



DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Minutes - Draft

FAB-Finance, Audit & Budget Committee

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

3:30 PM

Via Zoom

This meeting will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Simultaneous public access to the meeting will be available

(1) via live stream on DCTV's webpage,

(2) on DCTVChannel23.TV

Present

3 - Commissioner Larry Johnson, Commissioner Jeff Rader, and
Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Meeting Started At: 3:32pm

Attendees: Commissioners Rader, Cochran-Johnson, Johnson, Bradshaw, Patrick, Davis Johnson

I. MINUTES

2021-2486 Commission District(s): ALL
Minutes for the April 13, 2021 Finance, Audit, and Budget
Committee

MOTION was made by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item was approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rader, and
Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

II. DISCUSSION

Constitutional Offices Mid-Year Budget Considerations

Probate Court

-presented by Judge Hargrove
-request to increase first-time weapons carry licenses that probate court is able to process on a day-to-day basis; reason for request is to keep up with weekly demand currently experienced by the court.
-also requests an additional deputy clerk to assist with the process of weapons licenses and renewals
-request an additional wills and probate staff
-Commissioner Rader requests COO to facilitate discussion regarding how agencies can come together for a cost-effective solution to fingerprinting and the parties that administer that service
-JR: we expect Judge Hargrove to float the budgetary requests to the BOC
-Question RP: could you provide comparison data regarding weapons licensing backlogs; how do we compare to other counties as it relates to gun permits? Are they also experiencing surges in demand?
-Question MDJ: will this be permanent positions, or only to address this issue as it relates to the pandemic?
Judge Hargrove: I expect demand to remain heavy enough to maintain the need for permanent staff

District Attorney

-presented by District Attorney Boston
-finances are in a good place for the DA's office
-in 2022 will expect to have the budget back to the 2020 budget
-not requesting additional funding from the County for additional temporary staff; has made that request to come from the State of Georgia from American Rescue Plan funding
-Requests \$140,000 for radio replacement. Reason for request is to replace deficient/obsolete radios and lack of sufficient radios. This may be able to come from CARES funding. Documentation for the request has been provided to the commissioners
-Z Williams: regarding the payment, UASI funding, JAG funding, emergency management funding may be avenues in which we can pursue this funding and will follow up with the BOC on the funding source.

Clerk of Superior Court

-presented by Debra DeBerry
-requests \$100,000 for board of equalization, restores last years 5% budget cut
-700,000 for the land record system from Oracle, will be requesting funds in \$100,000 phases, will be coming at a later time
-Clerk will send the request documentation to the BOC

Solicitor General

-presented by Solicitor-General Donna Coleman-Stribling
-Requests \$37,000 for radio replacement of 9 radios. Reason for request is to replace deficient/obsolete radios and lack of sufficient radios.
-Requests vehicle replacement for 2 vehicles, and 1 additional vehicle; 3 vehicles total. \$20,000 for the Malibu; \$27,000 for the Traverse
Z Williams: the constitutionals do participate in the vehicle replacement fund; we will be in conversations regarding this
-Requests 3 attorneys, 2 investigators, 1 trial assistant, and 1 IT staff. to address case backlog from 2020. Zoom has not been sufficient for the resolution for all cases, and case numbers have been increasing. Traffic incidents, speeding, traffic citations have all increased 35%-40%. Domestic violence has also increased.
-Question RP: How long would it take to address the current backlog?
D Coleman-Stribling: We may be in a 2 year arena; some of these cases were from 2019
-requests Central Staff gather information for dissemination to the BOC

Superior Court

-presented by Chief Judge Asha Jackson

-Requests funding to meet mandate to resume jury trials, and movement of cases in "open courtrooms" so that they are heard in Superior Court. Several courtrooms will be encumbered in any given case as a result of COVID protocol. Backlog is projected to be 3 years.

-Requests a day porter

-Requests technology upgrades

-improvements for courtroom space

-formal request in writing will come next week from Superior Court's office (District Court Administrator LeNora Hawkins Ponzio)

-Question LJ: to COO - Can you tap into our state lobbyist to look at all the state mandated services that are provided on a county level. What are the relief funds that the state is receiving that could supplement to what the county is doing. This could be helpful with our local initiatives as we go through out budgetary process. Also District investment funds, change the name from discretionary funds, look back at 2019 levels. As we move forward with relief funds, we should ensure prioritization of the middle-class taxpayers in DeKalb; find ways to reinvest back into them with the ARP funding

-LCJ requests COO send itemization of all the appropriations from the constitutionals heard today

Meeting Ended At:5:07pm

MOTION was made by Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, seconded by Larry Johnson, that this agenda item was adjourned meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Rader, and Commissioner Cochran-Johnson

Barbara H. Sanders-Norwood CCC, CMC