

**MINUTES**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**Budget Work Session**

**May 19, 2014**

**LaGrange-Callaway Airport**

Troup County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Wolfe called the budget work session to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Richard Wolfe, Chairman  
Richard English, Vice-Chairman  
Claude F. Foster III, Commissioner  
Morris Jones, Commissioner  
Buck Davis, Commissioner

**News Media Present:**

Matt Strother, LaGrange Daily News

**Staff/Officials Present:**

Tod Tentler, County Manager  
James Emery, County Engineer  
Cheryl May, Accounting / Deputy Clerk  
Dexter Wells, Divisions Manager  
Valerie Heard, Human Resources Director  
Scott Turk, Finance Officer/ County Clerk  
Sonya Conroy, Asst Finance Officer

**OPENING:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

**Insurance Update:**

Finance Officer Scott Turk announced Troup County is looking at \$1.8 million increase in medical claims costs for its upcoming fiscal year. Increasing cost of care combined with employee contributions remaining comparatively low is increasing costs to the county. The county has contracted with Houze & Associates for insurance brokerage services. Mr. Don Miller, Executive Director of Strategic Benefit Planning for Houze, told officials that the county is paying 90 to 95 percent of its employees' health care package cost, and an average one-third of its payroll expense goes toward benefits. Employees' bi-weekly premiums will increase to share increases with the county budget. County Manager Tod Tentler emphasized health care cost are increasing because employees' share are currently so low, and that employees are not price shopping for the most value in doctor visits and prescriptions. The county currently offers employees and anyone on an employee plan free visits to the We Care clinic; which also has a list of prescriptions that are free to employees and cost county far less than retail. Mr. Miller stated that Houze will be

promoting the use of the clinic to employees and especially spouses on county insurance more to encourage them to go.

**Convenience Centers Update:**

Divisions Manager Dexter Wells presented update of the Gray Hill Convenience Center. The county is allocating \$200k a year to upgrade the convenience centers. Storage shed and storage supplies were purchased so the attendants could keep a supply secure at each site. Commissioner Foster asked for a breakdown of hours open. Mr. Wells added the Gray Hill Convenience Center should be finished July 1<sup>st</sup> and the next construction will likely begin at Mobley Bridge Convenience Center.

**FY15 Budget Preview:**

Finance Officer Scott Turk gave an overview for the 2015 budget planning. Some new expenses the county is considering include an estimated \$85k for the first part of a three-year plan to replace fire department's turn out gear. Other expenses planned in the preliminary budget include \$110k for other capital outlay items and \$207,859 in vehicles. The General CIP budget for FY15 anticipates \$200k spending for the second year of a 5-year refurbishing of convenience centers. Another \$50k in expenses is expected for updated software for the tax commissioner's office. Major operating expense increases include \$100k for court software maintenance, \$65k to the District Attorney's budget, \$40k to the public defender's office, additional \$45k for building maintenance and \$20k for automobile fuel costs.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Wolfe made a motion to adjourn.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
G.S. Turk, Clerk