

UPSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & CITY OF THOMASTON
Joint City - County Meeting
Thomaston-Upson Senior Center – Wednesday, March 16, 2022
4:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Norman Allen

II. ATTENDANCE

COUNTY

Chairman Norman Allen
Commissioner Paul Jones
Commissioner Lorenzo Wilder
Commissioner James Ellington
County Manager Jason Tinsley
Finance Director Allen Salter
EMS Coordinator Russ McGee

CITY

Councilmember Lakethia Reeves
Councilmember Doug Head
Councilmember Don Greathouse
Councilmember Ryan Tucker
City Manager Russell Thompson
City Clerk Oasis Nichols
Finance Director Lonnie Joyce
City Attorney DeAnn Wheeler

AmeriPro EMS

Executive Vice President Larry Richardson
Director of Operations Doug Norton

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and consideration on a budget amendment for Emergency Medical Services

Mr. Tinsley provided a recap of what has taken place thus far regarding EMS Service. He stated the purpose of this meeting is to decide whether to amend the budget and for how much.

Chairman Allen stated he would like to meet with the City at a future time to discuss sharing the cost of emergency medical services.

Mr. Richardson gave an overview of the unforeseen costs realized in the first 30 days in providing EMS services for Upson County, Lamar County and the City of Thomaston.

Cost 1: Payroll – Mr. Richardson explained the original cost submitted in their bid was based on the highest paid senior Paramedic/EMT in their organization and market analysis through Indeed and other online pay scale sources as of December 2021. In order to recruit and retain Paramedics/EMT's, every ambulance service in Georgia increased payrates substantially effective January 2022. This inflation created a difference of \$350K a year to retain existing Paramedic/EMT's.

Cost 2: Communication Infrastructure – When Mid-Ga/Community bought the Upson County service, it was an asset purchase which included the communication infrastructure. Community took that infrastructure with them when they ended their contract.

AmeriPro found the infrastructure is noncompliant with HIIPA and is nonencrypted so they are rebuilding the communication infrastructure and would recommend First-Net which meets all federal guidelines for HIIPA compliance. They are currently borrowing a channel from the Sheriff for communications. They have constructed a new communications center and had to increase their staffing to run the new software. The new infrastructure will be turned over to the counties in the event AmeriPro ceases to provide service for either or both counties. They expect to be able to reduce staffing in the future. Total investment so far is over \$162K.

Cost 3: Real estate – Mr. Richardson explained the original plan was to utilize the fire stations to operate from. He learned they did not have the needed infrastructure to do so (internet, sleeping facilities, etc.). The EMS station on Hugo Starling is the only facility in the county that he feels will provide what is needed. The hospital has not had a recent assessment of the property and after performing a Fair Market Value analysis the monthly expenses are expected to increase from \$8K/month to \$10-12K/month. Because the hospital and AmeriPro receive Medicare payments, they cannot pay less than FMV for rent.

AmeriPro would also like to utilize this facility for training purposes to cross discipline train between County and City public safety entities.

They are also having Spectrum Fiber run to the station to provide the needed Wi-Fi speed costing \$12K plus investment plus monthly subscription.

They are asking for an increase by \$19K/month for Upson and \$26K/month for Lamar.

Below is a breakdown of those exact costs:

Cost Overruns			
One-Time	Comm Equipment	\$92,000	
	Infrastructure + Start Up	\$70,261	
	Total	\$162,261	
Annual Recurring	Parity in Staff Salaries	\$349,044	
	Realestate - capped	\$132,000	
	Utilities - capped	\$34,000	
	One-time costs of \$162,261 annualized over 5 years	\$32,452	
	Total	\$547,496	
Current Total Annual Subsidy (Upson + Lamar)		\$1,445,000	
Recurring Overruns		\$547,496	
Total Subsidy Needed		\$1,992,496	
Amended Lamar Annual Subsidy (2/5 of total)		\$796,998	(\$66,416/month)
Amended Upson Annual Subsidy (3/5 of total)		\$1,195,498	(\$99,624/month)

A motion was made to authorize the Chairman to execute an amendment to the Ambulance/Emergency Medical Services Service Delivery Agreement executed on December 29, 2021, between the Upson County Board of Commissioners and AmeriPro EMS.

The Amendment would change the rate adjustment period regarding EMS and Ambulance Service Fees under paragraph 5.0, subparagraph 5.2.1 of the Agreement to (18) months from (12) months.

Motion: Commissioner Ellington

Second: Commissioner Wilder

Commissioner Ellington – Yes
 Commissioner Jones – Yes
 Commissioner Wilder – Yes
 Chairman Allen – Yes

A motion was made to amend the original Agreement cost in the Ambulance/Emergency Medical Services Service Delivery Agreement executed on December 29, 2021 between the Upson County Board of Commissioners and AmeriPro EMS for services from \$960,300 per annum or \$80,025 per month to \$1,195,498 and \$99,624, respectively, for Upson County’s share of the total amended cost. The Addendum includes an amended total cost of \$1,992,496 per annum of which Lamar County’s share of the amended annual cost will be \$796,998.

The Addendum will also include the following:

Section 6.6 is an addition of the Contract entitled Contract Review is amended to add an eighteen (18) month period of this contract being in effect, there will be a review held by the County staff and the Provider’s administration to review all items contained in this document to include service expectations and subsidies allotted.

Motion: Commissioner Jones

Second: Commissioner Ellington

Commissioner Ellington – Yes
 Commissioner Jones – Yes
 Commissioner Wilder – Yes
 Chairman Allen – Yes



UPSON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
106 EAST LEE STREET, SUITE 110
THOMASTON, GA 30286
(706) 647-7012

Jason Tinsley –County Manager
The English Law Group – County Attorney

Norman Allen	- Chairman
Lorenzo Wilder	- District 1
James Ellington	- District 2
Paul Jones	- District 3
Benjamin Watson	- District 4

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TO AMMEND THE 2022 BUDGET**

WHEREAS, Upson County, Georgia is required by the laws of the State of Georgia to prepare, adopt and to operate under an annual balanced budget commencing January 1st of each Fiscal Year; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has designated the County Manager to prepare and submit a balanced operating budget for Fiscal Year 2022 for Upson County; and,

WHEREAS, the County Manager presented a balanced Proposed 2022 Operating Budget for Upson County at a scheduled public hearing to solicit public comments, as well as work sessions: and,

WHEREAS, the Upson County Commissioners adopted the proposed budget; and, WHEREAS, any amendments to said Budget after Final Adoption shall be made as follows:

1. Any increases in appropriation in any fund for any County Department of Upson County whether accomplished through a change in anticipated revenues in any fund or through a transfer of appropriations from one fund to another, shall require the approval of the Board of County Commissioners;

2. Transfers of appropriations in any fund among the various accounts within a Department of Upson County, shall require only the approval of the County Manager, except those transfers of appropriations from the contingency reserve shall require the approval of the Board of Commissioners; and,

3. WHEREAS, it has become necessary to amend the original budget; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners hereby formally amends the Original 2022 Operating Budget for Upson County as reflected in the Budget Amendment Request Form attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

This 16th day of March 2022.

BY: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Signed and sealed this 16th day of March 2022

By: _____
Norman Allen, Chairman

Attest: _____
Jessica Jones, Count Clerk

Date



BUDGET AMMENDMENT REQUEST FORM

Date: 03/22/2022	Fund/Department(s): Fund 205 Joint Projects, Department 3630
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Explanation of Request
The purpose for this amendment is to establish a budget for EMS services under the County's Joint Projects Fund 205.
The original Service Delivery Agreement with AmeriPro EMS was not executed until December 29, 2021, after the fiscal year 2022 was approved.
Upson County's share of the total subsidy or cost per the addendum to the original Agreement is \$1,195,498.
Per the fiscal year 2022 fund sharing ratio, Upson County and City of Thomaston's sharing ratio is 64.9% and 35.1%, respectively. Therefore, Upson County's share of the JP tax revenues to fund EMS/Ambulance services will \$775,878. The City of Thomaston's share will be \$419,620.

Account	Account Description	Current Budget	Increase	Amended Budget	NOTES
205-3630-551200	EMS Services	\$0	\$1,195,498	\$1,195,498	Increase Expense
205-0000-311010	Joint Projects Revenue – Taxes	\$2,033,966	\$775,878	\$2,809,874	Increase Revenue
205-0000-311021	Joint Projects – City Receipts EMS	\$0	\$419,620	\$419,620	Increase Revenue
	Total Budget Increase		\$1,195,498		

W. Jason TINSLEY
COUNTY MANAGER

H. Allen Salter, CPA
FINANCE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

IV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, with a second from Commissioner Wilder to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Norman Allen

Commissioner James Ellington

Commissioner Benjamin Watson

Commissioner Lorenzo Wilder

Commissioner Paul Jones