

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Drake Brown; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Melinda Martin; Justice Betty Hepler; Treasurer Candace Nichols; Finance Kelli Jones; Circuit Clerk Leslie Mason; Deputy Clerk Ashley McGuirt; Jeremy Thomas; Collector Susan Short; Judge Broadway; Judge Alexander; Assessor Brannah Bibbs; County Clerk Janice Currie; NEA Town Courier Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Overall budget was with a 5% raise and longevity stipend, \$1,000.00 bonus first of December 2023. County General budget \$13,127,832.00 in requested expenditures. \$11,707,08.95 in anticipated expenditures at 100%. All revenues for County General \$1.4 million deficit. Permanent payroll increased by \$3/4 million.

2. Judge Broadway spoke about the request for the Juvenile Department. Chip Barnes the District Supervisor was not able to attend. Juvenile Department had asked for an 8% raise. There were two slots, Administrative Officer and Probation officer were trying to be paid at the same rate. Judge Broadway asked the Court to consider the request. Cost of the County to give salary adjustment \$16,548.10. All slots but one were at or above midpoint on the JESAP scale. The Committee would take the request into consideration. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to stay with the 5% across the board raise and longevity stipend. Second was made by Justice Molly Jackson. Motion passed.

3. Prosecuting Attorney Jeremy Thomas requested a slot for a case coordinator. No money was available for the position. The slot was recommended by the Personnel Committee. Salary \$44,000.00 plus benefits. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to approve the slot for a case coordinator for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Second was made by Justice Harbans Mangat. Motion passed.

4. Judge Dan Ritchey requested a slot for a Peer Recovery Specialist. Personnel Committee recommended the slot. Funded by a \$50,000.00 Federal Grant. Reviewed yearly. \$4,909.85 was needed from the County for one year. Motion was made by Justice Harbans Mangat to fund the position. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

5. Request from Circuit Clerk Leslie for an additional \$2,000.00 raise for her employees paid from the recorder fund. Leslie Mason handed out information from the AOC on the amount of work her office did. County Clerk Janice Currie also asked for an additional \$2,000.00 raise for her employees. Request died for lack of a motion.

6. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to appropriate \$1,000.00 for full time employees and \$500.00 for part time employees to be paid in December for a bonus. Any employee less than six months should be considered part time. Second was made by Justice Drake Brown. Motion passed.

**7. October expenditures were in good shape. 83% thru the year. Osceola Courthouse received a bad fire inspection and had 90 days to be repaired before it was closed. Trust payment had been made for 2023. \$1.5 million had been committed from ARP money to start repairs on the Osceola Courthouse. Aaron Ruby had been told by Judge Nelson not to start on the project at this time. \$214,543.22 was available in the Osceola Courthouse construction fund to spend. \$243,680.00 in the Blytheville Courthouse construction fund owed to CNI.**

**8. Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**