

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
GARLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
COUNTY COURTROOM 200
APRIL 24, 2023, 5:30 PM
MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman Thomas Anderson, Vice-Chairman Jeremy Brown, Esther Dixon, Larry Raney, Brian Peters, Ray Owen

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Elected Officials, Staff, Citizens, and Media

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order, and Justice Dixon provided the Invocation.

Chairman Anderson introduced a request from Judge Dyer to create one full-time Juvenile Probation Officer position in Circuit Court – Juvenile Division 2. A motion was made by Justice Raney, seconded by Justice Dixon to approve the creation of the position. The motion carried without opposition.

Chairman Anderson introduced a request from Sheriff McCormick to approve salary increases for Garland County Sheriff's Deputies in Enforcement and Detention. County Judge Mahoney suggested Items 3 and 4 on the agenda as one request due to the request being applied for all Commissioned Law Enforcement Deputies. This would include Circuit Court Bailiffs, Prosecuting Attorney Investigator, and the Drug Task Force Investigator.

A motion was made by Justice Dixon, seconded by Justice Brown. The motion carried without opposition.

Justice Raney stated he assumed this request was to get the County in a financial condition to be able to compete in the current market. Sheriff McCormick stated that the County is currently not competitive in salaries. Judge Mahoney stated this situation is not only in the Detention Facility and has now caused an impact on the Patrol Division as well. He further stated that he fully expects this situation to escalate and that currently, the State Police are actively recruiting officers from the City of Hot Springs and Garland County. Justice Dixon stated that this plan is necessary for retention purposes as well.

Judge Mahoney agreed this plan would help with retention and recruiting. He stated that we want quality law enforcement personnel on the streets, the best of the best. He also stated the County has them now and wants to be able to recruit and retain them.

Judge Mahoney then stated this proposal has zero impact on Detention Fund due to the number of vacancies throughout the year and approximately \$180,000 on the General Fund for the remainder of 2023 and all would have to be reviewed during budget hearings for 2024.

Judge Mahoney then stated that in the near future, the Quorum Court may have to look at alternative public safety funding options.

Justice Owen stated the County has got to get to a level to be competitive.

All agreed that salaries are an issue across the entire state and not just locally or within Arkansas Class 6 Counties.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Valerie Dodge