

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Michael White; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Rick Ash; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Tobye McClanahan; SG 360 Leonard Williams and Kevin Reeves; Sheriff Dale Cook; Major Rob Rounsavall; Bo McCullom; Lucky Smith; Captain David Gladden; Mark Dixon; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Candace Nichols; Collector Susan Short; County Clerk Janice Currie; Judge John Alan Nelson; NEA Town Courier Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Meeting was turned Kevin Reeves and Leonard Williams from SG 360 cleaning services. Judge Nelson brought a proposal last week for additional staff to be added. Current services were two employees that worked four hours on Tuesday and Thursday. Total 16 hours per week. SG 360 wanted to add two people on Tuesday and Thursday and one on Friday for 6 ½ hours. Bennie Cannon might be able to change the timing of his hours. He now worked six hours Monday thru Thursday. Justice Burge asked for another proposal with all the additional numbers. SG 360 would be sending the total package for review.

2. Sheriff Cook presented his budget. Jail request for 2024. \$4,568,325.26. The jail was twenty five years old. Maintenance was needed. Requests for 2024 budget. Twenty five locks for the jail. \$62,500.00, ten stainless steel toilets \$33,400.00, repair showers & replace water heater \$22,200.00, intercom system in jail cells upgraded. \$300,000.00. Payable over three years, sixty four stainless steel tabletops \$30,000.00, twenty radios and microphones for the jail detention officers. \$13,000.00, security gates into the jail. \$43,000.00, sixty tazers. \$259,000.00 payable over five years. All were included in the budget. Sheriff Department. 2024 request \$4,543,779.16. Repair machinery & equipment \$72,000.00. Engine repair for the boats. Nucor & Hickman may pay for the motors. BRS would also be asked to share the cost. Food costs were rising. Kelli Jones supplied copies of surrounding counties payroll. Sheriff Cook used Craighead County as an example. Their Quorum Court was in the process of giving an 8% raise. Higher paying steel mills made it hard to hire and keep deputies for the Sheriff's Department. Inmate Incentive fund. 2024 request \$37,200.00. Communication Fund. 2024 request. \$67,150.00. Sheriff Drug Control Fund. 2024 Request \$5,000.00. Act 1188. 2024 request \$89,846.48. Sheriff Emergency Operation. 2024 request \$1,000.00. Sheriff Juvenile Grant. 2024 request. \$2,500.00. Sheriff Jag Grant Fund. 2024 request \$16,000.00. Sheriff LLE8G Grant Fund. 2024 request. \$3,000.00.

3. Property Insurance. Association of Arkansas Counties had a 28% increase for 2024. \$215,766.43. Proposed changes. \$65,336.00. 2024 total \$281,102.43. Property was under insured. Some property had been appraised. The committee recommended to go with AAC and have Judge Nelson check on appraisals.

4. Insurance Meeting. Blue Cross Blue Shield came with a 3% increase for 2024. Other services were going to be offered. Dental, employer sponsored life, Vision, Voluntary life, Short-term and long term- disability, voluntary critical illness, voluntary accident. \$1,000.00 deductible \$1,681,908.24. Short-term disability would take the place of the catastrophic

leave bank. Motion was made by Justice Cecil McDonald to move the recommendation forward with the short-term and long-term disability. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

5. Longevity Package. \$100.00 for each year capped at 30 years. Bonus for December 2023. \$1,000.00 for full time employees, \$500.00 for part time.

6. Circuit Court County General. 6 counties, 9 courthouses, 12 Circuit Judges. All expenses for the 2nd Judicial Counties are shared expenses. Carry over.

7. Circuit Court Automation. Internet costs down. Carry over.

8. Paupers Fund. Carry over.

9. Economic Development. 2023 expenditures the same as 2023. Asked for a 5% raise for Clif Chitwood and Mallory Darby. They were employees of GREDA.

10. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George