

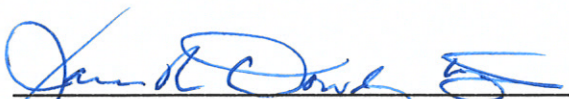
**CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION
HELD ON MAY 31, 2022**

Present at the work session: Crisp County Board of Commissioners Chairman James Dowdy, Larry Felton, James Nance, Mark Crenshaw, County Administrator Clark Harrell, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk, Monica Irwin.

Chairman Dowdy called the work session to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Crisp County Board Room. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, addressed the board and reported him, the finance director, and department directors have spent most of the month working on the 2023 budget. Unfortunately, the county's best for the 2023 fiscal year is a \$1.463 million deficit. Mr. Harrell advised the board that his recommendation is to request from the board to balance this budget with reserves and not engaging in a roll back of the tax millage rate. If the county does engage in a millage roll back, the county deficit will increase to approximately \$2 million, based on preliminary digest numbers. Mr. Harrell stated to the board that he felt this is the best course of action. Mr. Harrell also informed the board of the state law passed for a \$5000 COLA issued to Constitutional Officers and Elected Officials to begin January 1, 2023. The Annex Roofing project is also included in the 2023 budget and is scheduled to begin near the end of July or first of August. The EMS budget is under review and we are currently working with the Hospital Administrator on contract terms and a fixed budget amount. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the 2023 budget also includes a 3% COLA for all county employees and in addition, would like to give another \$2500 employee incentive to all county employees. The employee incentive will come from ARPA funds.

Michael Postell, Crisp County Fire & Rescue Director, addressed the Commissioners concerning the need for an in-house training officer. Mr. Postell explained to the board the difficulty the department has had hiring qualified firefighters. The newly hired firefighters are certified from the Technical Program but still need in-house day to day training to be able to work at a fire station by themselves. Mr. Postell also informed the board of the pros and cons of sending each firefighter to mandate training and again, the overall need and benefits of having an in-house training officer. The Commissioners will discuss the options and vote on this matter at the next regular scheduled commission meeting.

There being no further business, the Commissioners adjourned the work session at 4:03 p.m.


James R. Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, Administrator