

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday June 22nd, 2011
8:00 a.m.

Vice Chairman Hearn called the budget workshop to order, in absence of Chairman Matthews, at approximately 8:50 a.m. Present for the meeting was Vice-Chairman Hearn, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Glass, Commissioner Thrash, Financial Analyst Davidson and CPA, Cheryl Idol.

Purpose

The Board of Commissioners met to discuss cuts to the Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

Budget Discussion

Commissioner Horton stated they still had not finished reviewing the budget completely because they had excluded the constitutional officers. Commissioner Thrash stated that as elected officials they could give them a bottom line to work with except for the funds mandated by the legislative government. She further stated she is not in agreement with entitlement programs at the national or local level. Vice Chairman Hearn stated that they are looking for a little over a million dollars in cuts. The revenues are at \$7.3 million dollars and the expenditures at \$8.3 million dollars. Vice Chairman Hearn stated that they need to address furloughs so that hopefully no one would have to lose their jobs.

Budget Cuts

Vice-Chairman Hearn opened the meeting by calling on the Commissioners for comment. Commissioner Glass went first stating that they we are looking at \$ 8.5 million dollars for the FY2012 year budget without including cuts from the constitutional officers. Commissioner Thrash stated that they had recommended previously not granting the IDA an increase of \$10,000 dollars but decided to table that decision for now. Commissioner Thrash stated that at this time the County can't afford to fund the drug court any longer and that the citizen would be responsible for paying for this program if necessary. Commissioner Thrash also stated that Financial Analyst Davidson and CPA Idol investigate the charges from the TBS/Harris Computer software. Commissioner Thrash stated that Harris software is holding the county hostage with all of their charges and would like to investigate using a different computer software program. Commissioner Thrash stated that she would like to see a new purchasing procedure in place requesting a breakdown of supplies being spent. The Commissioners discussed the cost of furloughs, training, utilities, and supplies purchased as possible cuts for the budget. The Commissioners called in the constitutional officers to discuss bottom line budget and the possibility of furlough days for their employees. Judge Kathy Martin with the Probate Court brought in \$11,000 worth of line item cuts to her already reduced budget. Sheriff Waller and Captain Brad White stated that they could not afford to take any more cuts and that the budget they offered is really not enough. The inmate meals were paid with drug money last year and this will not be possible for the FY 2012 budget. Sheriff Waller stated that the Commissioners could opt to give him a bottom line and he would work with that if necessary but he would like for them to adopt the budget he submitted. Judge Thomas with the Magistrate

Court stated that he had already provided cuts and that he is opposed to furlough days although if necessary in looking for a million dollars he would abide by the decision of the Commissioners. Judge Thomas and Judge Jackson are mandated officials and cannot be furloughed. Commissioner Thrash understood Judge Thomas but stated that they had to be fair and consistent across the board. Tax Commissioner Andrea Anthony stated that her office staff could be furloughed and would like to be able to pay back a day of furlough per month for herself but the State will not allow this to happen since her Salary is mandated by State government. Tax Commissioner Anthony stated that she would work with Analyst Jennifer Day on purchase order line items to see if cuts for supplies or other items could be considered. Commissioner Thrash stated that she would like to see a new countywide purchase order system. For more detailed cuts within each department for the FY 2012, the Budget Workbook is available for review at the Administration Building in the Board of Commissioners office.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Hearn called for a motion to adjourn at approximately 11:50 a.m. Commissioner Thrash made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Horton. The motion passed 4-0.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Matthews-Chairman

Jimmy Hearn-Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton-Member

Charles Glass-Member

Nancy M. Thrash-Member

Attest:

Carlette Davidson, Financial Analyst