

The Board of Supervisors approved the FY 2013 budget by a 4-1 vote (Stokes voting no). I voted for this budget because we addresses many issues left unanswered in the past and removed/added them to the budget. The process was not pretty, but it produced a far better product than in year's past.

This open, and at times lively, debate occurred because the BOS decided to resist the blanket recommendations of the budget department and increased/decreased line items that better benefitted the taxpayer. This process, done in complete transparency - with active participation by all department heads and individual citizens – represented the method of budgeting I believe is required in representative type of government and one I advocated since you put me in this office. I thank all the participants for their efforts and input.

Each Supervisor took the opportunity to address needs they felt important and talk about those issues in an effort to fund them. While some of the issues we talked - employee pay raises, donations to community non-profits, increases or decreases to particular departments, and the return of funds taken from Public Works – failed to garner support, others gained support and are now part of the budget.

I'll list the budget items most important to me the FY13 in the budget, all increased or added for the first time. We increased the surplus from \$250,000 to \$1,550,000 stabilizing the financial picture of the County. We added \$10,000 to the Hinds County Livestock Association budget to assist a program designed to recognize the hard work of our future cattlemen and women. We spend enough on those that thumb their nose at society and I am glad we could spend a little more on those who will build our society in the future.

We sliced a small milage out of debt service, equaling \$200,000, to start a fund allowing Hinds County Economic Development Department an opportunity to compete for businesses interested in locating in the County. The milage set aside will continue to replenish the fund each year, allowing Hinds County a more aggressive recruiting process.

We added \$516,000 to the budget at the Henley Young Youth Detention Center to start meeting court ordered mandates. These funds will add 16 supervisory personnel for the kids, take care of \$100,000 of needed building maintenance, and provide \$100,000 to the Youth Court of the facility for important programs. This does not represent an end to addressing the court ordered mandates, but a start to address the needs.

We privatized the prisoner medical process for the County, saving \$200,000 per year. On a side note, we are looking at the possibility of privatizing the entire jail system in the County – more to follow on that.

We also removed two automobiles placed in the Supervisor's budget, saving \$40,000. Since no one admitted putting the cars in the budget, removing them was easy. By the way, the 1996 Crown Vic I drive still runs fine, even missing one hubcap.

Most important, despite the County advertised increase in millage, your millage rate remained the same as previous years. Bottom line, if the County continues to budget in a transparent process, and continues to address the needs of the county versus of the wants of the County, I believe this budget begins the process of re-establishing the financial stability and credibility of Hinds County.

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