

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2022 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Fred Fleeman; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Circuit Clerk Leslie Mason; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Collector Susan Short; County Clerk Janice Currie;; Senior Citizens Center Barbara Mitchell, Amanda Adams; Circuit Clerk Leslie Mason; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Collector Susan Short; County Clerk Janice Currie.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice White.
2. Project the Court was working on was made formal. Raises were given when able on a percentage basis. JESAP plan was referred to. Employees were getting closer to mid-point. County Sheriff and County Judge had a higher degree of salaries than other Elected Officials. Collector, Circuit Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, County Clerk made the same. Elected Officials salary was \$67,000.00. County Judge and Sheriff \$75,000.00. Mid-point for Sheriff and Judge was \$82,250.00. Elected Officials \$77,000.00. The Quorum Court agreed to raise the salaries of the Elected Officials to \$78,000.00. Judge and Sheriff to \$82,250.00. Employees would still receive a 5% raise.
3. Budgets today. Senior Citizens, Collector, Circuit Judge Dan Ritchey, Circuit Court Automation, Cooperative Extension Office, Quorum Court, Blytheville and Osceola construction funds.
4. Senior Citizens. Extra money from ARP was expected. Food and fuel costs were raised. Projected Revenues for 2023 \$664,992.18. Expense budget was similar to 2022. Some employees were going from full time to part time. \$44,000.00 savings. 5% raise included, 10% for insurance. Food & Supplies up from \$90,000.00 to \$110,000.00. ARP funds had been appropriated for new vehicles. Repair costs could be lowered if new vehicles were received. Small equipment \$4,000.00 for new computers.
5. Collector. Small equipment lowered from \$12,000.00 to \$3,000.00 Public records and software increased to \$25,000.00. County General carried across.
6. Circuit Judge Dan Ritchey. No change carried across from 2022. Judge Ritchey was reimbursed for his office expenses. 2023 request \$11,450.00.
7. Circuit Court Automation. Carried across. 2023 request \$11,100.00
8. Cooperative Extension. The office was relocated to Osceola. University of Arkansas operated on a compensation basis. Partnered with the county. \$30,000 per agent. (4) \$120,000.00. 2023 request \$128,550.00.
9. Quorum Court. 2023 request \$21,524.36.

10. Blytheville and Osceola construction fund. Some money left that had not been appropriated. Remainder of money should be used in 2023. Osceola construction 2023 request \$15,000.00. Blytheville construction 2023 request \$233,465.58.

11. Justice Jackson brought up insurance quotes. Deductible on insurance was \$1,000.00. Higher premium was paid for the amount. The raise for employees at 5% was an additional \$600,000.00. Overall insurance was over \$2 million. 30% of employees met the deductible. The committee could raise the deductible to \$2,000.00. The savings would be given to the employees as another 5% raise. Total 10%. RFQ was published last week for a new insurance broker. The RFQ was due on October 11. Letter would be signed on Wednesday.

12. The county had until 2026 to spend the ARP money. Committed by 2024. Justice Burge asked about the county farmland. Bids were due on the 14<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 p.m. Bids would be opened Monday, October 17, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Judge Ritchey pointed out the jury box wasn't large enough to hold all jurors. Enlarging the jury box shifted the bench off center.

13. Regular Finance Meeting would be October 17, 2022. 1:30 annex building. Aaron Ruby was working on the furniture issues in the new courthouse. Leslie Mason asked for all the employee to have a key fob to open the employee gate to be able to access the staff entrance. Judge Nelson was working on getting additional keys.

14. Janice Currie brought the quote for the voter tablets. Two or three months might be needed for book repair. Letter of commitment was needed from the Judge and Quorum Court.

15. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George