

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

Thursday, October 13, 2016
5:30 p.m.
Washington County Quorum Court Room

2016 DEC 21 PM 1:28
BECKY LEWALLEN
CO. & PROBATE CLERK
WASHINGTON CO. AR

FILED

- 405.1 The Washington County Quorum Court met in special session on Thursday, October 13, 2016. In the absence of Judge Marilyn Edwards, the meeting was called to order by JP Rick Cochran. He stated the purpose of this meeting was to work on items pertaining to the 2017 budget process.
- 405.2 J. Maxwell led the Quorum Court in prayer and in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 405.3 MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Balls, Rick Cochran, Robert Dennis, Lisa Ecke, Sharon Lloyd, Tom Lundstrum, Eva Madison, Sue Madison, Joel Maxwell, Joe Patterson, Butch Pond, and Bill Ussery.
- 405.4 MEMBERS ABSENT: Harvey Bowman, Ann Harbison, and Gary McHenry.
- 405.5 OTHERS PRESENT: Chief of Staff George Butler, County Attorney Steve Zega, Treasurer Bobby Hill, Comptroller Ashley Farber; Interested Citizens; and Members of the Press.
- 405.6 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Rick Cochran asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.
- 405.7 **J. Maxwell made a motion to add #7.1 to the agenda and move it to position #5.1 on the agenda. D. Balls seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote. The agenda was adopted as amended.**
- 405.8 CITIZENS COMMENTS: Rick Cochran announced that they were going to have their 15-minute citizen comments period with a three-minute limit for each individual at this time.
- 405.9 There were no citizen comments made.
- 405.10 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF \$81,750 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS BUDGET FOR 2016: R. Cochran introduced **An Ordinance Appropriating The Amount Of \$81,750 From The General Fund To The Buildings And**

Grounds Budget For 2016, and County Attorney Steve Zega read the ordinance.

406.1 Rick Cochran stated that it was brought to the Court's attention and discussed at their last Special Meeting.

406.2 **J. Maxwell made a motion to adopt the ordinance. B. Pond seconded.**

406.3 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that there are 10 JPs at this meeting and if they were so inclined Rick Cochran's vote would be necessary.

406.4 Citizen Comments: There were no citizen comments made.

406.5 **With no further discussion, Rick Cochran called for a vote on the motion to adopt the ordinance.**

406.6 VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, J. Maxwell, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Cochran, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. **The motion passed unanimously by those present. The ordinance was adopted.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-67 BOOK NO. 10 PAGE NO. 517

406.7 REVIEW OF 2017 BUDGET REQUESTS:

406.8 6A - CIRCUIT COURT III BUDGET - Judge Stacy Zimmerman addressed the Quorum Court stating that they moved some items around in the Juvenile Court budget. She stated they are making a request for three additional positions; two Juvenile Officers and a Social Worker/Counselor at a cost of \$145,127. She reported they have teamed with the Jones Center; Mike Gilbert with the Jones Trust and Madi Hutson with the Teen Action Support Center who provides various services to youth. She stated the request they are making is for an evening reporting center in downtown Springdale. She reported an increased number of referrals from law enforcement officers in Springdale versus Fayetteville; and an increased number of violent crimes in Springdale, specifically gang-related activity that is on the rise. She stated as one of the model sites in Arkansas for the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, they have looked at different models to reduce the number of kids being arrested, committing crimes in their community, and end up in prison. She reported that an evening reporting

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center, which is easily accessible and has close monitoring, will provide a place where high-risk kids can work on their homework, receive their individual counseling, and meet with their probation officer.

- 407.1 Judge Zimmerman stated they have partnered with the Jones Trust who has agreed to let them have space in the JTL Building that is right across the street from the Archer Learning Center, alternative school in downtown Springdale. She noted that they would start out with ten moderate to high-risk kids, who come to the evening reporting center right after school. They will stay there until 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. working on homework, counseling, mentoring, etc. Then, the parents will pick them up or they will be transported home. She stated that they would rotate ten kids at a time. She reported that they have these centers in Santa Cruz, California and Portland, Oregon that work. She really believes that if they do not do something soon, then this situation will get so out of control that they will not be able to stem the tide that they have.
- 407.2 Judge Zimmerman stated that they have spoken and partnered with Springdale Law Enforcement who is supportive of this as is the Jones Center Trust with Mr. Gilbert. She stated their Teen Action Support Group will be able to have an office in the same building provided by the Jones Trust with the first year rent-free and will provide free services to these juveniles. She stated she is asking for two Juvenile Officers who would be cross-trained law enforcement. She stated they have also partnered with the Division of Youth Services from Little Rock who has committed \$10,000 to them that will purchase their furniture, equipment, computers for the juveniles to do homework on.
- 407.3 Judge Zimmerman stated the third position they are requesting is a Licensed Social Worker who can provide individual and group counseling to these kids when they are at the center. The Social Worker would also provide assessment for the high-risk youth so they can get them into services in the community to prevent them from going down the road of being in lock up and going onto prison. Judge Zimmerman stated that there will still be a small segment that will not be able to be reached, but a very large number of these kids are at a crossroads.
- 407.4 Norma Frisby, Director of Juvenile Court Services, addressed the Quorum Court and stated that part of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) is that they have to bring the services to where the need is; currently,

their data shows that the need is in Springdale. She reiterated that the Jones Center is offering them a year of free rent and utilities to be able to get this program up and running.

- 408.1 Mike Gilbert, Chief Operating Officer of the Jones Trust and the Jones Center for Families, addressed the Quorum Court stating that he is there in support of Judge Zimmerman, Norma Frisby, and the teenagers of Springdale because they need somebody close to home to love on them, to help guide them in a direction of success, and to make a difference in their lives. He noted that locking up juveniles cost an average of \$407.58 per day or \$148,767 per year. As these statistics probably came from California and Arkansas' numbers are probably half of that, they would pay \$145,000 that Judge Zimmerman is asking for by incarcerating three teens.
- 408.2 M. Gilbert stated they have socio-economically challenged families in Springdale in the middle of all of this trouble. The parents of these kids need to be engaged in the process of working together to change their lives and get them on the right track. For these parents to come all the way to the Juvenile Court facilities in Fayetteville between 8 and 5 causes those parents to lose a day of work, so they are more likely to choose not to bring them. He pointed out that on the Jones' Campus, they have all kinds of youth and family services in downtown Springdale where a lot of money is being spent on revitalizing the town, inclusive of everyone including their troubled children.
- 408.3 M. Gilbert reported that the space at the Jones' Center is about 4,000 sq. ft., contains a large group room, offices for the counselor and probation officer, a work room for doing homework, and a Youth Innovation Laboratory already in place. He noted the Youth Innovation Laboratory is a place where a group of teens are doing the right thing by creating public art projects and community service projects. He noted the connection with Teen Action Support Center is that they are the leaders of community service in the community. They provide a constructive opportunity for kids to engage with the community and see a different side. He stated that Teen Action has found that many of their clients that come for community service exceed the mandated hours, because they are engaged, productive and feel good about themselves. M. Gilbert urged the Quorum Court to grant this request and make an investment in the kids that they care about.

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- 409.1 L. Ecke stated she thinks this is a fantastic opportunity and is the heart of what Judge Zimmerman and Ms. Frisbee are doing at JDC. She asked if they had reached out to the Extension Service and 4-H.
- 409.2 Jeane Mack, director of Juvenile Detention Center, responded to L. Ecke that they are in the second year of the diversion summer program. This past summer, because the Extension Service did not have staff to do it, she along with other volunteers from the Juvenile Court did all the activities, provided transportation, and was sponsored by a private donator at a cost exceeding \$10,000.
- 409.3 L. Ecke pointed out that these 4-H programs are not just for the 4-H members, but reaches out to troubled youth and senior citizens, where they do a lot of volunteer work. She noted the numbers of 4-H members are declining in Springdale. She would like to see more participation, looking for a way to reach Hispanic and Marshallese kids. She noted that they have a lot of information culturally on planting and harvesting their foods, and there is a lot they can learn from one another. She stated that our youth are worth the investment in a 4-H Extension Agent.
- 409.4 M. Gilbert stated that there are a lot of funding challenges moving into the non-profit world. Building this collaboration of non-profit organizations, the court, and University is how they will be successful in the future, but they have to be very judicious with the dollars that they spend. He reported they are going to have social innovation students as interns who are working on their Masters from the University to study and report on their work. He stated part of the reason the Jones Trust wanted to grant this space for 12 months is to provide the opportunity to show the outcomes. If they are able to deliver, then the investment makes a lot of sense. He further noted that there is a Springdale Community Garden down the street from this reporting center that is being operated by one of the youth programs currently on their campus. The expectation is that Teen Action Support Center will utilize this community garden to drive the students into community gardening, which would be part of the teaching lesson. They would also be able to take the food home.
- 409.5 Madi Hutson with Teen Action Support Center addressed the Quorum Court explaining that they empower teens to take action. First, they are empowered in their own lives, and then in their communities by offering a continuum of services. She reported that they launched in Washington

County last year and have 33 teens in the First Steps Program for pregnant and parenting teens. She stated they work with teens from all walks of life including intakes from the JDC, those who are pregnant or parenting, homeless, and leaders in the community by bringing them all together in one innovative place and offering them a continuum of services. M. Hutson reported that they serve over 200 teens a month in Benton County through this program. She further reported that 1 in 4 teens stay with them after they have completed community service to serve alongside their mentors. She noted that they offer 6-8 service projects per week during the school year and 11-15 per week during the summer while they are being mentored. She stated from there, they will start creating their own service projects and social entrepreneurship ventures in the community. She stated that they take these teens from a place of brokenness and criminal activity and bring them back to not only be functional people, but contributing members of society by learning all sorts of job skills. M. Hutson reported that nationally only 38% of teen parents graduate high school by the age of 20 and 93% of the teens in their First Steps Program graduate high school on time. She stated they would love the opportunity to show them what they can do.

- 410.1 L. Ecke stated that a positive youth program is what this county, especially the Springdale area, needs. She is amazed at the possibility of what this program could do. She urged the court to reconsider where they are putting money as she believes they need to invest in people's lives. If they can change a life, then it is worth it.
- 410.2 S. Lloyd stated that she deals with at risk youth, so this interests her. She addressed the licensed social worker, stating that Medicaid will do a lot of group therapy. She questioned whether that avenue had been investigated.
- 410.3 Judge Zimmerman responded to S. Lloyd stating that their area provider is Youth Bridge which receives the Division of Youth Services (DYS) contract money of about \$900,000 a year. For those families that have Medicaid, it is billed to save that money. She is unsure how a county would bill Medicaid for professional service through a licensed social worker who is providing counseling. She stated that they are already utilizing Ozark Guidance Center, Youth Bridge, and Day Spring as the outpatient counseling. Those facilities all accept Medicaid so they can save the DYS pot of money for people who do not have that coverage. She stated that

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they are utilizing that already, but still have such a need because there are not enough counselors to go around. There are parents making below poverty wages who cannot take off work to get their kids to Youth Bridge in Fayetteville for counseling.

- 411.1 In response to a question from S. Lloyd, Judge Zimmerman responded that the full time Licensed Social Worker would do group and individual therapies at the center. She further explained that the Juvenile Officers would be cross trained in law enforcement making them able to carry a gun. They are also trained to respond to an emergency.
- 411.2 N. Frisby stated additionally Judge Zimmerman orders immediate mental health assessments for purposes of finding proper resources for the youth and to provide a detailed report to the court on their issues. She further stated that these are kids not receiving any services. Archer Learning Center is their last stop before they get kicked out of school. She stated some of them may have been ordered into counseling previously at Ozark Guidance or Youth Bridge, but it did not work due to transportation issues.
- 411.3 R. Dennis stated his calculations are that it would cost just the county \$233,600 if the ten youth went to jail for a year. He stated Judge Zimmerman is his hero and he believes her totally. He has seen her work and her results.
- 411.4 **R. Dennis made a motion to approve the Circuit Court III budget as presented. E. Madison seconded.**
- 411.5 B. Ussery stated that he lives in Springdale, and among many of the kids they are discussing, he certainly sees the need for such a program. He applauded Judge Zimmerman for bringing this to the court.
- 411.6 **With no further discussion, Rick Cochran called for a vote on the motion to approve the budget.**
- 411.7 VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. ABSTENTION: R. Cochran. **The motion passed with eleven members voting in favor and one abstention. The Circuit Clerk III budget was approved as presented.**

- 412.1 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that Judge Zimmerman has another non-juvenile budget that she needs to bring to the court that deals with the court reporter for the jail; however, it was not on the agenda.
- 412.2 **E. Madison made a motion to suspend the rules and add this item to the agenda. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously by those present by voice vote.**
- 412.3 **6A - COURT REPORTER FOR JAIL (NEW BUDGET):** Judge Stacy Zimmerman stated that as Administrative Judge, part of her job is to bring to the court what their agreement is as Circuit Judges. She reported historically Ray Reynolds has served as the Magistrate at the Jail who hears first appearance 8.1 hearings and arraignments. She stated when defendants are taken to jail, they have to have a hearing right away. Judge Reynolds hears those on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She reported that beginning January 1st, Judge Reynolds' position will no longer be needed, because the District Judges for Washington County, Judge Graham Nation and Judge Casey Jones, have agreed to hear 8.1 and arraignment hearings on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Jail. She stated that they are not a court of record and do not have a Court Reporter, but Martha Brown has been Judge Reynolds' Court Reporter for the last 13 years at the jail, keeping all tapes for all proceedings. She is asking that the County fund a position, calling it a "Court Reporter" position at the Jail. She further explained on Fridays the 7 Circuit Judges are going to rotate and serve as Judge at the Jail, and they need this Court Reporter to be at the Jail reporting these 8.1 felony hearings and arraignments. Judge Zimmerman stated they are hoping that this will get defendants in front of a Judge for a meaningful hearing, move the process along and get some of the non-violent offenders out of jail. She noted they will not need the money for Ray Reynolds' salary. She is proposing that the Court Reporter be paid \$120 per day which is \$30 more per day than what she has been making. This will include her supplies, tapes, and transcripts for appeals.
- 412.4 In response to a question from E. Madison, Comptroller Ashley Farber stated that the position was originally listed as "Detention Judicial Officer", but they need to change the title, because they will have sitting Judges handling it. She further stated that this position will come out of the general fund and is called "Court Reporting Services".

- 413.1 **E. Madison made a motion to approve the new budget for Fund 440 for Court Reporting Services at the Jail as presented. T. Lundstrum seconded.**
- 413.2 **With no further discussion, Rick Cochran called for a vote on the motion to approve the budget.**
- 413.3 **VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. ABSTENTION: R. Cochran. **The motion passed with eleven members voting in favor and one abstention. The Court Reporting Services at the Jail (New Position) budget was approved as presented.****
- 413.4 In response to a question from R. Cochran, Judge Zimmerman stated that DYS is giving them \$10,000 to purchase all equipment and furniture for the Evening Reporting Center, including a metal-detector wand.
- 413.5 **6B - PROSECUTING ATTORNEY BUDGET: Matt Durrett, County Prosecuting Attorney, addressed the Quorum Court stating that while there is additional money requested in non-personal services, much of it has just been moved from different places with the total additional request being salaries. He noted he got a new position in the middle of last year that was not included in last year's budget, which is why there is an increase; however, there is an increase in other services and charges for the software support maintenance agreement for an additional \$18,000. He stated that they moved this from other parts of the budget, because they are in need of a new case management system. He stated that the case management system they use now is the Strategic Offender Management System (SOMS) and is run through the Sheriff's Office; however, earlier this year when the FBI and CGS did their security audit for the Sheriff's Office, they determined that there were insufficient security measures in place in terms of firewalls. He explained that because of the type of information being criminal records, they need to keep tighter reins on that and put up a firewall between anyone outside the Sheriff's Office. As a result, he stated they are no longer able to use their case management system and need to acquire a new one, which is very expensive. He stated in light of the fact that they got a new full-time position last year, he moved \$10,000 from part-time salaries to the software support line item. He also took \$3,000 from what they got last year in small equipment, \$2,000 from other**

professional services, and \$3,000 from dues and memberships. M. Durrett stated they were paying approximately \$3,000 a year for their case management system through SOMS. This one is much more expensive, but they are moving to a file-less system. This software will make them much more effective in a number of areas. He noted that they currently spend a lot of money on paper. With this new file less system, they will not only save money on paper, but will be able to do a number of things. They also will be in conjunction with and prepare for when the Circuit Clerk Office goes to electronic filing in the next year. He stated the \$18,000 per year is an estimate of what this new case management system will cost, having seen systems anywhere from \$14,000 to \$25,000. He stated they do not have final figures as they are still negotiating a contract.

- 414.1 In response to a question from E. Madison, M. Durrett reiterated that the \$18,000 was a yearly cost, not a one-time expense. He explained the extra \$1,000 was already in that line item to cover yearly support. He noted that the Benton County Prosecuting Office pays \$25,000 a year for their system.
- 414.2 J. Maxwell thanked M. Durrett for moving money around in his budget and making this work.
- 414.3 **J. Maxwell made a motion to approve the County Prosecuting Attorney budget as presented. S. Madison seconded.**
- 414.4 S. Lloyd asked if his new system ends up being more at \$25,000, would he be able to find the extra money in his budget; to which M. Durrett responded the company that they negotiating with now is going to be less expensive. He further stated that he does not prefer the more expensive software. He stated unless there is something that they cannot agree on and is a deal breaker, the new system will cost \$18,000 or less.
- 414.5 L. Ecke stated the last time M. Durrett came before this court, the attitude in his office was pretty stressed. She asked for an update on this.
- 414.6 M. Durrett responded to L. Ecke stating the position he requested has helped quite a bit. While the attitude is better, they are still incredibly busy and on track to file roughly 3,200 new felony cases this year. He noted that employees in his office are really excited about the new case management software, which will lighten the load of many on their staff. He explained

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that they will receive documents electronically from police agencies which will cut down on a lot of time making copies. They will also automatically produce jury instructions and things that their employees take time doing, such as typing up felony information to prepare for arraignments.

- 415.1 L. Ecke inquired about education and training with the new case management system; to which M. Durrett responded that was part of it. He noted that the company they are going through hosts yearly conferences to update them on any new advances in software. He stated he will have enough money in this line item to cover the cost of any training in the future.
- 415.2 R. Cochran asked if this software has a community user group that his people can access and talk about the product with others who have purchased it.
- 415.3 M. Durrett responded to R. Cochran that when they started looking into these systems, he liked this system not only because of the price, but because it is very user friendly. He stated that they got IT involved early on because they know IT will play a big role. He noted that this company is out of St. Louis, Missouri and virtually the entire state of Missouri uses it. The IT Office reached out to numerous offices in Missouri requesting feedback as well as a couple of Prosecutor's Offices in Arkansas that use it. He has received nothing but good feedback.
- 415.4 R. Cochran stated that M. Durrett might consider putting together his own user group and create a new formal network outside of the vendors, which can be very helpful and beneficial.
- 415.5 In response to R. Cochran's question about the Prosecuting Attorney's Office currently still using the Sheriff's system at this time, M. Durrett reported that the Sheriff's Office has given them a deadline of the first of the year with an understanding that they will work with them until the new system is up and running.
- 415.6 R. Cochran stated he believes if the court approves this budget as it stands, and if M. Durrett gets to a point where he has a contract ready to go on the new system, he sees no reason not to move this budget into the end of 2016 to get it going.

- 416.1 **With no further discussion, Rick Cochran called for a vote on the motion to approve the budget as presented.**
- 416.2 **VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. ABSTENTION: R. Cochran. **The motion passed with eleven members voting in favor and one abstention. The County Prosecuting Attorney's budget was approved as presented.****
- 416.3 **6C - SHERIFF-ENFORCEMENT BUDGET** - Sheriff Tim Helder addressed the Quorum Court stating over the past few years, they have scaled back on their budget requests. He thanked the court for recognizing that their employees are important that they approved raises on the front end of the budget process for 2017. He stated that there are areas they have fell seriously behind in over the past few years when requests have not been made for additional personnel. He stated on the enforcement side, they have gone back 3-4 slots and the last time they made an addition to the Enforcement personnel budget would have been in 2008 for a Dispatch position.
- 416.4 Sheriff Helder addressed their Small Equipment request stating that each of their Deputies has rifles with their units. He stated that they got involved with a surplus program where they were able to get used military weapons. He stated that they want to upgrade to new rifles with great optics for our Deputies' protection out on the street.
- 416.5 Major Rick Hoyt addressed the court noting that the rifle line item explanations were either sent by e-mail or hand-delivered today to the court including the "Budget Explanation - 2017 Budget". He stated that the Small Equipment line item requested \$99,326, which is an increase of \$54,326 for the patrol rifles and optics to replace the surplus rifles.
- 416.6 In response to a question from S. Lloyd, R. Hoyt stated the old surplus rifles will probably be utilized in other areas of the agency that do not have any rifles currently. If they are not deployed, then they will be sent back to the government. He pointed out that the surplus rifles can be recalled at any time or never. He stated that they could do this at a cheaper price by buying all new tops for the government guns and optics, but it could be recalled at any time. He stated it would be better and cleaner to just buy the rifles they need that have shorter barrels making it easier to move

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around with and semi-automatic rifles that will not have to be modified. He pointed out that they actually had to retrofit all of the surplus rifles, convert from automatic weapons, and have an inventory of every part and spring they took out of the rifles.

- 417.1 R. Hoyt stated that they are requesting \$227,000 in their Fuel line item which is a \$28,000 decrease using an average rate of \$2.50.
- 417.2 R. Hoyt reported that his Cell Phone line item request is \$45,000 which is an increase of \$9,000. He noted all officers in the field have cell phones, but it is time to move to smart phones where emails can be sent in the field as well as text messaging. They are getting ready to activate a new feature in their computer-aided dispatch system where they will be able to send out mass texts out to people in the field or just certain divisions. He noted the individual cost per phone goes from \$31/month for a regular cell phone to \$50/month for a smart phone; the phones are free.
- 417.3 R. Hoyt stated that he reduced his Fleet Liability line item by \$17,000 and is requesting \$55,000. He pointed out that the price was down and he does not want to leave money on the table when he needs it in other areas. He stated his Dues and Memberships line item decreased by \$2,000 for a total amount requested of \$7,000.
- 417.4 Sheriff Helder addressed Capital Outlay on Buildings, stating that they want to purchase a fairly large carport, 30' x 60' with a gravel ground, for their vehicles that are out in the weather currently. He reported that they checked around and the price for this structure would be nearly \$10,000. He gave an example of their 39' Fire Prevention & Life Safety trailer that cost more than \$70,000. It was put into use in 2016 by being on display at the Washington County Fair, and taken to elderly groups and schools for presentations. He noted that the problem is this state-of-the-art trailer is out in the weather and needs to be undercover. They also need to cover their two T-Rex Utility vehicles that Walmart donated with \$50,000 worth of equipment with trailer and lights to be used at ball games and during searches by their dive team. Lastly, a pontoon with electronics to recover bodies and evidence, as well as a patrol boat that they use on their portion of Beaver Lake needs to be covered.
- 417.5 R. Hoyt stated that they asked for 4x4 Tahoes and got six last year and is now asking for 2-wheel drive Tahoes at a cost of \$266,312 which is just

based on mileage and replacement. He stated that they used to trade out their Crown Victoria police cars at around 80,000 to 90,000 miles. Later, they would become hand-me-down units to areas in the agency that were less critical. He stated that when the Crown Victoria platform was discontinued, they decided to go with the Tahoe platform, receiving their first one with a grant. From then on, the court has provided the funds to keep their fleet going. He stated that he has about 35 Tahoes in service and they still have a few Crown Victorias; however, have found that the Tahoe is a hardier vehicle and holds up better. His Patrol Lieutenant believes that they will get 120,000 miles out of the Tahoes and have not even retired the first one yet. Sheriff Helder stated they are asking to continue that program based on the mileage that they will have at the end of next year. They will need to replace eight of their Tahoes and are not requesting 4x4s.

- 418.1 J. Maxwell inquired about the Sheriff's fuel costs; and A. Farber responded that year-to-date as of October is \$117,064.54.
- 418.2 T. Lundstrum questioned what caliber rifles they were going to get; to which R. Hoyt responded that it was a .223 caliber. T. Lundstrum stated that he is pleased with this expenditure, because their police officers need to be as well-equipped as they can in that particular area.
- 418.3 R. Hoyt referred to his Communications Staffing Study prepared by Carla Holcroft, RPL, who is a registered public safety leader and a trainer for other dispatchers in the State of Arkansas. He noted that C. Holcroft is passionate about explaining that the Dispatch Center needs dispatchers as they are not dispatching just for the rural people, but for 10 small cities as well. He pointed out the case studies show that there are many times that they are simply overloaded in this Center and cannot keep up with some calls. However, Washington County is doing a tremendous job with the least amount of personnel and they probably need more than the three dispatchers they are asking for.
- 418.4 B. Pond inquired about turnover on dispatchers; to which Sheriff Helder responded that 72.78% is their retention rate with a national average of 83%. He noted that becoming a dispatcher takes training for at least six months before they can be solo on the phones, radio system, and computer dispatch system. He stated that this is an investment they make with the training and they need to help retain that investment by having enough

dispatchers that the job does not become overwhelming and too stressful. He noted that C. Holcroft has been with Washington County for 19 years and it has been since 2008 that they increased their staff.

- 419.1 **T. Lundstrum made a motion to approve the Sheriff-Enforcement Budget as presented. J. Patterson seconded.**
- 419.2 **With no further discussion, Rick Cochran called for a vote on the motion to approve the budget as presented.**
- 419.3 VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, S. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. ABSTENTION: R. Cochran. **The motion passed with eleven members voting in favor and one abstention. The County Sheriff-Enforcement budget was approved as presented.**
- 419.4 6D- SHERIFF-COMMUNICATION BUDGET – Major Rick Hoyt addressed the Quorum Court noting that this was not a General Fund expenditure, but these monies came from the Communication Facility and Equipment fund. This fund was created by State statute that mandates money goes into this fund from 25% of all fees collected by the Sheriff with the remaining 75% going to the General Fund. He stated their request for 2017 is higher than the 2016 level mainly due to capital item requests.
- 419.5 In response to a question from E. Madison, A. Farber stated that the projected revenue to budget is \$464,980 and the request to budget is \$432,700, leaving unappropriated \$32,280.
- 419.6 **E. Madison made a motion to approve the Sheriff-Communications Budget as presented. L. Ecke seconded.**
- 419.7 **With no further discussion, Rick Cochran called for a vote on the motion to approve the budget as presented.**
- 419.8 VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. ABSTENTION: R. Cochran. **The motion passed with ten members voting in favor and one abstention. The Sheriff-Communication budget was approved as presented.**

- 420.1 6E - COUNTY JAIL BUDGET - Sheriff Helder addressed the Quorum Court stating that the first request deals with (35) bullet-proof vests with the majority being replacements. He noted that they have an expiration life of five years, and this increases that line item by \$30,000. He stated that their postage line item, which includes postage, letters, envelopes, and all legal mail, is increased by \$10,000 over last year, because that line item was reduced significantly when reducing their budget last year.
- 420.2 Sheriff Helder addressed their Medical/Dental/Hospital expense line item, reporting two years ago they moved to a company to provide these services and have become very dissatisfied. However, they recognize the value of having someone else who has the expertise in dealing with institutional medical care, so they let it out for bid again. He reported that a local group, the Sheriff's Medical Group, was a low bidder. They took a chance with these folks who were not necessarily experienced in the detention or incarcerated population, but were very enthusiastic and committed to this community in providing healthcare. He reported that they are coming to the close of their first year with this company, and he could not be more pleased with the doctor. He reported they have gone from 56 known filings of lawsuits in Federal Court to maybe 4 that deal with medical care.
- 420.3 Sheriff Helder stated that the increase from that provider totals \$150,000 over last year. He explained that their base contract is right at \$1 million and they are requesting an increase to the base contract of \$100,000 to cover expense of additional employees and different services they provide. He stated that they have a pool of money designated to take care of pharmaceutical requests and offsite visits. They are requesting an increase in that pool from \$150,000 to \$200,000. He stated that they will be very close to expending every dime of that \$150,000 and may even go over this year. He explained that this pool was set up so if they had money left over, then it will be split between the county and medical provider as an incentive. He stated that they have revisited that and spoken to the doctors. As they have proven themselves to have high integrity, they are recommending to increase this pool to \$200,000 removing them from the pool potential, so any money left is kept by the county. He stated that the last part of this proposal is on the co-pay for the inmates to see the physician, where they are asking for an increase. Then the co-pay service goes directly to the physicians' group. He noted that this does not prevent the indigent with no money in their commissary from receiving the same medical service. He stated that they believe this is a better plan to assist

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with this medical group who they are very happy with and hope to have long term.

- 421.1 J. Maxwell stated that he has had a chance to look at some of their sister counties on medical expense, and \$200,000 is not a drop in the bucket compared to what some counties are paying for the additional care they have to pay to keep compliance with new rules. He believes good leadership saves a lot of money and thanked Sheriff Helder for managing this the way he is.
- 421.2 B. Ussery concurred with J. Maxwell, stating he thinks that while this is costing them much more, if they have dropped this much in lawsuits, then it would not take too many to gain a lot more of this back.
- 421.3 Sheriff Helder stated that this medical group provides medical service at the jail 24/7, and he could not be more pleased.
- 421.4 County Attorney Steve Zega stated that he worked with Major Randall Denzer on this contract and one of the first reports he received back was that they had one-third as many lawsuits filed. He noted that they pay a \$500 deductible every time a lawsuit is filed against them, so going from 56 lawsuits to 4 makes a big difference. He further noted any successful judgment against them puts the management fund at risk if they go above \$350,000. He stated he tries not to speak on policy, but this arrangement with the medical group has really worked out well, and just from the risk management side, it looks to be a very good deal for the county.
- 421.5 R. Cochran noted that one area they looked at was reducing the number of transports, because there is a certain amount of risk anytime inmates are taken away from the jail. He inquired whether there had been a decrease in transports.
- 421.6 Major Randall Denzer responded to R. Cochran stating that he does not have the numbers, but there has been a dramatic decrease because before they could not do any stitching in-house and can now.
- 421.7 R. Cochran added that there is money saved for two people plus patrol time by having this service in-house.

- 422.1 Sheriff Helder further added that they are keeping this money local as well.
- 422.2 Chief Deputy Sheriff Jay Cantrell stated that the medical team will see any workers' comp injuries for free and determine if they need to go on for further treatment or care.
- 422.3 Sheriff Helder addressed their personnel requests for detention noting that he has not brought many these forward over the last few years, because of their budget situation. He thinks that it is incumbent upon him to let the court know what their needs are. He stated that the highest ranked position he is requesting is for an Administrative Lieutenant's position, which will free up their shift Lieutenants to be on the shifts dealing with the problems they have in the blocks. He stated that they have to draw their day and night shift people over to work administrative duties. With this Administrative Lieutenant position, they believe they will be able to take care of many administrative duties and free up the Lieutenants to work the shifts they were hired to do.
- 422.4 Major Randall Denzer added that this Administrative Lieutenant will oversee hiring and mandated training, which is quite a chore.
- 422.5 Major Randall Denzer stated with their lawsuits over the years, the Judge has advised them that they need to get their affairs in order and have a due process. He stated that they looked into this, and it takes three people who receive training in Texas. They have to go through this process anytime someone is made a trustee or anyone gets into a fight, which includes a hearing with a judge, prosecutor, and person to help them out to make sure they get their due process. He stated without this, they have violated the inmates' rights. It was pointed out that most of their inmates are pre-trial and have not been adjudicated yet. There are a whole other set of rules for them. He stated that this is three positions that they have taken directly from the Detention Center to focus all of their attention on the disciplinary and due process.
- 422.6 Major Denzer further reported that the Judge wants to see several different angles from their cameras and the camera system only works for 90 days and then falls off the computer. This makes it look like they are trying to destroy evidence. He stated that they looked into keeping this video for three years, which is the time in which a lawsuit can be filed, in storage; to which IT informed them that it would cost \$1 million. He stated that this

- new officer position would be to review all recordings for any incidents that happen in the jail and they have a 90-day window to record it before it falls off their system.
- 423.1 Sheriff Helder stated that this is only on cases where they can predict a filing will be made and this is a full-time job reviewing the videos.
- 423.2 Major Denzer stated that they are requesting two positions in transport due to the increased amount of transports and different places they are taking the inmates, including out-of-state transports. He stated that they want to do more training. They have about 16 people in there now and still cannot keep up. They are using a lot of overtime, part-timers, and people out of the jail, and these two positions would bring them up to speed to make their out-of-state trips, and have a better training program.
- 423.3 Sheriff Helder stated that after getting out of the academy, the field deputies have 16 weeks of hands-on learning for the job, which is very specific and credentialed. He stated that is what they want to do within their transport system, because they would be driving marked units. They need to be able to respond to calls in the same manner that a field deputy would be.
- 423.4 Sheriff Helder stated that the last thing he has is the capital requests which goes right back to the vehicle replacement plan that they have been involved in for the last five years, for five Tahoes at a total of \$177,285.
- 423.5 **T. Lundstrum made a motion to approve the County Jail Budget as presented. J. Patterson seconded.**
- 423.6 **With no further discussion, Rick Cochran called for a vote on the motion to approve the budget as presented.**
- 423.7 **VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. ABSTENTION: R. Cochran. The motion passed with ten members voting in favor and one abstention. The County Jail budget was approved as presented.**
- 423.8 R. Cochran stated that the Sheriff and Jail have about half of their county employees and inquired how the morale was since the Court has passed salary increases.

- 424.1 Sheriff Helder stated that the salary increases were very well received with a level of excitement that they have not seen in a while. He stated for the first time in a while they feel very much appreciated and they will do their job to try to fulfill job satisfaction.
- 424.2 **6F - COURT COSTS AND FINES BUDGET** - Comptroller Ashley Farber addressed the Quorum Court with the Court Costs and Fines budget stating that to prepare for the 2017 budget, she contacted the company that they currently have their revenue bond with; she provided the figures. She noted that there will be some credits that they will receive, which will offset the amount a little bit next June; however, the amount they will be paying for 2017, and it is not a General Fund item.
- 424.3 S. Lloyd inquired about the actual budget and actual expenditures; to which A. Farber responded the figures shown are as of June 30 as are all of the budgets.
- 424.4 **T. Lundstrum made a motion to approve the Court Costs and Fines Budget as presented. J. Patterson seconded.**
- 424.5 **With no further discussion, Rick Cochran called for a vote on the motion to approve the budget as presented.**
- 424.6 **VOTING FOR: S. Lloyd, T. Lundstrum, E. Madison, J. Maxwell, J. Patterson, B. Pond, B. Ussery, D. Balls, R. Dennis, and L. Ecke. ABSTENTION: R. Cochran. The motion passed with ten members voting in favor and one abstention. The Court Costs and Fines budget was approved as presented.**
- 424.7 **ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Carly Sandidge
Quorum Court Coordinator/Reporter