

**RICHLAND COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION**

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**Companion Document
Millage Agencies, Debt Service, Vehicle Leasing**

To: Chair Livingston and Honorable Members of the Council
Prepared by: James Hayes, Director
Department: Budget and Grants Management
Subject: May 13, 2021 Budget Work Session Companion Document (Millage Agencies, Debt Service, Vehicle Leasing)

1. **Councilwoman G. Barron:** It has been brought to my attention by many of my constituents about the condition at the Parklane Tennis Courts. I do see the proposal there in the packet. Where is this included in the Budget, the repairs specifically for Parklane, does this budget reflect that?

RCRC, Brandy James: We have budgeted for fiscal year 2022, Capital Improvements of approximately \$350,000. When we prepared the budget we did not have those numbers or those figures related to the tennis court. I believe that information provided to you was to one, alert you that we had been contacted some constituents during our public meeting and also to further some discussion as far as funding those particular repairs.

We have been working with our staff all year to develop our capital improvement plan, however with the recent pandemic and other budget cuts, we haven't been able to fund some of those projects.

Direct RCRC Lakita Watson: We do recognize that this has been a priority for a number of years, and unfortunately because of the way that our operating budget is set up, it is a separate document and funding mechanism from what we would call Capital Improvement. Which this is what the tennis courts would be. So what we have been doing is funding that line item that Ms. James has shared with you and we usually max it to that \$300,000. So we would take whatever we could to fix what we could out of that amount. This request also came from discussions from the constituents. If you see within that documentations they were working with us to access that best way to address this issue. We have been working without procurement even since you have received that. We think that we even have a lower number that we can present, however it was not included in our regular operating because of large cost. There may be an opportunity for a special allocation to assist us. We have applied for grants but unfortunately, because of the pandemic we were not approved. We feel that in collaboration with the County, we could possibly decrease that number that we submitted to you because of recent developments that we found through our procurement process.

Chair P. Livingston: My suggestions would be that the Recreation Commission to review a lesser cost of that to present something in relationship to that. We are talking about a onetime expenditure? Make it very clear that this is a onetime expenditure.

Watson: This will bring this facility to the level of, not only community play but to tournament play which could thus feed into our sports tourism, into our own County tax dollars. This fund is a one-time request that will allow us to do that.

ATTACHMENT #1

2. **Councilwoman G. Barron:** Under program revenue with the athletes and the marketing, program and marketing it looks like from FY19-20 these number are almost tripling FY 21-22, what are we doing differently as it relates to athletics and marketing that will cause such a large increase?

Direct RCRC Lakita Watson: We have experienced over the last year with the pandemic, as we all were charting those territories that we were not familiar with, what we did see across the Country including here in Richland County, was an increase in outdoor athletics because of the limitations of being indoors. Individuals were flocking to the outdoors. We have major assets in our County that we have not properly advertise so that we can be one of those destination communities where we are able to bring in large tournaments that an help fund some of the repairs and things we need to have done but also create a constant revenue stream.

Better marketing and a commitment on our end to encourage individuals to come to our Community. We have identified opportunities for sponsorship. We also plan to rebrand.

3. **Councilwoman Y. McBride:** Would those services regarding Tennis be available free to constituent of Richland County?

Direct RCRC Lakita Watson: Yes.

There will be opportunities for free classes, clinics, and daily activities. From the tournament perspective that's usually a revenue generating thing.

4. **Councilwoman Y. McBride:** I am concerned about the other services where people can use the Richland County recreation department without having to pay, particularly those citizens who can't afford to pay and their children can participate in camps if they're having it this year, because this has been a past concern?

Direct RCRC Lakita Watson: There are several free programs that we do have we are hosting free summer camps at several of our sites, you no longer have to pay to utilize our pools in any of our communities as well. We are definitely working with citizens who

have a need from financial standpoint. We have a program called All In that we work with them based off of income restriction and in addition we work with non-profit organizations to help fund scholarships.

5. **Chair P. Livingston:** No Mill increase is proportionately is much higher than the nominal increase for the others for the Zoo. What account for that?

Direct of Budget and Grants Management, James Hayes: As you recall the Zoo has such a small Millage, there is no increase for this year. Council asked a lot of the Agencies for the current year to come in with a reduced.

(Look up numbers)

6. **Councilwoman C Newton:** I would be interested in a broad information in terms of the request of the Budget CAP and also what the financial situation looks like for schools both in light of changes that have happened because of COVID but also in light of the influx of federal dollars that are also coming in?

Richland County School District One, Superintendent Craig Witherspoon: We have that information outlining what we're asking for and why. With regard to the federal dollars that are coming, some we have received and some additional that's forthcoming, those around the COVID piece and around some recovery of learning, some building retrofits with regards to air quality. Those federal funding are categorical, there are 15 areas those dollars have to be spent on. Given COVID and what we had to do around PPE, around the thousands of laptops that we've added because of COVID those dollars are used for that.

The need that we are asking County Council to approve in this budget cycle is some of those regular operational items that we have in terms of programming and so forth.

(Document submitted)

7. **Chair P. Livingston:** When should will we get the budget from Richland Two

Richland County School District Two, Superintendent Harry Miley: We are planning to have a board meeting on May 25th that will be our first reading to that budge. Legislature had adjourned debate on that budget until mid-June, so we will not have a full budget. The state budget is about 65 percent of our total budget. The percentage of our budget that is generated from the millage rate is about a 3rd of our budget. We will be bringing a request to you on May 26th. At this time the board has not voted on the local portion but we are recommending that we have a no mill increase this year and we are taking that recommendation to the board.

COVID funds and the CARES act, we have done about the same things. Those funds are category, they are limited to how you can use them and they're one-time, not recurring dollars so there are limits to what you can do prudently. We are spending most of our funds on summer programs, extra tutoring and laptops.

(Request documents to be provided)

8. **Chair P. Livingston:** Do you have a schedule somewhere of all of payments. I would like to see what's happening over the next five to ten years

Direct of Budget and Grants Management, James Hayes: The Richland County Treasurer's Office actually makes these payments, so yes they have a schedule and Director Hamm's office is involved with that as well.

Direct of Finance, Stacey Hamm:

Attachment #2