

**EMS System Oversight Committee Meeting  
May 28, 2008 (Called Meeting)  
EOC Conference Room**

**Members/Liaisons Present:** Faye Barefoot, Tom Czaplijski, Jack Cote, Jimmy Garris, Kyle Willis, Chuck Owens, David Lusk , Juan March, M.D (on conference call)

**Staff Present:** JoAnne Burgdorff, Noel Lee, Melonie Bryan, Angela Brown

**Absent:** Duane Holder, Ted Delbridge, MD, Scott Elliott, Jack White

**Open:** Chairman David Lusk called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Agenda:** Jimmy Garris made the motion to approve the agenda. Jack Cote seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Agenda was approved.

Melonie Bryan distributed the Revised EMS Budget information. The EMS Oversight Committee originally recommended \$4,297,443. Staff was instructed by the Board of County Commissioners to reduce the budget. Staff arrived at 4.4 cents which equated to \$4,125,443 which is a \$15,000 cut across the board to each squad and a reduction of \$22,000 in the contingency fund. Kyle Willis took this recommendation to the Rescue Association and the feedback from majority of the squads was they would try to work to sustain it with no one committing that “Yes, they could absolutely do it without a doubt, but they would do their best”.

Jimmy Garris asked for clarification of the \$100,233 increase in “Additional Transport Fees”. Melonie responded that the original amount was \$1.6 mil and they increased it to \$1.7 mil with the increase in transport fees and an increase in collections.

Melonie reported that the revised budget will be presented to the Board and if approved will then be presented at the Public Hearing.

Kyle Willis brought up concerns of fuel costs. Melonie responded that when the county is faced with cost increases, the county departments still have to live within their means and find the money within their budget, and if squads are not willing to do this then we are wasting our time. The squads’ original budget request is a 13.4% increase. The overall county budget increase is less than 2%.

Chuck Owens stated that EMS for Pitt County has been under funded for many years and the 13.4% increase is a result of this. As long as it continues to be under-funded, I can foresee a need next year for an increase.

Melonie responded that there are other departments in the county that can argue that they are under-funded, for example, Pitt County Schools and Pitt Community College. Both entities are not receiving the amount requested in their budget.

David Lusk brought up the issue that no one can prove what EMS Squads spend. Accountability is needed throughout the whole system. There is no documentation supporting the funding requests.

Kyle Willis responded that the squads are audited by the county yearly. Melonie responded that the report Kyle is referring to is money that was spent 18 to 20 months ago which is not necessarily a valid representation of where the squads are now. The auditors' review is not the squads' budget justification. Squads have to be willing to supply documentation to support the funding requests.

**Motion:** Dr. Juan March made a motion that a policy be developed to require EMS squads to submit documentation for expenditures of county funds.

Jimmy Garris seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Mr. Garris asked if we already have a policy in place and are we receiving the documentation that is needed.

Melonie responded that the contract requires that the squads maintain a ledger and documentation be submitted upon request. Check numbers, amounts and dates should be recorded on the ledger.

Melonie Bryan: If squads are going to contract with the county, the squads will receive 1/12 of their funding monthly. The Contingency Fund is available for matching funds for grants and based on history, squads have come back and requested additional funds when there has been an emergency come up that they did not have the funds to cover.

Chuck Owens: I am hearing that there are two ways to manage EMS squads: Contractual Agreement and Reimbursement for cost with an anticipated budget.

Kyle Willis: Let the squads decide if they want to contract with the county or if they want a system of reimbursement for cost.

Melonie Bryan: You would still have a budget that the squads would work within.

**Vote:**

In Favor: Jack Cote

Oppose: Dr. March, Jimmy Garris, Faye Barefoot, Kyle Willis

Abstain: Tom Czaplinski

Motion was voted down.

**Budget Proposal:**

Jimmy Garris: I feel that the revised budget at the rate of 4.4-cents is a good compromise and I would like to see the contingency funds be reserved for matching grants.

**Motion:** Kyle Willis made the motion to recommend the original budget request of \$4,297,443. **Motion died due to lack of a second.**

**Motion:** Faye Barefoot made the motion to accept the revised budget of \$4,125,443 which is a 4.4-cents tax rate. Dr. March seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Dr. March asked what Commissioner Garris' opinion is as to how the commissioners would vote. Mr. Garris reported that he can only report for himself and he feels that it would be more likely that a 4.4-cents tax would be approved rather than 4.9-cents.

Kyle Willis: I question changing the original recommendation.

Chuck Owens reported that there is a risk as to how this committee will be viewed by the commissioners and general public as to why the committee did not stand by the original recommendation. Need to share the consternation that this committee went through to reach this compromise.

David Lusk asked Kyle Willis if he contacted all eight squads to see if they could operate with a \$15,000 reduction. Kyle reported 5 reported they would attempt to operate, 1 said initially they could not operate but called back and said they could possibly operate, and 2 squads, Falkland and Grifon reported they would need to be fully funded.

Jack Cote: From some of the previous discussion, the budget process is flawed and this process needs to be modified for the next fiscal year. I have concern that this recommendation will be rejected and we will have to come back again.

Jimmy Garris: Every department had to go back and amend their budgets when the commissioners cut the budget by \$6 mil.

**Vote:**

**Approve:** Jack Cote, Jimmy Garris, Faye Barefoot, Tom Czaplinski, David Lusk,  
Dr. March

**Opposed:** Kyle Willis

Tom Czaplinski made the motion to adjourn. Jack Cote seconded the motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Bryant/Angela Brown