

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Date of Meeting: October 24, 2023

Members Present: Committee Chair Jason Murray, Bill Hope, Randy Pore, ex-officio Pat Heydinger

Members Absent:

Others Present: Kevin Goshe, Nikki Harless, Nicole Foulks, Drew Miller, Sarah Soliday, Recording Secretary Amy Hackedorn

Others Absent:

The Board Budget & Finance Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, in the Board Room at Richland County Children Services. Committee Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. of Board Committee members present and representing a quorum.

2024 Purchased Services

RCCS Finance Director Kevin Goshe commented on the 2024 purchased services budget. The major difference between budgeted amounts for 2023 and 2024 is an allocation of \$300,000 for restroom remodeling, which would include architect fees as well. Many of the restrooms in this building have not been updated since 1992. This project would have to go out to bid if it is approved.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Hope, the Board Budget & Finance Committee members present unanimously agreed to recommend the 2024 purchased services budget.

2024 Pay Scale

The proposal is to increase the entire pay scale (minimums and maximums) by 3% for all pay ranges subject to further review. The last time this was increased was 2022. The goal is to keep us competitive when hiring and retaining staff.

On a motion by Hope, seconded by Pore, the Board Budget & Finance Committee members present unanimously agreed to recommend the proposed increase to the 2024 pay scale.

Pay Increases for RCCS Staff

The proposal is to give a 5% cost of living pay increase to staff (barring anyone going past the maximum of their respective pay range) effective in the first pay period of 2024.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Pore, the Board Budget & Finance Committee members present unanimously agreed to recommend a 5% cost of living pay increase for RCCS staff (effective the first pay period of 2024).

Asset Replacement Budget

Goshe explained that this document allocates funding for Agency assets that may or may not need maintenance. The access control system has been operating since 2014, and that company does not support it anymore. Goshe allocated funds to replace this system in 2024. The security system (also in operation since 2014) seems to be working adequately, so we may or may not need to replace this. The Fujitsu scanners were purchased in 2019 (which are used to scan paper documents into electronic case files). Some of these may need replaced and/or additional units added. The video surveillance system is not due for replacement until 2029. It could use some adjustments, but this can wait for now. The state was supposed to give us funding toward new Surface Pro tablets (which were last purchased in 2019) but they recently informed us that they do not have funding available for this purpose. Goshe allocates money for air conditioning and heating repairs every year just in case an issue pops up. The internal pipe inspection for the sprinkler system is completed every 4-5 years. Everything has looked ok so far, but the system is 30 years old at this point. After the October Board meeting, Goshe contacted the individual who was selling Chevy Malibus and he no longer has any available. Another vendor has a Ford Escape available, which would give us another 4-wheel drive vehicle for the winter. Average mileage for the remaining 2014 Ford Focus vehicles in our fleet is around 90,000. Local dealers typically cannot compete with the prices under the state contract. The state does have Honda vehicles under contract, so we could look at either Honda Civic or Honda Accord vehicles. Goshe will look into this option prior to the November Board meeting.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Hope, the Board Budget & Finance Committee members present unanimously agreed to recommend the 2024 asset replacement budget as presented.

2024 Budget

Budgeted revenue for 2024 is currently \$11,720,558.00, and budgeted expenses for 2024 are currently \$14,330,128.00. This results in a budgeted net income deficit of \$2,609,570.00. Goshe reminded the Committee members that he always budgets conservatively on the side of expenditures so that we do not need to adjust our budget later in the year and seek approval from the Commissioners. We budgeted the same number of staff positions for 2024 that we did for 2023. We may or may not receive another hold harmless payment from the Protect Ohio funding that was eliminated a few years ago. Placement costs are up even though we kept the payment amounts the same for 2024 as in 2023. Adoption expenses are down in total because the state took over the PASSS program payments. We usually have our whole budget approved by the Board of Commissioners right away once it is submitted.

On a motion by Murray, seconded by Hope, the Board Budget & Finance Committee members present unanimously agreed to recommend the 2024 overall budget and its components as presented in its entirety at the November Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was called to a close at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jason Murray, RCCS Board Budget & Finance Committee Chair

Amy Hackedorn, Recording Secretary