

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Justice Neil Burge; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Fred Fleeman; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Betty Hepler; Major Rob Rounsavall; Captain David Gladden; Manila Police Dept. Jackie Hill; Manila Superintendent Jason Evers; Economic Development Clif Chitwood, Mallory Darby; Attorney Jacob Holmes; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Finance Kelli Jones; Collector Susan Short; Juvenile Daryl Turner; County Clerk Janice Currie; NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Burge. All Elected Officials were within budget. \$500,000.00 was transferred from the landfill. Landfill & Road Department fuel expenses were up. Meeting was turned over to Clif Chitwood.

2. Mallory Darby gave an update on Retail Strategies. GREDA board would pay for the first year. Money was needed for 2nd and 3rd year. A grant writer was located. \$20.00 an hour. Maximum of 1,000 hours a year. Experience with East Arkansas Planning & Development. Can write and administer grants for anyone but Delta Regional Authority. Chime was doing well. Recruitment ahead of schedule. Only losing 15% to 17% during interview process, written tests, drug screen. Backlog on background tests. Mr. Chitwood thought help from the State would be received on direct training costs, payment of the trainee while working. Atlas Tube was considering a third expansion. Would be an additional 80 jobs. Tax back offered was \$800,000.00 and paid in two installments. Atlas would also participate in the Work Here/Live Here program. Justice Burge suggested the request go to Planning & Development committee. School scores were important to people moving into the area. Motion was made by Justice Mangat to appropriate \$100,000.00 for Retail Strategies Incentive. \$50,000.00 for year 2 and 3. Second was made by Justice Jackson. Motion passed.

3. Revival Architecture for health units. \$36,600.00. Use of the ARP money for the health units. Bid notice would need to be published. Justice Jackson suggested to appropriate additional money. Motion was made by Justice Jackson to appropriate \$40,000.00 from the ARP fund for Revival Architecture bills and any potential bills. Second was made by Justice Fleeman. Motion passed.

4. Manila School SRO. Superintendent Jason Evers and Chief Jackie Hill from Manila were present. Manila Police and school requested the county supply a SRO plus a vehicle. County had immunity where the school system did not. Paid from Manila school budget. \$17,461.96 for the remainder of the year.

Armored School SRO. Sheriff's Department and Armored School had requested to change the pay rate from Sergeant to Lieutenant. Pass thru and costs the county nothing. Motion was made by Justice Fleeman to provide a SRO for the Manila School. Second was made by Justice Jackson. Motion passed. Motion was made by Justice Mangat to appropriate \$681.75 for the Armored School SRO. Second was made by Justice Fleeman. Motion passed.

5. Senior Citizens Grant for equipment purchases. County received some money from a Federal Grant that could be used at the Senior Citizen locations for equipment purchases. Blytheville \$19,937.00, Manila \$11,939.00, Osceola \$11,232.00. Motion was made by Justice Mangat to appropriate the money. Second was made by Justice Fleeman. Motion passed.
6. AR-DOT Fund. \$8,225.00. Fund needed to be created to hold the money for 12 months to see if property owners came back to claim the money. Motion was made by Justice Jackson to create the fund to hold the money. \$8,225.00. Second was made by Justice Mangat. Motion passed.
7. Travel funds for Judge Nelson and Tom Henry to Washington. Motion was made by Justice Fleeman to table the request until more information was received. Second was made by Justice Jackson. Motion passed.
8. Stephen Crosskno for radio antenna. Motion was made by Justice Fleeman to table the request until more information was received. Second was made by Justice Jackson. Motion passed.
9. Blytheville Court House Elevator Maintenance Agreement. Justice Jackson would like to see the contract and thought it was a good idea to have a maintenance contract. Motion was made by Justice Fleeman to table until more information was received. Second was made by Justice Jackson. Motion passed.
10. Circuit Clerk books needed to be cleaned before moving back to the new office. Motion was made by Justice Fleeman to table the request until more information was received. Second was made by Justice Mangat. Motion passed.
11. Correction to Ordinance O-2022-50. Wrong fund was used. Change to County General. Motion was made by Justice Mangat to change the Ordinance to County General. Second was made by Justice Jackson. Motion passed.
12. Janice Currie requested an upright filing cabinet that would hold all filing cabinets with room to grow. Janice had 10 rolling cabinets and may need 2 or 3 more. \$15,000.00 plus taxes for the upright filing system. Mr. Penner moved the County Clerk to Burdette. He would be needed to move the cabinets from Burdette to Blytheville. Cost not available at this time and would come from the Courthouse budget. Motion was made by Justice Jackson to appropriate all of the moving fund. \$150,000.00. Second was made by Justice Fleeman. Motion passed.
13. Finish Revenue Budgets 9/26, expenditure budgets begin on 10/6, worksheets were being sent out. Contact Kelli to get on the agenda.
14. Meeting adjourned.
Minutes submitted by: Cindy George