

Garland County, Arkansas
Special Finance Committee
Minutes
November 3, 2021

Members Present: Vice-Chairman Braziel, Justices Horner, Raney, Anderson, Hunter, and Owen
Members Absent: Chairman McKee
Also Present: Citizens, Elected Officials, Staff, and Media

Vice-Chairman Braziel called the meeting to order, and Justice Anderson presented the invocation.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced consideration of salaries and benefits for the 2022 budget that had no proposed changes from the current 2021 budget. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced consideration of proposed salary and benefit budget changes:

1. All personal services budgets except the County Library have a \$2,500 Critical Position Lump Sum from Vacation Pay to be funded by the Coronavirus Relief Fund. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.
2. The Assessor asked to increase the Chief Deputy Assessors' current salary from \$47,132.05 to \$53,000.00. A motion to not entertain was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.
3. The Election Commission personnel increased due to the election year in 2022. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Hunter. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.
4. The County Road Budget includes a new Civil Engineer position budgeted at \$73,447.00 for 2022. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Horner. Justice Owen said the County needs this position, and it will pay off for the County in the near future. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.
5. The County Library has several changes, including three new full-time positions added and part-time salaries reduced. Overall, there is a \$13,832.44 decrease in personal services. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Horner. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.
6. The County Coroner budget includes a new Deputy Coroner position at \$35,550.44. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Hunter. Judge Mahoney discussed the need for coverage of time and that this will also eliminate a part-time position. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.
7. The 911 Communication Center includes two new Telecommunicator Level I positions at \$34,916.74. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Judge Mahoney explained that call volume has increased, and we are already operating one position short. He noted that Corky Martin, the 911 Communication Center Director had done an excellent job maneuvering around vacations and sick time. Justice Owen said he is proud of our

- 911 Center. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.
8. The Sheriff's General Fund Budget includes five positions that he decreased and one position for a Courthouse Bailiff that he would like unfunded and deleted. The Courthouse Bailiff position was created for the Government Building, and the Sheriff and Tax Collector have agreed to eliminate the position. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.
 9. The Sheriff's Detention Facility personal services budget decreased by \$43,941.82 with several increases for anniversary pay and a decrease from new hire status. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Hunter. There was some discussion on what a great job Chief Elrod has done maintaining and running the Detention Facility. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.
 10. The Solid Waste Fund included two new Laborers at \$25,788.66 each, and the Diesel Mechanic position was increased from \$35,499.56 to \$45,000.00. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Judge Mahoney explained the need for the new Laborer positions for the recycling program. There was some discussion on the landfill expansion. The Judge also explained the need for the Diesel Mechanic increase and that this position is currently not filled and the salary has been rolled back in prior years. This person will also be a fleet maintenance person, which will help with cost. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.
 11. The General Fund, Division I Circuit Court budget was decreased to \$39,925.40 due to having a lump sum payout for a retiring Bailiff in 2021. No change to the current Bailiff's salary. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Horner. The County Judge explained the payoff of the retired Bailiff. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.
 12. Judge Dyer is asking for an increase to the Chief Deputy Intake Officer position from \$45,384.12 to \$49,146.00 in the General Fund, Division II Circuit Court budget. A motion to take no action was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Hunter. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.
 13. Judge Dyer is asking for an increase to the House Arrest Supervisor position from \$33,087.95 to \$34,359.00 in the General Fund, Division II Circuit Court budget. A motion to take no action was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.
 14. Judge Dyer is asking to decrease one Juvenile Probation Officer from \$33,032.74 to \$31,000.00 in the General Fund, Division II Circuit Court budget. The Committee asked Judge Dyer to speak on the request. She indicated the changes in B12 and B13 were due to a rerate, and with all of the changes she had proposed, there would have been a \$1,500.00 reduction to the General Fund. She asked Kevin Hoffman, her Chief of Staff, to come forward and explain the request. Mr. Hoffman indicated the reduction was to help offset the cost of the other requests and put all of the Probation Officers at the same level. They had planned to reduce the special legal in the General Fund by \$11,700.00 and transfer the other \$12,400.00 from the Juvenile Probation Fund to be budget neutral. Justice Hunter asked if this position was currently filled, and Mr. Hoffman indicated it was. Justice Owen asked if they still wanted the decrease since the above requests B12

and B13 had not been approved. They said they did not. A motion to take no action was made by Justice Raney, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

15. Judge Dyer is asking to give all Division II employees a 3% raise in the General Fund. All of the increases and one decrease above will increase personal services before the offset proposed. A motion to take no action was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Justice Owen explained that the Finance Committee would be looking at giving all county employees an increase. He indicated that the Committee must treat all county employees the same when giving an annual increase. Judge Dyer said she appreciated the consideration. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced consideration of the proposed cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the 2022 budget. Judge Mahoney suggested the COLA for \$1,200 annually for all county employees, excluding the Library and giving the Quorum Court a 3% COLA. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Raney, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced consideration of the proposed Selective Traffic Enforcement Program-Budget. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced consideration of the proposed 2022 Peers Achieving Collaborative Treatment (PACT) Grant Budget. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced consideration of the proposed 2022 General Fund, Grant-In-Aid Budget Animal Control line item. Judge Mahoney explained that the County pays the City of Hot Springs to operate the shared service. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced consideration of the proposed 2022 General Fund, Grant-In-Aid Budget District Court line item. Judge Mahoney indicated a significant increase for 2022 due to an additional position added and other costs moved from the District Court Automation Fund. There was some discussion on the negotiations and the shared expenses. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Raney, seconded by Justice Horner. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel introduced consideration of capital asset requests.

The County Clerk requests to purchase a new copier. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Horner. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

The Information's System Department requests to purchase network switches. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Horner. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

The County Attorney requests to purchase a copier. Attorney Howard explained that he plans to purchase the copier he is currently leasing. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Horner. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

The Sheriff requests to purchase six new Tahoes, outfitting, graphics, and ACIC CJIS switch upgrades. Judge Mahoney explained the need to maintain the Sheriff's fleet. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Horner, seconded by Justice Raney. Undersheriff Lawrence addressed the committee and explained the need and how grateful he is that the Quorum Court has allowed the Sheriff's office to keep an updated fleet. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

The County Coroner requests to purchase two pickup trucks with camper shells, and two AWIN radios. Judge Mahoney explained that he had suggested for the Coroner to upgrade his fleet. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Raney seconded by Justice Hunter. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

The County Road requests to purchase of a dump truck, a tilt trailer, scissor bucket lift, and one pickup. Judge Mahoney indicated the dump truck had been purchased in 2021 and can be taken off the request. He explained each of the needs. A motion for a do pass as amended was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Raney. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

The Tax Collector requests to purchase of a generator to run the Government Building from the Automation Fund. Justice Raney asked if this was replacing an existing generator, and Judge Mahoney said no, this is a new system that they had planned to purchase a few years back but had to put on hold due to the pandemic. There was some additional discussion. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

The Solid Waste requests to pay for the Landfill Expansion Phase II, purchase a tire cleaner, 21 20- yard dumpsters, 20 40- yard dumpsters, two walking floor trailers, one Caterpillar 816K compactor, two radios, two-day cab transport trucks with knuckle boom, and a roll-off truck. Judge Mahoney explained the expansion and the need for the capital assets listed. A motion for a do pass as amended was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Horner. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

The County Judge requests to pay for the renovation of the Armory from the American Rescue Plan Fund. Judge Mahoney explained the renovation, including a large meeting room to hold vaccine clinics or flu clinics. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Anderson. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

The Sheriff requests to purchase network switches, a security system, two Chevy Tahoes with outfitting, and a trailer. Judge Mahoney explained the need. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Owen. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Environmental Inspections requests to purchase a new copier. Judge Mahoney explained the need to buy instead of leasing. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Owen. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

The County Judge requests to build the new Safe Room from the grant funds. Judge Mahoney explained the safe room and the grant. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Hunter. Vice-Chairman Braziel asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Vice-Chairman Braziel adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Ashmore, CPA". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Susan Ashmore, CPA
Garland County Comptroller