

MARILYN EDWARDS
County Judge



280 North College, Suite 500
Fayetteville, AR 72701

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS
County Courthouse

October 23, 2015

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY QUORUM COURT

Tuesday, October 27, 2015
5:30 P.M.
Washington County Quorum Court Room

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** **JUDGE EDWARDS**
2. **PRAYER AND PLEDGE.**
3. **ROLL CALL.**
4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA.**
5. **REVIEW 2016 BUDGET REQUESTS:**
 - **EXTENSION OFFICE**
 - **COUNTY HEALTH**
 - **HIV CLINIC**
 - **FIRE PROTECTION**
 - **QUORUM COURT**
 - **COUNTY GENERAL TRANSFERS OUT**
 - **FLEXIBLE SPENDING**
 - **COURT COSTS AND FINES**
6. **REVISED 2016 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE ROAD DEPARTMENT (6.1)**
7. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS.** Fifteen-minute comment period with a three-minute limit for each individual to comment on items on the agenda or other items.
8. **ADJOURNMENT.**

/cs

MARILYN EDWARDS
County Judge



SHAWN SHRUM
Assistant Superintendent

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Road & Bridge Department

October 23, 2015

Judge Edwards and George Butler,

I would like to request some changes in the 2016 Road Department's budget due to changes that have transpired since the 2016 Road Budget was generated back in August. I would also like to explain the reason the Road Department did not include all the funds available to use for the 2016 budget.

When I turned in my 2016 Budget Requests on August 21st, the available amount to budget that I was given was \$9,222,426. My total request was \$8,556,829. This left \$665,597 available based on those projections. As of October 15th, I see the Road Department now has \$10,024,119 available to budget from. It is hard for the Treasurer to predict available funds for 2016 in August, especially this year.

The 2016 Road Budget presented did not have money budgeted for winter storms. The plan was to have the \$665,597 available to request as needed. This would give the Quorum Court the ability to see what the Road Department needs are based on the winter weather. The Road Department would not be "padding" their budget based on unknown events. Instead of being asked by members of the Quorum Court why we left this money available, the Road Department has been accused of "not needing the money". This could not be further from the truth. We have foregone many projects this year and had plans to forgo many others next year based on being advised to "cut back" our budget.

As mentioned at the Quorum Court meeting on October 13, 2015, there are many items the Road Department has not been able to accomplish due to the budget cuts in 2015.

Some of those items include:

- Purchasing New or Additional Equipment
- Maintenance of Current Equipment
- Proper Maintenance of Roads – this includes paint striping, maintaining ditches, chip seal and asphalt maintenance, vegetation control of right of ways, addressing potholes, as well as many other items
- Updating and maintaining drainage structures
- Improving roads – this includes paving gravel roads and adding material to gravel roads
- Cut back on production at crusher sites

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With the additional funds available to be budgeted, there are some additions to the 2016 Road Department Budget I would like to request.

The first request is an additional \$185,000 to be added to the asphalt line items. This would change the line item request for asphalt to \$710,000. The second request is an additional \$33,000 in the gravel line item. This would increase the requested amount in the gravel line item to \$168,000. The reason for this request was discussed briefly at the October 13, 2016 Quorum Court meeting. The County recently changed suppliers for the limestone chips being used for the re-seal program. Prior to the switch, we were having issues with the chips being too dusty. The dustier chips were not adhering to the chip seal asphalt like they should. We found a supplier that puts their chips through a wash process. The washed chips available to us were a slightly larger size. This slightly larger size required the asphalt rates and chip rate to increase. This increase changed the amounts needed to complete the re-seal projects for next year. The total number of gallons needed increased approximately 100,000 gallons. The total tons of chips needed increased by approximately 2,500 tons.

The next requested addition to the 2016 Road Department Budget is an additional increase of \$150,000 to the asphalt line item in the ½ cent Road Department Budget. This increase would allow the county to bid on its own state aid jobs. This year we were not able to bid on any of the three jobs we had put out for bid. The county is required to pay 10% of the total cost of the project even if we do not bid. The \$50,000 in line item 4007 was already requested to cover this expense. However, if the county chose to bid on a project, the expenses must be paid for by the county and then later reimbursed. For example, if the county was awarded a project for \$145,000, the expenses for the project would be paid for by the county. Those expenses would later be reimbursed by the state once the project was complete and inspected by AHTD. Once the county receives the reimbursement, this money goes back into the Road Fund, but not back into the 2016 budget. I am requesting the \$150,000 be added to the 2016 budget to allow the Road Department the ability to bid on state aid jobs next year.

I would also like to request an increase to the Culvert and Pipe line item (2026). The original request was for \$50,000. I would like to increase this amount to \$75,000. The increase would allow the Road Department the ability to update additional drainage structures throughout Washington County.

The next requested increase in funds is for the Concrete line item (2030). This request goes along with the requested increase in the Culvert and Pipe line item. Washington County has the ability to make box culverts. This ability saves Washington County money. Over the last year, the county's supply of box culverts on hand has dwindled. We need on average 6 to 8 boxes for each single strand road crossing. The county's supply needs to be built back up and there are crossings that we would like to be able to update. The original request was for \$50,000. I would like to increase the request to \$65,000. To go along with this request, an additional \$30,000 in the Bridges and Steel line item is requested. This request is to cover the steel required to construct the boxes.

The last line item increase requested is for the Vehicles line item in the Road Department Regular (0200) Budget. I am requesting an additional \$270,000 for the purchase of two more additional dump trucks. The original request in the ½ Cent Road Budget had the funds for two dump trucks. This increase in the regular budget would be for two additional dump trucks, for a total of four dump trucks.

Another opportunity that the Road Department has, is updating the road grader fleet. We are at the four year anniversary since we purchased the current John Deere graders. These graders are nearing the expiration of their warranties. We are currently working on proposals for new graders. I hope to present this information as soon as I can and possibly exercise the buyback option available to Washington County. At this time there is not a request for funds for graders. The timing of information available did not allow a request to be presented for the 2016 Road Department Budget requests.

Below is a summary of the changes in requests:

	Original Requested Amount	Adjusted Requested Amount	Difference Between Original and Adjusted Amount
<u>REGULAR BUDGET</u>			
Asphalt	\$525,000	\$710,000	\$185,000
Culvert and Pipe	50,000	75,000	25,000
Gravel, Dirt & Sand	135,000	168,000	33,000
Concrete	50,000	65,000	15,000
Bridges & Steel	10,000	40,000	30,000
Vehicles	0	270,000	270,000
<u>½ CENT BUDGET</u>			
Asphalt	160,000	310,000	150,000
<u>TOTAL ADDITIONAL AMOUNT REQUESTED (0200 and 0201 Budget Combined): \$708,000</u>			

With the additional amount requested, there would be \$759,290 left available for winter weather, emergencies and to help build the Road Fund reserves. We have been advised to cut our budget and have tried to do this while still taking care of the needs of Washington County. Building the reserves in the Road Fund and the General Fund is important.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments concerning this letter.

Thank You,

Shawn Shrum