

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 23, 2006, 5:30PM
SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Vice Chairman Kenneth S. Edge
Commissioner Talmage S. Baggett
Commissioner J. Breeden Blackwell
Commissioner Jeannette M. Council
Commissioner John T. Henley, Jr.
Commissioner Diane Wheatley
James Martin, County Manager
Juanita Pilgrim, Deputy County Manager
Cliff Spiller, Asst. County Manager
Amy Cannon, Asst. County Manager
Grainger Barrett, County Attorney
Marsha Fogle, Clerk
Budget Staff (Howard Abner, Kelly Autry, Bob Tucker, Todd Hathaway)
Personnel Staff (James Lawson and Laura Blackley)

ABSENT: Chairman Billy R. King

Vice Chairman Kenneth Edge called the meeting to order. Commissioner Blackwell provided the invocation.

County department heads were afforded an opportunity to speak to the Board concerning items in their budgets which were not included as part of the County Manager's recommended Budget.

- (1) Register of Deeds – Lee Warren: Mr. Warren asked the Board to consider adding the following items back to his budget for FY06-07:

\$3,300 – Department Supplies (2992)
\$11,000 – Microfilming (3330)
\$2,500 – Travel (3470)

TOTAL REQUESTED: \$16,800

- (2) Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Butler and Howard Lloyd made the following request:

Appropriate enough money to raise the salaries of all law enforcement officers, particularly the sergeants, lieutenants, captains and majors. Would cost an additional \$1.2 million (includes benefits). (The manager already added \$750,000 (includes benefits) to the Sheriff's budget to address entry-level deputy pay).

The Sheriff's Office noted that it takes about \$25,000 to train new officers. An issue the Sheriff's Department is facing is that after training some of these officers leave. Commissioners inquired if and how the county could/should ask new hires to sign a contract agreeing to stay three years. The County Attorney said he thought it was legal. However, the Personnel Department said recruitment may be difficult.

Commissioner Baggett said he thought it would be difficult to enforce the contract and or collect the money owed.

- (3) Library – Jerry Thrasher: Mr. Thrasher asked the Board to consider adding the following items back to his budget:

Restore services hours to the following libraries:

Hope Mills	\$	75,700
Bordeaux		72,600
East Regional		110,800
Spring Lake		37,900

Provide additional money for audio visual materials - \$30,000

Provide money for electronic databases - \$20,000

TOTAL OF REQUESTED ADDITIONS: \$347,000

- (4) Board of Elections – Terri Robertson: Ms. Robertson asked the Board to consider adding the following items back to the budget:

Desk/work stations for 10 people:	\$15,000
Training:	1,800
Capital Outlay: computer/printer:	6,800

TOTAL REQUEST: \$23,600

No action was taken on any of the requests.

The Board asked staff to bring back to them the following information:

- Status of the software need for the Tax Office (do they need the full amount (\$1.6 million)for FY07;
- Spread sheet comparing city and county minimum starting salaries for law enforcement officers along with how the county's 3% COLA affects those figures.

The County Manager noted that if the Board wants to address some of the needs presented by the Department Heads, the tax software and health department renovations may be the place to look.

The Board decided that it would deliberate after the public hearing that will be held on May 30.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:05PM

Clerk to the Board

