

BUDGET MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 23, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Verno, Leonard, Johnson and Groat, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Social Services Commissioner Dr. Ellen Wayne, DSS Director of Administration Abbey Shipley, Veterans Services Director Renee Maybee, Aging and Youth Director Amy Haskins and Assistant Aging and Youth Director Kendra Rennie. Supervisors Jacobs and Robusto were not present for the meeting.

Mr. Sams stated the overall preliminary 2022 County budget reflects an increase in both revenues and appropriations from this year. Revenues include American Rescue Plan funding of \$7.8 million, Mental Health grant funding, an increase in sales tax revenue and an increase in the property tax levy driven by an 8% increase in property assessments. The budget reflects managerial pay increases for both 2021 and 2022; as 2021 increases were not put in the original 2021 budget. The budget reflects a decrease in the tax rate from \$7.52 in 2021 to \$7.17. No money from the General Fund is needed toward the budget. After preliminary budgets were submitted, the County was informed retirement costs for 2022 will not be as high as budgeted for.

Overall Department budgets reporting to the Human Services Committee had a decrease in County cost of \$1 million. These budgets contain 193 staff members at a cost of \$9 million; this number increased by five going into the 2022 budget. Mr. House reiterated efforts made for position control. The majority of new positions added to the County's 2022 budget are supported with grant funds, while a few others are temporary positions and/or title changes.

The following budgets were reviewed (Copies of the budgets were sent electronically to Supervisors prior to today's meeting):

- Wayne County Action Program (CAP): County cost \$36,419. This Agency's County appropriation was reduced 10% last year and is remaining at that level for 2022.
- Veterans Services: Revenue the same at \$13,915, personal services up 12% to \$149,326, contractual services down 18% to \$100,703, fringe benefits down 2% to \$58,,252, County cost down nearly 3% to \$294,466. Mrs. Maybee noted the position of Personnel Clerk is abolished in the budget and the position of Veterans Service Officer created. The budget reflects increases in both telephone and building maintenance expenses that are not controllable by the Office.
- Area Agency on Aging: Revenue up 33% to \$2,017,805, personal services up 14% to \$1,009,687, contractual expenses up 49% to \$1,99,657, fringe benefits up 22% to \$496,821, County costs up nearly 18% to \$688,360. Mrs. Haskins stated Stimulus funding to support additional senior programs in the budget is skewing percentages in the budget.

She noted the Department received one-time re-allocation of funds from the State to be spent in 2022. The budget includes the new positions of Aging Service Assistant, Home Health Aid and 50% of the salary of a Department Deputy Director. The two full-time positions are grant funded and will allow for additional senior programs. Mrs. Haskins received a quote for a new vehicle; however, Administration requested it not be included in the budget until an audit can be performed on County car usage and the possibility of making County vehicles, with little use, available to other Departments. The budget includes \$6,300 for work on office and hallway walls.

- Youth Bureau: Revenues down 4.5% to \$260,489, personal services up 1% to \$126,524, contractual expenses down 10% to \$180,329, fringe benefits up 22% to \$61,933, County cost up 4% to \$108,297. The position of Deputy Director of Youth is abolished in the budget and 50% of the salary for the position of Deputy Director and Aging and Youth is in the budget.
- Youth Recreation Program: County cost up 9% to \$57,380. The increase is due to additional fringe benefit costs.

Dr. Wayne reviewed the Mission Statement for the Department of Social Services: To serve the County community with dignity, empathy and efficiency. To respond to those with financial needs while promoting their self-sufficiencies to ensure the safety and healthy development of children and vulnerable adults. To sustain family relationships through support and recognition of families' resiliency, inherent strengths and capacity to change and to partner with our community to meet present and future needs of our residents.

The proposed Social Service budget reflects a 4.7% reduction in County cost to \$21,548,314. The largest expense to the budget is Medicaid, at \$14 million, which is down from this year's budgeted expenses. The population involved in Social Service programs continues to grow. Ms. Shipley stated the majority of programs offered through Social Services are mandated and the price to operate each program continues to increase. Additional mandates are anticipated by the State regarding traditional eligibility and child and family services. Twenty-three positions in the Department were eliminated since 2019. Administration will continue their evaluation of vacancies on a case-by-case basis, along with the evaluation of what tools staff may need to be more productive. Administration continues to work on a succession plan. Budget amendments may be needed as the IUE Union contract has yet to settle with 2022 salaries. Mr. Blake said funds for this expense are included in the County's Contingency budget. Mr. House said the County sent a formal request to the State Department of Health regarding Medicaid payments the County is making. The Department is gearing up for the State to remove current pandemic waivers.

The Department is preparing for the operation of a Child Advocacy Center and planning for Safe Harbor and Rental Assistance Programs; programs should be grant funded. They are anticipating

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additional costs in the coming year to pay a 'Qualified Individual' to review all child-welfare placement sites to make sure they are meeting State mandated requirements for housing. Dr. Wayne said this service may be outsourced.

The following budgets were presented for Social Services:

- Administration: Revenue up 8.8% to \$10.1 million, personal services up 1.6% to \$7 million, equipment up substantially to \$109,750, contractual expenses up 31% to \$3.4 million, fringe benefits up 7% to \$3.9 million, County cost up 11.6% to \$4,373,629. The budget reflects the purchase of three vehicles.
- Day Care: County cost \$100,000 for the operation of this \$1,447,060 program.
- Purchase of Services: County down 11% to \$333,661 for this \$1,383,661.
- Medicaid: County cost down nearly 10% to \$14 million.
- Medical Assistance: There is no County cost for operation of this \$100,000 program.
- MMIS Medical Assistance: County cost remains at \$1,606,000.
- Family Type Homes: There is no County cost for this \$1,000 program.
- Family Assistance: There is no County cost for this \$2,770,000 program.
- Foster Care: Revenue \$2 million, contractual expenses \$2,760,000, County cost remains at \$755,000.
- Juvenile Delinquent Care: County cost down nearly 42% to \$124,000. This budget was reduced based on expenses from this year's budget.
- State Training School: County cost is 33% over the original 2021 Department budget to \$500,000. This amount was decreased last year, as staff training was limited due to the pandemic.
- Safety Net: County cost down 6.7% to \$1,135,000.
- Home Emergency Assistance Program: There is no County cost for operation of this \$50,000 program.
- Emergency Assistance for Adults: County cost down 16.6% to \$9,000.

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- Workforce Development Work Programs: Revenue up 36% to \$338,277, personal services up 27% to \$306,208, contractual expenses up 7% to \$48,168, fringe benefits down to \$96,660, County cost down 16% to \$112,759.
- Workforce Adult Program: County cost up 68% to \$5,052.
- Workforce Dislocated Worker: County cost down 78% to \$586.
- Workforce Youth: County cost up over 300% to \$3,013. Revenues are down nearly \$30,000 in this program.
- TANF Summer Program: County cost up 124% to \$2,836. The budget reflects additional fringe benefit costs.
- Workforce Administration: County cost up 13.5% to \$58,565. Revenues are down in this budget.

Budgets were approved as presented. The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Monday, October 4th at 8:30 a.m.