

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 31, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Fred Fleeman; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Betty Hepler; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Circuit Clerk Leslie Mason; Judge Catherine Dean; Judge Shannon Langston; Air Evac Francis Lewis.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Francis Lewis wanted to talk about Air Evac membership. Meeting was turned over to Mr. Francis. Mr. Francis wanted to offer it to the county employees with a discount. Normal cost \$85.00 per year. Discounted with payroll deductions \$60.00 per household. Two deductions a year. County would make one payment per year for employees that had signed up for the membership.
2. Leslie Mason had been moving books back to the courthouse. Mrs. Mason asked for more shelving. 18 toppers were needed. Justice Jackson thought more should be ordered to put under the windows. The committee told Mrs. Mason to order the toppers.
3. Judge Catherine Dean had software problems between the District Court and the Sheriff's Department. Software was not compatible. The office was currently back-scanning documents preparing to go online. The Sheriff's department programmers could write a patch. The office was required to hand enter all county tickets, including MCSD, Arkansas State Police entered at MCSD, warrants and arrests. The office was not able to keep up with the outstanding fines and costs which prevents them from collecting outstanding fines and costs. Sheriff Cook was added to the next Finance agenda. Judge Dean requested the Court consider providing a full-time or part-time employee to hand enter all county tickets, arrests, fine and cost payments to insure compliance with Court orders. Base salary \$11,440.00. \$11.00 per hour, 20 hours week- No benefits. \$1,000.00 for office supplies, education courses and dues. \$11,000.00 would be put in the budget for contract labor.
4. ARP Fund. Fund balance \$6,342,095.30. \$28,191.28 2021 spent plus 2022 \$703,305.53. 2023 request. \$1.4 million committed. \$100,000.00 for vehicles was for the Senior Citizens Center. Health Units would be rebid.
5. Courtroom Security Grant. Wayne Reynolds would apply for the grant in 2023. County Library, Hospital Tax Account was included in county financials per auditors request.
6. Judge, Economic Development, Blytheville District Court, Boating Safety, Property Reappraisal, Adult Drug Court presented next finance. Revisit Sheriff budget. Regular Finance would meet on the 23rd.
7. Sheriff's budget. Sheriff Cook had multiple new requests. Included ½ million for the radio system, cabling, 16 radar units, 10 computers, 10 shot guns, spike strips. \$1.2 million over and above this years budget. New phone system was needed. The system now was not stable. AWIN grant may be available for the radios.

8. Personnel met last week. Judge Nelson had asked for a new operator. Additional two positions were asked for. Justice Burge thought only one should be hired now and ask later if another position was needed. Justice White thought a part time VSO officer was needed. Justice Ash thought an Administrative Assistant may be needed at a later date.

9. Farm land had been awarded. \$250.00 cash guarantee or higher 30/70 split on grain crops, 25/75 on cotton. Four year lease. Scott and Gavin Sullivan were awarded the bid.

10. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George