

March 6, 2025

County of Greene, Virginia

THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025, BEGINNING AT 4:30 P.M. IN PERSON IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MEETING ROOM AND BY ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATION

Present were: Steve Catalano, Chair
Marie Durrer, Vice Chair
Davis Lamb, Member
Francis McGuigan, Member
Tim Goolsby, Member

Staff present: Cathy Schafrik, County Administrator
Kim Morris, Deputy Clerk
Jim Frydl, Director of Planning and Zoning
Melissa Meador, Director of Emergency Services
Dan Chipman, Finance Director
Cooper Lane, Senior Financial Accountant
Terry Beigie, Grant Writer
James Howard, Director of Social Services
Donna Dunivan, EMS Administrative Manager
Ali Akbar, EMS Captain

RE: BUDGET WORKSHOP – SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. James Howard, the Director of Social Services, provided an overview of the CSA (Comprehensive Services Act) program and the DSS (Department of Social Services) budget. For the CSA program, he presented data on the average cost of CSA expenditures, the average expenditure per child in Greene County compared to the state, and the breakdown of how the CSA funds are spent. He emphasized the high caseload of foster care children and the benefits of using community-based services. For the DSS budget, Mr. Howard thanked the Board for their support in fully staffing the department. He explained the 3% increase in the DSS budget which was primarily due to filling vacant positions and the overall increase in salaries. He provided a detailed breakdown of the DSS budget, including population data, benefits, and family services. The Board and Mr. Howard discussed the next steps to get the new Social Services building renovations completed and it was decided that an item would be added to the upcoming agenda to appropriate the funds needed for completion of the project.

The Board thanked Mr. Howard.

RE: BUDGET WORKSHOP – EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ms. Melissa Meador, the Director of Emergency Services, Mr. Ali Akbar, EMS Captain, Ms. Donna Dunivan, EMS Administrative Manager and Dr. Mace, Operational Medical Director, were present to answer questions the Board may have. Ms. Meador provided an overview of the Greene County EMS department and their staffing requests for the current year. She began by giving a brief history of the transition from UVA's contract to a county-run EMS department. Ms. Meador outlined the staffing requests, which include two paramedics and two EMTs, to maintain adequate staffing levels and meet the growing demand for services. Ms. Meador discussed the increase in call volume and the importance of maintaining three staffed ambulances 24/7 and the impact of inadequate staffing on response times and patient care.

Captain Akbar provided detailed data and information to support the staffing requests presented by Ms. Meador. Mr. Akbar presented data on the steady increase in call volume that the department has experienced, as well as projections for future growth based on planned development in the county. He emphasized the need for additional staffing to maintain three fully staffed ambulances 24/7 to meet the growing demand. Mr. Akbar also shared data on the department's mutual aid requests and responses, highlighting the need for better staffing to avoid delays in responding to calls. He explained that when all the department's units are out on calls, they are unable to respond to new calls, leading to "no units available" (NUA) situations. Mr. Akbar discussed the importance of having a lieutenant on the QRV (Quick Response Vehicle) to provide advanced practice and logistical support, especially as the department looks to implement higher-level procedures and protocols to better serve the community. He presented three staffing options for the board to consider, each with its own financial implications and potential benefits.

Ms. Meador mentioned that the Greene County EMS department started an auxiliary program last month. She explained that the program has four different tiers:

1. Tier One - Helping with public relations, events, and career days.
2. Tier Two - Providing education and training.
3. Tier Three - Participating in 911 emergency response by riding on the ambulances.
4. Tier Four - A combination of the above.

Ms. Meador stated that the requirements for auxiliary members are the same as for county employees, including the application process, evaluations, and physical requirements, depending on the tier they want to participate in. As of March 3rd, Meador said the department had received seven inquiries and one application for the program. She mentioned that the insurance cost for the auxiliary program is \$8,000 per year. Ms. Meador noted that if the department does not see a significant influx of people interested in the program, they may need to do a cost-benefit analysis to determine if it is worth continuing. However, she mentioned that one of the inquiries was from a respiratory therapist at UVA who wants to help with ventilator training and education, which could be a valuable addition to the program.

Ms. Meador emphasized that once staffing reaches seven personnel per shift, additional staff requests are unlikely for the next three to four years. While there is a possibility of adjusting roles, such as making a part-time training officer full-time, the focus is on maintaining current

staffing levels. She noted that no state or federal grants are available to support EMS staffing, unlike grants for fire departments. Ms. Meador said that the decision about the type of EMS service to provide in the county rests with the Board and reminded them that the quality of service has a significant impact on the community. She said that the department is proud of its performance, with positive feedback from residents and minimal complaints. She stressed the importance of pre-hospital care and the department's goal of exceeding national standards.

Dr. Mace provided important insights and perspectives into the staffing needs and challenges faced by the department. Dr. Mace emphasized the need for advanced practice procedures and the importance of having a lieutenant on the QRV (Quick Response Vehicle) to support the implementation of higher-level protocols. He explained that as the EMS department looks to provide more advanced care, having a dedicated supervisor in the field is crucial for ensuring proper oversight and system implementation. Comparing 911 agencies to inter-facility transport agencies, Dr. Mace highlighted the unique demands and staffing requirements of a 911 system. He noted that while transport agencies may have limitations on shift lengths, 911 agencies like Greene County EMS require longer shifts to maintain adequate coverage and response times. Dr. Mace discussed the significant impact of "no units available" (NUA) situations, where the department is unable to respond to calls due to all units being occupied. He stressed that even a single NUA event could have life-threatening consequences, especially for critical patients like stroke or heart attack victims. Reducing these NUA occurrences is a top priority for Dr. Mace and the EMS department.

The Board and Ms. Meador discussed the mandated medical supply costs and the maintenance cost of the ambulances.

The Board thanked Ms. Meador and her team.

There was another speaker that was with the EMS team that we forgot to address during their presentation. Ms. Janet Tumolo, a retired emergency room nurse and resident of the Four Seasons community in Greene County, spoke in support of the Greene County EMS department and the importance of their services. Ms. Tumolo explained that the Four Seasons community is rapidly growing, with around 250 residents ranging in age from 55 to 92 years old. She noted that many of these residents have various medical conditions, such as cardiac issues, emphysema, and other ailments common in an aging population. She shared that in the past, when the EMS services were primarily volunteer based, the community was limited in the care they could provide, often having to rely on transporting residents to Albemarle County for more advanced medical assistance. However, Ms. Tumolo expressed her strong approval of the current Greene County EMS department, stating that it is "very well run" and that the community is "really, really supporting" the EMS services. She emphasized the critical importance of having a professional, well-equipped EMS team to serve the needs of the aging population in Four Seasons and the surrounding areas.

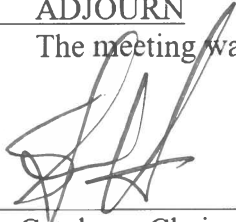
The Board thanked Ms. Tumolo for her words.

RE: GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Board discussed some general budget numbers including the overall increase of the entire budget, capital improvements, and the school numbers. They discussed the bidirectional antennas for the schools and the grants that are in limbo due to the changes in the federal government. The Board discussed the reassessment and the revenue projections for real estate and personal property. They also came to a consensus of the tax rates to put on a resolution for the upcoming meeting.

RE: ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Catalano', written over a horizontal line.

Steve Catalano, Chair
Greene County Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cathy Schafrik', written over a horizontal line.

Cathy Schafrik, Clerk
Greene County Board of Supervisors