

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
Thursday, June 4, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room

Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick, WA

Meeting provided by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Shon Small (via/Skype)
Commissioner Jerome Delvin (via/Skype)
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson (via/Skype)
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen; Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator; IT Manager Robert Heard; Clerk Josie Delvin; Finance Manager Linda Ivey (via/Skype); Chief of Corrections Scott Souza; OPD Manager Eric Hsu via/Skype; Deputy Prosecutor Megan Killgore; Human Services Manager Kyle Sullivan; Tammy McKeirnan, Human Services; Tara Symons, District Court Program Manager; PA Andy Miller; Deputy Prosecutor Julie Long; Marshall Pickett, Drug Court Case Manager; Superior Court Administrator Tiffany Deaton; Superior Court Judge Carrie Runge; Commander Jon Law, Commander Steve Caughey, and Katie Gillies, CFO, Sheriff's Office.

Public Safety Sales Tax ~ Internal Agency Requests - 2021 – 2022 New Budget Request Presentations, Discussion and Possible Direction

Mr. Rasmussen said this special meeting was to talk about internal agency requests. He said these requests were for new money; the current county programs were already in the baseline. Tuesday's meeting was for external agency requests for continuing current programs and new programs.

Again, he said the review committee would bring recommendations to the Board for funding internal and external agencies on July 14, 2020.

Chairman Beaver asked if there was any point at which this funding was exhausted; and he wanted to separate one-time requests from ongoing programs.

Mr. Rasmussen said the Request for Proposal included a maximum up to \$4 million in this go around and they received \$6.5 million in requests. Also, funding expired in 2024 and with the current sales tax situation, funding was currently trending downward.

The following departments made presentations to the Board:

- Clerk's Office – Josie Delvin
 - Additional Staff - \$129,487 (additional LPA III to address amount of time spent in new courts, supporting 10 judicial officers, and the decreased job efficiency from implementation of the new State program Odyssey – it takes 3 times longer to do the same function)

- Department of Corrections – Scott Souza
 - Mental Health Program in Jail Expansion – \$244,293.50 (to provide mental health coverage 7 days a week [currently available 5 days a week] by adding one full-time Designated Crisis Responder, increase current .5 certified Peer Counselor to full time, and converting one Designated Crisis Responder to working supervisor)
 - Substance Use Services Expansion – \$151,016 (expand by adding substance use professional – to better identify, assess and treat - to fill in the gap and provide a one-stop shop)

- Human Services – Kyle Sullivan and Megan Killgore
 - Case Manager Position - \$188,562 (new position in Human Services - roughly 30% increase in felony cases; estimate at least 100 cases that would benefit from a case manager). OPD Manager Eric Hsu and Michelle Gerber (Benton-Franklin Recovery Coalition) both strongly support this proposal.

- District Court - Tara Symons
 - Veterans Court - \$139,809 (clerical position - person will be split between courts – this will cover 2/3 of her time – roughly 70 clients)
 - Mental Health Court - \$47,001 (clerical position – anticipate needing a half-time position and it will be split between Courts)

- Office of Public Defense – Eric Hsu (via/Skype)
 - Public Defense Services - \$502,000 (District Court Contract Public Defenders - supplements current funding for increased caseloads and to remain competitive with contracts; Superior Court Professional Services – supplements current funding – due to increased caseloads)

- Prosecuting Attorney – Andy Miller and Julie Long
 - Additional Staff - \$401,057 (one legal secretary and one deputy prosecuting attorney – due to increased caseloads; currently 610 open adult felony cases, 38% of which are serious violent crimes)

- Superior Court – Marshall Pickett
 - Adult Drug Court - \$212,041 (currently have 61 participants and 26 people on the waiting list and 54 people in the que to be on waiting list – requesting a second case manager position to expand program from 70 to 85 participants)

- Superior Court - Tiffany Deaton and Judge Carrie Runge
 - Two FTE Bailiff Positions - \$266,425 (currently have 5 full-time and 2 on-call positions but have not been able to fill on-call positions and are using an

outsourcing service to provide the bailiffs. Numbers do not add up – trying to maintain 10 courtrooms with 5 bailiffs – a safety and security issue; last time they received a full-time bailiff was in 2003)

Commissioner Small asked about the agreement with Franklin County. Ms. Deaton said the last agreement was to use an outsourcing agency. Commissioner Small expressed concern about the bi-county program (difficult to go forward without an agreement from Franklin County).

The Board recessed until 11:00 a.m.

- Sheriff's Office - Katie Gillies, Jon Law, Steve Caughey
 - Administrative Clerk Position - \$152,710 (due to separation of Sheriff's office and Corrections Department – loss of staff members needed for administrative duties)
 - Paralegal Public Records Clerk - \$157,980 (increased public records requests)
 - AFIS Mobile ID Program - \$30,000 (one-time request - identify people by fingerprint out in the field – 15 handheld units)
 - Interview Room Recording System JAVS iRecord - \$21,000 to \$23,000 (one-time request)
 - Investigations Forensic Software Programs (3) - \$69,000 (one-time cost with annual licensing fees to be paid from regular budget)
 - New Crime Scene Evidence Vehicle - \$325,000 to \$405,000 (currently rely on requesting State Patrol Control Lab; Kennewick has an aging vehicle)

The Board asked how this would fit into the whole Tri-City area (Pasco, Richland, Kennewick, State Patrol) and bring back a report on that.

- Portable Radar Speed Trailer Replacement - \$12,000 (one-time)
- Thermal Imagers for Fleeing Subjects/Rescue Operations (7) - \$55,000 (one with canine unit and one with each squad; tool to assist with suspect or missing or endangered youth or adult; have borrowed in the past but would like to have at immediate disposal)
- Waterways - \$150,500
 - \$110,500 to refurbish boat located south in the county at Paterson [new cost is \$275,000]
 - \$40,000 – two jet skis to address shallow waterways in Yakima River (currently call out Dive & Rescue to respond to shore and shallow water issues)

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman