

Finance, Fees, and Salaries Committee

Budget Meeting

The Budget Committee met on September 28, 2021, in the County Board Room. Members present were Wayne Bollin, chairman, Gary Stansbery, Harry Douglas, Mark Menn, Mark Hanson. Also present were Rachel Mast, States' Attorney, Holly Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk, and board member Patsy Davis.

The members discussed the Assistant State's Attorney salary increase proposal. Rachel stated that there were approximately 80 cases per year 5 years ago on average, but now there are 140-160 cases. Many of these cases now are violent crimes and take a lot of time and resources. Mr. Stansbery stated that it is sometimes very beneficial to keep and pay more for a known and proven employee than to take chances on retention and possibly hire someone new. Mr. Menn stated that paying a lot more for retention also costs more in benefits, IMRF etc. He was concerned with the overall costs to taxpayers in the long run, admitting that he was not satisfied with the judicial process. He made it clear that he was not dissatisfied with our local officials and their actions, but with the state and their rulings that seem to hinder justice. Rachel assured the members that she was doing everything possible to see that justice is served in all cases. Rachel also stated that hiring a new assistant might be difficult, as there seems to be a shortage in that field. She pointed to the process and costs we had to meet to hire the conflict attorneys. No action was taken at this time.

Holly stated that she had unused deputy funds in her account that she could put towards a new full-time person. She was going to re-examine her salaries in her department to see what she could do, and report back to the committee.

A suit was filed against our Coroner, Kendall Beals, for failing to respond to a FOIA request on an autopsy properly. The \$5000 original charge was negotiated to \$3898.79. The members discussed what accounts that this would be taken from. It was decided that it should be taken from unused Coroner monies for the current year, as this situation should have been avoided. *Will make a motion in finance to approve payment in following Budget Meeting. Any Questions?*
ARPA fund requests were discussed. Rachel would at best like to have a new color printer for her office. She currently travels to Jacksonville, IL, to get copies.

The request for a copier is \$9823.60. Holly provided a Vital Statistics Proposal, that would allow many more of her office's services to be done online. A one-time charge for AVID and APEX would be \$25,000, and \$150 and \$200 for IT to attach links and provide forms online. The EMS request was for 2 new ambulances, power loader, Lifepak 15 monitor, LUCAS system, sterilization lights and technological upgrades. The total request from EMS was approximately \$640,000. No action was taken at this time.

Mr. Bollin said he would talk to Bellwether to see where a possible new courthouse security system could be funded.

Having no further business, a motion to recess to October 6, 2021, at 7 pm was made by Harry Douglas, and seconded by Janet Fleming. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne E. Bollin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Wayne E. Bollin, Finance Chairman