

Great Game Huddle Notes

September 12th, 2017

Greene County Budget Director, Jeff Scott, talked to us about the 2018 county budget. Budget requests have been submitted and the Budget Office presented preliminary numbers to us.

Earlier in the budget planning process, the budget office asked officeholders and department heads to make cuts to their proposed budgets. These cuts would have resulted in 1.8 million dollars in savings. The ability to make these cuts was a longshot considering that all county offices are already functioning with less money than they need. Rather than seeing cuts from most departments, almost 2.5 million in increases were requested. This puts the requested budget at 4.3 million dollars higher than the desired amount. Congratulations go out to the following departments for submitting cuts to their budget: Resource Management, Vehicle Maintenance, Pre-trial Services, County Commission, Building Operations, Budget Office, County Administrator and the Public Information Office.

An almost 2 million dollar loss in revenue is anticipated due to various reasons, including a drop in sales and property tax revenue, and a decline in Public Administrator and Sheriff's fees. In addition, the University of Missouri has decided not to renew their contract with the county to operate the morgue. The university currently leases the morgue for \$92,722.68 per year. The County Commission is reviewing several different options in order to continue to provide these services.

Discussion then switched to the needs of the departments, and those needs which would be addressed with the voter's approval of a ½ cent sales tax on the November, 2017 ballot.

For a list of needs and the full picture of budget requests, please access Jeff and Tina's presentation by clicking on the dashboard located on the county website.

Associate Commissioner Harold Bengsch addressed a question asked on the Commission Corner link: Why are Juvenile employees not eligible for the CERF retirement that other county employees receive? Harold explained that in 1985, legislation was passed requiring first class counties (including Greene County) to pay 75% of the salaries of Juvenile employees who are state employees. That amount has actually grown over the years, and the state currently only pays about 11% of Juvenile salaries. However, the retirement board still does not deem the Juvenile employees to be county employees, so they are therefore ineligible for CERF.