

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
Budget Work Session - Boardroom
May 23, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Members attending: R. Brantley Ivey, Michael S. Hash, Tracy A. Anderson, Mary Dickenson Tomlinson and Mitchell D. Cornett.

Staff attending: Stephen A. Boyer, Mitchell L. Smith, and Nikki C. Edwards.

IN RE: OPENING BUSINESS

Supervisor Anderson made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by Supervisor Cornett. Motion carried 5-0.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING

- To receive public comment on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025

Supervisor Hash made the motion to open the public hearing; duly seconded by Supervisor Tomlinson. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Boyer and Mrs. Edwards presented the following:

Goals for Today:

- Public Hearing on the County Budget
- Approve School Budget

Financial Forecast

- Calls for a 13 Cent increase in Fiscal Year 2026
- Last substantial increase was in FY20 and equated to 7 cent
- In FY23 we went from .59 cent down to .54 cent
- To balance the budget this year, rate would need to be increased by 4.17 cent

Regional Comparison Tax

Locality	Real Estate	Personal Property
Alleghany County	\$0.73	\$2.98
Carroll County	\$0.64	\$2.30
Grayson County	\$0.54	\$2.25
Galax City	\$1.00	\$2.25
Bland County	\$0.60	\$2.29
Pulaski County	\$0.74	\$2.35
Wythe County	\$0.51	\$2.22
Floyd County	\$0.65	\$3.20

Real Estate: out of 8 localities listed there is only 1 locality whose rates are lower than Grayson – Wythe Personal Property – same only Wythe is lower

1 cent real estate

1 cent personal property

Points discussed: how many of these counties have land use; trash fee; county is bringing in 8.5 cents from trash fee.

Recommendations from last budget meeting

- Levy Increase of 2 cent in FY 2025 – equates to roughly \$380,000
- Increase trash fee by \$24 per year – equates to \$180,000
- Raise rates on roll off dumpsters by \$15 to \$175
- Presented budget included 35% increase in PSA rates

Difference from Recommendations

- No levy increase budgeted – (break up for school in 3yrs – approximately \$260K/year – just funding LRE which is \$345K)
- Increase trash fee by \$24 per year – equates to \$180,000
- Raise rates on roll off dumpsters by \$15 to \$175
- Presented budget includes 50% increase in PSA rates

What we know

- Water fund still operating deficit of \$76,556
- FY25 budget is in balance
- No long-term planning except for ARPA projects approved at the last meeting

Where do we stand

	FY25 – Request	FY25 – Budget (as presented)	FY24 – Budget	% Increase from FY24 Budget
Expenses	\$30,918,535	\$29,386,074	\$29,298,879	
Percent	\$1,532,461	\$87,195		.29%

So far, the Board has reduced the requests by \$1,532,461, leaving only a .29% increase over the current budget – certainly, less than current inflation.

FY2025 Grayson County School Budget

	FY2024 Budget	FY2025 Budget
Instruction	\$18,665,242.34	\$19,196,249.65
Admin, ATT, & Health	\$1,871,011.57	\$1,437,027.05
Pupil Transportation	\$1,985,391.46	\$2,081,188.09
Operation & Maintenance	\$2,446,971.55	\$2,531,974.20

School Food	\$1,313,322.00	\$1,360,732.33
Facilities	\$302,527.95	\$424,261.75
Debt & Fund Transfers	\$1,250,613.82	\$1,243,995.23
Technology	\$907,193.38	\$885,836.14
Grand Total	\$28,742,274.07	\$29,161,264.44

\$29,161,264.44 proposed school budget which \$125K was removed for the welding bays, with the County contribution of \$8,122,07.58 which is \$7,797,047.58 REL and Debt service and \$325,000 above RLE. School budget increase of \$418,990.37. Fund Balance as Carry-Over – Mrs. Edwards noted that historically \$1M has been budgeted in (rainy day fund) to balance the budget but if revenues come in better than projected or expenditures come in lower than projected, then that fund is not used, and it’s added to the fund balance. Also mentioned was keeping the water situation in the Fairview/Oldtown district and the long-term plans for purchasing water from the City of Galax in the fore-front; also discussed was the trash for the Town of Independence and their garbage pickup – Mr. Boyer noted that the County has a contract with both the Town of Fries and Independence and explained the breakdown based on the number of properties in each town. Public hearing comment then took place:

- Roger Rose of Discovery Ln/Elk Creek/VA – don’t raise taxes; likes trash service; inquired about Baywood School; charge water users, not everyone; Rec Park – ask YMCA to come in; sell all old schools not being used
- Ann Rose of Discovery Ln/Elk Creek/VA – loves trash service; sell all old schools; inquired about giving money to EDA
- Denby Bonacquisti of Kindreck Rd/Mouth of Wilson/VA – don’t raise taxes; happy on trash service; noted the county pays more per student than any of the surrounding counties (Smyth/Wythe/Carroll); frustrating trying to get information, need to make information easier to acquire /more accessible (Virginia Code 15.2 outlines the rules for information and Virginia Code 2.2.3707 may also apply) – general point is to get as much information out to the people as possible and make it easier to acquire.

Supervisor Hash made the motion to come out of the public hearing; duly seconded by Supervisor Cornett. Motion carried 5-0.

IN RE: BUDGET WORKSESSION

- Convenience Center Discussion – Mr. Boyer introduced Mr. Jonathan Luper, Director of Grayson County Public Works. Mr. Luper noted that they strive to have a reliable and convenient trash service for the citizens of the county and shared 2 recommendations regarding the convenience center located at the public works department – it’s open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8am – 12 noon – FY23 generated 100+ loads of trash on Wednesdays/Saturdays. Recommendations: 1 – Close convenience center, it would save 100 loads of trash and \$50,000+ each year (additional \$50,000 for the convenience center to be in operation) and 6,000 miles+ going to the landfill and it’s 250-300 tons of trash – don’t have compacting capability currently. (A) experience problems for citizens that live outside of area (B) citizens set out trash at home and also bring it on Wednesday/Saturday – making multiple trips. 2 – Form a system (card/coupon –

sold in Treasurer's office), present at convenience for trash disposal associated with parcel number in Grayson County or their 911 address and the number of bags – some way to identify county residents helping make sure that trash is not brought in from outside the county – services paid by the citizens who choose to use it and not subsidized by the citizens who do not use it. Discussion took place regarding bag limit; hearing positive points made about having this service; river lot rates; Mr. Boyer noted one incident of abuse with tires; river lots (currently pay 1/3 of fee – recreational/seasonal) paying full rate; Wednesday vs Saturday usage – depends on the weather, if it's pretty, have more traffic

- School Budget Discussion – Mr. Boyer discussed the CIP agreement and how the Board wishes to proceed – Supervisor Hash made the motion to approve the total school budget of \$29,161,264.44 with county contribution of \$8,122,047.58 which is \$4,797,047.58 RLE and debt service and \$325,000 above local effort. Supervisor Anderson noted there should be something such as a CIP agreement or resolution giving the county an out if needed – Mr. Boyer noted that the resolution be presented at a later meeting. Roll call vote as follows: Tracy A. Anderson – aye; Michael S. Hash – aye; Mitchell D. Cornett – aye; Mary Dickenson Tomlinson – aye; R. Brantley Ivey – aye. Motion carried 5-0.

County budget will be up for approval at the next meeting which is June 13, 2024. Supervisor Cornett would be in favor of seasonal river lot citizens paying more as well as Supervisor Anderson.

Supervisor Ivey recapped:

- Extra \$2/mo on trash fee
- Spread out CIP for school
- Staff look at charging more on river lots
- Increase water rates
- Resolution on school budget to be presented at next meeting

RE: ADJOURN

Supervisor Anderson made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Supervisor Tomlinson. Motion carried 5-0.

R. Brantley Ivey, Chair