

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
BEAUFORT COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROBERT SMALLS COMPLEX
100 RIBAUT ROAD
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1228
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29901-1228
TELEPHONE: (843) 255-2180
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JOHN L. WEAVER
INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

SARAH W. BROCK
INTERIM CLERK TO COUNCIL

AGENDA
FINANCE COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
11:00 a.m.

Executive Conference Room, Administration Building
Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort

Committee Members:

Joseph Passiment, Chairman
Chris Hervochon, Vice Chairman
Gerald Dawson
Mark Lawson
Paul Sommerville

Staff Support:

Suzanne Gregory, Employee Service Director
Alicia Holland, CPA,
Assistant County Administrator, Finance
Chanel Lewis, CGFO, Controller

1. CALL TO ORDER – 11:00 a.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. CITIZEN COMMENTS (*Comments regarding agenda items only*)
5. PRESENTATION / SOLICITOR'S OFFICE FY2019/2020 BUDGET PROPOSAL - *Solicitor Duffie Stone (backup)*
6. ADJOURNMENT



State of South Carolina
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ALLENDALE, BEAUFORT
COLLETON, HAMPTON AND
JASPER COUNTIES



POST OFFICE BOX 1880
BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29910
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Isaac McDuffie Stone, III
SOLICITOR

March 29, 2019

John L. Weaver
Interim Beaufort County Administrator
Post Office Drawer 1228
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901

Dear Mr. Weaver:

The current Beaufort County allocation for the Beaufort County Solicitor's Office stands at \$1,604,000. I am requesting an additional \$283,500 for personnel working exclusively in and for Beaufort County. This allocation would fulfil a request by the Beaufort county Council to take over the prosecution of drunk driving cases currently being prosecuted by police officers in magistrate's court. It also addresses a Solicitor's Office need for the prosecution of repeat offenders that are facing less than twenty years in prison. This allocation would still represent a smaller per capita allocation than comparable counties.

Recent Appropriation and Success

Beaufort County recently provided funding for additional community prosecutors. In the first six months of this new appropriation the number of old cases pending in Beaufort County General Sessions Court has been reduced by 4%. Currently, 79% of Beaufort County cases have been pending for less than 1 year. The state benchmark is 80%. Our hope is that we continue to reduce the backlog until only 10% of our cases have been pending for over a year.

Drunk Driving Prosecution

Last year council approached me about prosecuting driving under the influence cases in Beaufort County Magistrate's Court. There appears to be more than 500 DUI arrests being made in Beaufort County each year. All of these cases are being prosecuted by the arresting officers. My office could take over this prosecution duty for an additional annual contribution of \$189,000. This would allow us to hire two prosecutors as well as an administrative assistant in charge of evidence.

Request:

I am requesting funding for one additional prosecutor to work exclusively in Beaufort County on Tier II prosecution. Tier II prosecution is focused on the prosecution of repeat offenders that are facing less than 20 years in prison on their current charges. I estimate that there are over 200 new charges brought each year on defendants that meet this profile.

This additional prosecutor would also free up other prosecutors to utilize Transfer Court for trials of Class C misdemeanors. This concept was created by state statute and allows for a magistrate to hold court for the purpose of disposing of cases that carry a sentence of one year and would normally be brought in the court of General Sessions. This would further reduce the county backlog.

The total cost of this additional prosecutor (salary and fringe) is \$94,500.

The specific breakdown of these allocations are as follows:

DUI Prosecution	Salary	Fringe	Cost
Atty I	50000	17500	67500
Atty II	60000	21000	81000
Admin	30000	10500	40500
Total			189000

Tier II Prosecution	Salary	Fringe	Cost
Tier II	70000	24500	94500

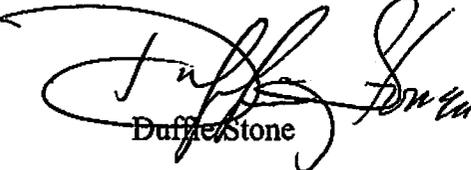
Beaufort County Budget Request for FY 2019-20

Current Beaufort County Funding for Solicitor's Office:	\$1,604,000
Beaufort County Per Capita Funding for Prosecution:	\$8.58
Additional Funding for DUI Prosecution	\$189,000
Additional Tier II Prosecution request	\$94,500
Additional per capita funding after request	\$ 1.52
Total additional request	\$283,500
Total Solicitor's Office Funding	\$1,887,500
Total per capita funding after request	\$10.10

<u>Comparable Funding</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Per Capita Contribution</u>
	Charleston	\$15.27
	Georgetown	\$15.91
	Horry	\$11.36

I will be glad to answer any questions that you, your finance department or council may have. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Duffie Stone

IMS: