

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 2ND DAY of MAY, 2022, Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, met at a special budget meeting with the following present:

KP GEORGE	COUNTY JUDGE
VINCENT MORALES	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1
GRADY PRESTAGE	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
ANDY MEYERS	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3
KEN R. DEMERCHANT	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
LINDA WILLIS FOR LAURA RICHARD	COUNTY CLERK

When the following were heard and the following orders were passed:

- 1. Call to Order.**
Call to Order by Judge KP George at 9:01 a.m.
- 2. Conduct Budget Workshops.**

Pamela Gubbels, Director of Finance & Investments gave an overview of the FY2023 Preliminary Budget. Ms. Gubbels received the preliminary taxable values from the Central Appraisal District (CAD) and the values are estimated to be a 10% reduction based on what CAD has projected after the protest.

The estimated values for Fort Bend County is \$92.9 billion, which is a 13.9% increase over the 2021 values. The Drainage District is at \$93.4 billion, which is a 15% increase over the 2021 values. Of the two values, \$4.1 billion is from new improvements and is an increase from last year. Ms. Gubbels calculated a rough tax value, which excluded new improvements for 2022 and came up with a 7.8% increase. This means there is \$23 million new revenue for Fort Bend County - General Fund and Road & Bridge. New revenue for Drainage District is about \$755,000 and is a 7.8% increase.

The total requested budget for FY2023 is \$509.3 million and does not include salary adjustments. This is a 13.2% increase over the FY2022 Adopted Budget and is \$59.5 million over the FY2022 Budget. An estimated cost for salary adjustments will be \$2 million for each percentage increase. There are 228 new positions requested with a total of \$21.9 million. The requested salary adjustments are 40, which is being reviewed by Human Resources. There were a total of 122 replacement vehicles and 44 additional vehicles for a total of \$10.3 million.

Item 2 continued - Conduct Budget Workshops:

The following County Departments explained why their budget was over the target amount.

- Facilities Maintenance
- Facilities Operations
- Facilities Custodial
- Jail Maintenance
- Facilities Management & Planning
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Road & Bridge
- Behavioral Health Services
- Fire Marshal
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- County Judge
- Commissioner Precinct 1
- Commissioner Precinct 2
- County Auditor
- Purchasing

Recess: 11:17 a.m.

Reconvene: 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Gubbels summarized the proposed FY2023 Budget. The total FY2023 Budget request are \$509.3 million, which is a 13.2% increase and is \$59.5 million over the FY2022 Budget. The preliminary values for Fort Bend County is \$92.9 billion, which is a 13.96% increase. Fort Bend County Tax Rate Funds include the General Fund and Road and Bridge. A rough estimate was calculated by Ms. Gubbels and the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) rate will have to be decreased by 3¢. This means the new revenue for FY2023 will be about \$23 million. The requests are \$59 million and excludes salary increases. The General Fund ending balance needs to be about 25% - 30%. If the tax rate is reduced by 3¢, the General Fund Budget will have to be reduced by \$48 million. The Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) will be looked into for other funding options. The cost for salary adjustments will be \$2 million for each percentage increase. The compensation study should be completed sometime in June. The vehicle requests are included in the preliminary budget requests and will be removed and financed. The total is approximately \$10 million for the vehicle requests. This amount will go into the debt calculation which is not capped.

Continued - The following County Departments explained why their budget was over the target amount.

- Elections Administrator
- Constable Precinct 1
- Constable Precinct 2
- Constable Precinct 3
- Constable Precinct 4
- Extension Service
- Sheriff Enforcement Operating
- Sheriff Detention Operating
- Sheriff - Bailiffs

3. Adjournment.

The Special Meeting / Budget Workshop adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2022.

May 2, 2022



I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.

Laura Richard, County Clerk, Fort Bend County, Texas