

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Betty Hepler; Sheriff Dale Cook; Major Rob Rounsavall; Captain David Gladden; Sarah Ramsey; Alexia Butler; Curtis Walker; Attorney Jacob Holmes; Collector Susan Short; Judge John Alan Nelson; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Kay Richter.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Mississippi County Hospitals were a 5013C. Health Units had moved into the Osceola Hospital during renovation. Mr. Logan and the CEO of the hospitals were not able to attend. For the Hospital Board to allow another entity of any kind to utilize space in the hospital had to be done under contract and done with a fair market value. \$4,722.00 per month based on square footage. Health Units had to have their own communication system. The hospital paid for the equipment and installation and would like to be reimbursed. The system would move to Blytheville when that renovation started. Bill had been received from the hospital for the rent and equipment. Justice White thought the county should pay for the equipment. Judge Nelson thought the lease should be honored until an attorney was contacted. \$18,891.2 for rent, fire & security in Blytheville \$5,040.00, \$15,699.64 for phones and equipment. \$200,000.00 had been appropriated for the renovations. There were no objections to paying for the phones and rent. Attorney would be contacted by Jacob Holmes. Mr. Holmes would submit an invoice to the county for attorney fees.

2. Cleaning service had been contacted. No appropriation needed at this time. Judge Nelson thought the bid was low. \$1,821.61 a month. The service had voluntarily tripled the staff and absorbed the cost until the building was cleaned and then maintained.

3. Sheriff's Auction. Twenty six vehicles were being auctioned. Several cities were interested in purchasing some of the vehicles before the auction. Justice Burge thought it would be fair to everyone to auction the vehicles. Justice Ash said if the vehicles were pulled out of the auction sealed bids should be received. Auction had been postponed. The committee recommended moving forward with the auction.

4. OEM/911 position. An application had been received. The applicant was capable of doing all 3 positions. Salary needed to be increased. Justice ash thought it need to raised to 1 ½ to double the salary now. Judge Nelson would have a request within 10 days.

5. DTF Case Coordinator request. Sarah Ramsey requested to take one half of the salary from the previous case coordinator and create an investigator position and the rest to Sarah Ramsey. Justice White was concerned about the work load. July went to 80.25 hours comp time. Last pay period 93.5 hours comp. Re-creation had taken a lot of time. Hours anticipated to come back to normal. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to move forward and fund the position for the inspector and half of salary to Sarah Ramsey. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

- 6. Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Cook requested an additional baliff for the Blytheville Courthouse. Deputy would be in charge of working the x-ray machine and security. Came from the jail budget. Funded for the remainder of the year \$16,955.42. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to fund the security officer for the Blytheville Courthouse. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed. Sheriff Cook tabled the promotion of a deputy until 2024 budget.**
 - 7. Travel appropriation for County Clerk and Circuit Clerk. County Clerk \$2,166.90, Circuit Clerk \$2,243.51. Total \$4,410.41. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to reimburse Janice Currie and Leslie Mason for travel expenses \$4,410.41. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.**
 - 8. P& D recommendations. Tax Back Resolutions. \$100,000.00 for Atlas for an additional 10 jobs. Total one million. \$500,000.00 for Hybar for 120 jobs. Motion was made by Justice Harbans to appropriate a one million dollar commitment to Atlas Tube from Economic Development Funds. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed. Motion was made by Justice Harbans Mangat to appropriate \$500,000.00 to Hybar for 120 jobs. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Justice Neil Burge opposed. Motion passed.**
 - 9. Budget looked good. 58%. Transfer to other funds \$2.5 million in CD purchases. ARPA funds had unexpended portion. Financial Management had purchased computers for new hires, employee handbooks. Circuit Clerk, Sheriff and Landfill had considerable overtime. Solid waste \$1 million in CD purchases. \$3 million total.**
 - 10. 2024 budget started in September. Sept. 11 look at revenues, Sept. 18 regular Finance meeting, October 2 started expenditures.**
 - 11. Insurance Committee met and looked like the county was running below premiums paid. Short-term and long-term disability were discussed. Quotes for 2024 should be ready in September. Justice White wanted the committee to start thinking about employee raises.**
 - 12. Meeting adjourned.**
- Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**