

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 15, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Scheduled Business

Office of Public Defense Federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant – Eric Hsu, Public Defense Manager

Benton County Office of Public Defense (OPD) has been the recipient of certain grant funding from the State Office of Public Defense designed to assist with caseload impacts from COVID pursuant to the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Fund (CESF). OPD was awarded the amount of \$38,650 in 2021 and has effectively utilized it to provide enhanced services for provisional counsel during District Court arraignments (Grant No GRT 21004). OPD has now been informed that it is eligible to request additional funding in 2022 (as an extension of the same grant) in an amount of up to \$60,000. In addition to continuing to fund the enhanced provisional counsel during District Court arraignments, OPD proposes to utilize the balance of the grant (\$60,000) to enhance its In-Custody Arraignment provisional counsel services in Superior Court. These are supplemental, and non-supplanting purposes as required the grant. This grant funding does not require a local match and does not need to be repaid. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize Benton County OPD to apply for the authorized extension to CESF Grant No. GRT 21004 in the maximum allowable amount of \$60,000. Motion carried.**

Contract Termination Notice w/ Lourdes Hospital for Mental Health Services at the Benton County Jail – Interim Chief Guerrero, Corrections

The Board entered into a Professional Services Contract with Lourdes Hospital, LLC (dba Lourdes Health) to provide mental health services at the Benton County Jail. The contract was amended per Resolution 2020-1000, as both parties wished to extend the contract through December 31, 2022, update the compensation section, and update Exhibit A. Benton County is exercising its right to terminate the contract, per Section 13.a. Termination, with 60 days' notice as required to send the letter as presented. Said termination would be effective 11:59 PM PST on Saturday, April 16, 2022. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the letter to Lourdes Health to advise them that Benton County is exercising its right to terminate the above cited Professional Services Contract, per Section 13.a. Termination. Motion carried.**

Position Request for Safety & Security Program Coordinator – Karlee Ainsworth, Assistant HR Manager & Adam Morasch, Risk Manager

The Risk Manager has identified a need to create a Safety & Security Program Coordinator position and worked with the HR Department to create the needed classification description, appropriate placement on the Benton County Non-Bargaining Salary Schedule, and the necessary line-item transfer to fund the position. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Safety & Security Program Coordinator classification description as presented, to approve the position as a grade 17 on the Benton County Non-Bargaining Salary Schedule, and to approve the line-item transfer to replace the currently vacant Security Supervisor position with the Safety & Security Program Coordinator position. Motions carried.**

Request to Proceed with RFP for 2023-2024 Public Safety Sales Tax – Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator & Linda Ivey, Finance Manager

Staff presented to the Board regarding opening a Request for Proposals (RFP) for soliciting proposals for funding through the Public Safety Sales Tax for 2023-2024. A similar RFP process was initiated in April 2020 for 2021-2022 programs, projects, and other internal or one-time funding. Staff recommends opening the RFP on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, with applications due no later than 5 PM on Friday, April 29, 2022. Both internal (County Department) and external (Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative) requests will be required to present to the Board during a special meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held on May 19 or 20, 2022. Final date/time/location of presentations is yet to be determined. After applicant presentations, a review committee will recommend funding to the Board for approval in the 2023-2024 biennial budget. Once a final funding determination is made by the Board, staff will prepare contracts with the approved external agencies and all approved internal requests will be included in the regular budget process. A total of \$2.4 million is recommended to be allocated specifically for external (Gang & Crime Prevention Initiative) requests, and a total of \$400,000 is recommended to be allotted for internal (County department) requests for new positions and one-time costs. (Note: this does not include any positions or program funding already in departmental Public Safety Sales Tax budgets and is only for new position requests or new one-time expenditures.) **The Board moved and seconded to have staff proceed with the 2023-2024 Public Safety Sales Tax RFP process as presented. Motion carried.**

Commitment of Benton County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for the Construction of a Behavioral Health Recovery Center – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

The Benton County Board of Commissioners has committed to the construction of a new behavioral health crisis recovery center in Benton County. This center will serve the residents of Benton County as well as several other counties in the region. The recovery center will provide badly needed treatment options to our community and an alternative to incarceration or frequent trips to hospital emergency rooms. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for such a facility, and the behavioral health services it would provide, in our community. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$20 million. On April 1, 2022, funds received by Benton County through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) become eligible for use on capital expenditures for behavioral health facilities (Department of the Treasury 31 CFR Part 35, Section 35.6(b)(3)(C)). In response to the behavioral health needs in the community, exacerbated by the on-going public health emergency, the County intends to dedicate up to \$5 million of the ARPA funds it has received toward the construction of the behavioral health crisis recovery center in Benton County. The funds must be obligated for construction no later than December 31, 2024 and spent no later than December 31, 2026. **The Board moved and seconded to sign the letter as presented (written above). Motion carried.**

Other Business

Approving the Purchase of Two (2) Cisco Catalyst C9500 Switches from CompuNet, Inc. – Robert Heard, IT Manager & Alex Garcia, Assistant IT Manager

IT has identified two Cisco Catalyst 4500x network switches that have been in service for almost ten (10) years. Cisco Catalyst 4500x switches are an essential part of the County's overall network and telecommunication services. Cisco will be ending 4500x vulnerability and security support in 2023. With the guidance of the County's State Cisco approved vendor, CompuNet, Inc, IT recommends that two (2) Cisco C9500 Catalyst switches be purchased to replace these aging switches from CompNet, Inc. (a State approved vendor, WA, NASPO AR233(14-19) 01114) . **The Board moved and seconded to approve the purchase of two (2) Cisco Catalyst C9500 switches and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the acceptance and proposal document from CompuNet, Inc. Motion carried.**

Approving the Purchase of 15 Cisco WebEx Desks from CompuNet, Inc. – Robert Heard, IT Manager & Alex Garcia, Assistant IT Manager

On July 28, 2020, per Resolution 2020-496, the Board authorized the use of Benton County CARES funds for the Courtroom Technology Upgrade Project which included courtroom audio video improvements to the Jail, adding courtroom hearing capabilities during COVID. The Courtroom Technology Upgrade Project purchased twelve (12) Cisco DX80 codecs, while Benton County Corrections purchased more DX80s for inmate court, visitation, and other remote needs. Unfortunately, Cisco removed DX80s from their roadmap of WebEx services that include breakout rooms. Breakout rooms gives the judge the ability to create a remote secure private meeting during court between an attorney and his client. Private meetings happen all the time during court hearings and currently require additional staff effort to move the inmate to an area where attorney-client privilege is protected. To take advantage of WebEx Breakout Rooms, the County needs to purchase new Cisco WebEx Desks. Cisco WebEx Desk fully supports the use of WebEx breakout rooms. After a review of Corrections' current WebEx environment, IT recommends purchasing fifteen WebEx Desks for Corrections. CompuNet has provided a quote with heavy discounts which includes two (2) free WebEx Desks. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the purchase of fifteen (15) Cisco WebEx Desks and authorize the Chairman to sign the acceptance and proposal document from CompuNet, Inc. Motion carried.**

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