

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
THE BILL LUXFORD STUDIO, ROOM 113

Commissioners Present: Roma Amundson, Chair; Sean Flowerday, Vice Chair; Deb Schorr, Rick Vest

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Ann Ames, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; and Monét McCullen, County Clerk's Office

Location Announcement of Nebraska Open Meetings Act: A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted. Additionally, a copy of all written material to be discussed at today's open meeting is available from the County Clerk's staff. These materials can also be viewed on the County's web site at lancaster.ne.gov.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

1) County Sheriff (651)

Dennis Meyer, Lancaster County Budget & Fiscal Officer, provided a brief overview of the County Sheriff's budget request. He noted the amount is about \$13,900,000 which is approximately a 9% increase. Salary and benefits make up 84% of the budget and the revenue budget of \$2,100,000 is close to a 7% increase.

Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, discussed the budget impact related to current multi-year contracts. He stated the overall budget increase is also due to such things as an upcoming retirement, new ammunition requirements, computer software maintenance and licensing, 911 Center costs, medical services and the base costs for vehicles.

Meyer said additional appropriations are a little over \$287,000. Wagner said this was primarily due to salary increases which took effect last September. Discussion followed on the budget impact of the new multi-year (3 year) labor contract.

Schorr asked about using forfeited assets for ammunition costs. Wagner said the forfeited asset account is dwindling and there are other obligations that need to be paid for from the account. Todd Duncan, Deputy Lancaster County Sheriff, said the goal is not to allow the Sheriff's Office to become too dependent on asset forfeiture funds to cover day-to-day necessities as there is no guarantee that the Equitable Sharing Program will continue next year.

Wagner added that e-citations are now being mandated by the Supreme Court and each patrol car will need printers installed to be in compliance.

Vest asked if forfeited assets are providing revenues. Wagner said forfeited assets cannot go into the budget. The main sources of revenue are handgun permits, title inspections, civil process fees and overtime reimbursement. Wagner also mentioned grants which received throughout the year.

Flowerday questioned the cost of title inspections. Wagner said the County does not receive much revenue from these fees. Title inspection and handgun permit fees are set by State Statute and have not been increased since the laws passed. Amundson felt this should be reviewed. Meyer stated the issue is when fees do not cover processing costs - then property taxes must be used.

Wagner discussed the Sheriff's Sinking Fund requests (see agenda packet). He noted the Radio Replacement Program was not included as the radios were recently replaced, but he does not foresee them lasting longer than ten years. Meyer added he is working on combining this fund with the County Wide Sinking Fund.

Duncan noted a Request for Information (RFI) for the rebuild of CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) was going to be released but the Purchasing Department feels this will not be feasible and instead suggested that Information Services (IS) build the system internally. The Board said they would not support this idea.

Meyer asked about the additional personnel expenses. Wagner said three years ago a plan was developed to increase the patrol force by six deputies in six years. They are currently asking approval for the third deputy.

Meyer reminded Wagner and Duncan of the HR/Payroll system upgrade and OpenGov training.

Regarding the annual report, Wagner stated the Office generally keeps calendar-year statistics so some conversion to fiscal year may be necessary.

2) Clerk of the District Court (621, 627, 751)

Meyer said the Clerk of the District Court (Fund 621) budget is just under \$2,000,000 which reflects a 2.86% increase. A little over 90% of the overall budget is salaries and benefits.

Troy Hawk, Clerk of the District Court, said the increase is due to union and County Board approved raises. There is a small increase in the office equipment budget.

Hawk discussed the Technology Fund request (see agenda packet). Meyer said the State reimburses District Court some funds for computers. Those funds then help to offset any requests.

Meyer said the Jury Commission (Fund 627) budget increased .61% to just under \$413,000. Hawk explained the increase is due to IS creating a jury database.

The Mental Health Board (Fund 751) budget is a little less than \$150,000. Meyer noted this budget will need additional appropriations to complete the current year. Hawk explained the breakdown of employee and Board Member expenses.

Meyer reminded Hawk of the HR/Payroll system upgrade and OpenGov training.

Hawk confirmed that they are currently putting together information for the annual report.

3) County Attorney (652)

Meyer said the budget is around \$8,800,000 which equals roughly a 6% increase. Salaries and benefits are 86% of the budget and revenues are estimated at \$1,600,000 (a 11.5% increase).

Regarding additional appropriations, Pat Condon, County Attorney, said the biggest driver is coroner costs. Autopsy and testing costs have increased for next budget year. Conversations with the coroner are planned to see if there are ways to lower costs. Increases also include two positions added in the last year, a request for an additional child support attorney and regular salary increases. There was a decrease in mileage due to utilization of the new Purchasing Cards (P-Cards).

Schorr asked for clarification on the new employees. Condon said two attorneys started midterm of FY2019 and one is requested for FY2020.

Condon discussed the technology request (see agenda packet). Grant money was used to offset some of the costs.

Meyer asked if there was anything the Board needs to know for future years. Condon said there might be a future need for expansion if another judge is added and if police body cameras are used. It would also be nice to have a dedicated area for jurors to prevent them from being in the same common area as defendants and their families.

In reference to the annual report, Condon said they are reviewing how body cameras will affect certain information. Bruce Prenda, Chief Deputy Lancaster County Attorney, added there are many bills under consideration or which have passed that will affect how county attorneys operate.

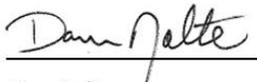
Further discussion was held on coroners and related costs. Condon said transportation costs could be reduced if the County's current coroner had an autopsy suite in Lincoln. He mentioned the possibility of having access to the State's lab in Airpark. Schorr suggested this be researched and asked that an update be provided at mid-year.

Meyer reminded Condon and Prenda of the HR/Payroll system upgrade and OpenGov training.

Prenda added they are also focusing on federal funding opportunities to help offset costs which may include sending some attorneys to grant writing training.

4) Adjournment

MOTION: Schorr moved and Flowerday seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. Vest, Schorr, Flowerday and Amundson voted yes. Motion carried 4-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

