

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul Trampe, Board Member  
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator  
Larry Pritchett, Treasurer  
Debbie Williams, Commissioner of Revenue  
Mary Sorrell, Finance Director

**OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bonnie Jewell, Deputy Director of Finance for Budget  
Jay Cullinan, Chief FREM  
Gail Crooks, Social Services Director

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**Budget Adjustment & Appropriation for Additional Fire/Rescue Overtime Costs**

Bonnie Jewell, Deputy Director of Finance for Budget, explained that as reported in January 2019 and in the mid-year financial report, Fire/Rescue's overtime costs are projected to exceed the approved budget by \$1.5 million. Several factors contributed to the overrun including the reassignment last March of existing staff to provide ALS staffing in all stations and to supplement reduced staffing capabilities of Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department; the provision of County-wide 24/7 ALS and fire coverage with existing staff while the 21 positions added for the purpose of providing the expanded coverage were/are training in the academy; and continued staffing difficulties of both Spotsylvania Volunteer Fire Department and Spotsylvania Volunteer Rescue Squad.

A budget adjustment was approved by the Board at the April 9, 2019 Board meeting to budget grant revenue for firefighter/medic costs, freeing \$272,624 in local funding for reallocation to cover a portion of the overtime overrun. As reported in the mid-year financial report, and factored into the FY 2020 revenue estimates, it is projected that real estate revenue will exceed budgeted projections by \$2.0 million in FY 2019. To cover the balance of the currently projected overtime overrun, Finance staff proposes a budget adjustment which uses the increase in projected real estate revenue to increase the overtime budget and appropriation by \$1,183,951.

On a motion by Mr. Pritchett, seconded by Ms. Williams and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the FY 2019 budget amendment and appropriation to fund the projected overage in Fire/Rescue's overtime.

Once the vote was taken, Chief Cullinan noted that while they continue to have issues with volunteer coverage, he believes that once the next group of recruits has finalized their training, they will provide some additional help with reducing overtime. However, because the new recruits will only provide sufficient personnel to provide base level 24/7 ALS and fire coverage at each station, if FREM continues to see the current rate of turnover, they will continue to pay overtime to provide coverage.

Dr. Trampe arrived.

### **Budget Amendment & Appropriation to Reflect Increase in State/Federal Funding of for Child Welfare Line Items**

Gail Crooks, Social Services Director, explained that in December 2018 the Spotsylvania Department of Social Services submitted a request to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) for increases to several child welfare line items to reflect their increased rate of expenditure in FY 2019. Rates of expenditure are driven by the number of children in foster care, the number of children adopted for which subsidies are provided (for children hard to place or with existing special needs), and the number and intensity of the therapeutic supports that are being required in many of the adoptive placements.

The State approved revised total allocations of \$1,614,884 for Foster Care maintenance payments; \$674,201 for Special Needs adoption subsidy payments (non-IVE); and \$1,418,678 for Adoption subsidy payments (IVE), an increase of \$1,442,452 to the initial allocations. The increase of \$1,442,452 is fully funded through state and federal pass-thru monies. Staff is requesting approval of a budget amendment and appropriation to reflect this increased revenue.

On a motion by Mr. Pritchett, seconded by Ms. Williams and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the FY 2019 budget amendment and appropriation related to the State approved revised allocations for Foster Care Maintenance Programs, Special Needs Adoptions, and Adoption Subsidy payments.

### **Budget Amendment & Appropriation to Reflect Increase in Mandatory Expenditures in Children's Services Act (CSA) Line Items**

Gail Crooks, Social Services Director, explained that CSA is administered through the Department of Social Services but oversight is through the Spotsylvania Community Policy Management Team (CPMT). The program exists to ensure timely and appropriate access to service youth with emotional or behavioral problems, as well as to families when those services support the therapeutic needs of the child, and to ensure those services are delivered in the least restrictive environment possible while maintaining good stewardship of state and local resources.

CSA continues a trend of serving an increasing number of Spotsylvania youth and those youth are frequently presenting with conditions requiring more intensive, and expensive, interventions and services. In FY 2018 the program served 384 children, a 20% increase over FY 2017. The primary category of expenditure is Individual Education Plan (IEP)-driven alternative private day placements for children with special emotional or developmental needs that cannot be appropriately or adequately met within the Spotsylvania County Schools. As of March 28, 2019 the program had served 304 children, 114 of whom were in alternative day placements. While the 114 children in alternative day placement represent only 37.5% of children served, alternative day

placements are projected to be between 55% and 57% of expenditures. Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) requires these children be appropriately served.

Due to the significant increase in number of children being served through CSA, and the federal and state mandates that require that these children be appropriately served, it is necessary to increase the appropriation for Mandatory Services within the CSA approved budget from \$10,300,000 to \$12,400,000, with an associated increase in state funding in the amount of \$1,134,000, for a total increase in local funding of \$966,000.

Ms. Jewell noted that there is a larger discussion issue that needs to be considered, beyond the rising cost of this program. Staff from Finance, DSS and Spotsylvania Schools have met to discuss the rising population in children served in the CSA program and to begin to brainstorm on other options that might be considered to address the provision of CSA services in Spotsylvania County versus transporting children outside of our County. Ms. Crooks noted that the transportation costs for these children are absorbed within the Schools' transportation budget and that localities across Virginia are experiencing increases in CSA costs.

On a motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Dr. Trampe and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the proposed FY 2019 budget adjustments and associated appropriations to reflect increases in mandatory expenditures in the Children's Services Act account.

**Other Business:**

**Adjournment:**

Ms. Sorrell adjourned the meeting.