

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 28, 2021



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Scheduled Business

Authorization for Grant Application Submittal to the Administrative Office of the Courts for Therapeutic Courts Services – Tara Symons, Therapeutic Courts Coordinator

District Court has received an opportunity to apply for a grant through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to fund urine analysis (UA), which used to be provided by Benton County Corrections Department, and to provide funds for housing and other treatment services needed by individuals with substance abuse problems. The grant will also be used for additional training for the Therapeutic Courts team. The grant request amount is \$222,000 and will be used to supplement the Public Safety Sales Tax, which currently pays for all of the Therapeutic Courts program costs. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the District Court Therapeutic Court to apply for Therapeutic Court Enhancement Grant and designate the District Court Presiding Judge to sign the application. Motion carried.**

Contract w/ Washington State Department of Corrections for Jail Bed Space – Chief Souza, Corrections

Benton County and Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) had Contract No. K9420 for jail bed space at the Benton County Jail that terminated December 31, 2020. Benton County and the DOC have agreed upon the terms and conditions for Contract No. K12418 and wish to enter into said Contract with a commencement date of January 1, 2021 and a termination date of June 30, 2023. Both parties wish to back date the contract to January 1, 2021 in order for Benton County to bill DOC for any expenditures necessary between January 1, 2021 and the date of signature of the contract. DOC has requested that Benton County sign the contract first and will return a fully executed copy for our records. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Interagency Contract No. K12418 between Benton County and Washington State Department of Corrections for jail bed space at the Benton County Jail. Motion carried.**

Master Services & Purchasing Agreement w/ Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Purchase of Body & Vehicle Cameras and Taser Equipment for the Benton County Sheriff's Office – Interim Sheriff Jon Law

The State of Washington Senate House Bill 1223 (SHB 1223) was amended to enact the uniform electronic recordation of custodial interrogations act. The SHB 1223 requires law enforcement officers to electronically record custodial interrogations at places of detention if the interrogation is of a juvenile or related to a felony; requires law enforcement officers to electronically record audio and video of qualifying custodial interrogations at a jail, police or sheriff's station, holding cell, or correctional or detention facility, and, at minimum, audio of qualifying custodial interrogations at any other place of detention; and requires law enforcement agencies to establish and enforce rules and procedures relating to electronic recordings of custodial interrogations. Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) solicited and received proposals for the purchase of body and vehicle cameras and taser equipment totaling \$1,347,120.20 including WSST. Benton County received \$808,428.00 funding from Office of Financial Management based on population as part of the law enforcement and criminal justice legislation one-time cost. BCSO believes the purchase of said equipment falls under RCW 39.04.280(1)(a) for Sole Source Purchases based on the fact BCSO has specific technological requirements such the equipment needs to be compatible with the other local agencies who are utilizing TASER brand products and as Axon is the sole distributor and retailer of all TASER brand products. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the purchase of body and vehicle cameras and taser equipment for a total amount of \$1,347,120.20 including WSST, plus any shipping fee, and authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement. Motion carried.**

Northwest Winterfest Event at the Benton County Fairgrounds – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager

Staff presented a facility use agreement for the Northwest Winterfest event at the Benton County Fairgrounds. Northwest Winterfest is a community festival, centered on large lighted displays of a winter theme. The event is augmented by food, music, and other activities and is held in the evening. The organization is based in Spokane, where the event was held very successfully (pre-pandemic). Event organizers are going to keep the Spokane event earlier in the season then set up the event in Tri-Cities later in the season. The lease period would be January 14, 2022 through April 30, 2022 including time for set up and tear down. The public event will run for 39 days within that timeframe. The event is anticipated to bring approximately 600 visitors per day, on the North Lawn, Building 1, and surrounding asphalt areas. **The Board moved and seconded to proceed with the execution of the Fairgrounds Facility Use Agreement between Benton County and Northwest Winterfest, directing the County Administrator to sign said agreement. Motion carried.**

Other Business

Institutional Food Service Contract w/ Aramark Correctional Services, LLC for Food Services at Benton County Jail – Chief Scott Souza, Corrections

At the September 14, 2021 meeting, the Board agreed it would be in the best interest of both parties to mutually terminate the current contract between Benton County and Summit Food Service, LLC effective September 30, 2021. Benton County solicited and received a proposal from Aramark Correctional Services, LLC to provide food management services, while maintaining the current contract pricing. The Chief of Corrections reviewed their qualifications and pricing to operate the jail kitchen utilizing all contractor's employees and recommends entering into a contract with Aramark Correctional Services, LLC for a term commencing October 1, 2021 and terminating December 31, 2022. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the chairman to sign the Institutional Food Service Contract between Benton County and Aramark Correctional Services, LLC for food services located at the Benton County Jail. Motion carried.**

Special Meeting @ 1:30 PM

Interviews & Possible Appointment of Benton County Sheriff - Commissioners

At the September 28, 2021 Special Board Meeting at 1:30 PM, the Commissioners interviewed each of the three (3) proposed candidates for the role of Appointed Benton County Sheriff including Tom Croskrey, John Hodge, and Jon Law. Each candidate was asked the same six (6) questions by Commissioners and given the opportunity to respond accordingly. After conclusion of the interviews, Commissioners conducted a closed-door executive session to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for appointment to elective office. After re-entering the regular session, **the Board moved and seconded to appoint Tom Croskrey as Benton County Sheriff, effective October 4, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Contact: Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator
Shyanne.Palmus@co.benton.wa.us | 509-222-3760