
Special Purpose or Rural Service Fund 121

— August 9, 2016 —

Executive Summary #51

Make up of Rural Service Fund 121

Animal Control- Animal Control Board/Committee-Established Resolution #08-01-10

Fire Service-Fire Board- Established Resolution #06-08-08

- Volunteer Fire Departments
- Rural Wide Fire Department

Animal Control/Shelter- Purpose as outlined in the TCA

There are 485 TCA Codes pertaining to animals.

The following codes are the ones that the Roane County Animal Shelter use on a regular basis.

- 5-1-120 Power to regulate stray animals.
- 5-9-110 Animal welfare.
- 39-14-202 Cruelty to animals.
- 39-14-212 Aggravated cruelty to animals.
- 44-8-401 Livestock not to run at large.
- 44-8-408 Dogs not allowed at large.
- 68-8-104 Registration of cats and dogs rabies control.
- 68-8-109 Observation period by confinement or quarantine.

Fire Service- Purpose as outlined in the TCA 5-17

- 5-17 *et al.* County-Wide (Rural) Fire Departments
- 5-17-101 -Formation
- 5-17-102 -Powers and Duties
- 5-17-105 and 106 -Fire Tax Districts and Fire Tax

Financial Status of Rural Service Fund 121-FY17

Here is the Problem !!!

Revenue Estimate- \$ 646,800

Expenditure Est- 894,651

Loss Anticipated (219,423)

Fund Balance at 6-30-2017 will be less than \$200,000

Why do we have the Financial Problem?

Rural Revenues Only in this Fund

- County wide transfer to support the Animal Shelter from the General Fund 101 was recommended by comptroller office **not be made** for the 2016 Budget going forward
- Transfer ended and **Revenue lost was \$100,000**
- Operational cost of Animal Control/shelter and Fire basically has not changed over the years **but loss of revenue did take place.**

Options to help solve the financial problem-

Animal Control side of the Financials:

1. Discontinue animal control services and sheltering. **Service is demanded by the public- may not be practical**
2. Continue animal control services but seek sheltering in an alternative facility in or out of county. **Continuation of service is the primary issue.**
3. Since Rural Revenue only supports the operation then cancel all city contracts and do not accept or make any service calls within the cities. **Reduces cost but not significant. Fixed cost are too high.**
4. Raise all housing rates on animals brought to the shelter by the cities. **Increase revenue but probably not significant enough and could result in lost of revenue as city seek alternate solutions.**

Option to help solve - Animal Service can't

5. Raise local revenue primarily increasing the rural property tax rate- **does not solve the entire issue of shelter cost being a county wide service**
 6. Allocate more Local Option Sales Tax
 7. Place Animal Shelter Operations under the Roane County Health Department and Animal Control under the direction of the Sheriff Department which shifts the financials from Fund 121 to Fund 101. Fund 121 would become a rural service of only Fire Services. Budgets of Health & Sheriff Departments would increase with the reduction in Fund 121.
- 1) Issue is whether additional responsibilities will take away from the departments' primary functions and 2) county wide potential increase property tax with a reduction in rural tax**

Option to help solve - Animal Service can't

8. combination of any of the above

9. Other options??????

Options to help solve the financial problem- Fire Service side of the Financials:

1. Discontinue or reduce Rural County Fire Control Operational Services at the county level. **Service is demanded by the public- may not be practical.**
2. Discontinue or reduce the operational and capital contributions to the Volunteer Fire Department. **Service is demanded by the public- may not be practical.**
3. Discontinue the capital investment of installation of Fire Hydrants. **Must address the question of the community if we have adequate service and how does the county replace damaged or obsolete Fire Hydrants.**
4. Raise the Rural Property tax for additional funding. **May not be practical**
5. Allocate more Local Option Sales Tax and/or TVA revenue sharing
6. Reallocate E-911 contract cost

How to accept any of the discussed options?

- Draft a resolution of the options desired
- Have recommendations from the respective committee(s)- Animal Control Board and/or Fire Board
- Have discussion with the Health Board and Sheriff Liaison Committee
- Have recommendation from the Budget Committee
- Commission consideration of a recommended proposal