

Meeting of the Talbot County Emergency Services Advisory Board (TCESAB)
February 18, 2020

Attendees:

Members

Debbie Timms - Vice Chairperson

Jack Harald

Brian LeCates
Steve Mroczek

Lois McDonald
Clay Stamp

Scott Mergenthaler

Wayne Dyott was absent tonight so Vice Chairperson Debbie Timms lead the meeting. She began by asking members if there were issues / needs that should be addressed in the FY21 budget.

Jack Harald discussed the impact of emergencies on elder care communities such as Londonderry or the many skilled nursing facilities in the Easton Area. Clay Stamp described the Talbot Health Care Collation. This group grew out of the County's determination to insure that elder care facilities had plans in place to deal with emergencies that impacted one or more of them. He told Jack that Londonderry was a part of that group.

Debbie asked Scott Mergenthaler about the Sheriff's Department plans for the new budget. Scott began by discussing the equipment that the Council has funded in this and previous years. He said it was "state of the art" and they are very grateful. He said their focus this year was to address personnel issues. While currently the Sheriff's Department is fully staffed they were aware of deputies actively looking at new opportunities. This potential problem could be compounded by the fact that the Sheriff was proposing 2 new positions for FY21. Currently they have no applicants under review. The Sheriff was proposing an Incentive Bonus for new hires to help with the recruiting issue and requesting a study of impact of moving the Sheriff's Department to Law Enforcement Officers - Maryland Retirement and Pension System (LEOPS) to help with retention.

Steve Mroczek reported that the Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association was proposing a flat FY21 budget with the except of a requested increase in the Incentive Program for retired firefighters. The current monthly payment has not been adjusted in many years.

Clay Stamp said that TCDES was requesting the addition of three new positions to the 911 center. Two of these would be Call Takers and the third a CAD/GIS specialist. These positions would be supported by State funding. A software system called First Watch was being proposed to assist in managing complex situations. Additional funding is also being proposed to support the Active 911 system deployed this year to support the volunteer fire companies. Lastly the computer servers that currently support the 911 center require updating.

As previously discussed County EMS is currently deploying a surge ambulance in Easton to better handle the increase in calls with additional FY20. That unit will be in service 12 hours Monday, Wednesday and Friday. In FY21 TCDES is proposing to increase it on July 1 to 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Emergency Services budgets will be presented to Council on March 3 at 7:30PM

Clay proposed reviewing their briefing for that presentation at our next meeting

The next meeting was set for 26 February 2020 at 7PM. It will take place at Talbot Center.