

MINUTES
Sumter County Council
Planning Meeting
January 10, 1994 2:00p.m.
County Council Chambers (211)

COUNCIL PRESENT: Joe B. Davis, Jr., Chairman, Louis Fleming, Vice Chairman, Charles E. Fienning, Rudy Singleton, Otis Scott, Sr., John A. Watt, Jr., and Frank E. Williams, Jr.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. William T. Noonan, County Administrator; Martin E. Rogers, Assistant County Administrator and Human Resource Director; Sheriff Mims, Jim Darby and Other Members of COG Staff, and Mrs. Mary W. Lewis, Clerk to Council.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item -- Anisa Clemons

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davis.
- II. **Invocation:** Invocation was given by Vice Chairman Fleming.
- III. **New Business:**

Presentation By Sheriff Mims: The Sheriff presented to Council a request to submit four grant applications for use in the law enforcement area of the County.

The first application would fund salaries and fringe benefits for two County officers to work with the Multi-jurisdictional Task Force between Lee, Sumter, and Clarendon Counties with Sumter County acting as the lead county. The two officers from each County would investigate drug activities in these three Counties. Sumter County would be required to fund 25% of the shared cost -- \$28,000.

The second grant application is for a Crime Prevention Officer for the Sumter County Sheriff's Department. The officer will be placed in the 521, South Fire Station, to work with the local neighbors and other neighborhoods to coordinate existing and develop new crime watch programs throughout the County. The 25% shared cost for this program is \$15,025.

The third and fourth requests are joint request with the City of Sumter Police Department. The first grant is for video imaging equipment at a cost of \$12,240. The second grant is for five mobile data terminal units (MDT) to be placed in five of the Sheriff's patrol cars.

The total grant applications will be \$220,000 worth of equipment and personnel. The cost to the County is \$67,265 for the first year. The second and third year cost would be less than the first year cost.

After discussion, MOTION was made by Councilman Singleton, seconded by Councilman Watt, and carried by Council to approve the submission of the grant application and to appropriate \$67,265 for grant use during the 1994-95 budget process. Councilman Fleming voted nay.

Presentation by Santee Lynches COG:

Mr. Darby, Director of the Santee Lynches Council on Governments, spoke to Council about the national issues (needs versus resources), economic trends as the federal trends impact on state and local governments, and grant sources that are available to local governments.

He stated that ideally the County needs to experience a three to four percent differential in the County's budget needs and the real growth in the tax base. If the differential is in its ideal state, then Council can either lower the mileage or take the additional revenue and create economic development activities that further broaden the County's tax base and create jobs.

After discussion, MOTION was made by Councilman Scott, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and unanimously carried by Council to authorize and direct Mr. Darby to bring before Council the process in which Council can establish the needs and priorities of Sumter County as it relates to grant sources.

Presentation by Mr. J. Christian Adams of the Secretary of the State's Office:

Mr. Adams stated that Secretary of State Miles and Comptroller General Morris are bringing forth to the general assembly a tax reform proposal. The taxpayers' rights amendment will put a cap on spending increases to the rate of inflation and also give the voters a voice in any new tax increases. This is actually an amendment to the state constitution. Mr. Adams also added that this is a statewide proposal and will not effect the County Council. It will not limit how much Council can spend or tax.

Rules of Sumter County Council:

Copies of Fairfield County Council's rules were given to each Council member. The Chairman asked that Council peruse the rules and be ready to make comments at the next planning meeting.