

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Justice Rick Ash; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Finance Kelli Jones; County Clerk Janice Currie, Collector Susan Short; Jeremy Thomas; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Michael White. Jeremy Thomas requested a slot for a salaried position. The State was responsible for paying the prosecutor's salary. The County supplied an office and employees. Mr. Thomas received \$3,700.00 a month for office expenses and was paying the salary of an employee. Blytheville received the same amount of money for expenses and also a paid employee. Justice Burge suggested the request should be delayed until budget 2024.

2. Expenditures were in good shape. Elected Officials were staying within budgets. Justice White was concerned with the amount of overtime. Landfill had \$1.5 million in CD's that were purchased this year. Two payments to ADEQ had been paid this year. \$90,000.00. \$3.2 million was budgeted to transfer to the hospital system. Transfers at the end of August were \$3,623,165.00. \$77,000.00 over what was projected for the year. Justice Jackson asked if the letter had been sent to CNI to notify of a time line to complete their contract. CNI had not finished some of the problems and there were new problems showing up that had nothing to do with the construction. Justice Ash thought the bonding company should be contacted.

3. Personnel Committee recommended the salary be increased to \$70,000.00 for the OEM/911 and flood plain. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to increase the salary to \$70,000.00. Second was made by Justice Neil Burge. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer, Peggy Meatte was retiring October 1. The Quorum Court declared a vacancy and appointed a replacement. A Resolution was prepared that declared a vacancy in the Treasurer's Office on October 1, 2023 and made the appointment of Candy Nichols to fill the position. Presented to the Quorum Court on September 26, 2023.

5. Judge Alexander requested two slots to be created. 1. Mental Health Coordinator. 2. Pier Recovery Specialist. Both funded with a Federal Grant and DHS Grant. No cost the County for the salaries. \$14,548.81 was needed for the remainder of the year for the Mental Health Coordinator. Motion was made by Justice Neil Burge to approve the slots and appropriate \$14,548.81 to finish the year for the Mental Health Coordinator. Second was made by Justice Cecil McDonald. Motion passed.

6. October 2, 2023 Expenditure budget starts. Finance would meet every Monday in October. October 30<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for budgets to be turned in. Justice Jackson thought the Elected Officials needed to include improvements in their office in the 2024 budget.

7. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George