

**FIRE, POLICE & SAFETY MEETING
JUNE 30, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Fred Fleeman; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Cecil McDonald; OEM Wayne Reynolds; Sheriff Dale Cook; Major Rob Rounsavall; Captain David Gladden; Finance Kelli Jones; County Attorney Jacob Holmes; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. Radio system for the Sheriff's Department was at end of life. Batteries were not available for the portable radios. Two could not be repaired. A major overhaul was needed. Fire departments and ambulances would not be able to communicate. Meeting was turned over to Wayne Reynolds.

2. Mr. Reynolds asked for a project that would upgrade radios for the Sheriff's Department and the dispatch. New radios for the cars and deputies were needed. AWIN radios for all fire departments in the County to increase communication in case of a large event. AWIN radios were purchased in 2005 and 2006. Cost \$1.45 million. Tom Henry recommended to take the request to the consultant to make sure it qualified for replacement fund money. Motion was made by Justice Betty Hepler to move the request to the ARP Committee. Second was made by Justice Fred Fleeman. Motion passed.

3. Sheriff's update on cars. Six cars were budgeted. The Quorum Court approved another 12. Insurance replaced two that were totaled. Some vehicles were in and would be picked up next week. Four were being transported to Paragould to have equipment installed. Some Chrysler vehicles would not be made this year. All vehicles should be in by the end of the year.

4. Heat exchanger in the boiler for the jail had gone out. Supplied hot water for the jail. Money was in the budget to purchase a new boiler. Repair cost \$12,000.00. \$21,268.00 for purchase of a new boiler.

5. Voice over IP on the phone system. Money was approved for cabling in the Osceola Courthouse. Four bids were received. Lowest was \$77,000.00, most expensive \$90,000.00. for the Sheriff's Department. Jail was built in 1999. Computers were not sufficient at this time and may crash the system if voice over were installed. Proposals would be sent to the Court. Norris Walker came to the county about the needs for the system. County in the past switched as a whole and everyone would be compatible. Phones were committed for the County. Advice from Norris and Morgan would be given at a later meeting. Motion was made by Justice Betty Hepler to table the request until Norris and Morgan were available for a meeting. Second was made by Justice Fred Fleeman. Motion passed.

6. Old fines update. County Attorney Jacob Holmes was authorized to start collecting old fines. Justice Ash stated the fines were down about \$1 million from last year. Around \$10 million total. Mr. Holmes stated tax returns might be able to be garnished and would issue writs of garnishments. Mr. Holmes needed to get a surety bond.

7. Ballistic vest grant was received this year. The Court wanted the Sheriff to use his budget as much as possible. Three years ago the Sheriff asked for \$1,000.00 to do drug investigations and CID investigations. Fund balance could be gotten from Kelli Jones. The fund could be used for funding anything considered drug related. \$25,000.00 needed for the vests and would be taken from the drug fund. Ten shotguns need replacing and would also come from the drug funds. Laptops in patrol cars were needed. Radios could be taken off the list and would be in the package for the radio system. Radar units were needed. Nucor Steel and Big River Steel called the Sheriff to help slow down traffic. PVT was a portable blood alcohol testing kit. Three were needed one for each shift. May increase to seven. Twelve spike strips would be three per shifts for high speed chases. Spikes would be replaced if they came out of the mat. Safer for everyone. Motion was made by Justice Betty Hepler to recommend to Finance the \$50,000.00 for additional items that were needed. Second was made by Justice Fred Fleeman. Motion passed and would go to the Finance Committee.

8. The Sheriff's Department was in the process of changing out their pistols. Currently have Glock 40's and getting Glock 45 a nine millimeter. Old pistols would be traded in for \$225.00. New pistols would be \$200.00 after trade in. Money would come from the Sheriff's budget.

9. The County was awarded a courtroom security grant for Osceola District Courts to upgrade security. \$11,520.00. AOC thought Mississippi County should pay the bills thru the AP process. Motion was made by Justice Fred Fleeman to recommend the grant money be referred to the Finance Committee. Second was made by Justice Betty Hepler. Motion passed.

10. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George