

TERM OF COMMISSION: December Session of the November Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Skip Elkin
Deputy County Clerk Shawna Victor
Boone County Auditor June Pitchford

The budget hearing was called to order at 3:37 p.m.

Budget Hearing: Department 1287 (Emergency Services and Dispatch)

Jim McNabb and Kim Chick, Joint Communications and Information Center (JCIC), were present on behalf of this budget hearing.

Commissioner Stamper stated this is the JCIC budget, where the County pays certain revenues to the City of Columbia for providing the JCIC services. The funding for this principally comes from the Sheriff's Department budget with some funding from the E-911 fund for a data entry clerk. Mrs. Pitchford stated this used to be budgeted in the Sheriff's Department as a line item. This is now in a separate budget that is under the Commissions control, currently listed as Emergency Services and Dispatch.

There is no traditional description of goal and objectives for this budget.

Jim McNabb provided the JCIC budget explanation to the Commissioners. There is an overall decrease in the 2002 budget of 4.16%, which is \$79,000. It is anticipated they will be under budget for 2001. The budget explanation shows which line items have been decreased for 2002.

Commissioner Stamper requested Mr. McNabb to review the User Agency Statistics. This is for the 2000 calendar year not the 2000 City of Columbia budget year. Mr. McNabb reviewed the User Agency Statistics.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department share increased from 12% to 21%. The Boone County Fire District remained at 5%; there is a minimum of a 5% usage. Boone Ambulance and University Ambulance are at 3% each. These two agencies entered into an agreement as a combined resource. The Boone County Sheriff's Department also covers the usage of Hallsville, Sturgeon, and Ashland Police Departments. These numbers will be recalculated on December 31, 2001 to get the agency usage percentages for 2001.

Mr. McNabb stated the Boone County Sheriff's Department began accessing the system

for Civil Service Processors, which previously have not used radio communicators. This will increase the number of calls for the Sheriff's Department. He discussed what the impact would be on the operators. Since the Sheriff's Department began this program, the total number of calls has increased to 40 per hour for the Sheriff's Department, City of Columbia, Hallsville, and Sturgeon Police Departments.

Commissioner Stamper asked Mr. McNabb to think about a policy on behalf of the County Commission that would require Commission approval before such services are added. He stated he would speak with the Sheriff because this could increase the County costs significantly.

Mr. McNabb explained the difference between dispatched calls and self-initiated calls.

Mr. McNabb reviewed the budget explanation. The overall budgets for Joint Communications and Emergency Management have decreased.

Commissioner Miller asked why standby pay was taken out of the budget. Mr. McNabb stated there is no need to have people on standby. There is a volunteer pool for people who want to work overtime.

The travel and training line item has been decreased because the majority of the workers have the needed training. There are requirements by the State for all communication officers to have a certain amount of continuing education.

Intergovernmental charges have decreased overall. Commissioner Miller asked why those charges decreased. Kim Chick explained information services depreciation was the reason for the decrease in this line item.

Commissioner Miller asked if the County bought equipment with the E-911 fund. Mr. McNabb stated this is for computer support from the City of Columbia.

Mrs. Pitchford asked Mr. McNabb to explain how the equipment and the services the County pays for with the E-911 fund integrate with this operating budget. Mr. McNabb stated it does not.

Mrs. Pitchford stated the staff funded with this budget used the equipment and the service paid for with the E-911 fund. Mr. McNabb stated the staff in the JCIC budget uses the E-911 equipment. The E-911 equipment is solely a Boone County expense. Mr. McNabb explained how the E-911 equipment works independently from the CAD system.

Commissioner Elkin asked how the decrease in the budget would effect the increase in the number of calls. Mr. McNabb explained how the increased use by the Sheriff's Department would increase the portion of the budget that the County Commission is in charge of.

Mr. McNabb reviewed the budget for Emergency Management. The County's portion of the Emergency Management budget is 33% and the City of Columbia has the remainder of the budget.

Commissioner Miller asked if JCIC and Emergency Management were not integrated in any way. Mr. McNabb stated that was correct and JCIC is not the same as Emergency Management.

Commissioner Miller asked how many employees were in Emergency Management. Mr. McNabb stated it is a percentage between JCIC and Emergency Management. Mr. McNabb discussed the difference between JCIC and Emergency Management.

Commissioner Stamper stated there were some supplemental requests in both budgets. Mr. McNabb discussed the request for Nextel Base Station and the need for this equipment.

Commissioner Miller asked if the County would pay for the supplemental requests. Commissioner Stamper stated the County would only pay a portion if it is for general use by JCIC and Emergency Management.

Commissioner Miller asked Mrs. Pitchford if the supplemental requests were included in the proposed budget. Mrs. Pitchford stated this was correct and the County's allocated share is included as a line item in the budget.

Commissioner Elkin asked what the "0.75 ASA" for Boone County meant on the Summary of Revenue to be received on the User Agency Statistics handout. Mr. McNabb stated this is a three-quarter-time data entry employee that is funded by the County.

There was no further discussion and no public comment.

Budget Hearing: Department 2010 (Assessment)

Tom Schauwecker, Boone County Assessor, was present on behalf of this budget hearing.

Tom Schauwecker reviewed the 2001 goals, objectives, and accomplishments for this budget, 2002 goals and objectives, and performance measures for the Assessor's Office.

The Assessment Fund balance stands alone. It has earmarked revenues from a 0.5% from the collections in the Collector's Office and quarterly state reimbursements. At the end of 1990, the Assessment Fund reserve balance was approximately \$90,000. As of the end of 2000, the Assessment Fund balance was approximately \$500,000. During the same 10 period, the Assessed Valuation doubled from \$650 million to \$1.3 billion.

Mr. Schauwecker stated that all his requests were put in the 2002 proposed budget.

Mr. Schauwecker discussed the aerial photography project in the past with the City of Columbia and why this project is needed.

Mr. Schauwecker projects the Assessment Fund Balance for FY2001 to be approximately \$600,000. The revenues exceed expenditures for this budget.

Commissioner Stamper asked what are the positive aspects of having a positive balance in the Assessment Fund. Mr. Schauwecker stated he believes the fund balance will decrease this year. The money in this fund is used for projects. This fund balance was projected to have \$100,000 surplus, running the office at full staff. The Boone County Assessment Fund during Mr. Schauwecker's tenure has never asked for a subsidy from the General Revenue fund.

The major project proposed for the 2002 budget is aerial photography, which is a one-time expenditure and will decrease the Assessment Fund.

Commissioner Miller asked if the fly over for this project would be done in the spring. Mr. Schauwecker explained how this project needs to be done and what it will do for the County.

Commissioner Stamper stated in account 71101 (professional services) there has been \$36,000 to \$37,000 budgeted. The actual projected for 2001 is approximately \$3,000. Commissioner Stamper wanted to know why Mr. Schauwecker has proposed a budget of \$35,000 for this account for 2002. Mr. Schauwecker stated this is budgeted for possible use of professional services to subcontract legal services for property tax appeals.

Commissioner Elkin asked if there was any correlation between the increase in the Assessment Fund and the Fund Balance. Mr. Schauwecker stated one reason for the increase is there are two vacancies in the Assessor's Office. Another reason for the increase is because of the voter approved increases in taxes and the increase in the assessed values.

Commissioner Stamper stated there has historically been vacancies for this budget and asked Mr. Schauwecker to elaborate on this. Mr. Schauwecker discussed the tenure of the employees in the Assessor's Office and that he is very particular about the employees that he does hire.

Mr. Schauwecker discussed the difference in the budgeted funds for salaries and wages between 2001 and 2002. He believes that the recommendations from the Personnel Consultant have penalized the employees in the Assessor's Office who are deep into their salary ranges. Mr. Schauwecker's reasoning for this is that the proposed budget only gives a 2% increase for salaries and wages for 2002 where there is a 6% increase in the

general fund.

Mrs. Pitchford stated the same formula was used for all County offices.

Commissioner Stamper stated policies will be established with the budget that is adopted and how far the County is able to fund the recommendations of the Consultant.

Mr. Schauwecker discussed how the Consultant's recommendation should effect the Assessor's Office and how the Assessor's Office should receive the same percentage increase as what is proposed for the general fund.

There was discussion about the proposed salary recommendations from the Personnel Consultant and the funding for these recommendations.

There was no further discussion and no public comment.

The budget hearing was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Attest:

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner