

Council to weigh \$300K for trail proposal tonight

15.7 miles of greenway in Oconee, early design shows

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County is one of multiple local entities coming together to fund a study to create a regional greenway trail.

At a meeting tonight, Oconee County Council will consider spending \$300,000 for a survey, design and permitting of the

regional system with the city of Clemson, the town of Pendleton and Clemson University, with help from the Appalachian Council of Governments (ACOG). The meeting is set to begin at 6 p.m. at 415 S. Pine St. in Walhalla.

MORE DETAILS

In 2021, Councilman

SEE TRAIL, PAGE A2

TRAIL: Departmental shuffling also on tap

FROM PAGE A1

John Elliott first called on the county to fund a study for a trail along S.C. Highway 11 near Salem. The county's 2020 comprehensive plan also called for prioritizing public and private partnerships to develop a greenway system. Last month, The Journal reported county administrator Amanda Brock said there are plans for the Green Crescent Trail to connect into the Golden Corner.

With the new request, Oconee is pitching in 20 percent on a matching grant — which has an estimated cost of \$1,428,700. If approved, with the application deadline being today, the city of Clemson will manage funds and a leadership team would be formed.

The grant is reimbursing, according to backup material. An early design would put 15.7 miles in Oconee.

County staff requested money come out of the capital projects fund, while the allocation is contingent on the American Rescue Plan Act's Travel Tourism and Outdoor EDA grant program.

MILLION-DOLLAR REQUEST

Council will also consider approving a \$1.25 million purchase to update Oconee County Emergency Services' self-contained breathing apparatuses. Backup agenda material said the National Fire Protection Association updates its standards every five years, and upgrades can only be done within two cycles (10

years). The "majority of the current equipment exceeds that," the agenda said. The county will only be responsible for \$251,760 of the request, with the remaining coming through an Assistance to Firefighters Grant that was awarded in August 2021.

Separately, public comment is scheduled for a redrawn district map for Oconee.

DEPARTMENTAL SHUFFLING?

Only one executive session item is on tonight's agenda, which changes job descriptions and reclassifies certain positions in three departments — the rock quarry, roads and bridges and solid waste. Council also talked about the item in a meeting last month.