

**Pickens County Council**  
**Budget Work Session Report**  
**Monday, April 25, 2022**  
6:00 PM  
Main Conference Room  
222 McDaniel Avenue  
Pickens, SC 29671

Pickens County Council met to hold a work session to discuss the FY 2022-2023 proposed budget. Chairman Chris Bowers presided with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance:

Chris Bowers, Chairman  
Roy Costner, Vice Chairman  
Trey Whitehurst  
Ensley Feemster  
Alex Saitta  
Henry Wilson

Staff in Attendance:

Ken Roper, County Administrator  
Meagan Nations, Clerk to Council  
Les Hendricks, Contract County Attorney  
Ralph Guarino, Finance Director

The discussion of budgetary items included, but not limited to the following:

- Mr. Ralph Guarino, Finance Director, presented a presentation and went into great detail on the following:
  - FY 2022 Budget Amendment Ordinance
    - Budgeted Revenue Increase (Decrease)
      - ❖ Register of Deeds = \$751,551
      - ❖ Insurance = \$22,810
      - ❖ Grants = \$1,532,054
      - ❖ General Fund – Fund Balance = \$184,600
      - ❖ **Total: \$2,491,015**
    - Budgeted Expenditures Increase (Decrease)
      - ❖ Attorney Fees = \$200,000
      - ❖ Solid Waste – Wheel Loader = \$58,279
      - ❖ Mile Creek Park Gatehouse Project = \$22,810
      - ❖ Grants – multiple Departments = \$1,532,054
      - ❖ Insurance – property and liability = \$135,272
      - ❖ Maintenance at the Old Stockade Jail = \$98,000
      - ❖ Toxicology = \$10,000
      - ❖ Fuel = \$250,000
      - ❖ Airport Advance = \$184,600
      - ❖ **Total: \$2,491,015**
  - Budget for 2023 Fiscal Year
    - Overview of Total Budget for all Funds = \$82,225,118

- Mr. Guarino went over the Financial Highlights. The discussion included, but was not limited to:
  - Balanced Budget
  - No tax increase for General Fund
  - Discussion on COLA adjustment for all employees = 4%
  - Positions
    - 70 new positions were considered
  - Capital
    - Capital was considered in the fall of 2021; has been implemented in the FY 2023
  - 5% for Property and Liability
  - 6% for Medical Insurance
  - 1% for Retirement System
  - 18% increase for fuel costs
  
- General Fund
  - Increased revenue by \$3.3 million
  - MAU contract instead of inmate labor
  - Solid Waste – add 4-part time Recycling Attendants
  - 2 Master in Equity positions
  - Elections – part time Precinct Secretary
  - Vehicle Maintenance – 1 Heavy Equipment Mechanic
  
- Other Funds
  - Tri-County Technical College
    - Increase of funding by \$46,400
    - Fund balance will be used for a portion of funding
  - Fixed Nuclear Fund
    - No change
  - Commerce Park
    - No change
  - Library Fund
    - Submitted by Library
  - Victim Service Fund
    - Last year to use fund balance to cover operating costs
  - Emergency Telephone
    - Use fund balance for FY 2023 until telephone cost can be reduced
  - State Accommodations Tax Fund
    - Increase in revenue; can be used for tourism related costs
  - Local Accommodations Tax Fund
    - Increase in revenue; can be used for tourism related costs
  - Road Maintenance Fee Fund
    - No change
  - Recreation Fund
    - No change
  - Road Reserve
    - Used for multi-year reclamation, guardrail, culvert, bridge projects
  - Escheatment
    - Previous years collections of escheated funds
  - Pickens Alliance Fund
    - No change
  - Fire Districts

- Combine all three millage fire districts with one fire fee district into one combined fire millage district, with a millage of 23 mils; Add 10 for Fire Services
  - Public Service Commission
    - Increase rate by .44 cents to cover costs of deferred maintenance on the treatment plants
  - Airport Funds
    - Fee increase for hangars
- Mr. Guarino went into great detail on the Value of a Mil for General Fund/Bonds/Capital Fund, TCTC/Library, Sewer District, Shady Grove Fire Department, Vineyards FD, Springs FD and Pickens Fire Department for FY 2022 and FY 2023. He presented the % change between each fiscal year. He also presented the Millage Rates for the General Fund, Debt Service, Tri-County Tech, Library, Sewer Fund, Shady Grove Fire, Vineyards Fire, Springs Fire, and Sewer Fund for FY 2022 and FY 2023, and also presented the difference between each fiscal year.
- Council had detailed discussion that included, but was not limited to:
  - Animal Shelter – medical costs and MAU workers
  - COLA
  - Library
  - Museum
  - Capital Plan
  - Rural Fire Districts
  - Litter
  - Breakdown of the budget by Departments
  - Pollution Control Rebate and Litter Control Agreement
  - Inmate Labor
  - Sheriff's Office
  - Topics to focus on at a Future Work Session

**ADJOURN:**

Hearing no further Council business, Chairman Chris Bowers called for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Councilman Henry Wilson, seconded by Councilman Ensley Feemster and carried unanimously (6-0). Pickens County Council stood adjourned at 7:27 p.m.