

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 2, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

Lease Agreement w/ Fair Association for Use of Benton County Fairgrounds – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager

County staff presented to the Commissioners a new lease agreement for consideration for use of the Benton County Fairgrounds for the annual Benton-Franklin Fair & Rodeo by the Benton-Franklin Fair Association for a term of five years (2021-2025). The current lease is a two-year agreement (2019-2020), and the Fair Association requested a return to the traditional five-year agreement. The new agreement would return to a five-year lease term, expand the annual occupancy window from approximately 4 weeks to 6 weeks (August 1 – September 15), and would set the annual rental fee to a fixed rate of \$175,000 per year rather than a variable rate. **The Board moved and seconded to enter into a new lease agreement with the Benton-Franklin Fair Association for a five-year term from 2021-2025 and authorized the Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. Motion carried.**

Funding Agreement w/ Washington State Department of Children, Youth, & Families for Construction and/or Remodel of an At-Risk Youth Services Center – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

During the 2018 and 2019 Washington State Legislative Sessions, Benton County, in partnership with Franklin County, proposed to the Legislature the construction and/or remodel of an At-Risk Youth Services Center at the Benton-Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center to better serve the needs of at-risk youth including, but not limited to, improved courtroom facilities, administrative and counseling services, and designated space for community outreach, intervention services, youth programs, and education. These improvements would allow for increased capacity to provide preventative services to at-risk youth.

Effective May 21, 2019, the Washington State Legislature approved the transfer of \$750,000 of funds from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families for the final design and construction of an at-risk youth services center at the Benton-Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center. (SHB 1102, Section 2085).

On January 1, 2020 the Boards of Commissioners of Benton and Franklin Counties approved a Memorandum of Agreement regarding this funding appropriation and responsibilities of each party (Benton County Resolution 2020-054, Franklin County Resolution 2019-389). This funding agreement is effective April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

The Board moved and seconded to approve the resolution and funding agreement with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families for the transfer of \$750,000, as appropriated under SHB 1102, for the final design and construction of an At-Risk Youth Services Center in Kennewick, Washington and to authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board

Corrections Department Update – Chief Souza, Corrections & Linda Ivey, Finance Manager

Chief Souza and the Finance Manager presented to the Board an update on three issues:

1. Ongoing construction in the jail: The ongoing construction project within the jail (plumbing and water intrusion) is expected to be completed on June 21, 2020.

2. Employee locker room: Staff have responded well to the availability of locker room facilities. Of the available 165 lockers within the male locker room, 144 have been assigned. Of the available 70 lockers within the female locker room, 44 have been assigned.
3. COVID-19 response within the jail: With the construction project nearing completion, it was anticipated that the Corrections Department would be bringing contract numbers back up to around 150 from 125. Corrections is currently holding 40 USMS, with no anticipated date of being able to accept new inmates. At \$82.25 per bed day, it is anticipated that the Corrections Department will be seeing a loss of \$271,425 of revenue per month. Assuming this continues, the total estimated loss of revenue to the Current Expense Fund for May – December 2020 would be \$2,171,400.00.

No Board direction or vote.

Discussion on Applying to the Governor's Office for a Variance to Move to Phase 2 - Commissioners

The Commissioners discussed their intention to have Benton County move to Phase 2 of the Governor's Safe Start Washington Phased Reopening Plan and considered a resolution to request that the Benton-Franklin Health District submit an application to the Washington State Board of Health to move Benton County into Phase 2. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the resolution requesting that the Benton-Franklin Health District submit an application to the Washington State Board of Health to move Benton County into Phase 2. Motion carried.**

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