

3/6/19 CBAC Meeting Notes

Committee Members Present: John Hilliard, Chris Eudailey, Steve Mulroy, Gene Johnson, Bill Gleason, Chip Hughey, Leah Mills

County Staff Present: Meghan Coates, Director – Budget and Management; Joni Robinson, Automation Analyst

The meeting was brought to order at 9:00am.

1. Committee Recommendations/Memo to the Board:

- a. Mrs. Coates informed the committee that Schools built their budget using the Governor's proposed budget – which had since been changed by the general assembly, leaving an approximately \$1.9M gap. The schools budget includes a 3% raise, a local share of the VPI+ initiative, and one additional school counselor to meet state required staffing ratios per the SOQ formula.
- b. The local transfer to schools increased by \$7.7M as proposed. The committee discussed the school budget and collectively agreed to recommend that the County should move forward with providing the additional \$1.9M to Schools.
- c. Mr. Gleason asked what stipulations can be put into place regarding the additional funding? Mrs. Coates stated that there was little control aside from appropriations category thresholds. However, there would be further discussion with schools on how to hedge against the state's/governor's initial proposals moving forward.
- d. Mrs. Coates informed the committee that by advisement of the County Attorney's office and Human Resources, the title of the new positions in Police would be Police Service Aide. This position would qualify for VRS, but no law enforcement supplement. Mr. Gleason asked if the County had ever considered a gradual phase out to retirement? Mrs. Coates stated that VRS would not allow the County to do that. Mrs. Coates shared the plan for retention pay for Police officers. These new plans should help to possibly retain an officer for another three to five years before retirement.
- e. Mrs. Coates provided an update on Fire. CBAC supports the current plan of adding 18 additional positions over the next five years to address minimum staffing needs. There was discussion concerning reasons for overtime. Moving forward, Mrs. Coates will be working with Human Resources to further study the causes and utilization of overtime in the department.
- f. Mrs. Coates provided information on the tax relief program. This program is locally administered for the handicapped, elderly and disabled veterans; disabled veterans receive 100% relief according to state code. The County plans to partner with VCU to have MPA students study the program, do detailed projections, and make recommendations to the County regarding the future of the program. The tax relief program will cost \$9M in FY20. CBAC recommends that new eligibility criteria should be considered.
- g. A future referendum was discussed. There is general support that another referendum is needed. Some on the committee expressed interest in a meals tax to support additional projects.

