

**Official Minutes of
MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

July 10, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners met in a workshop session in Commission Chambers at 9:51 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF WORKSHOP BY CHAIRMAN MICHELLE STONE

Chairman Stone advised that the workshop was scheduled this morning regarding the fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025 proposed budget.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting opened with an invocation by Chairman Stone and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.

9:00 AM ROLL CALL

Upon roll call the following members were present: Chairman Michelle Stone, District 5; Commissioner Craig Curry, District 1; Commissioner Matthew McClain, District 3; and Commissioner Carl Zalak, III, District 4. Vice-Chairman Kathy Bryant, District 2, appeared telephonically. Also present were Clerk Gregory C. Harrell, County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Angel Roussel, ACA Tracy Straub, ACA Amanda Tart, and Executive Director of Internal Services Mike McCain.

OPENING REMARKS – Audrey Fowler, Budget Director

Budget Director Audrey Fowler presented a 5 page handout entitled, "Marion County Board of County Commissioners Budget Adjustments Tentative Budget Fiscal Year 2024-25, Adjustments through July 9, 2024". She referred to the handout and advised that the 2 notable changes/revisions in the General Fund are for the Municipal Service Taxing Units (MSTU) Assessments Vehicle Revisions in the amount of \$49,822.00 and a Public Safety Radio Revision in the amount of \$40,787.00, which were added into the Reserve for Contingencies bringing that new total to \$1,407,520.00. She commented on revisions to the Utilities Reserve for Future Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$847,326.00 and the Solid Waste Reserve for Future Capital Outlay Fund in the amount of \$500,000.00, as reflected on page 5 of the handout.

Ms. Fowler addressed the Board direction yesterday to change the name of the MSTU Department to the Municipal Services Department, noting there are several positions that have MSTU in their title. She requested the Board allow her to work with the Human Resources (HR) Department to update those job titles as appropriate. It was the General consensus of the Board to concur.

In response to Chairman Stone, Ms. Fowler clarified that the millage rate for the Fine & Forfeiture Fund is currently at 0.8300 of a mill and the MSTU for Law Enforcement is at 3.7800 mills.

NEW BUSINESS: County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes provided a brief update relating to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects and funding, noting more information will be brought before the Board at the regularly scheduled Board of County

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Commissioners (BCC) meeting on August 6, 2024. He stated staff are still working to quantify the impact from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) changes (i.e., minimum wage, overtime, etc.). Mr. Bouyounes opined the impact to the General Fund should not be more than \$50,000.00.

OPENING REMARKS – Jeff Fuller, Court Administrator

Court Administrator Jeff Fuller appeared to review the proposed FY 2024-25 budgets for Cost Center 210, Court Administrator (page 80); Cost Center 211, Court Administration Technology (page 81); Cost Center 213, Circuit Court Judges (page 83); Cost Center 214, Circuit Court Judges Technology (page 85); Cost Center 215, Circuit Court Judges Legal Research (page 87); Cost Center 216, Circuit Court Legal Research Technology (page 88); Cost Center 218, County Court Judges (page 89); Cost Center 219, County Court Judges Technology (page 90); Cost Center 260, Law Library (page 92); Cost Center 264, County Court Summary Claims Mediation (page 96); Cost Center 265, Family Mediation (page 97); Cost Center 266, Pre Trial Release, (page 98); Cost Center 267, Other Circuit Court Juvenile (page 100); Cost Center 280, Teen Court (page 103); Cost Center 282, Drug Court (page 105); Cost Center 283, Drug Court Expansion (page 107); Cost Center 284, Misdemeanor Drug Court (page 109); Cost Center 290, DUI Court (page 111); Cost Center 291, Veterans Court (page 112); Cost Center 292, Mental Health Court (page 114); Cost Center 260, Law Library (page 292); Cost Center 261, Community Legal Services of Mid Florida (page 294); Cost Center 270, Court Innovations Staff Attorney (page 295) and Cost Center 272, Juvenile Alternative Program Drug Court (page 297). Also present were Administrative Circuit Judge Lisa Herndon and Courts Operation Manager Kristina Devaney.

Mr. Fuller expressed appreciation to the Board for their support. He advised that the only increases in the budgets are due to increased wages and healthcare costs, as well as a request to replace and upgrade a wireless access point system as reflected in Cost Center 214, Circuit Court Judges Technology (page 85).

Mr. Fuller commented on the partnership the Department has entered into with the County relating to the Law Library, noting the Law Library is fully up and running and is averaging approximately 70 to 80 visitors per day.

Mr. Fuller addressed the “Problem Solving Court” programs, noting Marion County is one of the leaders in the State of Florida regarding the level of services (LOS) these programs are able to provide.

Mr. Fuller introduced Alina Stoothoff, Senior Court Operations Consultant.

Senior Court Operations Consultant Alina Stoothoff provided an overview of several Court programs including Early Childhood Courts and Family Treatment Courts. She commented on the cost avoidance provided by these and other programs, noting Mental Health and Veterans Treatment Courts alone provide the County with a savings of \$231,519.00 not including Court costs. Ms. Stoothoff noted last year, Drug Court programs saved the County approximately \$971,379.00. She stated these estimated savings are based on 25% of the costs to house an inmate at the Marion County Jail, which is where many of these individuals would end up if not diverted to a treatment program. Ms. Stoothoff advised that Marion County has the most problem solving Courts of any County in the 5th Circuit, noting it is predominantly due to the support of the BCC. Commissioner Bryant commented on the positive changes these programs offer not only to offenders, but also to their families.

Mr. Fuller referred to the savings provided by the General Magistrate position funded by

the County through Cost Center 213, Circuit Court Judges (page 83), noting this position makes an impact by helping to move cases along in hopes of family reunification and/or resolutions.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Court Administration budget.

Chairman Stone opined that these programs make the community better.

In response to Chairman Stone, Ms. Stoothoff stated the Opioid crisis is causing a significant growth in the number of participants in the Problem Solving Courts program.

Chairman Stone commented on the Opioid Settlement Funds, noting there may be an opportunity to add additional support when that time comes.

OPENING REMARKS – Jimmy Cowan, Property Appraiser

Property Appraiser Jimmy Cowan appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024–25 budget for Cost Center 113, Property Appraiser – Transfer (page 38).

Mr. Cowan advised that Marion County's taxable value has seen remarkable growth exceeding \$34,000,000,000.00 in the 2024 preliminary assessment roll, marking a 14 percent (%) increase over last year, with \$2,087,000,000.00 in taxable value attributed to new construction.

Each year, on or before July 1, the Property Appraiser's Office (PAO) submits an assessment roll to the Department of Revenue (DOR) for review and approval based on set standards and measures per DOR guidelines. As required by Florida Statutes (FS) 195.087 the PAO submitted its 2024/25 budget to DOR on May 31, 2024 for its review and budget approval. A copy of the budget was also submitted to the BCC.

Mr. Cowan advised that following discussions with the DOR the budget was reviewed and resubmitted on June 5, 2024 and a copy of the revised budget was also submitted to the BCC. The revision resulted in a slight reduction from the original submission. The PAO proposed budget for 2024/25 is \$6,585,917.00 reflecting a 3.67% increase or \$233,201.00 over the previous year's budget. He stated the amount contributed to the General Fund for 2024/25 is \$4,950,171.00, reflecting a 3.42% increase (\$163,731.00) over last year's budget. The increase in budget is attributed to the following major factors: 1) Florida Retirement System (FRS) rates; 2) rise in operating expenses; and 3) 4% pay increase for employees.

Mr. Cowan stated it was the goal of the PAO to continue to operate in a manner that is fiscally conservative and responsible, while ensuring the Office has adequate resources that will allow staff to execute the duties and responsibilities as required by law.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Mr. Cowan advised that the Property Appraiser's Office will be staffed during the County's Budget Public Hearings, noting anyone from the public who attends those hearings and has questions regarding the value assessment on their property will be directed to the PAO.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no more questions in regard to the Property Appraiser's budget.

OPENING REMARKS – Michael Graves, Public Defender

Public Defender Michael Graves appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 200, Public Defender Administration (page 77); Cost Center 201, Public Defender Technology (page 78); Cost Center 202, Public Defender LOV (page 79); and Cost Center 268, Early Intervention Program (page 102).

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Mr. Graves expressed his appreciation to the BCC for its support and continued partnership to help provide appropriate representation for everyone in the community, as well as helping to increase the efficiency of cases within the criminal justice system.

Mr. Graves stated this FY the Public Defender's Office budget remains substantially unchanged and increased by approximately 5%. He commented on the increase in salaries, which includes an early intervention lawyer, which the BCC funds in order to assist the Department in trying to monitor and alleviate jail overcrowding. Mr. Graves advised of the increase in utility costs, which have almost doubled this year, due to the addition/expansion of the Public Defender's Office. He commented on the working relationship with the State Attorney's Office, noting both Departments have shared the costs to switch from Barracuda to Fortinet because it is a better product to prevent cyber-attacks. Mr. Graves stated there is an increase in Information Technology (IT) storage costs attributed to body cameras, noting 2 years ago the BCC budgeted an additional \$40,000.00 to assist in finding an employee to help watch body cameras; however, the Department could not find anyone to fill that position, so the funding was returned. He advised that the Department was able to find an artificial intelligence (AI) solution to address that issue. Mr. Graves provided an example of how the AI solution works to lessen the time it takes to review body cameras. He stated Marion County's cost share for the AI program is approximately \$11,000.00.

Commissioner Curry questioned the decrease in line item 541101, Communication Services. Mr. Graves stated the Department has changed the provider for the computer communication services and made a change in warranty providers.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no more questions in regard to the Public Defender's Office budget.

OPENING REMARKS – William Gladsen, State Attorney

State Attorney William "Bill" Gladsen appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 268, Early Intervention Program - (page 102); Cost Center 205, State Attorney (page 223); Cost Center 206, State Attorney Technology (page 224); and Cost Center 207, State Attorney LOV (page 226). Also present were Executive Director Bridget Kiefer, Fiscal Director Kathy LaCorte, Assistant State Attorney Cindy Harper, and IT Director Brett Smith for the State Attorney's Office (SAO).

Mr. Gladsen commented on the unique partnerships between Departments in Marion County, noting it makes a big difference in the delivery of services. He stated he is proud that Marion County has so many Diversion Courts. Mr. Gladsen commented on the good relationships the Department shares with the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), City of Ocala, Ocala Police Department (OPD), Dunnellon and Belleview Police Departments, as well as the Clerk of Court.

Executive Director Bridget Kiefer noted she will be retiring, and Ms. Harper will take her position as Executive Director. She expressed her appreciation to the BCC for all its support and noted the Judicial Center's fourth floor buildout for the State Attorney's Office is coming to fruition.

Chairman Stone passed the gavel to Commissioner Zalak who assumed the chair.

Commissioner Stone out at 10:21 a.m.

Ms. Kiefer thanked Jim Huber (Facilities Department) and Jodi Shoemaker (Procurement Department) for their help in selecting a contractor for this project.

Ms. Kiefer addressed the increase in growth in Marion County, noting the SAO will have 12 new lawyers hired beginning in August. She advised that the Department is asking

the Legislature for additional funding for growth in positions and salaries, noting it will be critical to have that extra space on the fourth floor. Ms. Kiefer stated over the past 20 years, the 5th Judicial Circuit has grown significantly in order to keep up with population growth.

Commissioner Stone returned at 10:23 a.m.

Chairman Zalak returned the gavel to Commissioner Stone, who resumed the Chair.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Mr. Gladsen advised that Marion County has more cases than the other 4 Counties, noting Marion County had 25,940 criminal cases last year. He provided a brief breakdown of those cases (felonies, misdemeanors, and juvenile cases). Mr. Gladsen clarified that the Public Defender's Office only handles indigent cases, as the others have private attorneys, whereas, the SAO has the responsibility to prosecute all cases.

In response to Commissioner McClain, Mr. Gladsen stated the SAO has 242 full time employees (FTE)s.

Ms. Kiefer advised that each of the 5 Counties in the 5th Judicial Circuit have a pro rata share based on case counts and workload, noting Marion County Marion County has 35% of the pro rata share of the budget.

General discussion ensued.

Ms. Kiefer commented on crimes aimed at the elderly population (i.e., scams), noting the SAO spends a lot of effort on education and prevention through community workshops.

Ms. Kiefer stated the vast majority of the increase in the budget is due to the Capital Outlay for the fourth floor buildout project, especially relating to IT needs.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Ms. Kiefer advised that the SAO does not currently have multi-factor authentication for its IT system, noting Mr. Smith is currently working towards that process.

IT Director Brett Smith noted there are IT breach attempts from across the world on a daily basis.

Commissioner Curry expressed his appreciation for the working relationships between all Departments in Marion County.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Mr. Gladsen advised that during the COVID-19 pandemic, depositions were being performed remotely, noting that practice has continued. He stated it has proven to be more efficient than previous processes.

Chairman Stone wished Ms. Kiefer the very best in her retirement.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no more questions in regard to the State Attorney's Office budget.

OPENING REMARKS – Wesley Wilcox, Supervisor of Elections

Supervisor of Elections Wesley Wilcox appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 123, Supervisor of Elections – Transfers (page 41).

Mr. Wilcox expressed his appreciation for the relationships between the BCC and other Constitutional Officers in Marion County. He advised that the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) budget is totally different than any other Department in the County as it relates to a budget year, noting there will be 2 Countywide elections this year (a once every 4 year event). Mr. Wilcox stated the vast majority of the Department's expenses will be concluded by the end of November 2024.

Mr. Wilcox noted tomorrow will begin the vote by mail process (domestically) with approximately 31,000 ballots to be delivered to the Post Office. Sample ballots are available at www.votemation.gov. He advised that the Department is approximately 75%

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through the election worker training cycle and expressed his appreciation to citizens for stepping up to be election workers, noting there will be nearly 1,000 people working on election day.

Commissioner Bryant stated this will be her fourth time sitting on the Canvassing Board with the SOE and opined there is not a finer Office in the State of Florida.

Mr. Wilcox stated he is very proud of the work performed by his team.

Commissioner Curry noted he has served on the Canvassing Board and was very impressed by how secure the system performed.

Mr. Wilcox stated the SOE does have the multi-factor authentication for its IT system.

Chairman Stone stated the BCC has observed the local voting process and has total confidence in Mr. Wilcox and his staff.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Supervisor of Elections Office budget.

OPENING REMARKS – George Albright, Tax Collector

Tax Collector George Albright appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024–25 budget for Cost Center 126, Tax Collector - Transfer (page 42).

Mr. Albright advised that the Tax Collector's Office performed 996,000 transactions last year, noting many of the transactions are occurring by people who reside in other Counties. He commented on the number of people being "paroled" into the United States (US) and moving to the State of Florida. He clarified that is the new term being used for illegal aliens who are "paroled in place" and given temporary legal status and who are allowed to apply for driver's license.

In response to Chairman Stone, Mr. Albright stated he is unsure whether the driver's licenses issued to paroled in place persons is for a shorter duration than for American citizens. He clarified that a paroled in place person cannot register to vote.

Mr. Albright advised that the Tax Collector's Office will be giving \$100,000.00 in turn back monies to the Board.

Mr. Albright advised of the "round-up" system being considered by Tax Collector's Offices throughout the State, noting if someone comes in and spends \$39.23, staff will ask if that person wants to round-up that dollar for charity. He noted the Tax Collectors Association is working with DOR to ensure that everything is legal prior to moving forward. Mr. Albright advised that his Office provides mailers for tag renewals, noting there is space available (per weight) for another piece of paper in those mailers. He stated he has a Marion County Parks and Museum Guide being printed up to be included in those mailers.

Chairman Stone expressed her appreciation to Mr. Albright for always being so innovated in thinking how to partner with others and for putting the County's best foot forward.

Mr. Albright advised that his budget does include a 4% salary increase for employees at a cost of \$210,000.00 (\$279,273.00 with health insurance, social security, etc.) and Operating costs increased by \$108,000.00.

Mr. Albright stated the Tax Collector's Office, in partnership with the Tourist Development Council (TDC), will double its efforts to continue to expand the rental base list that is subject to the Tourist Development Tax.

Commissioner Zalak noted there are approximately 5,500 to 6,000 short term rental properties in Marion County.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Albright stated with the software the Department has, he can continue to collect local monies the BCC deems appropriate (i.e., Tourist Development Tax) similar to collecting fees for park passes, fees for copies of birth certificates, etc.

Commissioner Curry advised of a program offered by the American Automobile Association (AAA) relating to teenage drivers and questioned whether the Tax Collector's Office offers that program. Mr. Albright advised that child mortality rates in automobile accidents are second only to drowning, noting the Marion County Hospital District Board of Trustees is working on an advertising campaign to address and educate the public on both issues. He commented on the importance of making young drivers aware of driver safety, noting he is waiting to hear back from AAA to reinstate the program. Mr. Albright stated if there is any information (pamphlets) the BCC wants his staff to hand out at the Tax Collector Offices 8 locations, he will ensure that it happens.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there were no further questions in regard to the Tax Collector's Office budget.

OPENING REMARKS – Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Gregory C. Harrell appeared to review the proposed FY 2024–25 budgets for Cost Center 110, Clerk to County Commission – Transfer (page 36); and Cost Center 110, Clerk to County Commission – Transfer (page 220).

Clerk Gregory C. Harrell thanked Budget Director Audrey Fowler, Assistant Budget Director Jaime McLaughlin and the rest of the Clerk's Budget team (Cathy Flaherty, Lexi Roberts, and Miguel Figueroa) for the hard work they do in preparing the County's budget. He expressed his appreciation to the Board, County staff and Administration for their continued partnership.

Clerk Harrell commented on the excellent work performed by the Clerk's Finance Department in receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) award for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the 39th year in a row. He stated the Clerk's Office received the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Finance Reporting (PAFR) for the past 2 years. Clerk Harrell advised that he was pleased to report that the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers Association has, over the past several years, developed its Best Practices program with 12 eligible areas where a Clerk's Office can obtain or earn Certificates of Excellence in Financial Reporting, noting the Marion County Clerk's Office has earned those Certificates. He advised that 2 of the Certificates related to services provided with Marriage License applications, noting the Marriage License Department has started a new online appointment feature; and the other Certificate relates to public records requests.

Clerk Harrell referred to page 36 of the Proposed Line Item Budget book, noting there are no new position requests this year. He advised of the request for a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) that is consistent with the requests by the SOE and the PAO. Clerk Harrell stated there are a few slight salary adjustments in the budget in order to attract and keep good talent. He advised that there is a \$17,000.00 expense related to the Internal Audit Department, noting the Clerk's Office has begun the process of contracting with an external audit company that specializes nationwide in looking at Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) for Counties. Clerk Harrell commented on the expenditures of ARPA funds and the importance of ensuring those funds are spent appropriately and according to Federal processes and guidelines.

The Clerk's Office is also the Ex-Officio Clerk to the BCC and performs key duties

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including maintaining custody of all County Ordinances, Resolutions, as well as contracts and agreements executed by the Board. Clerk Harrell advised that the Clerk's Office Commission Records Department is responsible for this process. He addressed the need to begin scanning and imaging each of the County's contracts and agreements, noting these documents go back many, many years. Clerk Harrell opined that it is time for this to be done so that those documents are readily available to County staff as well as the public, noting there will be an expense for this process.

Clerk Harrell commented on IT cyber security concerns, noting the biggest threat to Clerk and Comptrollers, as the handler of County money throughout the State, tends to be the weakness in the systems of the vendors. He advised that there was a Clerk in the Panhandle that issued a \$1,000,000.00 payment to a vendor that was hijacked and altered and then went to the wrong destination, noting the same thing happened in St. Johns County to the tune of \$800,000.00. Clerk Harrell stated there is a vendor that provides up to \$2,000,000.00 in coverage if any payment does not go to the proper destination. He stated there would be an upfront cost and then a lesser amount for a yearly subscription to this vendor.

In response to Chairman Stone, Clerk Harrell stated the County does have "positive pay" (fraud protection system that prevents unauthorized checks and automated clearing house (ACH) transactions from being paid). He clarified that the County is moving towards ACH for all of its vendors, noting this will be tied to that service to offer further protection. It was the general consensus of the Board that there were no further questions in regard to the Clerk's Office budget.

OPENING REMARKS – William "Billy" Woods, Sheriff

Sheriff William "Billy" Woods, MCSO, appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024–2025 budgets for Cost Center 116, Sheriff Jail Transfer (page 39); Cost Center 117, Sheriff Emergency Management Transfer (page 40); Cost Center 118, Sheriff Regular Transfer (page 221); Cost Center 119, Sheriff Bailiff Transfer (page 222); Cost Center 120, Sheriff Patrol CID Transfer (page 331). Also present were Chief Deputy Robert Douglas, Bureau Chief Jerry Holland, and Finance Director Jeremiah Powell.

Sheriff William "Billy" Woods commented on the television (TV) show "Chopper Cops", noting the success of that series is due to the support given to the Sheriff's Office. He expressed appreciation to Commissioner Zalak, who has always supported the MCSO Aviation Unit.

Sheriff Woods commented on the studies that were performed relating to the staffing needs at the Marion County Jail, as well as for Patrol Deputies, noting the personnel recommendations from those studies are reflected in this budget. He addressed the population growth and opined that people are coming to Marion County because they want to feel safe, noting these additional positions are key to achieving that goal. Sheriff Woods advised that since he took office, all crimes in Marion County have been reduced by almost 12%, noting that information is included in the letter he previously provided to the Board. He commented on the 14% increase in calls for service (approximately 251,000 calls last year), and noted a large number of those calls were related to mental health issues and drug overdoses. Sheriff Woods stated the jail population has been holding at approximately 1,900 inmates. He clarified that he does not consider a high population at the jail a bad thing, noting it reflects that law enforcement and the State Attorney's Office are doing their job of protecting citizens.

Sheriff Woods advised that pay increases are also included in the budget and commented

on the importance of keeping the starting pay competitive, noting his target is to eventually bring the starting pay up to \$60,000.00. He noted all jails and prisons throughout the State struggle to hire and keep employees.

Commissioner Bryant questioned whether the MCSO was receiving any royalties from the TV show "Chopper Cops". Sheriff Woods stated the MCSO does not receive any royalties. He advised that there is staff time utilized to review the entire video to ensure that certain items are redacted as required by law, noting the MSCO is in negotiations with Paramount Studios to determine whether the studio will pay for that employee to review and redact what is legally required.

Commissioner Zalak expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Woods and his staff for going above and beyond to help partner with other Counties when needed. He advised of his support for the Sheriff's budget, noting some tweaks may need to be made in the MSTU for Law Enforcement Fund in order to maintain a flat millage rate.

General discussion ensued.

Sheriff Woods commented on the proposed One Cent Sales Tax and the importance that funding would be to all first responders.

General discussion ensued.

In response to Chairman Stone, Ms. Fowler clarified that the amount to be reduced in the MSTU for Law Enforcement Fund is \$1,434,275.00, noting there is \$83,140.00 in Reserves that could be applied to that and bring the amount of reduction needed down to \$1,351,135.00 in order for the millage to remain flat at 3.7200 mills.

Sheriff Woods commented on the increase in cost for the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

In response to Mr. Bouyounes, Ms. Fowler advised that the Cost Allocation on page 332 is for internal services (i.e. facilities) and the Transfer to the General Fund is the MCSO's cost share for the Public Safety Communication Center. She advised that the cost to the MSTU for Law Enforcement for the Public Safety Communication Center increased by \$943,000.00 as reflected in line item 591001, Budget Transfer to General Fund (page 333).

General discussion ensued in regard to funding vacant positions.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Bureau Chief Jerry Holland stated there are currently 7 vacancies; however, there are 10 applicants going through the training process at this time.

General discussion resumed.

Sheriff Woods advised that there are currently 45 vacant Detention Deputy positions, noting there are several recruits that are currently still in school and will be graduating soon. He stated there are also a number of applicants that are going through the beginning of the recruitment process. Sheriff Woods commented on Detention Assistant positions, noting all those positions are currently filled; however, some of those Detention Assistants will also be going through recruitment school.

Sheriff Woods addressed the new pods being built at the jail due to inmate population increases, noting it is important to have the staffing available once the project is complete. Commissioner Curry commented on the difficulties the County has faced over the past several years (recession, COVID-19 pandemic, etc.), noting the County is still trying to catch up on unfilled positions.

In response to Commissioner McClain, Bureau Chief Holland stated the timeline to bring a recruit through the process of becoming a Deputy takes approximately 9 months.

Commissioner Curry questioned what kind of pressure undocumented inmates are

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putting on the jail population. Sheriff Woods advised that in 2022 there were 189 non-United States (US) citizens in jail; in 2023 there were 121; and to date in 2024 there were 83. He stated there were 48 US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol detainees with 43 of those picked up by ICE or Border Patrol. Sheriff Woods noted there are currently 56 non-US citizens in custody, with 25 of those on hold by ICE and 8 are on hold by Border Patrol. Sheriff Woods advised that the MCSO is in renegotiations with the Federal government as it relates to how much the jail can charge to retain federally housed inmates, noting the MCSO is trying to bring that dollar amount to \$100.00 per inmate, per day. He noted there are currently 78 federally housed inmates at this time. Sheriff Woods stated it takes approximately 60 days to transfer an inmate from the jail to a State or Federal prison.

In response to Commissioner Bryant, Sheriff Woods clarified that Federal inmates are those that are on trial in Marion County Federal Courts and are usually from different Counties or States, noting the non-citizens are inmates who committed crimes in Marion County. He stated the County does not get reimbursed for housing undocumented inmates.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bryant commented on the possibility of moving the Sheriff's vehicle requests back into the Sales Tax Fund.

Commissioner Zalak opined that it is not a bad idea to have some Capital in the MSTU for Law Enforcement.

Sheriff Woods stated his staff will begin working on making adjustments to try and keep the millage rate flat.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Sheriff Woods advised that Bureau Chief Holland will retire on September 6, 2024.

Commissioner Curry expressed his appreciation to Bureau Chief Holland for his dedication and hard work.

Sheriff Woods expressed his appreciation to Bureau Chief Jerry Holland, and Finance Director Jeremiah Powell, noting he could not successfully produce his budget without their help.

Commissioner McClain expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Woods and his staff for their commitment to public safety and for bringing a fiscally responsible budget for consideration.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there were no further questions in regard to the MCSO budget.

(Ed. Note: The Deputy Clerk did not receive a copy of the letter Sheriff Woods provided to the Board).

There was a recess at 12:04 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:35 p.m. with all members present, except Commissioner Bryant who appeared telephonically.

OPENING REMARKS – Mark Lander, Administrator

Administrator Mark Lander, Department of Health (DOH) in Marion County, appeared to review the proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 130, Marion County Health Unit (page 280). Also present was Assistant Director Sherry Duncan, DOH. He presented a 4 page handout entitled, "Florida Department of Health in Marion County 2024-2025 Budget Workshop".

Mr. Lander provided a brief overview of DOH in Marion County and the services offered to citizens, noting the Department served approximately 66,000 clients last year. Of those 66,000 clients, 217,000 services were provided (7% increase from the previous service year). He advised that the Department was able to hire an additional Disease Intervention Specialist. Mr. Lander stated through Legislation, the Department was able to increase nursing salaries to be more competitive with the industry standard.

Mr. Lander commented on the mobile home in the City of Belleview that is utilized to serve women, infants and children (WIC) clients. He stated the Department is looking to eventually construct a site-built location in the area. The Department has started immunization services in addition to serving WIC clients. Mr. Lander commented on the challenges associated with locating dentists and hygienists, noting the Department has entered into a contract with the University of Florida (UF) to collaborate with the College of Central Florida (CF) Hampton Center. He stated the Department now has UF working with them and CF to bring dentists into the location.

Mr. Lander advised that the Mobile Health Unit now has a set schedule every month and is on the road roughly 3 days a week. He stated the hope is to increase the schedule to 4 days, noting the 4th day is used to accommodate requests. Mr. Lander advised that there is currently a bid for a second, smaller Mobile Health Unit, to fill some of the gaps in smaller communities. He commented on the Department's working relationship with Emergency Management (EM), noting they were able to bring in an additional road sign for shelters and hurricane response. Mr. Lander stated he had safety concerns relating to the outlay of the building, due to the ability of individuals to access all areas of the building. An internal and external review of the building was performed by a vendor, and a wall has been constructed to isolate the Department's clinic for the safety of its clients and staff. He advised that the Department's operating costs for funding were set at \$3,150,000.00 this year and any additional funds available based on millage are being requested to be transferred to line item 599302, Reserve for Capital Outlay, for the Belleview building construction. Mr. Lander provided an overview of anticipated increases relating to clinical services, 2-1-1 support, community health, dental health and some facility upgrades. He stated the funding for school health was removed this year, noting the Department had gotten out of its Statutory role of program oversight and screenings. Commissioner Zalak expressed appreciation toward Mr. Lander and the DOH in Marion County staff.

Commissioner McClain questioned what the anticipated need is relating to the Belleview project. Assistant Director Sherry Duncan advised that Facilities Management staff provided an update, noting the total anticipated need is approximately \$4,500,000.00 and \$400,000.00 for design.

Mr. Lander stated this will be a multi-year process; however, he does not believe the Department can continue to serve the clients out of the current unit for much longer.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Mr. Lander advised that the Department is requesting any funding above the current operational needs be placed in the Reserve for Capital Outlay.

Chairman Stone questioned if the \$400,000.00 for design can be submitted as a Legislative priority to see if the State would fund that portion of the project. Mr. Lander stated Legislative Budget Requests (LBRs) usually get kicked back with the State wanting the County to provide those funds.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Mr. Lander advised that septic tanks are permitted by DOH, noting in 2021 that program Statutorily went to the Department of Environmental

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Protection (DEP). He stated 12 administrative positions were transferred and the County Health Departments through inter-agency agreement consented to maintain the program until 2026. He stated a transition plan was developed, and Marion County will make the change this year. Mr. Lander advised that DOH in Marion County will continue to maintain the program while DEP builds up their staff, noting his inspectors will be the same inspectors that will be working for DEP. Those inspectors that do not make the transition will be reabsorbed into the program at DOH in Marion County. Lee County is number one and Marion County is typically the second highest activity regarding permitting for septic systems in the State of Florida.

Commissioner Curry expressed concern relating to maintenance requirements for septic systems. Mr. Lander stated Marion County is a little different than other County due to its environmentally sensitive areas.

Chairman Stone expressed appreciation for Mr. Lander and his staff.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Public Health Unit's budget.

OPENING REMARKS - Beth McCall, Executive Director, Marion County Children's Alliance

Executive Director Beth McCall, Marion County Children's Alliance, appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 136, Marion County Children's Alliance (page 44). Also present was Board of Directors Vice-Chairman Pam Michell. She presented a 4 page handout entitled, "2023 Impact Report".

Ms. McCall expressed her appreciation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the continued support given to the Marion County Children's Alliance over the years, not only financially, but for the office space the Department is able to utilize. She referred to page 2 of the impact report, which provides a breakdown of lifetime use rates (Marion County Middle and High School students) relating to alcohol, marijuana, cigarettes, vaping nicotine and vaping marijuana. Ms. McCall advised that 1,400 children went through prevention classes and events last year. She stated Director of Prevention Hilary Jackson, Community Council Against Substance Abuse and her team does a great job with positive youth events (Friday Night Done Right, Natural High Events, Red Ribbon). Ms. McCall advised that the Supporting Kids, Involving Parents (S.K.I.P) program is a mentoring program. She stated last year over 304 children in the Marion County School System were mentored. Ms. McCall advised that participants have behavioral, attendance, and grade issues, noting the program comes through a Department of Juvenile Justice Grant. She stated the data shows the behavioral referrals are going down while grades and attendance are going up.

Ms. McCall advised that Prevention Coordinator Monica Bryant, Family Violence Prevention, and her team served 259 families with 437 children this year. She stated the figure is up from 178 the previous year, noting much of that is due to the shelter closing and the Children's Alliance stepping up to help.

Ms. McCall advised that the agency is very grant heavy, which will continue because of the type of work that is done.

Chairman Stone stated the grant from the Board helps to pay for a Director. She opined that Ms. McCall is doing a fabulous job.

Ms. McCall stated through Community Council Against Substance Abuse (CCASA), the agency hosts the recovery fest every year at Tusawilla Park.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to

the Marion County Children's Alliance budget.

OPENING REMARKS – Carri Theall, Early Learning Coalition

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Carri Theall, Early Learning Coalition (ELC), appeared to review the proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 137, Early Learning Coalition (page 45). Also present were Board Chair Todd Panzer, and Chief Operations Officer (COO) LaTrisha Sims. She presented a folder containing a 15 slide handout to follow along with the PowerPoint presentation; a 2 page handout entitled, "2023-24 Community Impact Report"; a 1 page handout entitled, "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library"; a 4 page handout entitled, "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library How It Works in the United States"; and a 26 page handout entitled, "Countdown to Kindergarten Family Activities Calendar". Ms. Theall advised that the request is different this year, noting ELC is requesting a total of \$175,000.00 to include the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in addition to the school readiness match. She provided an overview of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, which was launched on March 21, 2024, using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Those funds expired on June 30, 2024. Ms. Theall advised that in the short time the program was implemented, over 3,000 children have enrolled. She stated the program provides the ELC with an important outreach tool for tracking the birth-to-five population. Ms. Theall advised that according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), more than 1 in 3 American children start kindergarten without the skills they need to learn to read (pre-literacy skills). She stated only 43% of Marion County third graders are reading at or above grade level, noting the State average is 55%. Ms. Theall advised that third grade reading is one of the strongest indicators for future academic success, and higher reading proficiency correlates with higher high school graduation statistics.

Board Chair Todd Panzer, ELC, commented on the funding request, noting a loss of funding impacting the ELC budget. He requested an additional \$50,000.00 in funding. Mr. Panzer read a poem into the record.

Ms. Theall advised that the packet she provided includes projections from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library specific to Marion County.

Mr. Panzer stated the ELC is seeing figures in month 4 that are typically expected to be in month 15 of participation in the program, noting the benefit to children throughout the County.

Chairman Stone questioned where the ELC expected funding to come from when they enrolled in the Imagination Library program. Ms. Theall stated the ELC utilized ARPA dollars and can use a little of its State funds for children who are enrolled in school readiness (SR), which is a small percentage. She advised that there are more parents interested in signing their children up that additional funding is needed. Ms. Theall stated the expectation relating to the monthly cost was much lower than it is now, noting ELC does not want to start a waiting list or remove any participants. She advised that this will be the ELC's primary focus relating to Give4Marion and the agency is also looking at private grant opportunities.

In response to Commissioner McClain, Mr. Panzer stated the agency has not requested an increase in the matching funds from Marion County for 2 to 3 years.

Ms. Theall advised that not all of the requested funds are match dollars. The agency is requesting 2 different funding pots with one being designated for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and the other is for the SR program.

COO LaTrisha Sims stated the Board has assisted the agency over the last 25 years with the SR match funds, which are used to aid those families that are over income for the

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school readiness program, allowing ELC to serve those families. She stated the families that receive SR services must come in at 150% of the Federal poverty level to qualify for services.

In response to Chairman Stone, Ms. Sims advised that there is a dollar for dollar match. Ms. Theall stated in order to serve those families, the agency must show local match dollars.

Commissioner McClain clarified that the additional \$25,000.00 request would not go towards the match funding and would be used solely for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Ms. Theall concurred.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Ms. Theall stated the ELC has been funding the Imagination Library with ARPA dollars; however, they expired on June 30, 2024. She advised that the Department of Education (ED) Division of Early Learning (DEL) provided a cutoff date of June 30, 2024.

Commissioner McClain commented on how responsible this agency has been with the dollars they received.

Commissioner Bryant stated investing in our children is one of the most important things, noting if there is something that can be done to give children in Marion County a head start, she would like to support the initiative. She requested the Board support the additional \$25,000.00 this year, while giving the agency the opportunity to fundraise for the coming year. She commented on possibly returning to the original request for FY 2025/26, barring any additional dollars requested because of an increase in the match the agency receives.

Ms. Fowler stated in the General Fund the Reserve for Contingencies is divided between recurring and non-recurring, and the non-recurring portion (1 time funding source), there is adequate funds available to support the program for a year with the caveat that it would be reviewed next year for continuation.

In response to Chairman Stone, Ms. Fowler advised that this request would not impact the millage rate because it is non-recurring.

Mr. Panzer stated if the Board provided the additional requested funds, it would allow the agency time to fundraise and source out the dollars for continuation.

Commissioner Bryant clarified that she is requesting the Board provide funding in the amount of \$200,000.00 this year, \$175,000.00 next year and then return to the \$150,000.00 going forward.

Ms. Theall commented on the ability to fundraise and obtain private donations when the agency can show the County support they are receiving.

In response to Chairman Stone, Mr. Panzer advised that this request is not a supplementation of a social service or a service of childcare. He stated the agency will be requesting funding from everybody.

Commissioner Zalak questioned the reason this is not being done through the County's Library system rather than this program. Ms. Theall stated the Dolly Parton Imagination Library is very specific: it must be for all children and cannot be regulated on socio-economic levels. She advised that the only thing the agency can do is regulate geography relating to where the books go, noting ELC opted to include the entire County. Ms. Theall addressed Library deserts that exist in Marion County and impact those living in poverty. Commissioner Bryant noted that this agency has consistently been funded by the Board for many years and no additional agencies are being added.

Commissioner McClain commented on things the County Departments could be tasked with, but there are already outside organizations doing it and the choice was made to

partner with them because they can do it more efficiently and effectively and the County does not have to take on that program.

Commissioner Zalak opined that teaching kids to read is incredibly important.

Mr. Panzer stated this program was chosen because of its track record and years of data showing the positive impact on the children who participate.

Commissioner Zalak requested information relating to the book selection process. Ms. Theall advised that the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Foundation has a database, which their Blue Ribbon Book Selection Committee utilizes to choose the books. She provided an overview of the enrollment process, eligibility requirements and monthly book deliveries.

Commissioner Curry expressed support for Commissioner Bryant's proposal.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Ms. Theall stated individuals can access the Imagination Library website, enter an age and see what the book is for that month.

Chairman Stone stated the funding for the additional request will come from the County's Reserves.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Early Learning Coalition budget.

Commissioner Zalak out at 2:42 p.m.

OPENING REMARKS – Jennifer Martinez, Director, Marion Senior Services/Transit

Ms. Fowler advised that she met with Executive Director Jennifer Martinez, Marion Senior Services/Transit, earlier this spring to discuss the timing relating to the arrival of some vehicles. It was identified at that time that approximately \$150,000.00 of the FY 2024 budget was not going to be spent on those vehicles. She stated those expenditures were not projected and the funding was carried into the next FY, noting a big portion of the increase is not actually an increase to the County and is not funded by new millage, it is being funded by FY 2024 revenue.

Executive Director Jennifer Martinez, Marion Senior Services/Transit, appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center, 138, Marion Senior Services/Transit (page 46). Also present was Transportation Director Clayton Murch. Ms. Martinez presented a 2 page handout entitled, "Marion Senior Services Co-Responder Program of Marion County" and a pamphlet entitled, "Marion Transit".

Executive Director Jennifer Martinez, Marion Senior Services/Transit, expressed appreciation for the Board's continued support of the agency. She stated Marion Senior Services/Transit is the lead agency in Marion County for elder affairs and they do that through several different pillars (nutrition, transportation and in-home support).

Ms. Martinez advised that the agency's waitlists continue to grow with over 800 individuals on the waitlist for nutrition and over 1,800 on the waitlist for in-home support. She stated transportation operates differently and does not have a waitlist; however, this continues to be one of the greatest needs in the County. Ms. Martinez addressed the Co-Responder program, which is under the Human Services component. She advised that this program works to close the gaps in the adult protective services and lead agency arm of Department of Children and Families (DCF). Ms. Martinez stated the agency works closely with 20 partners within the community to provide a higher quality of service, bringing access to care and reducing the duplication of services. She advised that between Ocala Fire Rescue (OFR), Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR), Ocala Police Department (OPD), and MCSO, the agency has seen a reduction in the combined costs and savings to those first responders of over \$300,000.00.

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Transportation Director Clayton Murch, Marion Transit, commented on the growth throughout the County, including individuals that make up the agency's core clientele. He addressed the uptick in expenses, noting increases in insurance, parts, fuel labor, etc. Mr. Murch stated the agency has been able to mitigate a lot of the increases through improved efficiencies in addition to obtaining additional funding sources. He advised that the agency was able to acquire Federal Transit Act (FTA) 5311 Rural Capital, noting the agency has applied for National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) 5310 funding (previously untapped source). Mr. Murch advised that the agency is expanding services into the Forest with what will be known as the green line and will function similarly to the blue and gold lines in Dunnellon and Marion Oaks, respectively. Chairman Stone advised that she has called individuals as part of the annual surveys, noting it is life-changing for them and they would not be able to get those services otherwise.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Marion Senior Services/Transit budget.

OPENING REMARKS – Richard Cardinali, President, Historical Commission

President Dr. Richard Cardinali, Historical Commission, appeared to review the proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 145, Historical Commission (page 48).

Dr. Cardinali expressed concern with preserving the history of Marion County, noting many area historians have passed away. He provided an overview of projects the Historical Commission is working to complete.

Chairman Stone commented on a conversation she had with Historical Commission member Tom Schmitz relating to Star Banner newspapers from the 1800s that were located at the Star Banner building on Easy Street but are now housed at the Gainesville Sun location. She advised that Mr. Schmitz believes it would be appropriate perhaps for all the municipalities to share in the cost of having each of those papers digitized and stored in the cloud. Chairman Stone stated the Historical Commission's budget remains the same this year at \$9,000.00.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Historical Commission.

Commissioner McClain opined that it would be interesting to preserve the historical information from those newspapers that go back to the 1800s, noting digitizing is the only way to preserve them as the space will run out.

OPENING REMARKS – Vivi Serena, Chairman, Marion Soil Conservation District

Chairman Vivi Serena, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District, appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 147, Marion Soil Conservation District (page 50).

Chairman Vivi Serena, Marion Soil and Conservation District, expressed appreciation towards the Board for their support. She advised that the Conservation District continues to promote the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) cost share program benefiting local farmers and ranchers financially while encouraging them to participate in the best management practices (BMPs). Ms. Serena stated the Conservation District continues the Grace Force Scholarship for high school seniors and performing outreach programs to students in the Conservation District's service area through educational programs and contests. She advised that the Conservation District continues to hold and expand the Central Florida Regional Envirothon, the Farms of

Environmental Distinction Program, coordinate activities with other Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and other stakeholders across the State. Ms. Serena stated the Conservation District provides historical resources and conservation information to the community and continues to provide BMP implementation assistance. She advised that with the enactment of House Bill (HB) 7013 the Conservation District must comply with performance metrics established by the State, which imposes a significant burden relating to the workload necessary to be in compliance. Ms. Serena stated the Conservation District seeks to upgrade the part-time (PT) Program Assistant to full-time (FT). She commented on increases in allocations relating to travel, postage, printing, advertising supplies and training. The FT Administrator Ann Bishop has been an employee for over 10 years and has a lot of paid time off (PTO), which sometimes causes the Conservation District to get behind on projects. On some occasions Ms. Bishop comes in and works on overtime to accomplish projects.

In response to Commissioner McClain, Chairman Stone advised that there is no change in the request that was presented.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Marion Soil Conservation District.

OPENING REMARKS – Kevin Sheilley, President, Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership

Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership (CEP) President Kevin Sheilley appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 150, Ocala Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership (page 52).

Mr. Sheilley provided an overview of statistics relating to the CEP's performance over the last 12 years. He advised that the request from the CEP is the same as it has been over the past several years.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Mr. Sheilley stated the CEP has roughly 1,200 partners. He advised that the official first day of the Silver Springs Shores (SSS) incubator was July 8, 2024, noting 1 resident has moved in, 2 leases were signed, and he just received an electronic mail (email) regarding a possible fourth participant. Mr. Sheilley noted the CEP is going to begin offering Spanish language training for entrepreneurs and Vice-President of Business Creation, Evelyn Reyes is leading that effort. He stated last year the CEP led the Nation in the growth of Hispanic population. Mr. Sheilley advised that the CEP hopes to eventually add incubators in Marion Oaks and West Ocala. He stated the \$300,000.00 from the County comprises 7% of the CEP's Operating budget. Mr. Sheilley advised of a significant number of upcoming announcements relating to job and investment goals.

Chairman Stone questioned if there will be anything new from what is currently found throughout the County. Mr. Sheilley stated there is a great mix of distribution and manufacturing and continued diversification within those sectors. He advised there are some exciting projects relating to the addition of activity and specialization within the life science space.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership budget.

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OPENING REMARKS – Dr. Phillip Geist, Area Director, Small Business Development Council

Area Director Dr. Philip Geist, Florida Small Business Development Center Network (FSBDC), at the University of North Florida (UNF), appeared to review the Department's proposed FY 2024-25 budget for Cost Center 151, Small Business Development Council (page 53).

Dr. Geist advised that through June, 2024, he has worked with 129 businesses, noting they have reported having a total of 340 employees (2.6 employees per business). He stated the number is a little higher due to some of those being start-ups with just the entrepreneur in the business. Dr. Geist advised that he is requesting level funding with an adjustment for inflation for a total of \$116,000.00.

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Small Business Development Council budget.

In response to Chairman Stone, Ms. Fowler stated she emailed Guardian Ad Litem and requested Program Director Barbara Robertson provide a written statement expanding upon the requested increases due to her inability to appear in person today.

OPENING REMARKS – Barbara Robertson, Program Director, Guardian Ad Litem

Fifth Judicial Circuit Guardian Ad Litem Program, proposed FY 2024-25 budgets for Cost Center 262, Guardian Ad Litem Program (page 94) and Cost Center 263, Guardian Ad Litem Technology (page 95).

It was the general consensus of the Board that there are no further questions in regard to the Guardian Ad Litem budget.

UPDATE: Chairman Stone stated Ms. Fowler will likely hear from Sheriff Woods by the end of the day relating to possible adjustments impacting the maximum millage rate. Ms. Fowler stated the Clerk's Budget Department is creating the Agenda Item, noting if the certified letter from MCSO is received in time to make the publication the Agenda Item will be substituted. If not, she will have the letter on Tuesday at the next regularly scheduled BCC meeting.

Ms. Fowler provided a summary of changes made today. She expressed appreciation to the Board and the Clerk's Budget Department staff.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Michelle Stone, Chairman

Attest:

Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk