

**MINUTES OF A  
WORK SESSION  
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON  
JUNE 01, 2018**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Work Session on June 01, 2018, 8:30 a.m., Justice and Administration Building, Room A201, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Brian McMahan, Chairman  
Charles Elders, Vice Chair  
Boyce Deitz, Commissioner  
Mickey Luker, Commissioner  
Ron Mau, Commissioner

Don Adams, County Manager  
Heather C. Baker, County Attorney  
Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Chairman McMahan called the meeting to order and stated that this was an opportunity for the Board to hear from the non-profits that had made requests during the budget cycle. The presenters may want to provide feedback about the scope of their project and answer any questions that the Board may have. This would be an overview to provide additional information to the Board as they evaluated the budget before making decisions.

**(1) APPALACHIAN WOMEN’S MUSEUM:** Cathy Busick stated that they were an all-volunteer organization. The house had come a long ways due to the monies already provided by the county. The exterior and interior were painted and the porch had been repaired. They recently had over 400 people attend one of their events.

In the budget, they requested an additional \$16,500 due to the need for a heating and air system. They currently did not have any system and had to close the building down during cold weather. Also, they were slated to tie into the water and sewer when the Town of Dillsboro ran the pipe for an ADA bathroom that would be located nearby. They qualified to tap into that system, which was great because they did not have any indoor plumbing. When they tapped into the system, they would need a heat source so the pipes would not freeze.

Also, they needed climate control to bring in collections of artifacts. Currently, they were unable to borrow anything from the Western Carolina Mountain Heritage Center as they were very specific about having a climate controlled environment. They also obtained three bids and felt that \$16,500 was a good price for the HVAC. They also had allotted money for insulation and electrical work to support the HVAC system.

*Informational item.*

**(2) AWAKE CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER:** Renee Coward stated that when a child disclosed that they had been abused, DSS and/or law enforcement contacted AWAKE for an appointment for the child to be brought in. AWAKE conducted the forensic interviews of the child in a manner that was legally sound and with non-leading questions. They also offered to the family, at no cost, a child medical evaluation and trauma focused counselling for the child.

She joined the organization in 2014 when they no longer had the agreement from Mission Hospital for them to bring over a medical provider and they almost lost their accreditation. One of her first charges was to find a forensic interviewer on site and a medical provider. They were able to secure their own nurse practitioner doctor and had seen increased services that they could provide.

Total AWAKE Direct Services:

Year	Forensic Interviews	Child Medical Evaluations	Case Management	AWAKE Staff
2014	8	0	8	1FT 1 PT
2015	45	12	47	1FT 1 PT
2016	64	15	103	2FT
2017	77	43	134	3FT
As of May 31, 2018	30	27	70	3FT

Ms. Coward requested an increase in funding in the amount of \$5,273.58 to help with increased costs due of increased services.

*Informational item.*

**(3) COMMUNITY TABLE:** Paige Christie, Director and Charles Easton, Chairman were present for this item.

Ms. Christie stated that the Community Table provided meals four days a week from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for anyone that walked in the door. Also, on those days from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. they had the food pantry. In the first four months of the year, they saw 108 new households visit the pantry for the first time. Also, an increase in gas prices had affected their costs on food pickups. They requested an additional \$5,000.

Mr. Easton stated that the need was growing and they were serving people and they wanted to continue to do so. He thought they were doing a good job and had a good program.

*Informational item.*

**(4) MOUNTAIN MEDIATION SERVICES:** Lorraine Williams stated they provided services for adults and youth. They provided mediation for district court, families and youth services. The requested additional funding would be for the youth services, which included both prevention and addressing the need when young people made mistakes. That past year they trained over 3,000 youth in the area in bullying prevention and they worked with students in the classroom. They had six staff members and 30 volunteers that made all of their services happen. She requested an additional \$2,000 to help with the youth services.

*Informational item.*

**(5) STATE OF FRANKLIN HEALTH COUNCIL, INC.:** Marlene Vinson, Director and Jack Horton, Chairman, were present for this item.

Mr. Horton stated that the State of Franklin had been in existence for 50 years and operated several programs. It operated the Senior Employment Program for all seven western counties from Haywood to Cherokee. They had been asked to take on Region B as well for next year.

Ms. Vinson stated that they employed senior citizens 55 and over. They placed them in governmental agencies or non-profits. Jackson County had seven slots with most being in the Department on Aging. This was a training program where they could only stay on for four years. They requested an additional \$1,000.

*Informational item.*

**(6) UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES:** Kathy Cross stated they had been primarily supported by churches up to that point, but not as many people were attending church so the donations were not like they used to be. Over the past couple of years, the homeless shelter required more services from them. They also helped with dishes, appliances and beds to the entire population of the county.

There were days and times people needed food other than what was provided through the Community Table, so they came to them for items that were non-perishable. People also came to them for help with co-pays for prescriptions and for transportation help. During the winter months, they provided heating assistance as well. She requested an additional \$11,000.

*Informational item.*

**(7) FOREST SERVICE:** Paul Pittman stated there were two major items to address about the budget. There was a lot of turnover in the county and in the district. They found a portion of money that could not be spent as they could not find receipts for. Also, they requested to change the temporary smoke chaser position from an 8 month position to an 11 month position. This was mainly because a lot of times they were laid off in the summer, which was when they did the more advanced fire training. That would give them a third person that would be able to serve in a more advanced position on wildfires. They would also be able to help serve on other natural disasters as well. He requested that the county support the extra three months 100% to make it an 11 month position.

*Informational item.*

**(8) WEBSTER ENTERPRISES:** Joe Rigdon, CEO, stated that Webster Enterprises had 121 employees and trainees. They were a 5013c non-profit with a mission to provide job skills training and job opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment, disability or disadvantage. They support their mission through manufacturing efforts concentrating on medical devices and custom sewing goods.

What they did:

- They provided services to individuals in Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties.
- Focus on soft skills training that transcends to job opportunities.
- Provide employment skills training and on the job follow up support.
- Work with local high school students in preparation for employment through Pre-Employment Transitional Services (PETS).
- Prepare young adults with significant disabilities for success in integrated, competitive employment (PROJECT SEARCH).
- Volunteer outreach services in communities.
- Employees work in integrated manufacturing settings in Webster and Sylva to support the mission.

Mr. Rigdon requested \$35,000 to help fund the youth programs because of the expected increase in the number of students in the program.

Mr. Adams stated that this was not a new funding relationship. There was a funding arrangement made a few years ago and in accordance with that agreement, it would be the next fiscal year before they were to receive the \$35,000.

Mr. Rigdon stated that four years ago, they were expanding operations. They had a sewing facility they had been leasing and they came to the Commissioners at that time and requested extended funding to surpass the one year that they were getting annually on a five year plan. They were four years into that plan and they received an invitation from the County Finance Office to apply for grant funding. Knowing the history, he requested a meeting with Mr. Adams to discuss. He was comfortable to try and move that forward one year because of what he felt they had done and they had been very diligent with the funds.

Mr. Adams stated they were already in an annual funding cycle, but the request four years ago was to front multiple funding years in one year to help with the capital needs. It was one year earlier, so the \$35,000 was not a new expense, this was about the need for this to be one year earlier.

*Informational item*

(9) **ARTS COUNCIL**: Gayle Woody stated they were established 42 years ago and they were a non-profit. Their mission was to celebrate the art and artists of the county. They had four new aspects she wanted to highlight:

- They purchased a used grand piano for \$10,000, which was money they had in a savings account. It was placed in the community room of the Arts Council for community events.
- They had a new board member from Cashiers.
- They would be doing programming with the Appalachian Museum.
- The board was made up of volunteers and they had two members from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The arts council worked hard to serve people from birth to senior. Their main funding was through the North Carolina Arts Council and that money fluctuated based on legislative mandates. They also received program specific grants. Approximately \$50,000 in funding went into the community. Also, they provided funds for supplemental supplies for schools as their supply money had been cut drastically. She requested an additional \$3,000 to help with the school supply needs.

*Informational item.*

(10) **CASHIERS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**: Stephanie Edwards, Executive Director and Debbie Hattler, Board President were present for this item.

Ms. Edwards requested incremental funding of \$5,000 to support community signage as part of an effective county destination and wayfinding program. This includes the design, manufacture and installation of five distinctive designation signs.

The total project cost for all signs was estimated to be \$27,868. The Chamber provided direct funding of \$14,398, received an additional \$4,820 in-kind support and a \$2,500 JCTDA grant.

*Informational item.*

(11) **JACKSON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**: Julie Spiro, Executive Director, presented a video of some of the highlights of the past year showing their accomplishments. With the help of the county's financial support and the partnerships they had with other local leaders and agencies, they would continue to give back to the community.

*Informational item.*

(12) **SOUTHWESTERN CHILD DEVELOPMENT**: Sheila Hoyle, Executive Director; Dr. Marilyn Chamberlin, Director of Operations and Development; and Vicki Lewis, Nursing Supervisor, were present for this item.

Dr. Chamberlin stated that they rented the Family Resource Center to anyone at an inexpensive rate of \$25 for two hours. They also did several programs in house, including a respite program for parents to have a break free of charge, family parenting classes free of charge and a parenting support group. They were working on a volunteer base system.

The Christmas Connection was a program that provided gifts to children from families in need of assistance. They defined "in need of assistance" as families that qualified for and/or receive Food Stamps. One in four children in the county qualified for the service. They spent \$75 to sponsor one child. They anticipated that the number of children in need would increase. She requested an additional \$5,000 for the Christmas Connection Program.

Ms. Lewis stated that the Nurse Family Partnership was a national program that served first time, lower income mothers. The clients entered the program at or below 28 weeks in their pregnancy and then were followed until their infant was two years of age. Jackson County had 34 clients currently. They had a great opportunity and saw great results.

*Informational item.*

There being no further business, Commissioner Deitz moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mau seconded the Motion. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Attest:

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Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Approved:

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Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman