

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDNCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Treasurer Candance Nichols; County Clerk Janice Currie; Assessor Brannah Bibbs; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Expenditure budgets were reviewed. Tax collections increased the past year.
2. Employee Insurance Account. Request down \$500.00. Request for 2024. \$13,000.00.
3. Adult Drug Court. 2023 \$2,800.00. 2024 Request \$5,500.00. Travel had doubled.
4. County Hospital Fund. 2023 \$3,545,784.00. 2024 request \$4,201,495,20. Pass thru.
5. Boating Safety. 2023 \$1,800.00 2024 request \$1,764.00. Pass thru.
6. Cooperative Extension. 2023 \$128,000.00. 2024 request \$128,550.00. The county paid four employees @ \$30,000.00.
7. Finance Department. 2023 \$\$256,982.52. 2024 request \$295,362.67. Insurance meeting was scheduled for October 19th. Software, public records and photos were higher.
8. Treasurer. 2023 \$178,218.17. 2024 request \$183,055.43. Increased costs. Treasurer Automation \$105,418.84. 2024 request \$118,538.92.
9. Tribal Consistency Fund. Balance \$81,000.00. Used for the Hyper-Reach Software. \$10,000.00. Justice McDonald asked how effective the Hyper-Reach program was and would like to use the money somewhere else.
10. County Library. 2023 \$882,000.00. 2024 request \$1,323,000.00. Pass thru. Included in the budget per request of auditors.
11. Quorum Court. 2023 \$229,542.08. 2024 request \$233,531.34. Minimum per diem had to be paid. Current per diem \$350.00 per meeting.
12. Assessor. 2023 \$742,615.95. 2024 request \$730,859.42. Assessor Amendment 79. 2023 \$9,000.00. 2024 request \$16,500.00. Salaries based on Assessor's request to spread the closed slot between her employees. 5% annual salary raise from the county was not included. Uncertainties were the Chief Deputy positions. Agreement was all Chief Deputies were paid the same. In the Assessor's request the Chief Deputies were at different salary per responsibilities performed.

13. Employee raises. A 5%, 6% & 7% raise were figured. 5% would be a cost of \$575,321.63. 6% cost to the county. \$678,216.64. 7% cost to the county \$780,611.51. Would be a permanent cost to the county. Justice White asked the Justices to start thinking about what the county could afford. Justice Jackson thought a longevity bonus may be possible and paid one time a year. \$100.00 per year with the county.

14. Finance meeting. Monday, October 9th. 1:30 Annex building.

15. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George