

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Debbie Williams, Commissioner of the Revenue (phone)
Lori Hayes, Board Member
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator
Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager (substituting for Bonnie Jewell,
Assistant County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer)

OTHER COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Christie, Deputy Sheriff Master, Sheriff's Office
Erika Snodgrass, Business Manager, FREM
Jennifer Pomeroy, Office Manager, Sheriff's Office

New Business:

A quorum of the Committee membership was not physically present, and as such, no action was taken. However, the following items were discussed among the members in attendance:

Grant Application Request for Sheriff's Office Drone

Erika Snodgrass, Business Manager, FREM (former Office Manager for the Sheriff's Office), reported that the Sheriff's Office had been waiting for the guidance release for the FFY 2022 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). This competitive federal grant program provides funding in support of local efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. The Sheriff's Office has previously implemented a drone program and would like to submit an application under the FY 2022 HSGP opportunity to update their current equipment, obtain accessories, and to attend drone trainings. In law enforcement, drones are used in a variety of ways, including crowd control, traffic and accident reporting, search and rescue, crime scene reconstruction, and pre-operational situational awareness to optimize officer and individual safety by gathering information for bomb threats, hostage situations, and terrorist attacks. In response to Ms. Hayes' inquiry, Master Deputy Sheriff Christie advised that the drones are deployed approximately three times a week.

The Sheriff's Office is still obtaining quotes and estimates that the grant request will be approximately \$126,000. While there is no local match requirement, the Sheriff's Office will be responsible for all costs associated with licensing, registration fees, insurance, and all ongoing operational expenses for the drones. It is estimated that the annual ongoing costs will be approximately \$15,000.

The grant application deadline is June 13, 2022. Therefore, this item will need to go to the Board of Supervisors at their May 24, 2022 meeting.

Correction to FY 2023 Budget for Schools' Federal Grant Funds

Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager, explained that County Budget staff missed including in the FY 2023 Adopted Budget \$1.8 million in federal grant revenue and associated expenditures that were added to the Schools' budget between the Superintendent's Proposed Budget in January 2022 and the School Board's Approved Budget in February 2022. This \$1.8 million in federal grant revenue funds 45 paraeducators to address unfinished learning needs in the areas of reading, math, Specially Designed Instruction (SDI), English Language Learners (ELL), and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). These positions will assist teachers by providing intentional, high-dose tutoring to struggling students in an attempt to close learning gaps.

Ms. D'Alessandro noted that this technical error did not in any way change the local funding that was being discussed and which the Board of Supervisors ultimately approved to support the School Board's teacher scale modernization initiative. The requested budget adjustment corrects County staff's oversight and aligns the County's and Schools' budgets for the start of FY 2023. The use of the \$1.8 million federal grant was specifically approved by the Virginia Department of Education to hire the 45 paraeducators.

Other Business:**Next Finance Committee Meeting**

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 3:30 PM in the Code Compliance conference room at the Merchant Square building.

Adjournment:

Ms. D'Alessandro adjourned the meeting.