

Budget Committee
May 4, 2023 4:00 PM
Courtroom 100E

Members

Mike Chambers
Warren Hurst
Ronnie Whaley
Gary Cole
Fred Atchley
Bryan Delius

Others

Sevier County Vice Mayor Bryan McCarter
Sevier County Assistant County Mayor/Senior Director Finance & Administration
Brooke Huffaker
Sevier County Assistant County Mayor/Senior Director of Community Planning and
Development/Government Services Matt Rudder
Sevier County Sheriff Michael Hodges
Sevier County Director of Grants and Special Projects Andrew Temple
Sevier County Director of Public Affairs and Communications Tyler Basler
Fourth Judicial District of Tennessee Circuit Court Judge Rex Henry Ogle
Van Wolfe

Commissioner Atchley called the meeting to order at 4:16 PM

Commissioner Atchley introduced Judge Ogle who introduced SafeSpace Executive Director Van Wolfe. Ms. Wolfe thanked the committee for its continued support over the years, handed out a statistical information sheet on the organization and asked for additional funding for the upcoming budget year due to federal grant funds being reduced. Commissioner Hurst asked what their current budget is. Ms. Wolfe said roughly \$500,000.00. Director Huffaker told the committee the County's donation has been \$16,000.00. Commissioner Delius made a motion to increase the County's donation to \$32,000.00. Commissioner Cole seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor McCarter and Director Huffaker updated committee on budget requests. Director Huffaker said Finance Department is working with other departments to reduce their budget requests and the addition of short-term rental will be approximately \$5 – 8 million. Vice Mayor McCarter informed committee of the recent meeting with Sevier County Board of Education (SCBOE). Of the additional revenue of the reclassification of the short-term rental property tax an estimated \$2 – 3 million will go to SCBOE and the

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Mayor's Office will propose the remaining funds to be utilized towards services affected by tourism.

Commissioner Atchley requested an update on the plans for the new Courts Building. Vice Mayor McCarter stated the architect provided the Mayor's Office a guaranteed max price of approximately \$31 million. The price is good through May 31. In the proposed price there are approximately \$1 million in possible deductions which are being reviewed by the Mayor's Office and Facilities. Director Huffaker added the "all-in cost" is approximately \$32 million and the County has currently paid approximately \$1 million.

Commissioner Hurst asked Sheriff Hodges to address school safety. Sheriff Hodges discussed SROs in the county schools. He said SCSO will provide an SRO at Trula Lawson Center next school year is Sevierville Police Department cannot. SCSO is looking into applying for an SRO grant through the State. Next school year SCSO will have an SRO is 4 schools in City limits.

Commissioner Hurst asked where the budget for SROs comes from. Sheriff Hodges and Director Huffaker answered it is a combination of State funds and SCBOE budget.

Vice Mayor McCarter reminded committee of SCBOE Bird's Eye View budget meeting on May 11 at 5:30 at Central Office.

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of 5/15, update will be sent to committee. Tentative Final Budget Presentation on 6/13 at Noon.

Commissioner Cole made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Whaley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.