

Garland County, Arkansas
Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes
May 4, 2020

Finance Members Present: Chairman McKee, Vice- Chairman Braziel, Justice Horner, Hunter, Owen, Anderson, and Raney

Members Absent: None

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

This meeting was held virtually through Zoom software. The only physical presence in the courtroom was Comptroller Ashmore, Attorney Howard, Attorney's Assistant Cischke, and Tax Collector Talbert.

Chairman McKee called the meeting to order, starting with a prayer from Justice Anderson.

Chairman McKee asked if there was anyone in the courtroom that wanted to speak on anything on the agenda. Comptroller Ashmore informed Chairman McKee of the individuals present, and no one indicated they wanted to be heard. Chairman McKee gave instructions as to how the meeting would occur.

Chairman McKee introduced a resolution authorizing the County Judge to apply for an **Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts Security Grant for \$15,000.00** with no county match required. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Braziel. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, with none the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced a resolution authorizing the County Judge to apply for a **Blue & You Foundation, COVID-19 Rapid Relief Grant**. This grant ranges from **\$5,000.00 to \$150,000.00**, with no county match required. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Braziel. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and Judge Mahoney explained that the county is applying for test kits to help our county get back to normalcy. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced a resolution authorizing the County Judge to apply for a **Department of Justice (DOJ) Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant for \$84,960.00** to be used for overtime and personal protection equipment (PPE). A motion for do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Raney. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and Judge Mahoney explained \$60,026.57 will be used for overtime for the Sheriff's office, and Detention Facility and \$24,933.43 will be used to purchase PPE. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced a resolution authorizing the County Judge to apply for a **Bulletproof Vest 50% matching** to be used for the Circuit Court Bailiffs. This grant will provide three vests at an estimated cost of \$2,800.00 with a county match of \$1,400.00. A motion for do pass made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and Judge Mahoney explained that these vests will be for our Circuit Court Bailiffs. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee asked about the Juvenile Court DOJ grant that was removed from the agenda. Comptroller Ashmore indicated that Judge Naramore requested that the resolution be removed, and brought back-up in the June Finance meeting for consideration.

Chairman McKee introduced an ordinance to amend the 2020 Budget Ordinance O-19-54, to anticipate revenues, appropriate, and un-appropriate expenditures in various budgets due to the COVID-19 crisis.

- a. The Tax Collector requests to un-appropriate \$342,375.35 in the General Fund, Tax Collector's Budget for salaries and benefits in her office, and re-appropriate these expenditures in the Collector's Automation Fund, Tax Collector Budget.
- b. The County Treasurer requests to un-appropriate \$133,651.99 in the General Fund, Treasurer's Budget for salaries, and benefits in his office and re-appropriate these expenditures in the Treasurer's Automation Fund, Treasurer's Budget.
- c. The County Clerk requests to un-appropriate \$38,768.17 in the General Fund, County Clerk's Budget for her Chief Deputy's salary, and benefits and re-appropriate these expenditures in the County Clerk's Cost Fund, County Clerk's Budget.
- d. The County Judge requests to un-appropriate \$8,000.00 in the General Fund, Computer/IS Budget for a back-up appliance.
- e. The Sheriff requests to un-appropriate \$178,609.30 in the General Fund, Sheriff's Budget for four (4) Police Units, and the outfitting of these units.
- f. The County Judge requests to un-appropriate \$149,070.64, in the County Road Fund, Road Budget for Machinery and Equipment, and one (1) vehicle.
- g. The Tax Collector requests to un-appropriate \$85,237.70 in the Collector's Automation Fund, Tax Collector Budget for a generator.
- h. The County Judge requests to un-appropriate \$374,385.00 in the Solid Waste Fund, Solid Waste Budget for a tire cleaner, a mini excavator, a front-load truck, and a pickup truck.

Comptroller Ashmore indicated that there was a correction to the ordinance not to include the two transport trucks with no change to the dollars un-appropriated. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Braziel. Chairman McKee indicated how they appreciated our Elected Officials for helping move money around in the budget. Justice Owen explained that this is an appropriate time to utilize these funds and that he applauded the Officials for allowing the Quorum Court to make these changes. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced an ordinance to amend the 2020 Budget Ordinance O-19-54, to anticipate revenues, appropriate, and transfer funds in various budgets.

- a. The Sheriff requests to appropriate \$50,044.67 in the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Fund, Sheriff's Budget.
- b. The Treasurer was awarded \$1,000.00 for a Blue & You Grant to purchase Stop the Bleed Kit's and would like these funds appropriated in the Blue & You Fund, Treasurer's Budget.
- c. The Division II Circuit Court Judge was awarded \$1,000.00 through the Juvenile Court Incentive Grant Fund to reward Juveniles and promote positive behavior. The Judge would like it appropriated in the Juvenile Court Incentive Grant Fund, Division II Circuit Court Budget.

- d. The County Judge was awarded \$84,960.00 through a Department of Justice (DOJ) Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant to pay for overtime and personal protective equipment. He would like these funds appropriated in the DOJ Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant Fund, Special Projects Budget.
- e. The Sheriff requests transfer \$6,428.33 from the General Fund for the county's matching and \$6,428.33 from the Ouachita Memorial Hospital Sale Fund to fund the grant until reimbursements are received.

A motion for do pass was made by Justice Raney and seconded by Justice Anderson. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and Comptroller Ashmore explained that section (e.) was to fund a grant that was appropriated during the 2020 budget process, and needed to be funded. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee asked if there was any other business before the Other Business, and it was indicated that there was not.

Chairman McKee introduced Gary Troutman of Hot Springs Metro Partnership, and he presented the report. A motion for do pass to pay both April and May invoices was made by Justice Owen and seconded by Justice Raney. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, with none the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced the Position and Salary Adjustments, Overtime, Sales Tax, and Oaklawn Revenue report. There was some discussion on each report. Chairman McKee said he wanted to thank the Finance Department, County Judge's office and all of the Elected Officials for being proactive and for finding ways to keep our county fiscally sound. Justice Raney commend all of the county employees for all of the sacrifice and challenges they have made through this ordeal. Chairman McKee indicated that the courthouse has not been closed a single day. Judge Mahoney said that all county services have been provided and he could not be prouder of group of employees.

Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Ashmore, CPA
Garland County Comptroller