

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in a Special Called Budget Workshop on Tuesday, June 10, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room in the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

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

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

DISCUSSION OF FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET:

E-911

Commissioner Wells questioned the requests for various pieces of furniture in some of the budgets. She said she understood that various pieces of office furniture would come from the county's storage facility.

Assistant Finance Director Mary Holland replied that surplus furniture had been exhausted. She said a lot of departments were able to obtain furniture and filing cabinets from the county's excess storage but at this time that was exhausted. She said this was the reason for the request for the expenditure for filing cabinets and other office furniture for E-911.

ELECTIONS

Commissioner Wells questioned the request for the funding for training. She said the training was optional for one clerk and funding was included for all workers. She said it stated that all workers were not recommended to attend training. She asked if this was a requirement.

Mary Holland felt this was for the poll workers. She said it referred to 396 workers at \$30 per day for two elections. She said the training costs for the two elections was included. Commissioner Wells questioned if all of the poll workers were required to attend training. She said she interpreted it as being optional for some of the people.

Ms. Holland said she would have to get clarification on this. She said it was her interpretation that this specifically addressed the employees of the department as opposed to the poll workers.

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Commissioner Wells asked if every employee in the Elections Department needed to attend training.

Mr. Pullium said these workers would not actually go anywhere and they would be trained on site. He said this was the salary for staff's time that it would take to run the various polling places.

Chairman Dunn said there had already been an enormous amount of training last year for the new equipment.

Mr. Pullium said it was his understanding that this was reinforcement for the training.

Commissioner Wells said their budget stated that training was optional for clerks. She questioned if the training was optional would they be attending and was the county paying for the training.

Mr. Pullium replied no they were not.

Mr. Cofty pointed out that there was also a Presidential election coming up.

Chairman Dunn said every time there was an election there were new poll workers because there was a lot of turnover. He said there was approximately 75% to 80% of these workers who know how to do everything.

Commissioner Frady asked if the poll workers received a raise last year and Chairman Dunn replied no.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Wells questioned the request for the promotion of one employee.

Mary Holland replied that this would not be the creation of a new position and no one new was going to be added. She asked how much this would cost the county.

Mr. Pullium replied it would cost \$1,866.

Ms. Holland said the figure in the budget represented half a year.

Mr. Pullium said it would cost \$3,700 per year.

Commissioner Wells asked if this position had been evaluated in the last salary study.

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Ms. Holland replied that it was her understanding that both the accounting technician and the senior accounting technician positions were in the study. She said it was her position that this employee was taking on duties that were previously performed by the senior accounting technician. She said this employee was performing more analytical type work as well.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that it was not in favor of this request at this time.

Commissioner Wells questioned technical services increasing from \$5,500 to \$12,500. She said there was the justification for the Munis consultant related to GASB 34. She asked if the consultant was really necessary. She asked why this had increased so much from last year.

Ms. Holland responded that it cost approximately \$1,200 per day to have a Munis consultant on site doing training as well as technical consulting. She said since the new GASB 34 system was being implemented, she had built in enough days to bring the expertise in the office to ensure that this was done to the best of the department's ability.

Commissioner Wells asked if the Munis consultants had been used last year.

Ms. Holland replied no, not to that extent. She said in her opinion the consultants should have been used more.

Commissioner Wells questioned the seminars and dues category in the Finance Department's budget. She said this had increased from \$3,600 last year to \$5,575 this year. She asked how many of these seminars were required.

Mr. Pullium replied that all of the training requested was required. He said staff had successfully completed the basics in Munis. He said there were a lot of aspects relating to Munis that needed to be addressed. He felt the department needed more training. He said his department had the entire county's financial accounting system with this system and his staff needed to be proficient in it.

Ms. Holland said the system was not being fully utilized. She said it would take some training to get there.

Commissioner Wells said the Board would need to review this category next year.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to eliminate the \$1,800 in the salary account. The motion carried 5-0.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Wells said the funds that were designated for the Flexible Spending Account needed to be removed since the county would not be offering that program due to the fact that only one employee signed up for this benefit.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady to remove the \$5,000 listed for the Flexible Spending Account under the technical services category. The motion carried 5-0.

JUVENILE COURT

Court Clerk Phyllis Harris was present for this discussion. She said when MGT had done the study for the county they had her job together with the Chief Court Clerks. She said her job goes under Clerk of Court just like Clerk of the Superior Court Sheila Studdard. She said Judge Cook had the right to designate the title Clerk of Court and he had done so many, many years ago. She said he had designated her as Clerk of Court. She questioned if her salary range should be raised.

Commissioner Wells said there had been two previous salary studies done for Fayette County and none of them indicated this position at a higher rate of pay.

It was the consensus of the Board that Ms. Harris had been designated as Clerk of Court and that was her title but there was no justification for an increase in salary.

Commissioner Wells questioned the increase in the drug testing listed under investigative services. She asked why this amount had doubled.

Ms. Harris replied they were now doing a lot of drug testing on adults.

Commissioner Wells questioned the increase in seminars and dues.

Ms. Harris responded that Judge Cook had discussed the possibility of her doing some training seminars with the Board of Education. She pointed out that these were being done approximately two years ago but none had been done since that time. She said she would have to coordinate this with the Board of Education in the Fall.

Mr. Pullium said this money was generated through fine surcharges.

Ms. Harris said this was a supervision fee that was collected in court.

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Commissioner Wells said it was the Board's responsibility to allocate these funds so that they would not be misused.

Chairman Dunn said there was money in that account but there would have to be justification for its use.

Commissioner Wells suggested Ms. Harris send over the justification for the investigative services. She said she was not personally comfortable in doubling seminars and dues when there was absolutely no justification. She asked Ms. Harris if she had used the \$2,300 last year.

Ms. Harris replied no.

Chairman Dunn said this was another reason the Board would not approve this request because the funds were not used last year. He said the money was in the account and if she had some legitimate programs the Board would review them.

Chairman Dunn clarified that he did not see any support from the Board to promote Ms. Harris to the Clerk of the Juvenile Court.

Ms. Harris said that was fine as long as she was Clerk of the Court.

Mr. Pullium ask the Board for a motion on this budget.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Frady to remove \$4,500 from the Juvenile Court budget. The motion carried 5-0.

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Randy Hayes, Chris Clark and Jack Smith were present representing the Development Authority.

Mr. Hayes said they had made a request last year in their budget for some additional funds. He said this related to the university center. He said they had stepped out on faith and said that they would help get this going. He said they had done so and they considered it a success. He said Clayton State University also felt it had been a success thus far. He said this project was moving forward. He said they had put an additional amount in their budget for this year. He said they had come in at the same figure that they had done last year on the total dollar amount. He said this year the Development Authority Board felt like they needed to work with the game plan that the Commissioners had told them about last year. He said the Commissioners had said if the Authority had any up and coming plans to be sure to speak to the Board first before any money was spent. He said the Authority had put some additional

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money in its budget. He said he could not remember if it was \$33,000 or \$30,000 in their request. He said this would enable the Authority to facilitate some possible expenses that they felt might be coming up in reference to the University Center.

Chris Clark said when the University Center was opened in October they wanted to have 150 students by the end of the first year and by the end of the second year to have 300 students. He said at that point the University would go to the Regents on the Develop Authority's behalf and ask for credit classes and they would start looking at phase II which would be a stand alone facility. He said this facility would be a little bit bigger than the 3,500 square feet that was currently being used. He said the first semester there were 133 students go through. He said the winter semester had over 150 students. He said the two year goal was met in the first two semesters. He said four weeks ago the Board of Regents approved full credit classes starting this Fall. He said the success had been so good that what phase II originally was thought to be would be approximately 25,000 square feet. He said Dr. Harden who was the President of Clayton State surprised them and said they would like to look at a 120,000 square foot University Center in Fayette County. He said obviously this would be a big dollar item and it would take several years to get there. He said this facility would offer continuing education, business courses, nurse and health care, technical school programs, credit courses and more importantly Masters' Degrees particularly MBA. He said the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech or Kennesaw University might come down and offer these. He said any number of colleges would be able to utilize that space and offer courses and Clayton State would be the manager. He said the Authority wanted to start putting aside some funds so that when they go to the Board of Regents to request large allocations then they could already have some planning money in place for site selection, studies, architectural renderings and so forth. He said this was the reason the Development Authority had asked for an extra allocation of \$33,000 for this year.

Mr. Hayes said he was aware that the Chairman and the Commission had stated either separately or together that the Authority would not be building the facility, but the Authority was prepared to be a partner with them as much as possible and to accelerate some of the potential for growth that was there. He said the Authority would like to help them facilitate these things with the Board of Regents as it permitted. He said there were a couple of buildings on the main campus that were obviously priorities but if the facility could be kept as a main priority, then he hoped that the Board of Regents would do for Fayette County what they had done for Rockdale County and some of the other counties and finance stand alone buildings and facilities for those locations.

Jack Smith interjected that one of the things that was very important in the process was that the Board of Regents was like any other governing body and when they ask you if you are prepared to fund part of this or a portion of the cost, if that person can say yes then they would be much more likely to get funding to move ahead.

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Mr. Clark said the Authority wanted to be ready and have the money in place so that they could start working on this project with the committee that Dr. Harden had put in place at Clayton State University. He said this would be a multi year program to get to a stand alone facility.

Chairman Dunn said he had spoken with Dr. Harden a couple of times and so far Clayton State in his estimation was doing exactly what everyone wanted them to do a year and a half ago and that was moving along very well. He said one of the things that was hoped for was that an arrangement had been secured at one point to get donated land for Griffin Tech. He said he was hoping that there would be some potential for that. He asked Mr. Clark and Mr. Hayes if there was likelihood of that in the future.

Mr. Hayes responded that he had spoken with Doug Mitchell last month and he had said he was not sure if that was still available or not. He said part of the funds that the Authority was seeking today was to help with that endeavor. He stated the School Board had skipped over that parcel at one time about seven or eight years ago.

Mr. Clark interjected that the School Board had sold half of that property.

Chairman Dunn said it was a 120,000 square foot building but Griffin Tech was going to be larger than that.

Mr. Clark said he thought it was going in at 24,000 square feet and be expandable up to 48,000 square feet. He said the problem with that site was the fact that the geography was horrible plus it was really narrow.

Chairman Dunn said there were 400 other acres that Mr. Mitchell had that were undeveloped. He said he also knew from Dr. Harden that he did not have any money in his budget to accommodate any of this at this point nor next year either. He said it would be a couple of years before anything definite was decided. He said the third thing he was aware of was that the Authority had other funds besides what the County provided to the Authority. He said he would certainly not object to the Authority spending some of its funds on this project as the Authority had done last time and the County had reimbursed half of it.

Mr. Hayes said the Authority was just trying to get a step ahead. He said this was basically a rainy day fund. He said if the Authority saw the opportunity to have to do this, then it would do it.

Chairman Dunn said he felt everyone in the room supported this effort 100% but what that would convert to in terms of financial support from the taxpayers he did not know. He said there were a whole lot of legal ramifications on what the County could actually do as opposed to last year in reimbursing the Authority. He said this was fine in that the Authority made the

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decision and the County supplemented the Authority's budget that year. He said this Commission could not make direct decisions on that University.

Mr. Hayes said the Authority would be glad to play that role. He said the Authority wants to see this endeavor move forward.

Chairman Dunn interjected that he felt this was critical for this community to have the ability of its citizens to be able to get a college degree at home.

Commissioner Pfeifer said he had asked the committee including Dr. Harden if they could get the County some information about what had been done in other areas or colleges like theirs.

Mr. Hayes said the Authority was trying to get a group of people together to see a facility in Rockdale County that the Board of Regents had put money into for a free standing building. He said there was also one in Macon that they had already visited down there.

Chairman Dunn said he did not see Clayton State getting there without donated land. He said that was critical to this whole project.

Mr. Clark said they had talked to Joel Cowen about foundation money. He said there was a lot of interest on his part. He said there would have to be that type of non profit money put into this project at some point without a doubt. He said the Authority just wanted to go ahead and find some of these funds to put down so that they could start doing some of these efforts and if there came an opportunity to look at some property then there would be some money there to do some engineering, architectural designs and those types of things.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he certainly agreed that Fayette County needed this and he felt the community needed to be a part of it. He said the only way he could see this happen would be through tax dollars. He said at this time since there was no effort on their part and the way the County's finances were right now he would rather not fund it this year because the Commission had done everything it could to keep the tax increase from taking place and it had done that. He said he would certainly look at something when the time came to do something and look and see if there was some way that the County could help. He said if the Cities had been afforded the opportunity to participate in this project.

Mr. Hayes replied that Peachtree City had but Fayetteville had not. He said last year the Peachtree City Council, after hearing that the Commissioners approved \$25,000, had given the Authority almost \$15,000 to help with buildout and so forth. He said Peachtree City had been very supportive.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he suggested that the City of Fayetteville also be given the opportunity. He said he would be receptive when the time came to do something. He felt

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the consensus right now was that this was not the time to fund it because there was nothing in place to match it. He said it was hard to justify when there was nothing there to support it.

Mr. Hayes remarked that they had looked at couple of different sites. He said the Authority would still pursue the avenue of trying to get that and if it came to a point where there was something a little more concrete then they might come back to the Commission and ask for a meeting.

Chairman Dunn said even if the Board was so inclined, it would come down to a legal interpretation of whether or not a county could fund a State project or be part of it directly. He said all of the different agencies in the community also needed to get involved if it was going to be successful.

Chairman Dunn said he thought it was a community effort in Rockdale County. He said a lot of different agencies in the community there had come forth. He said he thought they had a donated piece of land.

Commissioner VanLandingham said there would have to be something definite for the Board to look at it.

Chairman Dunn said he wanted to make it clear here. He said there was a very, very strong commitment on the part of Dr. Harden and the Board of Trustees at the University. He said they wanted to do this and they were looking for ways to accomplish this. He said the bottom line was that the State budget had been chopped to shreds and that was the reason the money was not there. He said Dr. Harden and the Trustees were going to stick with this project because they loved it. He said according to Dr. Harden, and he agreed, they wanted to make sure that the best degrees available in the Georgia system would eventually would be available to people here no matter what university they came from. He commented the best MBA in the State that someone could get right now was from Kennesaw University. He said there some also some educational masters degrees there and also Georgia State. He said the actual masters degree could actually be brought down from Kennesaw University to this facility under his auspices and someone could actually get a degree from the Kennesaw State in business. He said the potential was phenomenal.

Commissioner VanLandingham said to him this was one of the greatest community service projects that the county could undertake. He said this would keep the kids at home and they could go to school a lot less expensive than having to go elsewhere. He remarked the availability of the degree and them still being productive was there too.

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Chairman Dunn said there were thousands of school teachers in this system who were getting masters degrees who must travel great distances and for many years to accomplish this goal.

Commissioner VanLandingham said this would go beyond the County giving the Authority some money. He said he was dead certain that there was a way to do this when the time came. He said he did not feel like the county needed to fund this project right now until there was something positive on their side taking place.

Chairman Dunn said the University had taken a hit this year and stated that it had cost them more money than they had taken in from the students this past year.

Mr. Hayes said this was not a real good funding source for the University right now. He said they would like all of the governments to be involved in this endeavor. He said it was a win/win situation for everyone in this entire community.

Commissioner VanLandingham said when the Authority was ready to do something on this project, he would be very receptive to it. He felt this was one of the greatest things brought to Fayette County.

Commissioner Frady said at the beginning of the Development Authority it was anticipated that everyone would participate and this would be the senior development authority in the county and everyone would fund it.

Commissioner Pfeifer said P.C.D.C. used to put a lot of money into the marketing of the industrial part over there. He said Peachtree City used to put in a lot of marketing as well and now they didn't do this either. He said he wanted to compliment Randy Hayes and Chris Clark for picking up the ball and running with it.

Chairman Dunn said what he had heard so far was that the money was a "no go" at this point.

Commissioner Wells asked if that money was already added in.

Chairman Dunn replied no.

Chairman Dunn said this was the basic budget.

Commissioner VanLandingham said the answer was not no but not just now.

Mr. Hayes asked if this included the monies that were the rent money.

Chairman Dunn said it just did not include the \$33,000.

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Commissioner Wells said back in 2000 their budget was \$239,000 and last year it went to \$304,000. She said part of that was because the Commission gave additional money for the school in the amount of \$25,000. She said she had not voted for this. She said she wanted to make sure that this amount was taken back out. She felt that this had been carried over.

Commissioner VanLandingham said the \$25,000 was out of this.

Commissioner Wells said an increase was being requested.

Chairman Dunn remarked that there was no increase.

Commissioner Wells replied yes there was.

Commissioner Frady asked if the \$298,000 included the \$18,000. He said there was an agreement that the \$18,000 was rent money that comes back to the county.

Commissioner Wells subtracted \$25,000 and this came to approximately \$280,000. Commissioner VanLandingham said when you added the \$18,000 then it would come to \$298,000.

Commissioner Wells asked why the \$18,000 was being added.

Commissioner VanLandingham said that was the rent money.

Chairman Dunn said there was an old agreement that none of this Board would have signed.

Commissioner Wells said the \$18,000 should have already been included in the \$304,000. She said that was last year's money.

Chairman Dunn said they were asking for \$298,000 plus \$18,000.

Mr. Pullium said the Authority was asking for \$315,000 or \$316,000 separate from the \$33,000 for the special project.

Commissioner Wells asked for the total figure being asked for.

Mr. Hayes replied he thought it was \$316,000.

Commissioner Frady said \$298,000 was being recommended.

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Chairman Dunn said that did not include their rent money from the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Wells said she could support \$298,000 but she was not going to give anymore.

Commissioner Frady said he would not support giving up the rent money because there was an agreement for the rent money.

Chairman Dunn said the actual budget request was \$317,178 and that included the rent. He said last year's budget was \$327,000 which included the \$25,000 and the actual last year's budget was \$302,000.

Commissioner Frady said if you take the rent money out of the \$302,000 it comes to \$284,000.

Commissioner Frady said he was going to uphold the agreement the Board made on behalf of the taxpayers.

Chairman Dunn said that would be \$284,000 plus \$18,000 for the rent.

Commissioner Wells and Commissioner Frady replied no.

Commissioner Frady said the agreement was that the Authority was the tenant and the County was the landlord and the Authority would collect the money from the Chamber of Commerce at \$1,500 per month and that money would come back to the taxpayers. He said last year this had slipped through the cracks.

Chairman Dunn said the contract was clear. He said the Chamber pays the Authority and the Authority got the 3% increase from the Chamber this year. He questioned if the Authority was a pass through of that money to the County. He said it was his assumption that it would be written that way because it was a county building and the Authority was not a county organization. He said the county's attorneys informed the Board no and remarked that the way it was paid the money was legitimately paid by the Chamber to the Authority. He said that was another way of this organization funding you at \$18,000. He said it was intended after everything was done that it would be a way of the county giving the Authority additional funds to operate.

Commissioner Frady said the agreement was not written that way and Chairman Dunn agreed.

Commissioner Frady said intent could not be put on anything. He said the Board would have to do what the agreement said.

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Chairman Dunn said the agreement stated that the Authority would get the money.

Commissioner Wells asked Commissioner Frady what the agreement said.

Commissioner Frady remarked that the tenant which was the Development Authority agreed that all rents or other fees collected by the tenant shall be remitted to the landlord within fifteen days. He said it also stated that the tenant agreed to pay the landlord all sums due to the landlord for additional rent, costs, charges or reimbursement at the time and in the manner set forth.

Commissioner Wells said she had not been supportive of the way in which this agreement was drafted. She said it was her understanding that the county would be getting back the rent but it was very small amounts of money that the county would be getting. She said now the funds that the county thought were coming in were not coming in. She said she was not comfortable with that.

Chairman Dunn said the second contract stated that the money goes to the landlord and they would be the landlord in the second contract.

Commissioner VanLandingham said regardless of what either of these contracts say this Board voted last May 4th to transfer this money to the Development Authority. He said that was in the minutes.

Commissioner Frady asked Commissioner VanLandingham if he was aware of the contract at that time.

Commissioner VanLandingham said it did not matter because the Board had voted to do it.

Commissioner Frady interjected that if there were contracts then the Board would have to honor these contracts.

Commissioner Wells said the Board could always take the money out on the back end if it wanted to.

Commissioner VanLandingham said that agreement would terminate this month.

Chairman Dunn said what happened last year was not an agreement. He said the Board approved the budget last year that included the \$18,000. He said that rent money gets sent to the county. He said the only thing that the Board had done was to transfer that money back to the Authority. He said the vote the Board had taken on May 4th was simply an administrative issue which reinforced the fact that the Authority was entitled to the money.

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Commissioner Frady said that action last year could not supercede the contract.

Chairman Dunn said it did not supercede the contract. He said it fulfilled it.

Commissioner Frady said he would support \$284,000.

On motion made by Commissioner Frady, seconded by Commissioner Wells to approve \$284,000 to the Development Authority, discussion followed.

Chairman Dunn said he was going to support the staff recommendation that the Authority get their budget request. He said he did not like the \$18,000 deal but the Authority was entitled to it.

The motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner VanLandingham and Chairman Dunn voting in opposition.

Chris Clark clarified that the budget allocation was \$284,000.

PROBATE COURT

Judge Martha Stephenson asked for the Board's consideration for a salary increase for one of her employees. She discussed justification for this request with the Board.

After some discussion, the Board said it could not support this request.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Wells questioned the technical services portion of this budget. She said it listed \$75,000 for projects and some other items.

Mr. Cofty said that had been reduced per the supplemental budget.

Mr. Pullium remarked that the URS had been reduced to \$10,000. He said the total amount requested was \$282,000 and this was reduced to \$192,000. He said further they had reduced the tree removal to \$5,000 and the URS reduced to \$10,000 and reduced the road ratings to 100 miles which was \$10,000.

Chairman Dunn clarified that this line item was reduced by \$65,000.

Commissioner VanLandingham questioned the note in this budget regarding the sale of the paint striping equipment to generate sufficient funds to cover the remaining balance.

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Mr. Cofty said the county had purchased a paint striping machine approximately four or five years ago to stripe the highways. He said this process had not worked out well for the department and a decision was made to sell this equipment.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Wells asked if the county vehicle had been taken out of the budget. She said this cost \$1,500 for vehicle repair and \$250 for tires.

Mr. Cofty interjected that this department had five or six other vehicles.

Mr. Pullium said some funding would have to be left in this budget because they did have other vehicles that were older vehicles.

Mr. Cofty said he wanted to replace the oldest vehicle in this department with the vehicle in question and take the oldest vehicle out of service.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Wells questioned the request for the purchase of a new lap top computer. Mr. Pullium said staff had not recommended approval on this and said they could use a loaner from Information Systems. He said this department already had a computer and this request was for a second computer.

Commissioner Wells questioned the cleaning supplies category. She said it stated that this included cleaning supplies for nine fire stations and all short life supplies. She called attention to the exact same number in Emergency Services Operation and the request was identical. She said it did not indicate that this was a 50/50 split. She questioned if the county might be double paying this.

Mr. Pullium responded that this was not a duplication.

Commissioner Wells said she had some questions about the fit for duty face pieces being done by an independent company. She remarked that the medical services category had gone from \$3,250 to \$11,000. She said the justification stated that each employee is issued a personal face piece. She said it also stated that national standards suggested the employee be tested each year to determine their fitness to use the assigned respirator. She said this program would provide for an independent company to perform this service and to issue the "fit for duty certificate". She asked why the county could not provide its own trainer. She asked what would occur if a firefighter was not fit for duty.

Chief Jack Krakeel entered the room for this discussion.

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Commissioner Wells asked Chief Krakeel if the "fit for duty" certification had to be done outside the county or could it be done in house.

Chief Krakeel responded that the firm that the majority of the agencies in the metro Atlanta area use was Greenville Tech. He said this was the company they had received an approximate quote from in terms of testing the employees. He said since he had received the quote within the last thirty days there was a physician who had opened an office in Peachtree City that would be providing the same type of service. He said he believed that he would be able to save some monies by utilizing that individual. He said if personnel utilized a respirator in a toxic or hazardous environment, it was required to have a physical on an annual basis giving the employee the responsibility of fit for duty. He said that determination would then be made by a physician.

Commissioner Wells asked what occurs when an employee was not fit for duty.

Chief Krakeel said he had already discussed this issue with both deputy chiefs. He said a policy was being developed to address this issue. He said part of this policy would include a remediation period to allow the employee sufficient time to achieve the level of physical fitness required under this standard in terms of being "fit for duty". He said fire departments across the Country were being held to higher standards with respect to this issue. He said it would create an issue of liability for the organization at some point.

Chairman Dunn asked how much the local physician could save the county.

Chief Krakeel responded that he had not received a quote from the local physician but based on initial inquiries it appeared that a couple of thousand dollars might be saved and get a higher level of service than Greenville Tech.

Commissioner Wells asked Chief Krakeel if he would be comfortable with the Board cutting this category \$2,000 and Chief Krakeel replied that he felt it would be alright although he had not received a formal quote from the physician.

Chief Krakeel interjected that this testing went far beyond the routine physical that someone would get in a physician's office. He said there was respiratory testing as well as cardiovascular testing.

Chairman Dunn asked how often EMS personnel were getting physicals and Chief Krakeel said some of the personnel were getting physicals every year and the employees who were members of the hazmat team were required to have physicals every two years.

Commissioner Wells questioned utility services and the figure for hydrant expenditures associated with new lot installation. She said the Board had put \$25,000 in this account last

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year and \$7,200 had been used. She asked if this was a historical carry over or was it definitely known that there would be new water lines going in and this would be needed for hydrants.

Mr. Pullium pointed out that in the CIP there was a new waterline planned. He said the fire fund would reimburse the Water System for the hydrants in the unincorporated section of the county. He said he did not have the exact number of how many were planned this coming year. He felt this was a standard amount that had been put in the budget.

Chief Krakeel said it would not be known if this fund would be used.

Commissioner Wells asked if these funds could be taken out.

Chief Krakeel remarked that this line item account pays for the installation of fire hydrants by the Water System when they add a fire hydrant to an existing line. He said historically they had looked at the expenditures and tried to average those out. He said there had been years where those bills had been as high as \$125,000. He said there were some really significant expenses year before last. He said he did not know if all of the bills had been received from Mr. Parrott for this fiscal year. He said it cost approximately \$1,800 to \$2,000 per fire hydrant.

Commissioner Wells said the reason she had brought this up was because in 2002 nothing was spent for this.

Mr. Pullium responded that the reason there was nothing in the 2002 budget was because it was converted to the Georgia Charter of Accounts which required this department to be split into several divisions. He said there would be the contingency funds if Chief Krakeel needed additional funding.

Chief Krakeel remarked that if the county was going to be charged for the new hydrants on Goza Road, then \$25,000 would not cover that project.

Commissioner Wells felt the money should be left in the budget.

Commissioner Wells said she had a question in Fire Administration. She said nothing was spent on computer software in 2003 and the request this year was to increase users from 16 to 30 in order to take full advantage of DSL service and necessary users. She said it was going to cost an additional \$3,500 to add 14 people to DSL.

Chief Krakeel said that historically the fire stations used a dial up modem to access the server located at the Stonewall complex. He said the dial up modem limited personnel to certain times per day that they could enter fire incident reports and EMS reports into the computer.

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He said with the DSL personnel could go on line 24/7 and not have to wait to use a dial up modem. He said the speed of data entry also increased dramatically. He said this would give not only the fire stations DSL capable but also the entire department. Commissioner Wells asked if this would be an annual expenditure and Chief Krakeel replied yes.

Chairman Dunn asked for the cost of the new firehouse in Brooks.

Chief Krakeel replied \$685,000.

Chairman Dunn said the station listed in the CIP was almost double that figure.

Chief Krakeel agreed and stated the reason for this was because this station was going to be located at the intersection of Sandy Creek and Ellison Road. He said the fire station in Brooks was a two bay facility and the station located at Sandy Creek would be a three bay facility. He said this station would accommodate the large aerial truck that he was predicting would be needed in that area to protect the S.R. 74 corridor.

Chairman Dunn asked for the cost of fire station 7 located on Hampton Road.

Chief Krakeel replied it cost approximately \$935,000. He said this station was almost a duplicate to the station in Brooks. He pointed out that all of the site work at the Brooks fire station was done by county personnel.

Chairman Dunn said there would need to be a motion made regarding taking out the \$2,000 out of this budget.

On motion made by Commissioner Frady, seconded by Commissioner Wells to remove \$2,000 from the Fire Department budget. The motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Dunn noted that the overall budget was approximately \$200,000 less than the overall budget for the county last year in the general fund. He said the Board had cut \$46,000 from the budget today. He said the Board had been able to do this even with a 10% raise in the Sheriff's budget. He said it looked like the county's millage rate would be reduced by the reassessments on property once again. He commended the staff and the Board for all of their tremendous work on this budget.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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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 24th day of July, 2003.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk