

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
Benton County Administration Building
Commissioners' Hearing Room
7122 W. Okanogan Place, 3rd Floor, #E303
Kennewick, WA
Thursday, May 26, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx

Present: Chairman Shon Small
Commissioner Will McKay via/Phone
Commissioner Jerome Delvin via/WebEx
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen via/WebEx; Robert Heard, IT Manager; Cody Shelton, IT; Linda Ivey, Finance Manager; Shyanne Palmus via/WebEx; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; via/WebEx; Clerk Josie Delvin via/WebEx; Coroner William Leach; Superior Court Judge Joe Burrowes; DPA Ryan Brown; Tiffany Runge, Superior Court Administrator; Michael Vander Sys, OPD; DPA Ryan Lukson; Ginny Badley, PA's Office; Julie Long, Assistant Chief Deputy; Chief Robert Guerrero and Cindi Kane, Corrections; District Court Judge John Ziobro; Ryan Washburn, Therapeutic Courts Coordinator; Katie Gillies, Sheriff's Office; Undersheriff Jon Law; Commander Lee Cantu; Heather Reynolds, Sheriff's Office; Laurel Holland, DPA; Synthia Alcantar, Victim Witness Coordinator.

Public Safety Sales Tax ~ Internal Agency Requests - 2023 – 2024 New Budget Request Presentations and Discussion

The following departments made presentations to the Board:

- Clerk's Office – Josie Delvin via/WebEx
 - Upgrade three (3) positions from Grade 4 to Grade 6 - \$25,000 (due to change in job duties; originally created as temporary positions).
- Coroner – William Leach
 - Forensic Pathologist Position and support staff - \$200,000 (partial funding - balance of \$400,000 would be required from general fund). Would maintain contract with Spokane County as a backup. He said he believed there would be revenue from contract autopsies to partially offset this cost.

- Office of Public Defense – Michael Vander Sys
 - Paid Rule 9 Intern Internship Program (2 Positions) – \$73,680 - this would be a recruiting tool to get law students earlier in their schooling by offering compensation. Individuals would have a Rule 9 license in 2nd or 3rd year of law school to perform functions of a lawyer under the direction of a lawyer.
- Prosecuting Attorney – Julie Long, Synthia Alcantar, Laurel Holland, Commander Darryl Judge, Richland PD
 - Victim Witness Coordinator (new) - \$192,703 (due to increase in major and serious violent crimes against persons)
 - Counseling Services - \$40,000 (would allow 4 times/per year for attorneys and victim staff for counseling services for trauma related response)
 - Supplies - \$25,000 – for court mandated trial supplies – emergency court rules due to covid, but still ongoing
 - Training - \$11,000.00 for attorneys coming in from other states and support staff
 - Recruitment Bonuses - \$50,000 – for up to five open Deputy Prosecutor positions – emphasized this was a specialized degree that other departments did not require
 - Technology Software - \$26,176
 - Total - \$344,879
- Superior Court - Judge Burrowes and Tiffany Runge; Clerk Delvin (via/WebEx)
 - Three FTE Bailiff Positions - \$260,137 – provides essential security functions for the safety and security of Courtrooms and adjacent areas. Currently 10 judicial officers and only six FTE Bailiffs. Clerk Delvin also spoke in favor of the Bailiff for the Ex Parte dockets without a judge on protection orders when a Clerk was in Court without a Bailiff.

Judge Ziobro also spoke in favor of the recruitment bonuses for attorneys, as a lot of the applicants were not from this area and have moving expenses. Additionally, he said having bailiffs present in the Courtrooms had the benefit alone of showing authority.

- District Court/Therapeutic Courts - Judge Ziobro and Ryan Washburn
 - Misdemeanor Drug Court - \$55,577 (new program) – 1/3 of mental health referrals were rejected due to a primary diagnosis of substance abuse and this was an unmet need. Some of the court costs will be absorbed through the services already being provided in the other Therapeutic Courts
- Sheriff's Office/Corrections – Chief Robert Guerrero; Undersheriff Jon Law; Commander Lee Cantu; Heather Reynolds
 - Jail Detective Position - \$132,069.18 (Corrections); \$142,938.18 (Sheriff) – to investigate internal affairs, PREA investigations, and pre-employment polygraphs
- Sheriff's Office
 - Crime Scene Evidence Vehicle - \$350,000 – to provide equipment, technology, facilities, and appropriate shelter during long hours processing crime scenes

- Forensic Software Program - Analyst Notebook - \$8,500
- Forensic Software Program - Gray Key - \$59,000
- Forensic Software Program - Berla Ive - \$6,000
- Forensic Software Program – Cellebrite - \$12,000

- Six (6) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Drones - \$26,000.00 – to be used in rural and suburban areas when looking for fleeing subjects and missing or endangered persons

- SWAT Vehicle Vault Boxes - \$25,000 – specialized vault boxes for weapons and tools for the SWAT Team

- Training - \$30,000 – for increased cost of law enforcement academy, and crisis intervention training

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman