

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Larry Pritchett, Treasurer
Debbie Williams, Commissioner of the Revenue
Lori Hayes, Board Member
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator
Bonnie Jewell, Assistant County Administrator/Chief Financial Officer

OTHER COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Julie Elliott, Budget Manager
Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager
Tim Johnson, Broadband Manager
First Sgt. Frank Belcher, Sheriff's Office
Jennifer Pomeroy, Office Manager – Sheriff's Office

New Business:**Acceptance, Budget Adjustment, & Appropriation for Grant for Selective Enforcement of Alcohol-Impaired Driving**

Frank Belcher, First Sergeant with the Sheriff's Office, reported that the County has been awarded a federal grant through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. If the Board of Supervisors accepts the grant, \$84,000 will be used to provide approximately 1,200 hours of overtime towards enforcement for alcohol-impaired driving on primary and secondary roads in the County. Additionally, \$1,600 will be used to send two attendees to Virginia Highway Safety Training Office approved trainings.

The award requires an in-kind service match of \$42,800 that will be met through the use of the Sheriff's Office fuel and maintenance costs for enforcement vehicles within the FY 2023 and FY 2024 budgets. Further, because the grant will not pay for the FICA, Medicare, and Workers' Compensation costs associated with the overtime, the Sheriff's Office will absorb an estimated \$7,753 within the FY 2023 and FY 2024 budgets.

Assuming the grant award is fully executed by October 1, 2022, the grant period will be October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

On a motion by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Pritchett and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget adjustment and appropriation.

Acceptance, Budget Adjustment, & Appropriation for Grant for Selective Enforcement of Highway Safety Laws

Frank Belcher, First Sergeant with the Sheriff's Office, reported that the County has been awarded a federal grant through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. If the Board of Supervisors accepts the grant, \$70,000 will be used to provide approximately 1,000 hours of overtime towards enforcement for speed and seat belt violations in the

County. Additionally, \$3,000 will be used to purchase one radar and associated supplies.

The award requires an in-kind service match of \$36,500 that will be met through the use of the Sheriff's Office fuel and maintenance costs for enforcement vehicles within the FY 2023 and FY 2024 budgets. Further, because the grant will not pay for the FICA, Medicare, and Workers' Compensation costs associated with the overtime, the Sheriff's Office will absorb an estimated \$6,461 within the FY 2023 and FY 2024 budgets.

Assuming the grant award is fully executed by October 1, 2022, the grant period will be October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

On a motion by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Cole and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget adjustment and appropriation.

Request to Submit Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Grant Application & Broadband Presentation

Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager, reported that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will be awarding federal and state funds as part of its Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) program. DHCD will award funding to provide last-mile broadband services, including middle-mile networks, equipment, or other investments required to deliver last-mile service to unserved areas of the Commonwealth. The objective of the VATI program is to provide financial assistance to supplement construction costs by private sector broadband service providers, in partnership with local units of government, to extend service to areas that presently are unserved.

Tim Johnson, Broadband Manager, and Charles Thomas, Chief Operations Officer from DataStream Broadband, presented a phased approach for achieving coverage to areas in Spotsylvania that are currently unserved and underserved, with particular emphasis on the Berkeley and Livingston districts. After an official Request for Proposals (RFP) process last year, DataStream and County staff have been collaborating on development of the following multi-phase and multi-layered approach:

Phase I -

If approved, Phase 1 will consist of deploying 5 macro sites in the primarily rural districts of Berkeley and Livingston that will provide performance minimums of 100/20 Mbps upon project completion. It is currently anticipated that the agreement for Phase I will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for its action at the September 13, 2022 meeting. The cost for Phase I is \$3,868,875. DataStream will contribute \$1,318,372 (34%) towards this phase while the County, if approved, would provide \$2,550,503 (66%). The County's portion of the costs were budgeted as part of the FY 2023 Budget and are funded by the County's ARPA SLFRF allocation.

Breakdown of Phase I Funding		
Entity	\$	%
County	\$2,550,503	65.9%
DataStream	1,318,372	34.1%
Total Phase I Cost	\$3,868,875	100%

Phase II -

Phase II is anticipated to include 12 macro sites, 10 micro sites, and 100 miles of fiber that would provide for universal broadband coverage throughout the County. Phase II would deploy a 5G capable hybrid broadband system that will offer internet service to those areas that are currently unserved and underserved in the primarily rural districts of Berkeley and Livingston. However, other unserved areas within the County would also receive coverage. If awarded, DataStream, as the private internet service provider, will offer customers a variety of internet service packages ranging from 25/3 Mbps up to 1,000/150 Mbps for wireless sites and up to 1,000/1,000 for wired sites. Staff recommends applying for VATI grant funds to assist with the \$17,536,000 estimated cost of the Phase II project. If the request to apply is approved, Spotsylvania County, as the lead applicant, will partner with DataStream, as the co-applicant, in submitting the grant application by the August 25, 2022 deadline. The application will assume the following available funding and VATI grant funding request for Phase II:

Breakdown of Phase II Funding		
Entity	\$	%
VATI Grant	\$9,482,903	54.1%
County	6,299,497	35.9%
DataStream	1,753,600	10.0%
Total Phase II Cost	\$17,536,000	100%

The County's portion of the Phase II costs were budgeted as part of the FY 2023 Budget and are funded by \$5,049,497 of the County's ARPA SLFRF allocation and \$1,250,000 in previously budgeted cash for broadband implementation.

On a motion by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Cole and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the request to apply for the VATI grant for this broadband project.

Other Business:

None.

Next Finance Committee Meeting

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 3:30 PM in the Code Compliance conference room at the Merchant Square building.

Adjournment:

Ms. Jewell adjourned the meeting.