



Agenda Briefing

To: Chair Overture Walker and Honorable Members of the Council
Prepared by: Abhijit “Abhi” Deshpande, Director
Department: Office of Budget and Grants Management
Subject: May 5, 2022, Budget Work Session Companion Document

- Councilwoman Mackey:** The Columbia Area Mental Health and the School District Two submitted their budget; but will it be updated on the spreadsheet? And what was the deadline to submit Millage budgets? Will we be receiving the budgets from those who haven’t submitted them?

Answer: Director of Budget & Grants Management, Abhi Deshpande:

Correct. We’ve just received the Columbia Area Mental Health and the School District One a few hours before today’s Work Session; therefore it was not updated on the presentation. The deadline to submit budgets was Tuesday, May 3, 2022. As of today (5/9/2022), we have received the following budget requests from Millage Agencies.

MILLAGE AGENCY	FY 2021 APPROVED	FY 2022 APPROVED	FY 2023 AGENCY REQUESTED	FY 2023 NO MILL INCREASE	FY 2023 MILL CAP
Richland County Recreation Commission	14,833,254	15,900,000	16,063,900	15,362,500	16,063,900
The Columbia Area Mental Health	2,196,520	2,562,500	2,584,000	2,408,000	2,584,000
Richland County Public Library	27,855,839	30,100,000	30,868,000	29,460,000	30,868,000
Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens	2,222,100	2,825,000	2,574,000	2,574,000	2,750,000
Midlands Technical College (Operating)	5,800,527	7,393,600	7,632,084	6,898,100	7,250,700
Midlands Technical College (Capital)	3,590,858	3,670,000	4,016,234	3,685,000	3,861,000
Richland County School District One	234,746,954	236,593,833	239,797,217	239,797,217	248,097,217
Richland County School District Two	161,106,497	168,105,055	N/A	169,467,321	174,708,921
Total	452,352,549	467,149,988	61,154,218	469,652,138	486,183,738

Upon receipt, I will forward it to Council when I have received the remaining budgets. I anticipate submitting the final budgets before the Second Reading on May 26, 2022.

- Councilwoman McBride:** In terms of the Millage agency, we have no responsibility other than approving the bottom-line budget number as we do not see the detailed budget items. It’s almost as if it’s a pass-through budget for Richland County to sign off on. What are our actual, lawful responsibilities concerning how we approve Millage Agencies’ budgets?

Answer: Director of Budget & Grants Management, Abhi Deshpande:

That is correct, we do not receive detailed budgets; approval is based on the overall budget number.

ACA Lori Thomas:

That is correct, Millage budgets are pass-throughs and we can inform you of their Millage Cap. To request anything over the Mill Cap, I will reconvene with the Auditors office to find out the requirement from a political perspective.

Clarifying Guidance from the Auditor's Office:

County Council sets the operating millage rate for all millage agencies. The agencies do not have the authority or ability to set their own millage, it is entirely up to County Council to set the operating millage. The only time County Council can set a millage that exceeds the cap is if the millage agency has lookback millage available that was not used in the previous 3 years or if there was a revenue shortage in the previous year's collection.

Therefore, County Council can decide to fund millage agencies either at the cap, no mill increase, in between the no mill and cap, or reduce the millage.

Midland Technical College has 0.2 mills left over from the previous 3 years. That would equal \$352,000. Therefore, the Council can choose to fund MTC's operating request by an additional \$352,000 over the current Mill Cap (totaling \$7,602,700).