

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DISTRICT TWO SUPERVISOR, MARK GARDNER, Presiding
August 23, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER

The August 23, 2021 meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Mark Gardner, Board President.

Supervisor Michael Lee opened the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear all business before the Board of Supervisors. The following officials were present:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin	District 1
Supervisor Mark Gardner	District 2
Supervisor Ray Denison	District 3
Supervisor Lee Caldwell	District 4
Supervisor Michael Lee	District 5
Sheriff Bill Rasco	Sheriff's Department – Came in late
Misty Heffner	Chancery Clerk
Vanessa Lynchard	County Administrator
Tony Nowak	Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

Environmental Services & Parks Director Ray Laughter offered the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. CITIZEN REMARKS & PRESENTATIONS

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

Supervisor Gardner asked if there was anyone who wished to add or delete items to the Agenda. There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda.

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Michael Lee seconded the motion to approve the Agenda with no additions, deletions or corrections.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Ray Denison, Third District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Michael Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u>

F. CONSENT AGENDA

G. OLD BUSINESS

H. PLANNING

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election Commission

Supervisor Gardner stated Mr. Chad Engelke was recently appointed by the Board of Supervisors to the vacated District Three Election Commissioner position.

Supervisor Denison stated Mrs. Cara Combes resigned the position and Mr. Engelke expressed a desire to fill that position and run for election when the election comes up. He stated several people have spoken very highly of Mr. Engelke. Supervisor Denison thanked Mr. Engelke for stepping up and being a servant.

Circuit Clerk Dale Thompson welcomed Mr. Engelke and administered the oath of office. Mr. Engelke stated he was honored to have this opportunity and he hoped to exceed the Board's expectations.

Supervisor Caldwell said to have the endorsement of the person he ran against for the office is a big deal. She stated Mr. Danny Klein, retired District 3 Election Commissioner, spoke very highly of Mr. Engelke. She told Mr. Engelke that it says a lot about his character when he can run a campaign and shake hands at the end.

2. Budget Discussion – FY2022

Mrs. Lynchard started off by revisiting the items that needed clarification:

- Page 4 – Replacement chairs for Board Room – 2 quotes for 12 chairs – lowest was \$3,735 – The good chairs from Board Room will go to conference. These are the same chairs that the Economic Council has in their conference room. Supervisor Gardner said put in \$4,000 in case of a price increase before the order is placed.
- Page 8 – County Liability & Property Insurance – Aviation went down so total is \$135,000
- Page 9 – Item 594 – Aerial photography – Put \$40,000 as if it is flown yearly. Will put in revenue as other entities partner. The Board discussed more personnel in GIS if this does happen yearly and hourly charges for cities using County GIS services.
- Page 11 – Added \$50,000 for redistricting under contractual services for Board appointed attorneys
- Page 14, 15, 18 – making sure those were finished
- Page 19 – Coroner – Stretchers \$3,000 – Mr. Pounders said last time he bought the cost was \$2,800 and he does need them from time to time.
- Page 19-20 – District Attorney – Percentages were checked and they are correct
- Page 19-20 - County Prosecutor – Someone opted out of vision insurance \$82
- Page 21 – One judge is not going to national conference and reduced travel to show that - \$868,033 is the corrected amount – Total Change \$11,190
- Page 36 – State Health Department – Keep flat or give increase? Board said keep flat.
- Page 39 – Library – The Board decided it would be good to give the new director an opportunity to step up operations and reflect the Board's conservative values.
- Page 39 – Extension Service – Mrs. Lynchard said Mr. Mitchell worked out the internet cost issue. She said the cost would be an additional \$380 which would take the budget from \$2500 to \$2880.
- Page 40 – Economic Council – Leave in \$10,000 for P2P and \$10,000 for RFI. Board agreed.

Page 24 & 25 – Tab 001-200 – Sheriff's Department

Supervisor Gardner stated the increase request is \$886,287 before raises. He asked what the raises last year totaled. Chief Deputy Justin Smith stated they were around \$600,000. Mrs. Lynchard said plus 25%. Mrs. Crockett stated it was \$742,700. Supervisor Gardner noted that if the Board gave the same raises and this requested increase, the total increase would be about \$1.6 million. Supervisor Gardner asked what this year's budget was. Mrs. Freeze stated \$25,910,894.

Mrs. Donna Ford stated they are requesting a \$373,000 salary increase for 4 officers (IT, K9, intel analyst, and evidence clerk). Supervisor Caldwell asked how many officers were hired for ICAC. Mrs. Ford said there were four. Supervisor Caldwell asked if they were hired under the COPS grant. Chief Smith affirmed. Mrs. Lynchard stated they hired officers with the COPS grant and backfilled where they moved people from within to ICAC. Supervisor Caldwell said they need to keep that expense in mind for the future.

Mrs. Ford noted the increase service maintenance contract and said that is cameras for the jail. Chief Smith stated they have no service contract with the original cameras and they are having lots of problems with the servers. He stated it is more costly to get the old system fixed than to get a new

system. He stated the system is self-contained and closed circuit inside the jail. He noted the maintenance contract will have a \$10,000 to \$12,000 recurring expense. He stated this is part of the reason for requesting an additional IT person. He said they have too much work for one person. Supervisor Gardner asked if this would monitor the corridor to Justice Court and the holding cell in Justice Court. Mr. Shawn Houston stated they will all be tied together. He stated the deputies at Justice Court will have a similar setup. Supervisor Lee asked if they put a camera and monitoring system in the bid. Mrs. Lynchard said she did not think so. Supervisor Lee asked if the cameras at Justice Court in Southaven could be used. Chief Smith said that system is pretty antiquated and he did not think they would be able to move it.

Mrs. Ford stated they are requesting a \$100,000 food increase. Supervisor Gardner said they knew the population was up and MDOC was not picking up prisoners. He asked if MDOC was current on their invoices. Sheriff Rasco said they are. He said they pay \$25 per day and the cost per prisoner is almost \$50 per day. Chief Smith said if the population continues to grow, they may have to have a discussion about hiring staff. He stated they are averaging about 100 state inmates. Chief Smith stated because they have incurred extra expenses because of COVID; they asked for \$40,000 reimbursement and were denied. He stated the expenses are from using disposables for meals. Supervisor Denison asked about city prisoners. Mr. Nowak stated they are county prisoners after they are bound over to the grand jury. Sheriff Rasco stated some cities bind them over to the grand jury right away and the County starts incurring costs sooner. Mrs. Lynchard stated the cities pay \$35 per day.

Supervisor Medlin asked about the \$119,000 admin increase. Mrs. Ford stated that was for the additional IT support person at \$47,696 before fringe benefits and \$74,890 for increased travel for extraditions, cell phones & laptops, and other expenses in admin. Sheriff Rasco stated if they don't do something about giving the jail employees a raise, they are going to continue to lose them.

Supervisor Gardner asked if vehicles were included. Mrs. Ford affirmed. Sheriff Rasco stated they will purchase 11 for patrol, 2 for K9, and 1 for CID. Supervisor Gardner asked if the maintenance costs in aviation would go down. Mrs. Ford stated they reduced that some last year. Supervisor Gardner asked if the armored SWAT vehicle was in the budget. Sheriff Rasco stated they are going to hold off on that. Supervisor Gardner said they have come back and adjusted in the middle of the year for ICAC, radios, and SROs. Chief Smith stated they do not anticipate coming back and asking for more.

Supervisor Caldwell asked about the SROs. Chief Smith stated they reduced them by one and moved that one over to the court division. He stated they doubled up at Lake Cormorant because of the need there. Supervisor Medlin asked if there was an SRO at the new school. Chief Smith affirmed and stated they have one in every school and two in the high-crime schools. Supervisor Gardner asked if they still had dead spots in any of the schools. Chief Smith stated Mr. Herring has shown them functions on their radios to have them hit off any tower. He stated they have to program their radio to the closest tower and that has helped tremendously. Sheriff Rasco stated they are talking about building two more schools on Hwy 305.

Supervisor Gardner asked how many officers were in the court division, not counting the transports. Chief Smith stated on a regular day they have two; but on a busy day five or six. Supervisor Gardner stated the Tax Collector is concerned about safety when Justice Court moves. Sheriff Rasco stated the jail employees will walk inmates over to Justice Court and stay with them when Justice Court moves. He stated he will put an officer at the Tax Collector's office.

Supervisor Caldwell asked what extra expenses they would need to calculate for ICAC. Mrs. Lynchard said they would have to add utilities. Supervisor Caldwell asked about expenses for the east side substation. Chief Smith stated they took the IT equipment out of there since they have computers in the cars. Supervisor Caldwell asked if all the new cars would need new equipment. Chief Smith stated they may have some totaled cars they can get equipment out of but that generally does not happen.

Supervisor Gardner asked if every officer had a take-home vehicle. Chief Smith stated the certified officers do. Supervisor Gardner said the department moved money out of the fuel budget last year and how they projected that this year. Mrs. Ford stated they increased that line by \$100,000 this year based on the unpredictable prices. Supervisor Denison asked how they got their rates. Mrs. Lynchard stated they have to bid out every time they purchase; but the Sheriff's Department gets a lot of their fuel with Fuelman cards. Supervisor Gardner asked how many

deputies use the fuel at the Road Department. Mr. Jarman said very few. Supervisor Gardner asked how many were full-time at the maintenance shop. Sheriff Rasco stated they have two people and they do not use inmates there anymore.

Supervisor Denison asked if they pre-bought all the ammunition. Mrs. Ford stated they normally budget \$90,000; but they did not put it in this budget since they ordered next year's in this year's budget. Supervisor Gardner asked if other agencies that trained at the range provided their own ammo. Chief Smith affirmed. Supervisor Gardner asked if other agencies paid to train. Chief Smith stated if the County is hosting, they usually do. Supervisor Caldwell asked who usually did the training. Chief Smith stated they have multiple guys in different departments. He stated they accident reconstruction training is excellent. Sheriff Rasco stated it is among the best in the country. Supervisor Caldwell asked if they were using the new equipment. Chief Smith stated they are and they took money from the reconstruction training to buy that equipment.

Mrs. Ford stated they added \$242,000 to service & maintenance. Chief Smith stated everyone who has contact with people on the streets will have a dash cam and a lot of that expense is for those cameras and support. Supervisor Gardner asked if they had wireless mics. Chief Smith affirmed.

Supervisor Gardner asked how many jail staff they are down. Mrs. Ford stated she thinks nine. Chief Smith stated they have hired two recently. Sheriff Rasco stated it is hard to get anybody who wants to work in the jail.

Supervisor Gardner said DeSoto County has the best public safety departments in the State with the Sheriff's Department, EMA, Fire Services, EMS & Paramedics. He stated when he started as a Supervisor the Sheriff's budget was \$13 million and, if the Board approves this budget and gives raises, this budget will be over \$28 million. He stated the Board appreciates what the Sheriff's Department does and asked that the Sheriff and Chief Smith let the officers know that the Board appreciates them and supports them.

Supervisor Caldwell echoed that thought and said thank you for all the Sheriff's Department does and that they do an incredible job for the people of DeSoto County.

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Michael Lee seconded the motion to take the Sheriff's requested budget under advisement.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Ray Denison, Third District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Michael Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u>

Building Projects -

Mrs. Lynchard stated Mr. Justin Zahner of Schafer, Zahner & Zahner would normally have presented to the Facilities Committee first; but the Board needed the information on the building projects for budgeting.

ICAC Addition –

Mr. Zahner stated the last bid for the ICAC Addition was \$816,000 on April 20th, which would have put the total project budget at \$902,000. He stated he felt like the bid at this time would be around the \$750,000 mark as steel costs have leveled out some. He stated that contractors were seeing such fast increases at the first of the year; they were bumping up their prices. He said he felt like it was prudent to say the total project would be around \$816,000 if they were to bid it now.

Supervisor Gardner said when the Sheriff's Department came with the presentation, they were talking about using six officers in ICAC. He asked if that number had changed to four. Chief Smith said no, they hired 5 officers, and put 4 into ICAC where there were already 2, so that made 6 in ICAC.

Mrs. Lynchard stated they put the budget to complete the project in FY22 at a total cost of \$827,131. She stated that does not allow for a contingency; but, if Mr. Zahner is correct, there would be a little contingency.

Supervisor Gardner stated that there have been a lot of soil issues with another project. Mr. Zahner stated they did geo tech and this building will be on helical piles which minimizes digging. He stated the piles will go 18-20 feet to good, solid dirt.

Mrs. Lynchard stated the budget numbers are a little different because the helicopter sale brought in more than expected. She stated that money will not be used for anything else. Supervisor Caldwell asked Mr. Zahner if he was comfortable going out for bid now or waiting. Mr. Zahner stated he did not think the Board would benefit by waiting. He stated the contractors he has been talking to know where the shortfalls are in material acquisition and they are a lot less worried than they were 6 months ago. Mr. Zahner said he thought the ICAC building was pretty straightforward and go to go out for bid.

Supervisor Gardner asked where the ICAC officers were currently working. Chief Smith stated they are in closets, cubicles, and anywhere else they can set up securely. Sheriff Rasco stated the guys that are doing digital forensics are top in the nation. Chief Smith stated they have one officer almost done with his certification and he will be top notch as well.

Supervisor Michael Lee made the motion and Supervisor Ray Denison seconded the motion to go out for bid on the ICAC project at this time as recommended.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Ray Denison, Third District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Michael Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u>

Old Jail Renovation-

Mr. Zahner stated they looked at renovations to 4 cell blocks for offices and came up with 2 options for minimal impact to the building. Features for Option 1 include:

- Taking out the current inmate yard and converting it into the main entryway
- Option 1 – Renovate Entire Facility
 - Open up entire center and create 4 office pods with total of 40 offices
 - 10,800 square feet on first floor
 - 5,280 square feet on second floor
 - Upstairs offices have window to interior and 2 windows to exterior
 - Each quad has separate entrance
 - Finishes comparable to all County office spaces
 - Entire roof, electrical system, 2 elevators
 - Cost \$7,268,800
- Option 2 – Renovate North 2 Pods
 - Same features
 - 6,295 square feet on first floor
 - 2,640 square feet on second floor
 - Cost \$3,879,750

Supervisor Lee asked what it would cost to build a new building of this caliber. Mr. Zahner stated new construction is about \$486 per square foot and the renovation is about \$350 per square foot. He stated the bathrooms are about \$450 per square foot. Supervisor Lee asked if this plan included parking. Mr. Zahner stated it does not include additional parking.

Supervisor Gardner asked how many spaces the E-Waste trailer takes up in that parking lot. Mr. Laughter said 4. The board discussed moving the E-Waste trailer. Mrs. Lynchard noted that if the District Attorney's offices moved, those space would be available in the admin parking lot. Mrs. Lynchard asked Mr. Zahner how this compared to the DA's current office space. He stated they would take up one quad. Mrs. Lynchard reminded the Board that in 2023, the County will

be its own judicial district.

Supervisor Denison asked if the County is currently leasing space for the Election Commission. Mrs. Lynchard affirmed and said they are getting a good deal; but the city needs the space. She pointed out that the Election Commission could store their equipment in an unfinished upstairs space.

Supervisor Gardner noted the County owns the building, it is convenient to other buildings, and right now is wasted space. Supervisor Lee stated the building will continue to get worse; and this is a prime opportunity. Supervisor Caldwell told Mr. Zahner she was impressed with how he took a sow's ear and it will be nice in appearance and very useful. Supervisor Medlin said he was cautious about renovating all that jail space for offices when the County might need it for juvenile space. Mr. Houston stated there is another pod connected to the juvenile side.

Mrs. Lynchard handed out a worksheet that included architect fees at 7.5% to give a better idea of the total costs.

Agri-Center:

Mr. Zahner presented the site design for the Agri-Center. Supervisor Caldwell stated she asked for an increase in the cost of materials and to put in the ball fields and tennis courts before the walking trails were designed. She said it made more sense to put them in place and have the walking trail go around them to be sure everything fit and nothing had to be redone. Mr. Zahner said he will need to know if the Board would want to do all the bidding at one time or put the ballfield and tennis court separately. Supervisor Caldwell said they will have to discuss bidding in parts or as a whole.

Supervisor Caldwell stated they will be asking for help with the sewer cost and General Boyles is asking the State to help with the concrete road up to the Armory.

Supervisor Gardner asked how many concession stands there were. Mr. Zahner stated there are two; the main one inside and a satellite one outside. Supervisor Gardner stated a lot of funding can come from concessions. Supervisor Caldwell agreed and said they can open up part of the ballroom area for people to sit and eat. She stated the outdoor bathrooms and concessions can be for youth livestock shows, saddle club shows, etc. She stated the goal is to make this facility more affordable for public use. She noted the large arena seats 2,000. Sheriff Rasco stated this is a great facility and DeSoto County needs it; but you have to have somebody who knows about horses and cattle to run it. Supervisor Caldwell agreed and said it will take good management. Supervisor Gardner said it might be time to get the committee back together.

Supervisor Caldwell stated she is very excited about the new extension agent working with them. She stated there is a committee of about 12 that has been working; and they have different interests. Mrs. Lynchard stated, depending on when this goes out to bid, that will determine if you hire a person to be a director or report to the Parks Department. Supervisor Caldwell stated Jason Morgan was the financial manager for Shelby Farms and he now works for the Landers Center. She said they have spoken with him about some financial aspects. Supervisor Gardner stated they also got some good advice early on from Brickly Miller who runs the MS Horse Arena in Starkville.

Supervisor Lee stated they talked about having the County Fair at the site. Supervisor Caldwell stated they have also been talking to the Mid-South Fair. She stated Todd Mastery has invited them to come look and talk about the financials. Sheriff Rasco stated stall facilities for horses and livestock are different. Supervisor Caldwell agreed and said they can do temporary tents with separate stalls for other livestock.

Supervisor Caldwell stated this is the whole site plan to be utilized for a small fair or large fair, ballfields, tennis court, walking trails, a 5K trail, and a trail around the whole facility.

Some highlights of the site plan:

- Cost for main building \$3,350,778 (building only)
- Arena is 42,000 square feet - \$1.8 million, includes seating, sound system, lighting, fans, roll up doors on 3 sides, tie back to original building
- Warm up building \$773,381, open sides and covered, lighting & sound system, adjacent

to bathroom

- Stall building \$789,144 with first aid station and wash racks for horses and cattle
- Restroom/Maintenance building \$387,554

Supervisor Lee stated one big concern was finding people that will let the 4-H kids show their cows as many don't have cows. Supervisor Caldwell stated the rabbit show in Jackson had 1,000 rabbits. Supervisor Gardner said he knew of someone who would love for kids to show his horses. Supervisor Medlin said they need to talk to the school system and see about adding agri-education. Supervisor Caldwell stated she has spoken to Mr. Uselton and they are talking about putting it at the Vo-tech center and they talked about getting FFA going.

Supervisor Lee asked if the price included tables and chairs. Mr. Zahner said he thinks they took that out because they felt they could order them separately for less money. Supervisor Lee stated they have been frugal with the design.

Mrs. Lynchard stated the budget is \$11,774,252 and that does not include architect fees or start-up costs. She said that is where the extra money came from. She stated they have been leaving on Mr. Zahner for direction on the walking trails and his contract does not cover those things. She stated he has agreed to amend his current contract to cover that and it would be cheaper to do so. Mr. Zahner stated as the project costs goes up, the architect fees go down. Mrs. Lynchard stated there is money from Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and LPA funds. She said if the Board accepts that money, it would be good to amend Zahner's contract. Supervisor Caldwell stated it really complicates things to have too many people; and she felt it would be better to use Mr. Zahner because he is trying to manage the whole site. Mrs. Lynchard stated other walking parks have not required an architect; but this one is much more strategic. Supervisor Gardner asked how wide the trail would be. Supervisor Caldwell said the 5k is 10 feet wide. Mr. Zahner stated he felt it would be advantageous to bid the Agri-Center separately from the walking trails, tennis courts, and ball fields. Mrs. Lynchard asked the Board to consider authorize Mr. Zahner to come up with a scope of work and contract amendment for the Board to consider at the September 7th meeting.

Mr. Laughter stated an LPA project requires and SPA engineer to oversee the project. He said he will check into that as the Board will not want to pay twice for oversight on a project. He also noted there is MS Wildlife & Fisheries and the pipeline money to work with.

Mrs. Lynchard stated the committee was careful in the design phase, but they also came to see that the more diversified the use, the more you can define your operating expenses. She stated they determined this facility is not going to support itself, but you have got to minimize the amount of operational expenses. She stated the key to who operates it is the key to how it works. She stated this person will need a hands-on approach. Sheriff Rasco stated one idea would be to go to dealerships and retailers to buy sponsorships of big shows.

Supervisor Lee stated this project has always been big. He stated the original design had 200 stalls and they cut it to 100 stalls. He said the committee asked questions and gave suggestions on how to make this work. He stated the ballfields, tennis courts, and walking trails were originally phase 2, but they moved them to phase 1.

Supervisor Caldwell said they looked very hard at what could be cut. She stated the Extension Services has outgrown their facility. She stated they have to have a certified kitchen to be able to teach programs and they did not want to under build so they could not grow the 4-H program. Mrs. Lynchard stated the covered warm up arena is something the other facilities in the state said was a necessity; and it is something the public can use without the cost being prohibitive. Supervisor Caldwell stated the other addition was the area from the warm up arena to the big arena being covered, because they found out from people that do shows that this is also necessary. Supervisor Medlin expressed concern that the Extension Service might move. Supervisor Caldwell stated they have worked closely with the Extension Service at MSU and told them the County did not want to build this building and not grow the program. She said they allowed her to sit in on the interviews when they hired the new agent.

Courthouse Renovation:

Mr. Zahner stated he is waiting for a price on the windows and will update the board to be sure they are still within budget. He stated the windows are the same style window made out of

powder coated steel with security and other glazing. He stated they are insulated and fixed. Mrs. Heffner asked the Board to consider them opening for ventilation in case the air goes out. Mr. Zahner said the next step is to verify the cost, meet with the Board and meet with Archives & History.

Mr. Zahner gave the following estimated timelines:

- Advertise ICAC now
- Bid the Agri Center in January 2022, 18 month construction period
- Courthouse – Working with window manufacturer to match windows & will take to Archives & History for input mid-November to mid-December –start renovations mid-January 2022
- Old Jail Renovation – advertise for bids March 2022

Debt – P 104-110 – Tab 200:

Mrs. Freeze gave the following report on debt:

- Fund 229 - 2012 GO Refunding Bond - .9 mills recommendation – Current fund balance \$2.6 million – pay off in 2024 – could potential use 2023 & 2024 millage somewhere else as there will be 2 years payments in the fund balance
- Fund 231 – 2013 \$10.5 million bond. Pay off in 2032 – recommendation to continue .5 mills
- Fund 232 – 2015 Refunding Bond – Pay off 2024 – will have 2- years payments in fund balance – recommend 1.2 mills
- Fund 233 – Debt recommended to refund 2015 E911 – paid for by #911 – No millage set aside, just a clearing account
- Fund 234 – 2016 GO Refunding Bond – partially pd by Civic Center - \$1,528,000 current – final payment on one of the funds we refunded - within this is November payment of \$456,000 – Enough in fund to make payment, another on November 2025 – Recommend .5 mills – in 2024 will have 2024 & 2025 funded in balance
- Fund 235 – 2020 GO Bond – Road Project Bond – Balance \$2,637,000 – recommend .95 mills – enough balance to make final payment in 2024

Mrs. Lynchard stated there is enough space in the budget to move 1 mill within debt service to debt very safely for a bond. She stated she asked Mr. Pittman and he said the County could issue a bond for \$17 million for a 10-year payback or \$24 million for a 15-year payback. Supervisor Gardner stated the County has the opportunity to build the ending cash balance. Mrs. Lynchard stated there was not a need for that. Supervisor Caldwell stated the County has funds they could use for the project they have been looking at. She stated this may be the opportunity to issue a bond. She stated the Transportation Commission thought about Holly Springs Road and other projects could be on a bond, and finishing up some of the other projects on the list.

Mrs. Lynchard pointed out that the true ending cash is projected to be \$34 million and the County is expected to hold that fund at \$28 million. Supervisor Gardner said \$28 million is the minimum to keep the county’s bond rating. Mrs. Lynchard affirmed. Supervisor Denison asked what the County used the 1 mill mandatory for. Mrs. Lynchard explained that money has to be kept in a separate fund until the County send the state information that the reappraisal has been done. She stated when the County gets the letter of approval to expend the avails of the 1 mill levy; then the money can be moved and used for regular expenses. She stated the .54 mills that used to be in the bridge fund was moved to general fund and saved. She stated that fund has built back up.

Page 13 - Facilities:

Line 901 – Capital Improvements - \$165,000 - Facilities Director Shawn Houston listed the following projects:

- New TPO roof on old jail and old juvenile part \$147,772
- Metal awning for back employee entrance at Juvenile
- Clock Tower – Blue tooth compatible sound system \$7,500
- Insulation project start - \$5,000
- 2 – Dodge 1500 trucks
- Utilities for National Guard Armory parking lot \$1600
- Upgrade Cummins contract to cover Fairhaven \$671

Supervisor Gardner said it seems like \$5,000 for insulation is low. Supervisor Denison agreed. He stated every instance could be a different scenario on which products would work best. Supervisor Lee suggested Mr. Houston see which buildings need insulation and get a better figure together. Mrs. Lynchard stated if the Board decides to move forward with the renovations at the old jail, the costs of the roof will go into that project.

Supervisor Gardner asked if the LED lights on the Courthouse are working. Mr. Houston stated they are at this time. He said the company that installed them has gone out of business. He said he found someone that had supplies and he is trying to get some shipped.

Page 42 –

002 -001 – 1 mill mandatory – expected to generate \$2,107,000 based on 95% collection
002-151 - Facilities - Mrs. Lynchard reminded the Board they have always put in an extra \$50,000 in case of a catastrophic event so Facilities could fix a building without a Board meeting. She stated the Board has transferred out of this fund for capital project in the past. She stated they could choose to allocate or leave it.

Page 44 –Unallocated Funds

\$3.6 million in the bank, expected to generate \$1.1 million

Page 45- Circuit Court Reports

Cash in bank \$47,000

DeSoto pays the bills and bills the other counties for what they owe monthly

Will work the same for Chancery

In 2023 DeSoto County will fund this 100%

Page 47 – Circuit Court Administrator

In 2023 when DeSoto become its own district the cash will be split back by appropriate percentages to the other counties

Small decrease in expenses because one retired and statute requires lesser salary for new person

Page 49 – Adult Drug Court

Self-funded

Supervisor Medlin asked if they pay rent. Mrs. Lynchard stated they paid for the renovations in lieu of rent for 15 years. \$180,000

Page 53 – Chancery Court Administrators

Mrs. Lynchard stated all the raises are in there now. She said Circuit began their state approved raises earlier, and Chancery waited until the new budget year.

Page 55 – Juvenile Drug Court

Grant decreased and Juvenile Drug Court decreased their expenses to match, about \$5,000

Their balance is from payment for testing – keeping to pay in case they lose their grant.

Page 56 – Sheriff's Canteen Fund

Line 033221 – Other Service Employees – Increase for 1 full-time and 1 part-time chaplain

Page 60 – EMA Grant

Grant pays for portion of Scott Sanko's salary

Supervisor Medlin asked about reimbursement from the tornado and older EMA deployments. Mrs. Lynchard stated they have gotten some later years' amounts back, but not earlier years. She stated the claims are still active. She stated the big tornado has been approved by FEMA and is now at MEMA. She said they are challenging a lot of the emergency purchases. Mr. Jarman stated they are appealing one of the rejections.

Page 64 – Coronavirus Aid Relief

\$17,961,699 was the first half that has been received.

\$10,000 approved by Board to a usable line item

Supervisor Gardner asked about paramedic overtime. Mrs. Lynchard said there was nothing out of the ordinary.

Mrs. Lynchard suggested budgeting sewer for the Amory and road out of it.

Supervisor Caldwell said they have not come up with anyone who can say how to use the money for broadband short of starting your own company. Mr. Nowak agreed and said the only explanation right now is to start a broadband district.

Page 65 – E911 Fund

Expected to generate \$1,850,000

Page 66 – Parks & Greenways

101-251 – TAP grant for walking trail at Agri Education - \$240,000 with \$60,000 match – not in Agri Ed budget – money will come out of money transferred to 101-001-387 from yearly parks money \$317,500

Applied for \$120,000 grant with MS Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks

101-278 – Lewisburg Sidewalk is LPA money. Mr. Jarman stated MDOT has the paperwork to approve and the difference of \$190,285 to \$323,000 will be paid from ending cash.

101-00-302 – Johnson Creek Greenway – Phase 1 – going away this year - \$1.3 million

Phase 2 will be going east

Page 67 -70 – Parks

Mrs. Lynchard stated that at this point the Parks Department is going from development to maintenance. Mr. Laughter went over the improvements:

- Ingram’s Mill Park – flagpole \$3,000 – Soccer Goals \$1,000 – expect to be finished this budget year
- Robertson Donald Park – Dirt work on field \$3,000 – Field Conditioner \$2,000
- Lake Cormorant Park – dugout repair \$3,000
- Hawks Crossing – New Park – Dirt work \$30,000 – Gazebo \$30,000 – Playground \$30,000 - \$80,000 is set aside for this project from Hook Shot Development
- Fairview Park – Seed & fertilizer \$2,000 – Field Conditioner \$3,000
- Johnson Creek Greenway – Landscape Materials \$2,000 – Phase 2 Engineering continued \$20,000
- Eudora Park – Landscape Materials \$2,000 – Tennis Court Benches \$2,500 – Ballfield fence repair \$3,500
- Cockrum Park – Walking trail repair \$3,000

Mr. Laughter stated the River Park is in good shape and Entergy should be starting on the lighting project any day.

Supervisor Medlin asked if any money needed to go to put in an all-purpose field in the grassy area at Ingram’s Mill. Mr. Laughter stated that should be about \$2,000.

Supervisor Caldwell questioned the amounts for the flagpole at Ingram’s Mill and the Eudora fence repair. Mr. Laughter stated they put the same flagpole at every park and that is the last quote he got. He stated some of the fence at Eudora has to be replaced and some repaired. He noted that the tennis court at Eudora has some spots bubbling up; but it is still under warranty. Mrs. Lynchard asked Mr. Laughter if he would have money left to do something with. Mr. Laughter affirmed.

Mr. Laughter stated Waggoner Engineering contacted the new landowner on the east side of the Johnson Creek project. He stated they have set aside some engineering money to start and he will be looking for grants to fund the project.

Lewisburg Sidewalk – Materials costs were high the first of June which increased the overall project. He stated when it goes out to bid, it may come back lower; but concrete has gone up significantly.

Agri Education Project – applied for grants and pipeline money

900-951 – Contracting grass cutting now, but Road Department still does a lot of work for parks
Ending cash balance of \$478,000

Page 71 – Garbage & Solid Waste

Funded with millage

Still same complaints and concerns regarding Waste Pro – missing pickups, bad customer

service, not answering phones or long wait times
Jerry is very responsive
Grant money from MDEQ – specifically for salary – Put it toward Mrs. McCarver’s salary

Household Hazard Waste is a very competitive grant. Because DeSoto has a HHW Day and it is a big event, DeSoto gets it. He stated the County will get reimbursed by the grant for the May HHWD; but if they did another event in October it would be in the next cycle. Supervisor Gardner said he is not opposed to the County financing one. Mr. Laughter stated that would cost about \$80,000; and as it grows, it is more expensive. Supervisor Lee stated they talked about having a dumpster for paint at Central Maintenance. Mr. Laughter stated they had 3 roll-off dumpsters full of paint at HHWD. Mr. Laughter stated they could put out a dumpster for ewaste, cardboard, tires and paint if there was room.

Line 338 – Reimbursement for January tornado if approved by MEMA
Lind 554 - \$5,000 added for additional consultant fees to rewrite the solid waste management plan, and closing the rubbish pit

Page 72 – Household Garbage

Biggest increase is \$250,000 in disposal fees
Line 583 - \$15,000 grant with no match
Tire waste – no increase, contract in place for 2 more years
Money for new ewaste and tire trailers
Rubbish 2.5% CPI increase \$30,000
\$35,000 for possibility of having to close the Sandidge Road Rubbish Pit

Page 73 –

Mrs. McCarver’s salary match
\$40,000 for closure plan and heat study
\$10,000 for north slope closure at rubbish pit

Page 74 – Volunteer Fire

Revenue from their 2 mills
Transfer in \$63,000 for utilities – If EMS station they get \$11,000, \$6,000 without EMS
R&R - \$25,000 each – very popular program
Optional building improvement - extra \$400,000 should be \$320,000, \$40,000 each for 8 departments. Supervisor Caldwell said each department has a different need and they said it would be beneficial for them to know what they are getting each year. She said they can use it to hire someone to man the fire department during the day, pay a secretary, or use for radios or equipment. She stated the County will have oversight; and this is similar to a grant.

See Exhibit I.2.

J. PLANNING

K. EXECUTIVE

There was no executive session at this meeting.

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Michael Lee seconded the motion to recess the Board meeting until Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Ray Denison, Third District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Michael Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u>

THIS the 7th day of September, 2021, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

Mark Gardner, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors