

**COMMITTEE OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY COUNCIL ON
JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING, THURSDAY, APRIL 18,
2024, AFTER REGULAR COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING,
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM, ROOM 804, COUNTY
COMPLEX, FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jason M. Springs, (Council District 1), Committee Chairman
Roger M. Poston, (Council District 2), Committee Member
Jerry W. Yarborough, Jr., (Council District 4), Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Kevin Yokim, County Administrator
D. Malloy McEachin, Jr., County Attorney
Hope M. Jones, Clerk to Council
Sam Brockington, Fire/Rescue Coordinator
Chief Billy Dillon, Howe Springs Fire Department
Chief Howard Worrell, West Florence Fire Department

Copies of the meeting Agenda were posted in the lobby of the County Complex, and provided to the media and others requesting copies of meeting agendas, provided to the Florence County Library for posting at the main library as well as all branches, and on the County website at www.florenceco.org/council in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act requirements for notice of meetings.

Chairman Springs called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. Councilman Poston provided the invocation and Councilman Yarborough led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Springs welcomed everyone who was in attendance.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilman Yarborough made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024, Justice Public & Safety Committee meeting. Councilman Poston seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 2024/25:

Mr. Yokim stated he appreciated the involvement of Chief Dillon and Chief Worrell with the budget. They sent the budget to the Advisory Board for review and then the budget was forwarded to the Justice & Public Safety Committee for consideration.

Mr. Yokim stated there are three (3) changes to the budget. (1) There placed in the current year budget (FY 2023/24) \$257,000 for the VIP program. The Advisory Board submitted \$500,000 for the FY 2024/25 budget for the VIP program. Mr. Yokim stated he reduced the amount to \$257,000 for the VIP program. (2) Mr. Yokim placed in the budget \$150,000 for the employee clinic for the firefighters. Shannon Munoz, Deputy Administrator of Operations, is still in discussion with McLeod. A question was raised as

April 18, 2024

to why the firefighters can't use the various facilities of McLeod around the County. The facility has to be an urgent care and most of the facilities are doctor offices. (3) In the budget there are pay increases for the firefighters, \$2,000 for full-time and \$1,000 for part-time. The Chiefs stated whatever the increase County gives, the Chiefs request the firefighters receive the same increase. Mr. Yokim stated he requested a 5% COLA increase for county employees. To fund it for the Chiefs, Mr. Yokim stated he had staff add \$5,000 to each department's salary line item. This will cover the 5% increase for all of the Chiefs. This is listed under Fund 37 in the budget book.

Chairman Springs inquired about line item 4500 - Repairs to Buildings. Is this a reoccurring cost or to do repairs as needed or is this a capital outlay? Chief Worrell stated it is for ongoing repairs such as broken doors and air conditioning filters.

Chairman Springs advised Sam Brockington as he meets with the Chiefs and Unified Fire District Board to start looking at capital budgets and planning toward a five-year plan.

Mr. Yokim stated that he is considering an EMS/Fire Station in East Florence on the eighty (80) acres the County Council purchased for the battery plant.

Chairman Springs stated he would entertain a motion to vote the budget out to the Council. Councilman Yarborough made the motion and Councilman Poston seconded which was approved unanimously.

Chairman Springs advised Mr. Yokim to get with staff and develop a plan for an RFP or RFQ for an EMS Staffing and Response Study for the County.

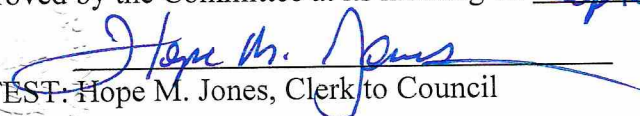
Mr. Yokim stated Barrott Dowdy requested four (4) new twelve-hour positions for EMS to be stationed geographically in the center of the County.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Committee, Councilman Yarborough made a motion to adjourn and Councilman Poston seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:58 P. M.

Approved by the Committee at its meeting on September 13, 2024


ATTEST: Hope M. Jones, Clerk to Council