



## MINUTES

### LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUDGET REVIEW MEETING

**Hybrid Meeting  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

#### **LSCOG Executive Board Members present:**

Aiken County: Danny Feagin (Treasurer), John Simmons  
Allendale County: Willa Jennings (Vice Chair), John Chaney, Tawni Major, William Robinson  
Bamberg County: Sharon Hammond (Zoom), Larry Haynes  
Barnwell County: Thomas L. Williams, Freddie Houston  
Calhoun County: John McLauchlin, James Haigler  
Orangeburg County: Vernon Stephens, Joseph Garvin

#### **LSCOG Executive Board Members excused:**

Aiken County: Gary Bunker

#### **LSCOG Executive Board Members absent:**

Aiken County: Ron Felder  
Bamberg County: Dr. Gerald Wright (Chairman)  
Orangeburg County: Michael Butler (Past Chairman)

#### **LSCOG staff present:**

Dr. William Molnar, Nora Sanders, Ashley Baker, Jessica Coleman

#### **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Willa Jennings, Vice Chair, called the Executive Committee Budget Review Meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Dr. William Molnar (LSCOG Executive Director) conducted a roll call. A quorum was present.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Ms. Jennings requested the adoption of the agenda.

*Mr. William Robinson made the motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Mr. Vernon Stephens. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Ms. Jennings asked for approval of the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes.

*Mr. James Haigler motioned to approve the meeting minutes for January 10, 2025, seconded by Mr. Larry Haynes. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **BUDGET AMENDMENT REVIEW OF 2024-2025 BUDGET**

Dr. Molnar announced that Ms. Ashley Baker is now LSCOG's Finance Director. Dr. Molnar presented the proposed fiscal year 2024-25 budget amendment. Dr. Molnar discussed the Council's FY 2022-2023 budget was around \$9M, in FY 2023-2024 the budget increased to approximately \$11M because of ARPA funds, and in FY 2024-2025 the budget went back down to around \$9.5M.

On the Revenue side, the EDA grant is “on pause” in Washington DC. This is a 3-year grant and the \$50,000 expected revenue for January through June 2025 was removed from the Amendment.

In addition, the Aging funds projected in the original FY 2024-2025 budget have been decreased. From FY 2022-2023 to FY 2023-2024, the Council received \$652,000 more funds (14.6%), but from FY 2023-2024 to FY 2024-2025 we received \$1,928,000 (37.7%) less funds. The expected funds released after the approval to extend the federal budget Continuing Resolution are not expected to be released to SCDaA until late May 2025 and would take more time to reach the Council. These funds would be a minimum of \$620,000 to cover expenses through either September 30<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Therefore, these funds are not included in the budget amendment. Dr. Molnar also stated currently the US Department of Human Services and the Administration for Community Living, the agencies that fund aging programs, are being divided, meaning that there is no one to follow through on funding allocations. These funds support several programs including Family Caregiver and Ombudsman’s services and administration.

Dr. Molnar stated that the Workforce budget decreased 27% from FY 2023-2024 to FY 2024-2025. He then reviewed the other few revenue adjustments.

On the Expenditure side, Dr. Molnar explained that Salaries and Fringe were reduced by several retirements, instead of replacing those staff at present we have shifted some staff to keep programs and staff until things stabilize and we have a clearer picture of where the federal funding will land. There are two notable expenditure increases: 1) aging contracts for services and 2) building maintenance. The building maintenance funds were approved by the board in June 2024 and moved from FY 2023-2024 budget into the FY 2024-2025 budget because of the extra time for the RFP, hiring a contractor, etc.

The aging expenditure overages, as discussed in previous meetings, resulted as a combination of contracted services providers over-expending, only half of the provider for Barnwell’s contract for services was included in the original budget and a reduction in FY 2024-2025 aging funding. To address the shortfall, in February 2025, the board agreed to shift funds from Homemaker Services to Contracted Meals and approved \$200,000 to cover existing meal contracts so that all our obligations with our contracted Councils on Aging were met through the end of June 30, 2025

Therefore, the proposed revised budget for FY 2024-2025 is a deficit of (\$65,071). Dr. Molnar stated he anticipates the approved EDA grant (and other items) will be released prior to the end of the fiscal year and this number will decrease.

*Following discussion, Mr. Robinson made the motion to approve the 2024-2025 budget amendment, seconded by Mr. Danny Feagin. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **ADJOURN**

*There being no further discussion, Mr. Robinson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Stephens.*

Ms. Jennings adjourned the meeting at 12:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Molnar, Ph.D.  
Executive Director