FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

September 02, 2014

A Finance Committee meeting was held Thursday, September 02, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Allen, J. Harrison, Jones, Chiocco, Curry, Moore, Moehring

Others Present: JPs Sandlin, Anglin, Meyers, Hernandez, Assessor Glen "Bear" Chaney, Administrator of General Services John Sudduth, Administrator of Public Services Jeff Clark, Accounting Manager Mike Crandall

Media: Tom Sissom

Chair JP Allen called the meeting to order.

Public Comment
None

1. Grants Administrator Report
Accounting Manager Mike Crandall reported that; 1) the Arkansas Department of Human Services – Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) application had been submitted; 2) the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDA) Travel Grant has been awarded for travel to model sites; 3) the Department of Finance and Administration Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) Supplement Grant for $22,082 was awarded; 4) the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant was not awarded, it was awarded to smaller jurisdictions.

2 - 3. Resolution Requests - Osage Creek Bridge Replacement and Repair of War Eagle Bridge
Administrator of Public Services Jeff Clark stated this resolution request is to authorize Benton County's application to participate in the Federal Aid Surface Transportation Program – Attributable (STP-A) Grant funds administered by the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission for the replacement of Osage Creek bridge, and the design and construction costs in connection with the repair of War Eagle Bridge.
Jeff Clark stated that the estimated total cost to move and replace the Osage Creek Bridge is $415,000 and if approved the County will be eligible for reimbursement of an estimated $332,000, making the county's share of costs $83,000. He stated that the county will not know if the federal money is approved for several months, and that the project would be finished in 2016.

JP Kurt Moore asked why they have to fix the War Eagle Bridge.

Jeff Clark reported that the State Highway Department Transportation Department had inspected War Eagle Bridge and found problems with rusting structural pins on the bridge, and that in order to replace them, the decking will need to be removed.

Jeff Clark stated that he has no information as to why the work was not done.
JP Moore reminded the committee that the bridge has had extensive repairs done in the last few years and asked Jeff Clark why the inspection had not been done when the work was done.
Jeff Clark stated that the people who worked on the bridge have said that they had repaired the extent of the damages.

JP Moore stated that for this to be over-looked is almost unconscionable.

Jeff Clark stated that the state has recommended that some work be done on the War Eagle Bridge, and when they went out to have the engineer look at it, these other issues were brought up.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward both resolution requests to the September 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

4. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept 0130, Environmental Services, Fund 1000
Mike Crandall stated that this appropriation request is to appropriate $44,000 in additional funds for the Fall County Clean-up.

Administrator of General Services John Sudduth stated that the additional funding is for the renovation and altering of the entrance gate and fence at the Road Department that will allow four lanes for incoming traffic.

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the September 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

JP Moehring questioned the need to take money out of reserves to fund the clean-up.

JP Jones stated that doing this twice a year keeps the county a lot cleaner, and it is one of the best things that we can do for the county.
JP Moore stated that they need to keep in mind the potential costs of not having the clean-up events, compared to what it costs to pick this stuff up off the side of the road, and what we spend is worth it compared to what it costs.

Lengthy discussion was held on the cost of holding the Fall County Clean-up.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

5.Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0415, Juvenile Detention Facilities (JDF) Supplement Grant, Fund 3705
Mike Crandall stated this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate $22,082 in grant revenue for the associated expenditures of the continuing operation of the Juvenile Detention

Center. He also stated that it was received from the Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) Supplement Grant, and does not require a county match.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the September 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

6. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0100, Non-Dept & Maintenance, Fund 4000
Mike Crandall stated that this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate $98,704 to be used for weather-proofing the exterior of the Sheriff's Administration Building.

John Sudduth stated that weather-proofing is the first step in resolving the problem or the mold issue inside the walls of the Sheriff's Administration Building.

Lengthy discussion was held on the cost and work to be done to weather-proof the exterior of the Sheriff's Administration Building.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the September 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

7. Sales Tax Numbers
Mike Crandall reported that June sales tax receipts were down for a year-to-date decrease of 1.17%. He added that overall, we are up $70,729 for the same period last year.

8. Jail Collections
Mike Crandall reported that Jail Collections were $259,567 for August and $1,264,623 for the year. He stated that $1.5 million was budgeted for 2014.

9. Fuel Analysis
Mike Crandall reported that the Road Department is at 58% of their fuel budget, while the Sheriff's Department is at 69% of their budget. He stated that average unleaded fuel costs have decreased 2.4% to $3.21 per gallon and diesel decreased 7.8% to $3.06 per gallon. He added that $69,276 has been transferred back to the Road Department.

10. Fund Summary
Mike Crandall reported on the Monthly Fund Summary, stating that 66.67% is the target and that the General Fund is at 65.02%, all other funds are at 56.34%, and the overall budget is at 60.36%.

10 a. Overtime Analysis
Mike Crandall reported that through seventeen pay periods out of twenty-six, overtime usage is at 38.48%.

10 b. Personnel Services Available
Mike Crandall reported that the county has saved approximately $332,715 in personnel costs this year. He added that $307,000 of the savings is dedicated to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) fund.

Mike Crandall also reported that $115,771.37 in voluntary taxes for EMS has been collected through August.

11. Jail Fees Increase Discussion
JP Anglin stated that the number one topic at the Association of Arkansas Counties conference was for an increase in jail fees that the counties receive from the state.

Lengthy discussion was held on the increasing costs to the counties for housing state inmates in the county jails.

JP Allen stated that the members of the court all agree that they would like to urge the Association of Arkansas Counties to have a formalized effort to lobby the State Legislature to increase funding for housing state inmates in county jails, specifically for the western counties.

Other Business
JP Anglin reported that Benton County Cooperative Extension Service agent Johnny Gunsaulis, will be coming to the September 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting, to offer help in preparing fact sheets for information purposes to give to the voters concerning the EMS referendums on the ballot.

JP Allen stated that he knows that the budget is tight but that he sees the need as we go further along to add a position for a Public Information Officer in the 2015 Budget.

JP Allen requested that they move the Finance Committee meetings that are currently held on the first Tuesday of each month to be held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. starting with the November meeting.

Members of the committee were all in agreement of moving the day of the Finance Committee meeting.

Discussion was held to move the Finance Committee meeting from Tuesday, October 7, 2014 to Thursday October 9, 2014.

JP Allen announced that the first Finance Budget meeting will be held Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments
None

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.