

Budget Listening Session Summary

April 15th 2025

Fort Bragg Veteran's Hall

The CEO Budget Team attended a budget listening session on April 15th in Fort Bragg. The notes have been consolidated into categories below:

- Animal Services
 - Human Society has stepped up after Animal Shelter on coast closed.
 - Only remaining low cost spay/neuter option for coast residents.
 - Have contract within city limits but no contract with County.
 - Fielding calls for all coast residents.
 - Fees collected from coasts residents are not directed back to coast services, would like to receive a portion of fees back or funding to offset increased costs.
 - The waiting list for Human Society services is 2 months.
 - Mobile caravan needs to be present at the coast.
 - Need to hire veterinary technicians or independent contractors.
 - Cuts to services with Animal Services have downstream impact on other departments such as code enforcement and sheriff's office, related to calls for complaints and nuisance abatement.
- Budget
 - Need to live within our means, monitor spending, no frills, restructure programs and departments.
 - Cap salaries.
 - Review Teeter and pension plans.
 - 10% cut across the board – everybody has to give up something.
- Economic Development
 - Need to continue to support economic development in County, Anna has served the county well.
 - Need to continue pursuing grants, SMEDD, Redwood Rise, CDBG, etc.
- Funding for Fire Agencies
 - Measure P - need to honor the constituents vote and ensure tax dollars are spent in accordance with advisory.

Attachment A

- Revenue
 - Coast residents and business generate significant revenues for the County, concerned coast is not receiving services proportionate to revenue they are generating.
 - Need to support tourism.
 - Discussion on property appraisals and supplemental process.
- Roads
 - Voiced concern over Little River Airport Road – 600 petition signatures, collection point in a disaster.
 - Concerns included: access and safety for vehicles including emergency vehicles, limited or single evacuation routes, potholes.
 - The county should investigate abandoning roads.
 - Majority of attendees would be in favor of a dedicated ROAD Tax.
- Other
 - The country needs to begin investing in energy reduction measures and utilize carbon reduction set aside.
 - Concerns over upcoming audit and continued legal battles.
 - Appreciation for staff engaging in the listening sessions and would like to see one in District 5.