members of the Development Authority. He said this Center has been something on the Authority's dream list for several years. He said the tennis center location was just too small for this operation. He said the Authority had tried to look at the opportunities that might be out there. He said two or three parcels of land had been identified where a University might be built. He said they had not come up with a benefactor to donate ten to forty acres for this school. He said in working with Dr. Hardin and his staff they were also on a limited budget and therefore there might be some cost that the Authority might incur over the next twelve months as far as some engineering on a possible piece of land or some architectural renderings on this piece of property or there might be a possibility of using an existing facility in Peachtree City. He said the Authority could use some of the money to go in and have an interior design consultant come in and help formulate a classroom layout for an existing building.

Chairman Dunn said the Commissioners had voted during the last retreat to make this a potential priority for the Board of Commissioners in the future as well. He said this Board was committed to support trying to bring a first class University to Fayette County rather than a temporary building. He felt the \$25,000 was consistent with the Board's pledge to try and bring a University here. He said the project was undefined but the ground work had to be laid to make this a project that was attractive to everyone. He said he would support the \$25,000 and felt it was consistent with what the Board had done at its retreat.

Mr. Hayes remarked that the Authority would keep these funds in a separate account. He said if for some reason these funds were not expended this year the Authority would certainly make the Commissioners aware of that.

Chairman Dunn said he felt the Board should be partnering with the Authority, the Chamber and the schools and anyone else who was going to help in this endeavor to get a first class University here in Fayette County.

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Commissioner VanLandingham remarked that staff had recommended using State funds but he was sure everyone was aware that State funds would not be available. He felt the opportunity to bring such a facility as this to Fayette County was going to be a great benefit for everyone and not just a local issue. He felt a campus here in Fayette County would be very appropriate and \$25,000 was not an excessive amount of money for an out lay. He said he would support the \$25,000 on the basis that the money would not be transferred and used for a new University only.

Chairman Dunn noted that sooner or later the State of Georgia would have to come forward with some funds because Fayette County could not pay for the entire cost of this project. He said a network of very important people would have to be put together in order to lobby the government as well as the Board of Regents. He said Fayette County would have to make a statement that it was very serious about bringing a University to Fayette County.

Commissioner VanLandingham interjected that education was the key to the future and he could not see Fayette County passing up this opportunity.

Chairman Dunn said if Fayette County had a large enough facility then a technical component that could be added to it as well. He said he had spoken twice with members of the University Board of Regents and they could bring programs in from other schools to be put there.

Commissioner Wells questioned Mr. Hayes about the Chamber of Commerce expenditure listed in the budget in the amount of \$4,510.

Mr. Hayes replied that included in that figure were the dues that the Authority pays to the Chamber and also the Chairman's Round Table dues. He said also included in that amount was a donation toward the golf tournament for the Business Expo. He said this amount of money not only included membership dues but everything else that would go toward the Chamber.

Commissioner Wells noted that auditing services was listed in the amount of \$8,500. She asked who was doing the auditing for the Development Authority.

Mr. Hayes replied he would be glad to get the name of this firm for the Board. He said it was a new firm who had done this last year. He said Jack Smith had negotiated a three year contract with this firm at \$7,500 to \$8,500 annually for the next three years. He said these services had been increasing every year.

Commissioner Wells said she was going to bring up an issue that the Board of Commissioners had talked about among themselves as well as with other people. She remarked that this was the Fayette County Development Authority and the County was

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giving approximately \$300,000 to develop business in Fayette County. She said she noticed in this budget that the Authority had donated \$1,200 to Main Street/Fayetteville, and \$1,000 to Peachtree City Tourism. She said the problem she was having was that everyone seemed to be forgetting that this was the Fayette County Development Authority and too many times it turned out to be Main Street or the City of Fayetteville who was getting credit for different activities.

Commissioner Wells further remarked that the County was not involved in the Development Authority for what it could get back out of it but for \$300,000 per year she felt the County was being shadowed out by Fayetteville Main Street and by Peachtree City Tourism. She said the County was the entity who was funding the Authority.

Mr. Hayes apologized and asked that everyone remember that the Development Authority had partners and the Authority had tried to bring everybody on line to be part of everything. He said the Authority was trying to get the bike race again for next year and they were going to make sure things were done correctly.

Chairman Dunn said he had attended the function the night before the race and the race the next day and although he knew who was responsible for supporting the Fayette County Development Authority, he felt as though he was at a City of Fayetteville event. He said it appeared that Fayette County was not even a part of the Authority.

Mr. Hayes said these were points well taken and he would pass them along to the Development Authority Board and also the Director.

Commissioner Pfeifer remarked that he felt this program should be the example of what could be done cooperatively.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the Board was very happy with the ways were going with the Development Authority and also to support it. He thanked Mr. Hayes for discussing this budget.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve the Development Authority's budget as presented including the \$25,000 for the university. The motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Wells and Commissioner Frady voting in opposition.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to approve the use of the \$25,000 to be put in contingency for the new program for Fayette University Center upon submission of appropriate documentation. The motion carried 3-2 with Chairman Dunn and Commissioner Pfeifer voting in opposition.

Commissioner Frady exited the meeting at this time.

FLEET MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Pfeifer questioned the two mechanic positions that were being moved to the Sheriff's Department budget.

Chairman Dunn said this amounted to \$80,000 in the budget. He asked if there were any other questions on this budget.

On motion made by Commissioner Pfeifer, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the Fleet Maintenance Department budget. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Frady being absent for the vote.

HEALTH AND WELFARE BUDGET

Mr. Pullium said this department had requested a health nutritionalist. He said this department was asking for the County to finance this program. He said staff had recommended that this position be self-supporting right now.

Commissioner Wells pointed out that this position request was not in this budget last year.

Mr. Pullium said the person for this position had already been hired and currently was being paid through this department.

Mr. Pullium discussed fees for this department. He said staff felt the fees for this department especially in environmental health were too low and needed to be reviewed.

Chairman Dunn asked if the State controlled these fees.

Mr. Pullium replied no and remarked that this was actually a locally controlled area. He said what he was hearing as he went through the workshop hearings with this department was that as developers and others were coming in to pay for inspections they remarked that Fayette County's fees were lower than surrounding counties. He felt the environmental health department should almost be self-supporting.

Chairman Dunn suggested that a letter be sent to this department directing them to do that.

Chairman Dunn said this department also charged some fees for medical services. He asked if those fees were controlled by the State.

Mr. Pullium replied that in terms of the medical fees he was not sure if it was controlled by the State. He said there was also a scale for fees for needs based services.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the amount of traffic going to the Health Department was enormous compared to what it used to be. He said the parking lot was half full every day just with people coming and going with their children to the Health Department.

Mr. Pullium said they were also seeing people from outside Fayette County coming here to this particular location and they cannot be turned away.

Chairman Dunn asked if the department could identify where the clients were coming from.

Mr. Pullium replied that he did not know if they had done that.

Chairman Dunn expressed concern because the number of clients was steadily increasing.

Chairman Dunn asked if there were anymore questions on this budget and there were none.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve the Health Department budget as recommended by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

FAYETTE COUNSELING CENTER

Commissioner Wells questioned the narrative portion of this budget where it said \$113,750 had been requested but the figure at the top of the page was \$116,870. She said she needed clarification on this budget.

Mr. Pullium remarked that Finance Department staff had entered this information therefore this was an internal error.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve the Fayette Counseling Center budget as recommended by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Commissioner Pfeifer noted that this department was requesting \$52,820.

Mr. Pullium said this department had requested an increase in the emergency assistance area but realistically they had not been using the emergency assistance money. He said they really needed it in the foster care area because of the increase in children being placed in foster care.

Commissioner Wells questioned the amount of \$4,800 being requested for miscellaneous.

Mr. Pullium recalled the request for \$4,800 for miscellaneous would cover the cost of clothing for the children in foster care, gifts at Christmas and so forth.

Commissioner Wells said she did not agree with that and pointed out that these children were adopted out at Christmastime as well as their families. She said there was also a clothing closet available for them.

Commissioner Wells said she would like further clarification on this budget request.

FAYETTE OPTIONS

Commissioner Wells remarked that Fayette Options was requesting an additional \$25,000 to offset the cost of moving.

Mr. Pullium commented on the facility where they were currently located.

Commissioner Wells said she was aware of the current facility but pointed out that Fayette Options was a State agency.

Chairman Dunn remarked that this agency received a \$13,000 increase last year and now it was being suggested that this budget go all the way up to \$83,000. He said they needed additional funds to assist them with the moving of their office. He said they were also requesting \$5,000 to purchase new furniture.

On motion made by Commissioner Pfeifer, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the Fayette Options budget with an additional \$5,000 for a one time payment for the new program, discussion followed.

Chairman Dunn said the total amount for this budget would be \$58,171.

Mr. Pullium said he would request this organization to provide an audit to the County.

The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Wells voting in opposition. Commissioner Frady was absent.

SENIOR SERVICES

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned the new in home service.

Mr. Pullium remarked that this was a request for a new staffing position.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Wells to approve the Senior Services budget as presented with the recommendation from staff that there was no increase for a staff position, discussion followed.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the new staff position related to in home service of some kind.

Mr. Pullium said this position was for a personal care and homemaker staff person.

Chairman Dunn said the only thing the County had agreed to pay for programmatically there was Meals on Wheels. He said the County's portion pays for the food for this operational program. He pointed out that the \$25,000 for the senior facility was no longer going into this budget.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent.

YOUTH PROTECTION HOME

Chairman Dunn questioned the new program.

Mr. Pullium remarked that more and more parents were getting involved in bad situations and neglecting their children. He said part of this process means that the children then go to the Youth Protection Home. He said their number of days in care had increased over the last three years. He said this was not a new program but was an increase in the old program. He said this was illustrated as a new program in order to demonstrate the need.

Commissioner Wells said the total budget was \$34,872 which was an increase from last year which was \$20,000. She felt the Board needed to look at this budget very carefully. She said there was no agreement for any kind of contract and nothing was binding here.

Mr. Pullium agreed that there was no contract here. He said they were also receiving State funding and also from several other community fundraisers.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Wells to hold this budget to remain the same as the 2005 budget in the amount of \$20,556. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent.

Mary Holland questioned how the Board wanted to pay this. She said previously it was based on a monthly bill and the number of children.

Commissioner Wells suggested this be done on a quarterly basis.

Chairman Dunn clarified that the County would be giving them \$5,000 per quarter.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Mr. Pullium said it was his recommendation based on this new information to remove the \$4,800 from this budget. He said the \$4,800 pertained to staff appreciation, training, supplies and so forth.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve the Department of Family and Childrens Services and remove the \$4,800. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent.

RECREATION

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked that he had a question on page 287 regarding the large amount of grass cutting being contracted out in the amount of \$43,550. He said he did not understand why the county was paying \$43,550 to get the grass cut. He remarked that this was not even a full year operation.

Mr. Pullium remarked that he had discussed this with the Director of Building and Grounds Maintenance Greg Ownby. He said he did not agree with the idea that a contractor would give the county a better quality job than part time staff would.

Commissioner Wells pointed out that their income was predicated on speed in getting it done and getting on to the next job.

Mr. Pullium said Mr. Ownby's argument was that they would take the full time grounds keepers off of the mowing and have work on other projects that were needed.

Chairman Dunn felt the question was if the county could get this done better with somebody who had just retired and wanted to come back and do this work.

Mr. Pullium remarked that they had this recommendation in Buildings and Grounds for one person. He said this had been put out for bid and had received two different contractors that were doing the mowing now.

Commissioner Wells said staff had indicated that they did not have the mowers to do the work but the county was mowing up to two years ago.

Mr. Pullium said the county was doing some of the mowing now and noted that the contractor did not provide all of the mowing that was being done now.

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Commissioner Wells questioned the number of mowers that were requested. She said she recalled the Water System having a lot of mowers.

Chris Venice interjected that Building and Grounds had taken over some of the Water System's mowing.

Commissioner Wells questioned if they were mowing the Water System's property every day eight hours each day. She asked if it would be less expensive for the county to add one more building and grounds person and the county would be getting year round usage of \$43,500 instead of just seasonal usage out of this amount.

Ms. Venice said it would take a good number of people to mow all of the county fields twice each week.

Chairman Dunn pointed out that a year or two ago it was decided to contract out some of this grass cutting and he recalled that the county had gotten rid of some of the equipment.

Mr. Pullium said he did not recall that.

Chairman Dunn asked if they had reduced the number of personnel.

Mr. Pullium remarked that the county had not taken out any equipment or personnel. He pointed out that there were 16.2 full time staff that were grounds keepers. He said if this was multiplied out times 40 hours per week times 16.2 this comes to 652 staff hours each week. He said what he had seen in the past was these persons would be working on a task and then all of a sudden their priorities would get changed and it was inefficient and they would get pulled off one job and put on another job.

Chairman Dunn asked if the maintenance staff had been used inappropriately in the past and then the county had to contract out some of their work.

Mr. Pullium said he agreed that part of the problem was a management problem.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he found it strange that two years ago the county began outsourcing it and kept the people. He asked what these people were doing during this time if it was such a heavy job.

Mr. Pullium remarked that part of what they were doing was some additional routine maintenance that had been neglected for years. He said the fact still remained that they have 16 full time staff people. He said he somewhat agreed with Commissioner Wells if one more person was added and maybe another part time or another seasonal then for the \$43,000 he believed the county would be better off. He said the county would have that

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person year round that could be employed. He said the key to this was management and staying on task.

Mary Holland said she recalled when this issue first came up approximately two years ago it was also related to the new buildings that would be opening up. She said there was going to be more buildings to take care of like the justice center.

Mr. Pullium interjected that there was not that much to be done at the justice center. He said it did not take that much staff time.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the county properties were looking great. He asked who currently cuts the grass at the justice center.

Mr. Pullium replied the county staff was responsible for that.

Chairman Dunn said there were contractors at McCurry Park, Kiwanis Park and Brooks Park.

Mr. Pullium remarked that was where the extra mowing was taking place.

Chairman Dunn clarified that the county had spent \$43,000 to cut the grass at McCurry, Kiwanis and Brooks Parks.

Ms. Venice said this was cutting twice per week during the growing baseball activity season.

Chairman Dunn felt this was not a lot for all of this mowing. He said he did not feel that one person could cut all three of those parks during the growing season.

Mr. Pullium said there were 16 grounds keepers. He said there were also building and grounds maintenance people in addition to that. He said they had 35 people in that department.

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned two years ago when the county outsourced the grass cutting and there was still 16 people on staff. He said the county still had the same number of personnel and the county took \$43,000 worth of work off of them.

Mr. Pullium said currently there had been some additional work and that was the criminal justice center and Lake Horton mowing that was taken over by the Building and Grounds Maintenance Department.

Chairman Dunn said the problem was that the county was building things that the county did not know about.

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Commissioner VanLandingham felt this should be investigated. He felt this was excessive. He said this had been taken out of their work program but no personnel were moved. He said by adding one person he did not see why the grass could not be kept cut. He said somebody needed to show him why this could not be done. He said he cuts seven acres of his own property and it takes almost all day.

Commissioner Wells asked acreage wise how much land was at McCurry Park.

Tom Sawyer interjected that total acreage including ball fields and parking lots was 472 acres.

Mr. Pullium pointed out that figure also included all of the parking lots.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he was still concerned about the number of personnel who were there before and the work was getting done.

Chairman Dunn said the recreation facilities had been tremendously upgraded over the last two or three years.

Commissioner VanLandingham felt maybe this should not be touched this year but it should become an issue for exploration and review. He felt to jump into it right now would be too soon since the county was right in the middle of the season. He said next year he felt this should be a very important item for recreation to discuss.

Chairman Dunn asked who had advocated a contractor.

Mr. Pullium said he did not advocate this and remarked that there were enough persons to handle the mowing.

Commissioner VanLandingham commented on ground supplies listed on page 299. He asked if these were new speed bumps that were being requested in the amount of \$1,000. He recalled all of the upgrading of parking lots had already been done.

Mr. Pullium replied that there would be additional speed bumps.

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked that every softball field had lime, bases and so forth. He asked why all of these could not be combined and have one cost center for all of the fields.

Mary Holland said staff was requested to provide extensive information in regard to the cost that was being spent for the different sports at the various parks. She said they had come up with some accounts where these could be tracked a lot easier.

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Commissioner VanLandingham said he saw no reason to give the Athletic Associations that information. He said as long as a produce was there for these groups to use, they did not need to have an accounting.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to consolidate the cost centers so that they are comprehensible for the county and reduce the paper work. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent.

Commissioner Wells questioned the grass cutting issue.

Commissioner VanLandingham said this was in the middle of the season now but next year this would have to be scrutinized during the budget.

Mr. Pullium said staff had received a request from Peachtree City for a significant increase and a request from Tyrone as well. He said staff had recommended the same level of funding for Peachtree City and no funding recommended for Tyrone.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the Recreation budget as recommended by staff and to direct the County Administrator to investigate grass cutting and to determine the most cost effective procedure.

Chairman Dunn questioned the new programs.

Commissioner Pfeifer said there were the new computers.

Mr. Pullium said they did have a new program of converting a part time person to a full time person. He said they were also giving up two seasonal staff positions.

Chairman Dunn remarked that a full time employee with benefits would be added.

Mr. Pullium said they would be upgrading the part time position to full time.

Chairman Dunn said this would be creating a new authorization on the books and Mr. Pullium agreed.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

LIBRARY

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned the request for a new position and cited the reason as days off to cover the seven day a week library schedule. He felt staff's week

could be staggered in order to cover Saturday and Sunday and days offs could be rescheduled.

Chairman Dunn noted that staff had not recommended the additional position.

Commissioner Wells questioned legal services for the library. She said this department had not spent one dime on legal services. She noted that last year this was budgeted for \$250 and this year they were requesting \$1,200.

Chris Venice interjected that the library has had some liability issues and also the library's constitution and bylaws that were redone last year. She said the library did have some legal research that had to be done. She felt \$1,200 should be sufficient to cover these costs.

The Board agreed with Ms. Venice that \$1,200 would be sufficient to cover legal fees for the library.

Commissioner Wells noted that the \$18 for Employee Assistance Program would be removed because every employee has this benefit.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the library budget as presented by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Chairman Dunn asked if the Board had any questions on this budget. Hearing none, he asked for the Board's pleasure in this budget request.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn to approve the County Extension Office budget as presented. The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Frady being absent.

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Chairman Dunn asked if there were any questions on this budget and there were none.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn to approve the Georgia Forestry Commission's budget as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

Chairman Dunn asked if there were any questions on this budget and there were none.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to adopt the Capital Improvements budget as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS BUDGET

Mr. Pullium commented on the positions he had listed in the budget for this department. He said there were two adopted positions for a building inspector II. He said there were three adopted positions for a building inspector III. He said there was one Assistant Director for Permits and Inspections. He said there were no building inspector IV's or V's authorized. He said there was one Director of Permits and Inspections. He stated there was also two technicians for Permits and Inspections and one office manager for a total of ten positions.

Chairman Dunn remarked that there was no authorization for the two recommendations to promote individuals to a level IV. He said there was no slot for the level IV's.

Mrs. Venice agreed and remarked that this went back to the policy adopted by the Board back in 2001 stated as individuals received their certifications to advance to the next level they were automatically put into those slots.

Commissioner Wells said two of the inspection III's would move to the IV's slots. She asked if there needed to be slots for two inspector IV's.

Mrs. Venice agreed and said that one of the inspector IV's would move ultimately to an inspector V but not at this time.

Chairman Dunn said this needed a structural review and Mrs. Venice interjected that every department needed this done.

Chairman Dunn said the county never has had an inspector IV or a V and now all of a sudden the County needed these. He said this would also cost the County more. He questioned if an inspector III could do the job why

Mrs. Venice remarked that the level IV and V inspectors would have an additional level of expertise and have passed additional certifications. She said this was an ever evolving profession and was a big liability for the County. She said with all of the construction in Fayette County the more knowledge that the inspectors have and the more they were certified the better.

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Chairman Dunn asked how many authorizations there were for inspectors.

Mrs. Venice replied seven.

Mr. Pullium said this was designed to be a self-supporting function and paid by user charges.

Commissioner Wells questioned the promotion of individuals to the level IV and level V and if there would be any inspector II's.

Mrs. Venice replied yes there would be two inspector II's, three III's and two IV's.

Chairman Dunn said that would be a good spread and Commissioner Wells agreed. He said there needed to be a model structure in place for the future.

Commissioner VanLandingham felt this was just another way for a topped out employee to get a raise. He said an employee was aware of the salary when they accepted a job with the County and they also were aware of the maximum salary for that job. He said if the County did not put a stop to this procedure of trying to go beyond the top pay then this problem would come back to the Board every year. He said the model was the way to accomplish this.

Mrs. Venice said the dilemma in the way that the Permits and Inspections progression was set up was that it did not allow for time to apply what someone had learned in training before that person proceeded to the next step. She said she wanted to tie a certain amount of time, experience and training into the new job descriptions for each of these levels. She said in addition to the limited number of positions, there would also be more criteria to fill that position. She commented that the new job description that she was currently working on stated that if someone was hired as an inspector I then that person had 18 months to reach the qualifications of a level II.

Chairman Dunn said he would be in favor of two inspector II's, two inspector III's, two inspector IV's and one inspector V.

Mrs. Venice said that would work for the personnel currently at this time but they were also requesting one new position for an inspector III level.

Chairman Dunn said it did not make sense in the model to have more inspector III's than there were inspector II's.

Mrs. Venice remarked that there would be two inspector II's, three inspector III's, two inspector IV's and a potential inspection V.

Mrs. Venice interjected that this would not just be for Permits and Inspections but for all of the departments with certifications.

Chairman Dunn said the work force had to be stabilized and Mrs. Venice said she understood.

Commissioner VanLandingham said the individuals who were getting additional education and passing tests were preserving their jobs. He said this was not to enhance their pay totally.

Chairman Dunn asked if there was anymore discussion on this matter.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve the Permits and Inspections budget as presented by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Chairman Dunn asked if there was any discussion on this budget and there was none.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Wells to adopt the Planning Department's budget as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

ZONING DEPARTMENT

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned why seminars and dues increased.

Mrs. Venice said the new program was meant to get an employee in that department back into the Clerk's Certification Program. She said this person takes minutes for a County Board that might possibly be sued.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Wells to approve the Zoning Department budget as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS BUDGET

Chairman Dunn asked if there was any discussion on this budget and there was none.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the transfer to other funds budget as presented by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

LAW LIBRARY -
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS BUDGET

It was a consensus of the Board that there were no questions regarding the law library, confiscated fund, confiscated U.S. property for customs, or confiscated Federal property.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the law library and the special revenue funds budget as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

EMERGENCY 911 FUND

Chairman Dunn remarked that this department was requesting an additional person because of the 2% increase in telephone calls.

Mr. Pullium felt there was a safety factor involved here for the staff. He said they were requesting this position for the evening shift when they were the busiest.

Chairman Dunn felt this request could be looked at again in six months with the department head providing documentation to the Board.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn to adopt the E-911 budget without the new position at this time. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

JAIL CONSTRUCTION BUDGET

Chairman Dunn asked if there was any discussion on this budget and there was none.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve the jail construction budget as presented by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

JUVENILE SUPERVISION

Chairman Dunn asked if there was any discussion on this budget and there was none.

On motion made by Commissioner Pfeifer, seconded by Chairman Dunn to approve the juvenile supervision budget as presented by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Pullium asked that the \$10,000 that staff had inadvertently put into this budget be removed. He said this was listed on page 23 of the budget for category 572010.

Commissioner Wells questioned why the County was paying for the license fee of an Assistant Solicitor General.

Mr. Pullium said that was where this person was stationed.

Commissioner Wells questioned the amount of the request for printing and binding of materials.

Mr. Pullium recommended funding the same amount that was budgeted last year and Commissioner Wells agreed.

Commissioner Wells questioned the funding for lodging and meals and noted that this amount had tripled. She said this funding had not been used and questioned why the request had tripled.

Mr. Pullium recommended \$650 and Commissioner Wells agreed.

Commissioner Wells questioned seminars and dues. She said the Board did not have a list of those from this department.

Mr. Pullium said he recalled that staff had received a list from this department.

Chairman Dunn recommended zero funds for this category because staff had already budgeted for it in the Solicitor's Budget.

Commissioner Wells questioned the request for victims assistance in the amount of \$5,000. She noted that last year they received \$250 for this.

Mr. Pullium said nothing was spent on this item last year and the Board agreed to budget zero.

Commissioner Wells noted that only \$19 had been spent in the last three fiscal years.

Chairman Dunn recommended that \$250 be left in for this item and not to zero it out.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY VICTIMS BUDGET

Commissioner Wells remarked that they were asking for \$73,000 and a new investigator position. She said the position had not been recommended.

Mr. Pullium said staff was not in favor of the new position. He said fund could not afford to keep spending the fund balance on staffing and then be looking at the County to take them over somewhere else at some point in time.

Chairman Dunn clarified that the new position was not recommended.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the Victims Assistance budget as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT AND EDUCATION

Commissioner Wells remarked that staff's recommendation was that money was not recommended to be used for other school programs.

Mr. Pullium remarked that this funding source had gone down tremendously. He said staff had received a request from the Sheriff's Department and also a request from the school for this drug abuse treatment and education. He said staff felt it would be best especially because there was such a limited amount of money that it would be best used by the school board doing the programs that they had articulated. He said this would not fund all of that had been requested and it would not fund anything for the Sheriffs to go to the airport to pass out flyers or anything of that nature. He said staff was recommending that the money that was available for this budget be used to fund the Board of Education's request.

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned why the County would be funding something that was for the Board of Education.

Mr. Pullium remarked that this money was actually the result of a surcharge on every case that was going through the court system. He said it was not a tax but actually an additional court cost that generated the revenue to pay for this government education program. He said the idea here was to take part of that money as part of the court costs and then use that in a drug education or drug preventative type program. He said this was not a property tax or a general fund revenue but was actually a special surcharge for this program.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn to approve the drug abuse, treatment and education budget as presented by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

**FIRE OPERATIONS, FIRE PREVENTION, FIRE TRAINING, FIRE RESERVE AND
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS**

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve Fire Operations, Fire Prevention, Fire Training, Fire Reserve and transfer to other funds, discussion followed.

Commissioner Wells remarked that there were some promotions in the Fire Operations budget.

Mrs. Venice said the same kind of scenario needed to be set up for this department as was done in the Permits and Inspections Department.

Commissioner Pfeifer questioned the request for the thermal imaging camera.

Commissioner Wells remarked that this request had been removed from their budget.

Chairman Dunn questioned the waterline extension at Station 2.

Commissioner Wells said this was necessary in case there was a fire and they had to fill up the truck.

Carol Chandler said this only involved tanker trucks and not every station had these.

Commissioner Wells said she did not feel this was necessary since it stated it was only for training. She suggested the \$22,000 be removed from this budget.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he would amend his motion to remove the \$22,000 for the fire hydrant extension.

Commissioner Pfeifer said he would second the amended motion.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

STREET LIGHT DISTRICTS

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the street light districts budget as presented by staff. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

SPECIAL LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FUND

Mark Pullium said he understood that this was a County tax and the County would hold the money here. He said he had written a memorandum to that effect outlining the guidelines with that understanding. He asked the Board for guidance on how this money would be handled.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the County Attorney was researching whether or not the County could do agreements that the State would uphold. He felt the cities should have their own money, but the money would start coming to the County Finance Officer. He said Mr. Pullium would be responsible for that money under this issue was adjudicated.

Mr. Pullium remarked that under the auditing requirements before the cities begin spending their money the County would need to have a list of their projects so that each project could be tracked for each city.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn to approve the S.P.L.O.S.T. fund as presented. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

WATER SYSTEM

Chairman Dunn questioned the levels of positions and salaries for this department.

Mr. Pullium interjected that the different levels of utility inspectors had different responsibilities. He remarked that the new position was for a utility locator. He said the Water System received a tremendous number of locate requests on a weekly basis. He said currently they were having to take someone off of the building crew to do utility locates and this was causing them to lose production.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to approve the Water System budget as presented by staff, discussion followed.

Chairman Dunn questioned technical services and the request for a new program in the amount of \$100,000.

Commissioner Wells remarked that this was part of the GIS.

Chairman Dunn questioned the need for technical services and a new person and this had worked fine previously.

Commissioner Wells said this had worked poorly and had been very costly in the past.

Mr. Pullium said this would result in an overlay for the entire county for the location of every water line. He said this would be a great resource in terms of maintenance and planning.

Chairman Dunn called for the vote.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

SOLID WASTE

Mr. Pullium discussed funding for a person for the yard waste area who could screen people who were not Fayette County taxpaying citizens. He said it was costing the county more to dispose of the yard waste than it was taking the funds from people who come there.

Chairman Dunn asked what the person in this position would be responsible for.

Mr. Pullium said that person would handle the dead animals that were brought to the landfill for disposal as well as some other functions needed at the landfill.

Mrs. Venice remarked that currently there was nobody at the landfill who was looking at the county's interest.

Commissioner Wells felt somebody could be brought over to the landfill from the Building and Grounds Maintenance Department to handle this job.

Mr. Pullium said this budget had user charges and revenues coming in sufficient to support this position. He said if this person was brought over then he felt a position would need to be removed from the general fund.

Commissioner VanLandingham suggested the person be moved from the Building and Grounds Maintenance Department and paid for out of the solid waste budget.

Chairman Dunn remarked that Building and Grounds Maintenance Department had been approved for two new people and now the county was outsourcing what they were doing.

Mr. Pullium remarked that in 2004 this had gone from 32.4 positions to 2005 to 34.8.

Chairman Dunn suggested sending one of the positions back to solid waste.

Mr. Pullium said he assumed this would be amending the Building and Grounds Maintenance budget as the Board discussed this budget.

Commissioner Wells said this would not mean that new benefits were being added.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to adopt the Solid Waste budget and recycling with the changes that were discussed regarding personnel. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

TAX ASSESSORS

Mrs. Venice interjected that the Board had briefly discussed the Tax Assessors budget and reminded the Board of the level of positions issue in this department like Permits and Inspections. She said she would handle that situation and the Board could vote on the appraisers portion of the budget.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the Tax Appraisers budget. The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Frady was absent for the vote.

Chairman Dunn said he would like Mrs. Venice to provide the Board with a scheme of certification levels in the various departments where this applied. He said this would be very helpful during next year's budget when the Board was discussing those certain departments where this applied.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:15 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 27th day of October, 2005.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk