

Grayson County Board of Supervisors
And Grayson County School Board
Joint Budget Work Session
April 9, 2019

Board of Supervisors attending were: Kenneth R. Belton, Brenda R. Sutherland, John S. Fant, and Michael S. Hash and Thomas Revels.

Mr. William L. Shepley, Mr. Mitchell L. Smith and Leesa A. Gayheart were in attendance as well.

School Board members in attendance were: Diane Haynes, Fred Weatherman, Randy Shinault, and Rick Sage. Tracy Anderson was absent.

Mr. Kelly Wilmore, Mrs. Mary Paisley and Ms. Michelle Cassell were also in attendance.

Supervisor Belton called the Board of Supervisors meeting to order.

Chair Haynes called the School Board meeting to order.

IN RE: OPENING BUSINESS

Supervisor Fant made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by Supervisor Revels. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Weatherman made the motion to approve the agenda; duly seconded by Mr. Shinault. Motion carried 4-0.

IN RE: BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mr. Shepley addressed everyone and noted that he wanted to take a few minutes to describe what goes on within the County Government leading up to the budget discussions with the school:

- The Board of Supervisors and staff are extremely proud of the teachers, administration and the Grayson County School Board. Outstanding work with our children is being done and that's reflected in their scores and your remarkable dropout rate of less than 2% and we congratulate you all!
- Some of you may know that my wife of 31 years is an art teacher in the public schools; her mother was a kindergarten teacher and both of her grandparents were teachers – her grandfather was a principal in fact.
- It's very important that we remember that we are all on the same team
- Mr. Shepley then presented a slide show to give everyone some idea of what the County has been working on in regard to the budget leading up to today's discussion

GRAYSON COUNTY IS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS

- Board of Supervisors
- County Administrator
- Zoning
- Auditors
- Professional Services
- Commissioner of Revenue
- Treasurer
- Electoral Board
- Circuit Court
- District Court
- Magistrate
- Courthouse Security
- Juvenile/Domestic Court
- Commonwealth Attorney
- Victim Witness
- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Services
- Fire Departments
- Ambulance/Rescue
- Care of Prisoners
- Building Inspection
- Animal Control
- Medical Examiner
- Refuse Disposal
- Refuse Collection
- Recycling
- Building Maintenance
- Building Law Enforcement
- Building Courthouse
- Building Health Department
- Local Health Department
- Mental Health
- Social Services
- District III
- Child Services Act
- Community College
- Recreational Park
- Regional Library
- Planning Commission
- Soil Conservation District
- Rooftop CAP
- Agriculture Agent
- Enhanced 911 Commission
- Airport
- Multi-Flora Rose
- Economic Development
- Other Community Development
- Tourism

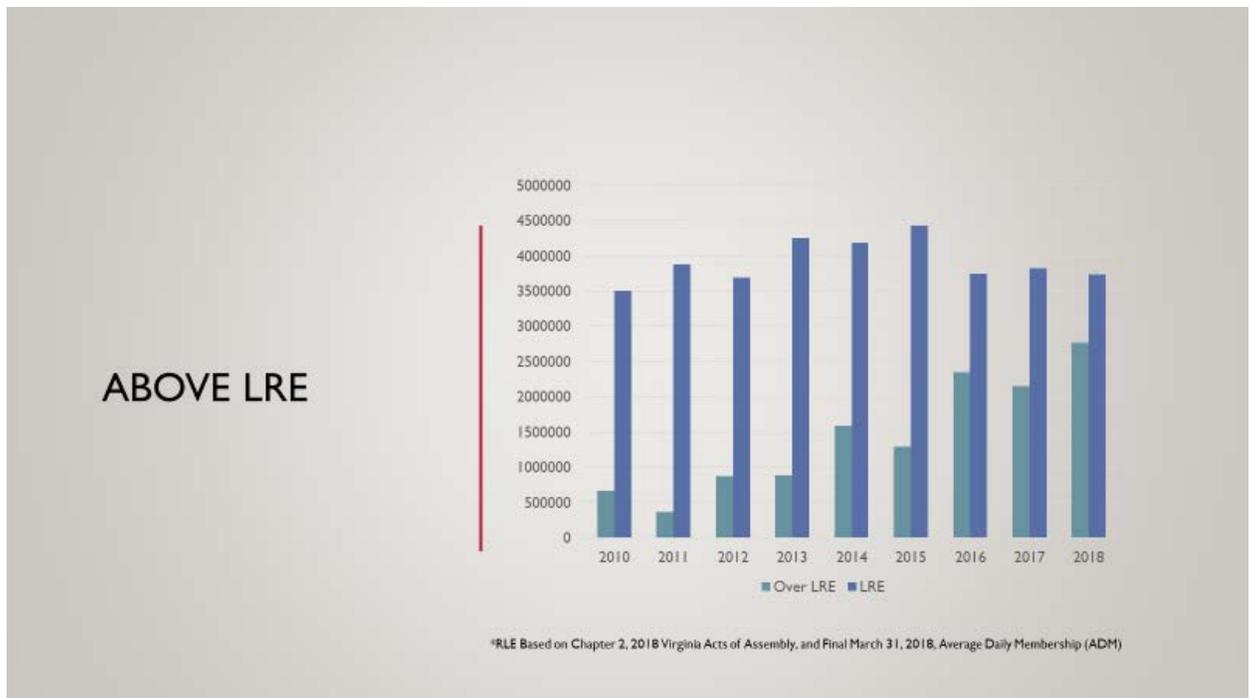
- This slide shows all of the departments and services that come before us to ask for money each year and of course the school is by far the largest request. We review all requests, make recommendations and consider how all of these requests can be balanced.
- In addition, there are many new initiatives underway in Grayson County to help improve the quality of life for our citizens and to help us prepare for the present and the future.
- The initiatives include but are not limited to:
 - ✚ The expansion of Broadband services to all of the citizens of our county
 - ✚ The possible development of a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center to bring healthcare services closer to home at a much less expensive level
 - ✚ We must invest in economic development to attract new businesses and industries to our county to provide jobs for our young people so that they will choose Grayson County as the place they want to raise their families
 - ✚ A major part of our economic development will include tourism – our county can compete with any county in the nation for natural beauty and we need to bring more tourist related dollars to our county – we now have a full-time position dedicated to that task
 - ✚ Our number one industry in Grayson County is agriculture. Working together with our outstanding group of agriculture related citizens that make up the Agricultural Advisory Committee and looking at the possibility of hiring an Agricultural Economic Development Director to help us grow all things in the broad agricultural arena
 - ✚ We are working with many partners to develop a High-Tech Education Center in collaboration with the Crossroads Institute at Baywood School

- ✚ We are working with our Emergency Rescue and Fire leaders throughout the community to enhance the cohesion of our efforts county-wide and to assist their growth.
- We also have several major financial challenges we must face:
 - ✚ Expenses related to the Child Services Act – this is state mandated, and we have to pay it – currently the increase will be 50-75% for the next fiscal year
 - ✚ Expenses related to Juvenile Detention
 - ✚ Ever increasing expenses related to our participation in the Regional Jail – currently our cost is \$600,000 and it will be increasing to 1.1 million – another uncontrollable cost.
- These opportunities and challenges will not come free to us – we must adjust our tax structure to meet all of the needs described above including the school system.
- The county and the school system have done a remarkable job of controlling costs over the last 10 years

SPENDING OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS

- County Government has controlled expenses to reflect a .39% average annual increase since 2008.
- County Schools have also controlled spending to reflect a 2.9% average annual increase over the same time period.

(inflation was removed from this calculation)



- Contributions above LRE from the County have continued to increase over the past years
- In wrapping up, Mr. Shepley noted that he's continuously amazed by the fellowship, warmth, and care that the people of Grayson County extend to one another. The spirit of cooperation and togetherness is what brought him here and these challenges can be worked out in a way that will meet all of the requests that have been made within the financial abilities of our county.

Supervisor Sutherland inquired about the personnel savings since Baywood School closed. Mr. Wilmore noted that the positions from Baywood was filled in other schools. Supervisor Belton inquired about the \$400,000+ from Baywood – is it not a savings?; Mr. Wilmore noted that they started with 1 million shortfall and thankfully the school has gained more students than lost; by closing Baywood, the staff was able to be transferred to other places in the school system plus improved ADM numbers has helped. Mr. Wilmore also noted that the school has only cut 40 staff members in 4 years since he came to Grayson County. Supervisor Revels inquired as to how many funded positions and how many will be vacant for this budget. Mr. Wilmore responded that they have very few retirees in this budget. Supervisor Fant inquired of the goals of the School Board in this budget: (1) positive compensation (2) reduce school dropout rate further (3) how to do extracurricular activities. Mr. Wilmore noted that the number 1 goal is to get the teacher salaries back up to where they need to be. Supervisor Fant noted that based on what Mr. Wilmore stated that step restoration for the teachers is a number 1 priority and Mrs. Haynes spoke up that it's not just the teachers, it's every employee. Supervisor Fant noted step issue plus the salary adjustments that the school is receiving additional funding from the state; some step adjustments were completed last year but didn't completely get solved – it's a high priority this year to get resolved; Mr. Wilmore noted that Supervisor Fants assessment is correct. Mr.

Wilmore noted that minimal funding is needed this year - the roof at Fairview School really needs to be replaced under the CIP which would cost approximately \$89,000. Supervisor Fant noted that the school is moving some part-time employees to full-time with one being the psychologist. Mr. Wilmore agreed that is correct – by hiring full-time, it would save them some money. Supervisor Fant noted that the debt of 1.2 million in-debt and the 2 schools not being utilized or maximized – if it’s all about the kids then we should be maximizing out 2 nicest facilities. Mr. Wilmore responded that Grayson Highlands was built too big and not any of their problems – what’s really need is a newly renovated high school. Supervisor Revels inquired regarding the classroom size with the closure of Baywood School. Mr. Wilmore noted that the classroom size has increased somewhat. Supervisor Revels inquired about the increase in instructional cost from last year to this year – Mr. Wilmore stated that he will get the numbers to the Board. Supervisor Fant asked what the dollar amount is to get the step problem solved – what is the amount needed? Mr. Wilmore noted approximate dollar amount would be \$300,000 for just teachers. Supervisor Fant also inquired about the number to solve salary increased for everyone? Mr. Wilmore noted that he would send the numbers tomorrow. Mrs. Haynes shared her appreciation to the Board for all the county does also noting that we all need to do all we can for our kids. Mr. Weatherman noted the he doesn’t see how the county can continue on .49 levy – the Board of Supervisors need to fix the problem. Supervisor Sutherland asked about the ROTC program and Mr. Wilmore noted that Grayson County plans on modeling what Galax City has done. Supervisor Belton commented on RLE for the past few years and stated that the Boards need to work together – the County is not the villain – we want to do all we can for the school. Mr. Wilmore stated that they (School Board) wants to work with the County (Board of Supervisors), just doesn’t want to be surprised – let’s all stay in our own lanes and thanked the Board for all that has been accomplished together. Mr. Shepley noted that all the departments are holding their cost in the county to .39%; the school was 2.9% and it takes teamwork. Supervisor Belton inquired about the “magic number” for this year and Mr. Wilmore responded 1.72 again.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Supervisor Fant made the motion to adjourn the Board of Supervisors; duly seconded by Supervisor Hash. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Weatherman made the motion to adjourn the School Board; duly seconded by Mr. Shinault. Motion carried 4-0.