

BECKER.2.9.14. SPLOST Requests Top \$ 100 Million, Range from \$ 55,000 to \$ 25 Million

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From: Lee Becker [mailto:lbbecker@mindspring.com@mail78.atl51.rgs.v.net] **On Behalf Of** Lee Becker

Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 12:00 AM

Subject: SPLOST Requests Top \$100 Million, Range from \$55,000 to \$25 Million



**Oconee
County
Observations**

Dear Friends:

Chief Superior Court Judge David Sweat wants a \$ 25 million judicial facility added to the list of projects to be funded by Oconee County's 2015 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

Oconee County Coroner Ed Carson wants \$ 55,000 for a transport van.

These two requests bracket \$ 100.2 million in requests that will be summarized in a public hearing with the Oconee County Board of Commissioners that will start at 6 p.m. on Monday at the Civic Center on Hog Mountain Road.

The **Commissioners have to pare that list down to about \$ 38 million** before they vote on March 4, as they are expected to do, to put the issue on the May 20 ballot.

The Monday night meeting is the second and final chance for citizens to publicly express their feelings about the proposed projects and which ones will likely lead them to vote in favor of the tax at the May election.

For more details on the requests before the Commissioners, go to [Oconee County Observations](#).

Thank you.

Lee

[EXCERPTS FROM BECKER ARTICLE](#)

Sweat Said \$25 Million Figure Solid

Judge Sweat came forward last year, in accompaniment with Sheriff Scott Berry, to make the case for the new judicial facility, which Berry has said in the past he wants to be located near the jail on Experiment Station Road as it enters Watkinville.

Sweat and Berry have been allies in the past, with Berry [sending out campaign material](#) endorsing Sweat in his nonpartisan election in 2010.

Sweat told a gathering of citizens [in Watkinville last Sunday](#) that he was not locked into any location for the new facility.

He also said that the figure of \$ 25 million "was more than just a back of an envelope calculation" but instead reflects realistic estimates of the needs of the judiciary in **the next 20 to 40 years. (Emphasis added).....**