

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION MINUTES – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023  
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM  
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534  
4:00 PM**

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*Those present were Chairman Billy Thurmond; Commissioner Seth Stowers, District 1; Commissioner Chris Gaines, District 2; Commissioner Alexa Bruce, District 3; Commissioner Emory Dooley, District 4; County Manager Joey Leverette; County Attorney Angela Davis; County Clerk Kristen Cloud; and interested citizens of Dawson County.*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

*Proposed FY 2024 Budget (1<sup>st</sup> of 3 hearings; 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing will be held at the November 2, 2023, Voting Session and the 3<sup>rd</sup> hearing will be held on November 16, 2023)*

Chairman Thurmond opened the hearing by asking if there was anyone present who wished to be heard on a Proposed FY 2024 Budget.

The following spoke on a Proposed FY 2024 Budget:

Jane Graves, Dawsonville, Georgia, said she was speaking on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee and read an email she recently sent the Board of Commissioners: “The Dawson County Long Range Planning Committee respectfully recommends that the Dawson County Planning department be expanded by at least one but likely more than one person during 2024. This recommendation is based on the rapid growth Dawson County is currently experiencing and the subsequent need to ensure the Planning department has the appropriate expertise and human resources required to manage this growth proactively. More specifically, we recommend the following: 1. Hiring an experienced and qualified project planner. This position would be responsible for creating and acting upon formal processes. We recommend the development of formal processes so that planning activities may be delegated to new personnel with minimal disruption. As background, Dawson County experienced a gap in planning capabilities post-COVID when the majority of informed personnel had left their positions. In order to avoid this situation in the future, we strongly recommend that at least one additional qualified project planner be hired in 2024.); 2. Have a plan to expand the Planning & Development department to accommodate the pace of the county's residential and commercial growth. We appreciate the BOC's consideration of this recommendation. If any additional discussion is required, the Long Range Planning Committee would be happy to meet with the BOC during our official meetings or as part of the BOC's regular meeting schedule.”

Chairman Thurmond asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak on a Proposed FY 2024 Budget and, hearing none, closed the hearing.

The next hearings concerning a Proposed FY 2024 Budget will be held at the November 2, 2023, Voting Session and at the November 16, 2023, Voting Session.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of the Design and Cost Estimates of the Emergency 9-1-1/Emergency Operations Center Building- Purchasing Manager Melissa Hawk / Jericho Design Group Studio Director Yara Rymer Bond  
***This item, presented by Melissa Hawk and Jericho Design Group Owner Doug Shaw, will be added to the November 2, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***
2. Presentation of FY 2024 Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic Grant Award Acceptance- Sheriff Jeff Johnson  
***This item will be placed on the November 16, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***
3. Presentation of FY 2024 Violence Against Women Act Grant Application- Sheriff Jeff Johnson  
***This item will be added to the November 2, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***
4. Presentation of Georgia Forestry Commission Volunteer Fire Assistance 50/50 Grant Application- Emergency Services Director Troy Leist  
***This item will be placed on the November 16, 2023, Voting Session Agenda.***
5. County Manager Report  
***This item was for information only.***
6. County Attorney Report  
***County Attorney Davis had no information to report and requested an Executive Session.***

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

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Billy Thurmond, Chairman

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Kristen Cloud, County Clerk