

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
GARLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
COURTROOM 200  
MAY 8, 2023, AT 5:30 PM  
MINUTES**

Members present: Vice-Chairman Braughton, Justices Young, Hunter, Braziel, Myers, and Peters

Members absent: Chairman Owen

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

Vice Chairman Braughton called the meeting to order and introduced Resolution R-23-11, a resolution confirming the reappointment of Rodney Bottoms to the Garland County Equalization Board. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Braziel and seconded by Justice Myers. Vice Chairman Braughton asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairman Braughton introduced Resolution R-23-12, a resolution authorizing the Garland County Prosecuting Attorney to apply for a fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023 Victims of Crime Act, Victims' Assistance Grant Program matching grant on behalf of the Prosecuting Attorney's office totaling \$123,657.02. The federal award is \$95,082.32, and the local match is \$28,574.70. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Braziel and seconded by Justice Young. Vice Chairman Braughton asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairman Braughton introduced Ordinance O-23-15, an ordinance authorizing a one-time premium pay to essential county employees, with the exclusion of all elected officials, poll workers, election commissioners, equalization board members, county library employees, law library employees, and commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such; from funds received from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Myers and seconded by Justice Peters. Vice Chairman Braughton asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairman Braughton introduced Ordinance O-23-16, an ordinance to authorize a one-time premium payment to the Garland County Law Librarian from the Law Library Fund. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Young and seconded by Justice Myers. Vice Chairman Braughton asked for discussion, and Justice Young asked Attorney Howard why a separate ordinance for the Law Library. Attorney Howard explained that their premium payments would come from the Law Library funds, not ARP. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairman Braughton introduced Ordinance O-23-17, an ordinance to amend the 2023 Garland County Budget Ordinance 0-22-57; to anticipate revenues, un-appropriate, and appropriate funds to various budgets.

- a. The Sheriff has determined that the level of salaries of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such is below the level of comparable law enforcement in the region and that this disparity hinders staffing retention and lessens employee morale and job satisfaction.
- b. The Sheriff has surveyed salaries of more than 15 comparable law enforcement agencies in

Arkansas and has determined that the salaries as set forth in the attached Exhibit A would aid staffing retention, increase employee morale and job satisfaction, improve public safety, and can be achieved at the current revenue levels.

- c. The Sheriff requests to un-appropriate (\$302,950.02) in the Detention Fund, County Jail Budget, and unfund six correction officer positions.
- d. The Sheriff requests to appropriate \$302,950.02 in the Detention Facility Fund, County Jail Budget, to pay for salary increases of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such, to help promote employee retention.
- e. The Sheriff requests to appropriate \$171,756.49 in the County General Fund, Sheriff's Budget, to pay for salary increases and benefits of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such, to help promote employee retention. The County General Fund will receive \$6,777.22 from the City of Hot Springs as a reimbursement of the District Court Bailiff's increase.
- f. The Sheriff requests to appropriate \$6,700.62 in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund, Sheriff's Budget, to pay for salary increases and benefits of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such, to help promote employee retention.
- g. The Circuit Court Division I Judge requests to appropriate \$3,448.57 in the County General Fund, Circuit Court Division I Budget, to pay for a salary increase and benefits of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such, to help promote employee retention.
- h. The Circuit Court Division II Judge requests to appropriate \$12,094.76 in the County General Fund, Circuit Court Division II Budget, to pay for salary increases and benefits of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such, to help promote employee retention.
- i. The Circuit Court Division III Judge requests to appropriate \$3,448.57 in the County General Fund, Circuit Court Division III Budget, to pay for a salary increase and benefits of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such, to help promote employee retention.
- j. The Circuit Court Division IV Judge requests to appropriate \$3,572.31 in the County General Fund, Circuit Court Division IV Budget, to pay for a salary increase and benefits of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such, to help promote employee retention.
- k. The Prosecuting Attorney requests to appropriate \$1,440.55 in the County General Fund, Prosecuting Attorney's Budget, to pay for a salary increase and benefits of commissioned deputy sheriffs employed as such, to help promote employee retention.

A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Young and seconded by Justice Myers. Vice Chairman Braughton asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairman Braughton introduced Ordinance O-23-18, an ordinance to amend the 2023 Garland County Budget Ordinance 0-22-57 to anticipate revenues and appropriate and transfer funds to various budgets.

- a. The County Judge received an insurance reimbursement of \$10,260.45 and a refund from the Department of Finance and Administration for estimated sales and use taxes of \$30,718.00 in the County Treasurer's office. He would like to appropriate these funds in the Solid Waste Fund to the Solid Waste Budget for parts and repairs and tax refunds, respectively.
- b. The Prosecuting Attorney requests an appropriation of \$28,574.70 in the County General Fund to the Transfers-Out Budget to pay the county match for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant.
- c. The Circuit Court Division I Judge requests an appropriation of \$40,000.00 in the Circuit Court Division I Cost Fund to the Circuit Court Division I Budget for an audio upgrade in the Division I courtroom. This will also require a transfer from the Court Cost Fund to the Court Cost Budget to fund the sub-fund noted above.
- d. The Circuit Court Division II Juvenile Judge requests an appropriation of \$20,075.00 in the Circuit Court Juvenile Probation Fee Fund to the Juvenile Court Budget to pay for ankle monitors for juveniles in support of court services and programs as indicated by Arkansas Code Annotated § 16-

13-326.

- e. The Circuit Court Division II Juvenile Judge requests an appropriation of \$27,095.11 in the County General Fund to the Circuit Court Division II Budget to pay for the salary and benefits of a new juvenile probation officer. The position control number will be PCN 1000.0402.1921, and the annual salary will be set at \$33,945.60.
- f. The County Judge requests an appropriation of \$18,704.54 in the County General Fund, Transfers-Out Budget, to reimburse the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund for workers' compensation insurance premiums estimated for the 2023 premium pay. The ARP Fund cannot pay for estimated costs, and the workers' compensation insurance premium generally receives a yearly reimbursement. Due to the uncertainty of the actual cost, ARP will not be funding these costs.
- g. The County Judge requests a transfer in the ARP Fund, County Judge's Budget of \$130,000.00 from the salaries full-time, with \$100,000 going to buildings and \$30,000.00 to engineering and architectural to pay for the completion of the Armory renovation.

A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Peters and seconded by Justice Myers. Vice Chairman Braughton asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

County Attorney Howard asked to add two resolutions, R-23-13 and R-23-14.

Vice Chairman Braughton introduced Resolution R-23-13, a resolution electing a Justice of the Peace to preside over Quorum Court meetings in the absence of the County Judge. Attorney Howard explained that if the County Judge is absent or there is a conflict of interest, a member of the Quorum Court will preside over the Quorum Court. Resolution R-23-14 will create a conflict of interest for Judge Mahoney. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Peters and seconded by Justice Myers. Vice Chairman Braughton asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice Chairman Braughton introduced Resolution R-23-14, a resolution recognizing the service of County Judge Darryl Mahoney and naming the Hot Springs National Guard Armory Building the Mahoney Building. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Peters and seconded by Justice Myers. Vice Chairman Braughton asked for discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition. Vice Chairman Braughton thanked Judge Mahoney for his service.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Ashmore, CPA  
Garland County Comptroller