

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

May 05, 2016

A Finance Committee meeting was held Thursday, May 05, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Meeting Room, Benton County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Allen, Sheridan, Jones, Chiocco, Slinkard, Moore, Moehring

Others Present: JPs J. Harrison, Adams, Sandlin, Anglin, Leadabrand, Meyers, County Assessor Linda Hambrick, Circuit Clerk Brenda DeShields, Comptroller Brenda Guenther, Administer of General Services John Sudduth, Chief Probation Officer Drew Shover, Chief Deputy Shawn Holloway, Major Bob Bersi, Fire Marshal Marc Trollinger, JP-Elect Bob Bland, Mike Clifford

Media: Tom Sissom – Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Finance Committee chair JP Allen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comments:

None.

Discussion:

None.

Fund Summary:

2016 through 04/30/16

Comptroller Brenda Guenther reported that the General and Road Fund target is 34.62% on Personnel; it is currently at 32.77%. She said County Clerk, Circuit Court, and Emergency Services are highlighted. County Clerk is because of the elections. Circuit Court and Emergency Services are only a bit off so she is not concerned. The overall target is 33.33% and it is currently at 33.6%; this is mostly due to high expenditures on the capital side.

JP Leadabrand asked for clarification on the total General Fund in regards to capital expenditures. Brenda Guenther stated that most of the budgeted capital is spent at the beginning of the year. This includes, not only expenses, but also encumbrances.

JP Allen stated that they are mostly concerned with the on-going expenses throughout the year.

JP Moehring asked what is left for the Road Department to purchase out of capital.
Brenda Guenther stated that they have to purchase graders.
JP Jones asked about the county detention facility as it is several percentage points over.
Brenda Guenther stated that she has not looked at that in detail but she will.

2016 vs. 2015 Comparison through 04/30/16

Brenda Guenther reported that the County has spent \$100,000 less than a year ago.
JP Slinkard asked about Personnel being higher than last year.
Brenda Guenther stated that more has been spent because of the increased number of employees and also the election expenses for March and April.

Monthly Reports:

Overtime & Premium Pay Analysis

Comptroller Brenda Guenther reported that last year they had spent \$301,000 in overtime versus \$266,000 this year. There were also nine payrolls through April this year when there were only eight last year. She stated that there are some vacancies but that the salaries are where they should be overall on Personnel. She said that they spent 17% of the overtime budget in April, 31% in March, 24% in February, and 29% in January.

Grants Administrator Report

Brenda Guenther reported that last month she had the grant software loaded; it now needs to be implemented. She stated that last month was a huge month for grants; four were due the last week of April, one was due today, and one is due in a couple of weeks. She said that the Walton Grant is up-to-date on the Courthouse renovation project; she can do an update next month on what has been spent.

JP Allen stated that they would like to see the update on the Walton Grant.

Brenda Guenther said that tonight there is a resolution for a pass-through grant that she added after the agenda had already gone out because Marc Trollinger is here for something else and she thought this resolution should go ahead and be passed through; she said that she hopes the JPs do not mind the addition.

Fuel Analysis

Brenda Guenther reported that they are running very good on price and also on percentage of budget. She stated that they have reduced the budget by quite a lot. The average price is 11% lower than a year ago on unleaded and 43% lower on diesel.

JP Allen asked about a compressed gas station being built somewhere that he read about in the newspaper.

JP Moore stated that Ozark Transit is putting one in for private use in Springdale.

JP Meyers asked if Brenda could divide the budget amount by the average price per gallon.

Brenda Guenther stated that she could add that calculation to the report in the future.

Sales Tax Numbers

Brenda Guenther reported that sales tax is up nearly 1% year-to-year and up 14% for the month.

Jail Collections

Brenda Guenther reported that they got a large payment from the State in April; they have collected \$930,000 in fees so far. She stated that they are a little behind where they would be budget-wise but above what they had received this time last year. She said that they have collected \$228,000 more than this time last year.

JP Allen added that last year they got a big payment after the fiscal year started.

JP Moehring stated that they need to watch out for the trend of fewer state prisoners being held in county jails. He said that they need to pay close attention to what the jail population is going to be. He feels that it is not going to grow as much as they think it is.

JP Moore asked Chief Deputy Shawn Holloway if he had heard anything from Little Rock about their plans concerning keeping state prisoners in county jails.

Chief Deputy Holloway stated that he has not.

JP Allen asked JP Anglin to look into that particular item since she is the legislative liaison for the Quorum Court.

Resolution Requests:

Hickory Creek Fire Department GIF Grant

Comptroller Brenda Guenther stated that this is a resolution authorizing the County Judge to apply for a GIF protection grant for the Hickory Creek Volunteer Fire Department; this request is to add two additional apparatus bays to the existing substation at Hickory Creek. The total value of the grant is \$40,000, with \$30,000 being provided by the grant and \$10,000 provided by the Hickory Creek Fire Department.

JP Sheridan made a motion to approve this resolution request and forward it to the May 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Ordinance Requests:

Circuit Clerk Workstations

Comptroller Brenda Guenther stated that this is a request to appropriate the cost of workstations in the Circuit Clerk's office. They were installed in 2015 but were incorrect; they have now been installed correctly and need to be paid for. The amount is \$14,250 and will be appropriated out of the Circuit Clerk fund.

JP Slinkard made a motion to approve this appropriation request and forward it to the May 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Environmental Services Transfer between Categories

Brenda Guenther stated that this request is a budget adjustment between categories. She said that they purchased the grappling truck for quite a bit less than the capital budget was for, however, the person who went to get the grappling truck had to fly there to get it. They would like to offset some of the savings from capital and put it against travel, insurance and maintenance necessary for the additional grappling truck. They thought about selling the other grappling truck but they are keeping it for the Road Department, for trash removal, or other purposes. This appropriation is moving \$10,500 out of capital and transferring it to the three other areas; the budget remains the same.

JP Moehring made a motion to approve this appropriation request and forward it to the May 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

JP Moehring asked Administration of General Services John Sudduth to discuss how they acquired this grappling truck.

John Sudduth stated that it came from Florida, it was all on a government contract, and it was the best deal they could find. He said that it is a used vehicle. Building Official Glenn Tracy agreed to go to Florida to look at it. Once it was delivered, it had to be outfitted with light bars and other things for their usage.

JP Adams asked if this is a different grappling truck than they appropriated for the Road Department a year or two ago.

John Sudduth said that they did not purchase one for the Road Department; this is the environmental officer's truck. It basically has no value left to it. Former Administrator of Public Services Jeff Clark said that they could run it until it falls apart but they are not going to repair it. He stated that the Road Department used it after the flood. He said that the Road Department does not have their own grappling truck. He said they had to replace a lot of parts on it. This has been on-going for about five years. They want to use it as much as they can.

JP Moore reiterated that the one they went to Florida to get is to replace the one that is falling apart but they are going to keep the one they currently have until it is not useable anymore.

John Sudduth stated that that this is correct; they are trying to get as much use out of it as possible to recover the cost of repairs they have made on it.

JP Moore asked how much of a savings they got over what they were planning on spending.

Brenda Guenther stated that they saved \$18,300 and, in addition, they got a \$25,000 grant through Benton County Solid Waste to help pay for it.

JP Jones reminded the committee that, in 2013, a grappling truck was requested and they denied it. It did not come up again in 2014.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Fire Services Transfer

Brenda Guenther stated that this is a budget adjustment request; Fire Marshal Marc Trollinger would like to buy an investigation detection meter. She stated that this is a zero effect to the budget. She said that they received \$13,300 on the sale of the old equipment and the new equipment is \$6,800.

JP Moehring made a motion to approve this appropriation request and forward it to the May 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

JP Moore asked what a detection meter is.

Marc Trollinger stated that, when they are dispatched for a probable arson fire, this device detects hydrocarbons that might have been used as a chemical to start the fire. He stated that arson fires are often complete burnouts. He said this is a sniffing meter; it is an ionization process and it will pull out hydrocarbons that might have been used in the fire. They pull samples from that and get a better evidence trail to work with. He said that, instead of taking a bunch of samples and just hoping to find something, this narrows it down.

JP Allen asked if any of the cities have this equipment.

Marc Trollinger stated that locally they do not; Tulsa is the closest. He stated that Fayetteville is hoping to purchase one soon. He added that they always do two trucks in and two out so two more trucks will be sold this year to bring in some extra money.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Juvenile Probation Circuit Court

Brenda Guenther introduced Drew Shover who replaced Petie Cobb as Chief Probation Officer. She stated that this request is a FY 2016 budget adjustment. The first part of the appropriation is from the General Fund for certification training expenses for three staff members due to turnover and medical issues and the \$2,800 additional is in meals and lodging. She stated that the second part is for additional part-time staff for the JDAI Initiative from Juvenile Division Fund 3031; it is just over \$10,000 for salaries for a part-time person to do work in that area.

Drew Shover said that, when they did the budget in August, they had accounted for four slots. He said that they knew Ms. Cobb was going to retire. They had two others that were carryover. He

said that they had a FINS officer who had a brain tumor who left and another whose wife was terminal and he decided to leave. They ended up needing seven slots. He said that, with Ms. Cobb leaving and the FINS officer leaving, the salaries were less for their replacements. This brings in revenue to the County at \$15,000 per year for certification.

JP Allen said that they did budget for replacing Petie. He said that he was confused by the numerals (1) and (2) in the description on the data sheet.

Brenda Guenther explained that this was meant to indicate two parts to the appropriation ordinance, not the respective amounts of certifications and staffing. She then said that it is possible on the first one through the General Fund, since they have savings on the rehire, she could do it so that it is a net zero appropriation.

JP Chiocco made a motion to approve this appropriation request with it changed to net zero taken from the surplus on the salary and forward it to the May 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Slinkard.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Brenda Guenther stated that the second one is for the \$10,000; she said that there is plenty of money in the fund for this.

JP Allen said that these requests need to be in two separate appropriations.

JP Moehring made a motion to approve this as a separate appropriation ordinance and forward it to the May 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Benton County Veteran's Treatment Court

Brenda Guenther stated that this request is reestablishing a grant that was out there in 2015. They received the funds in late 2014. She stated that, in 2015, they spent a portion of it. She is asking that they reestablish these funds in the amount of \$1,140.

JP Moehring made a motion to approve this appropriation request and forward it to the May 10, 2016 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Slinkard.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Other Business:

Comptroller Brenda Guenther stated that the County auction has been scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2016. She said that the 2014 Legislative Audit will be completed by the end of the month.

Administrator of General Services John Sudduth said that they are going to have really good news about the convenience center pilot program next quarter. He said that it has been well-received by everyone. He also added that Comptroller Brenda Guenther is very cautious about what budget requests can be justified and he wanted to make the JPs aware of this.

JP Anglin stated that she contacted Mayor Bill Edwards in Centerton and he said that they have ordered another sign and will put it up at Brookside and Ginn so that people will know where to turn to get to the convenience center.

Announcements:

JP Sandlin announced that the Personnel Committee plans to meet on Tuesday, June 21, 2016.

JP Jones announced that he will be scheduling a Public Safety Committee meeting in late May.

JP Anglin reminded the JPs of the Farm Bureau dinner on May 06, 2016.

Circuit Clerk Brenda DeShields announced that the Administrative Office of the Courts will host a kickoff event for electronic filing of the courts system on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the Quorum Court Room.

JP Allen asked Chief Deputy Shawn Holloway for an update on how things are progressing at the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Deputy Holloway reported that things have gone well the first week. He also discussed the increasing problems of the road system being inadequate for the growing population, as well as anticipated future personnel needs in the Sheriff's Department. He stated that they may have two mid-year personnel requests and that he would present more information about this soon.

JP Allen declared the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.