

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE****Thursday, June 7, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. - Conference Room, Weakley County Department of Finance****Public Safety Committee Members Present:** Commissioners Scott Fortner, James Bynum, David Hawks, Earl Wright, and Larry Hudson**Public Safety Committee Members Absent:** Commissioner James Roy Pope

The Public Safety Committee met on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room at the Department of Finance in Dresden. Others present included Mayor Jake Bynum, Director of Finance John Liggett, Emergency Management Director Dustin Kemp, 911 Director Christy Fulcher; Elections Administrator Alex Britt, Mark Melton from the Juvenile Office, Youth Services Officer Keith Jones, Clerk and Master Regina VanCleave, Circuit Court Clerk Jenny Killebrew, Greenfield Fire Department Chief Bob Dudley, General Sessions Judge Tommy Moore, Sheriff Mike Wilson, County Commissioners Dennis Doster, Gary Eddings, Eric Owen, and Roger Donaldson; Rick Workman and Jeff Washburn – Representatives from Weakley County Ambulance Service, Joyce Noles – Director of Medical Center EMS affiliated with West TN Healthcare, James Ross – CEO of West TN Healthcare, Eric Messner – Vice President for Ambulance Operations for Baptist Ambulance, other healthcare representatives, and three representatives of the media.

Chairperson Scott Fortner called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Wright made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2018, committee meeting, and with a second by Commissioner Hudson, the motion to approve passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2018-04**

Chairperson Fortner recognized Mayor Bynum who related how the county had originally approved this resolution to allocate funding to provide financial assistance for a new building for the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse located in Martin. He explained that the construction of the facility was contingent upon grant funding which the center did not receive, but the organization was donated a building. Mayor Bynum explained that the funds had already been budgeted and pointed out that the resolution did not specify that the funds would be used toward a new construction, and then said that the Carl Perkins Center has asked that we honor Resolution 2018-04 that obligated funds for the center. Discussion was had that the City of Martin and the City of Union City were both going to allocate funds for the center, but Obion County is not at present. Mayor Bynum said that the allocation has been built into the budget figures provided in the committee packets. Commissioner Hawks made the motion to recommend the support of the resolution contingent upon the numbers provided to the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, and the county's financial needs and other obligations, and with a second by Commissioner Fortner, the motion to recommend passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:****DISCUSSION OF AMBULANCE SERVICE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL [RFPS]**

Commissioner Hawks was recognized and asked whether all three ambulance service organizations present charge comparably for a basic run, pickup, or transport. Representatives from all three organizations explained at length that the charges depend and are based on a number of factors, including but not limited to fee schedules, base rates, insurance, providers, classification of emergency, level of care, type of transport, and how it all relates to Medicaid and Medicare. Commissioner Hawks said that he wanted to know why one entity is proposing a subsidy while the other two entities are not. Mr. Messner from Baptist Ambulance stated that his organization can perform the services without the subsidy because the average amount they collect per patient

in our surrounding counties is \$414 - \$443, and said that our county is already surrounded by Baptist Ambulances. He also stated that if the need arises, they will add more trucks as necessary.

Commissioner Wright said that there had been some response issues in the past with only 3 ambulances in the county, so after some discussion and the addition of a fourth truck, the response issues were resolved. He said that only Weakley County Ambulance Service was offering four trucks, with the addition of a fifth, and said that they were doing a great job. He said his recommendation is to keep the Weakley County Ambulance Service as the county's ambulance service provider.

Commissioner Hawks said that he had contacted some other counties who had Baptist Ambulance services, as well as West TN Healthcare's Medical Center EMS, and he said that they were both well recommended. He said he believed that Medical Center EMS is his choice due to the fact that they are now tied with the hospital and that he thinks it would be the best unified decision to help address the needs of the county's people.

James Ross, CEO of West TN Healthcare, was recognized and said that they had been building ambulance networks to strengthen communities like Weakley County's, and said that they are committed to having a supervisor, a run truck for emergency responses, and that if it's needed, they will add another appropriately staffed truck. He said that it would be great for the hospital and the ambulance service to work together as one entity, and they would love to have the opportunity to do that.

Chairperson Fortner asked for a roll call vote, and for the committee member to state the entity for whom they prefer after his name is called. Upon the roll call vote, the results were as follows: Larry Hudson – Weakley County Ambulance; David Hawks – Medical Center EMS affiliated with West TN Healthcare; Earl Wright – Weakley County Ambulance; James Bynum – Weakley County Ambulance; Scott Fortner – Weakley County Ambulance; for a total of one vote for Weakley County Ambulance, one vote for Medical Center EMS affiliated with West TN Healthcare, and one absent.

## **DISCUSSION OF BUDGETS**

Finance Director Liggett explained that the main increases across the board would be seen in the legacy plan contribution 2% increase, a 0.5% increase for the hybrid plan, and an insurance increase of 2.5%. He also said that there are state mandated raises for officials, but no raises for employees.

53100 – Circuit Court Clerk – Increase in line 194, Jury and Witness Fees. Circuit Court Clerk Jenny Killebrew stated that an upcoming murder trial in October would cost the county upwards of \$5,000 for the jury and associated costs.

53300 – General Sessions – Increase in 307, Communications. Circuit Clerk Killebrew said that Judge Moore is in need of a new cell phone.

54110-DCP – Drug Court Program – Judge Moore mentioned an increase in the Drug Court Director's salary, explained a bit about how the program's costs are split, how it's a grant, and talked a bit about program details.

53400 – Clerk and Master / Chancery Court – No increases. Clerk and Master VanCleave said the only change was moving monies previously budgeted in postage over to legal notices for the advertising of surplus auction sales.

53500 – Juvenile Court – Increase in line 102, Judge's Salary. Juvenile Director Keith Jones mentioned an increase in the Juvenile Court Judge's salary that was approved in the Finance, Ways, and Means meeting minutes from June 16, 2014, and was set to begin in September 2018. Mr. Jones acknowledged an increase in line 310 (Contracts with Public Agencies [Detention]) from the \$15,000 provided on the document to \$25,000 and cited the reason as the need for record keeping software.

53910 – Truancy Court – No changes.

53600 – District Attorney General – No changes.

54130 – Dispatchers – Director of Dispatch Christy Fulcher commented that her budget for 2018-2019 breaks out overtime, previously paid out of line 148 (Dispatchers), into its own line 187 (Overtime Pay).

54310 – Fire Prevention/Control – No changes.

54410 – Emergency Management – Shift in amount of salary, lines 103 and 105. Director Kemp said that there was an increase in line 336 due to the Polaris requiring additional repairs, an increase in line 399 for emergency notifications that each entity is now required to purchase, an increase in line 412 for the purchase of diesel gasoline relative to an increase in line 718 for the purchase of a newer vehicle for emergency services.

54410-ISIP – EMA Grant - No changes.

54420 – Rescue Squad – No changes.

54610 – Coroner/Medical Examiner – No changes.

55150 – Maternal/Child Welfare – Mayor Bynum mentioned the Carl Perkins resolution referenced under old business with the addition of the county's regular \$2500 contribution for the center's operational costs.

Commissioner Hawks made the motion to approve all of the budgets and recommend them to the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, and with a second by Commissioner Bynum, the motion passed with a vote of 4 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 absent.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

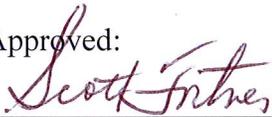
Having no other business, Commissioner Hawks made the motion to adjourn the meeting and with a second by Chairperson Fortner, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary  
Public Safety Committee

Approved:



Scott Fortner, Chairperson  
Public Safety Committee

Date: 6-11-18