

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2019 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Fred Fleeman; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Betty Hepler; Circuit Clerk, Leslie Mason; Deputy Clerk, Ashley McGuirt; 911 Coordinator, David Lendennie; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Finance, Kelli Jones; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NEA Town Courier, Joseph Fondren.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White.
  
2. Justice White stated he and Treasurer, Peggy Meatte were concerned about the down turn in County General Fund. County General fell below \$1 million. Judge Nelson asked Peggy Meatte and Kelli Jones to look to see where the money had gone. Some things were up in spending and some were down. The largest increase in spending was the raises and bonuses that were given in 2018. Total about \$1/2 million dollars. The Committee will be discussing the insurance increase and raises.
  
3. Circuit Clerk. County General is paying 100% for 11 employees and 75% of the insurance for those 11 employees. Phone and internet are paid from the automation funds when available. \$9,000.00 was added to County General for phone charges.. Rent for office space and storage is coming from County General. Justice White asked Kelli to add 12% increase for insurance until we know the correct percentage. Blytheville Circuit Clerk Recorder Act 768. Blytheville 25%. Total revenue \$206,000.00. Service contracts increased from \$17,000.00 to \$35,000.00. The bulk of service contracts is coming out of this fund. Total service contracts \$54,000.00. Public Records Photo shows \$13,000.00 to restore 3 Plat Books. Sutterfield Technologies gave a quote for \$6,995.00. \$10,000.00 total for the project. Small equipment is anything under \$1,500.00. File servers would come from capital outlays. Circuit Clerk Child Support. Nothing major in expenditures or revenues. Circuit Clerk Commissioner's Fee. Commissioner's fee is collected when the Circuit Clerk's office holds a foreclosure sale. The fee collected is .1% of the amount of the sale. Osceola Recorder Act 768. Expenditures total \$18,000.00. \$8,000.00 for equipment purchase should be under small equipment. Circuit Clerk Recorder Act 768. (75%). Fund has more expenditures than revenues. This account pays for 3 employees salaries, benefits and 25% of the insurance on 11 other employees. \$40,000.00 shortfall between expected revenues and expenditures. Mrs. Mason stated she could transfer from her 25% if needed. Justice Burge asked about the jump in salaries. This increase was from the last employee that was hired. Justice White asked Leslie when her office would be going to e-filing. 2020 requests. County General Fund \$544,918.00, Blytheville CC Recorder Act 768, \$102,200.00, CC Child Support \$500.00, CC Commissioner Fees \$4,000.00, Reorder Act 768 \$18,000.00, B Recorder Act 768 \$187,425.00, B Recorder Act 768 \$167,620.00.
  
4. 911 Coordinator. Justice White asked where revenues came from. David Lendennie stated they come from telephone, voice over internet, land lines. PSAP stands for Public Service Answering Point. Equipment lease has increased. 911 has 3 employees and pays ½

of the salaries for 911 dispatchers. Equipment is upgraded every 5 years. 2020 request \$416,997.00.

5. Circuit Clerk Judge Dan Ritchey. No changes from 2018. 2020 request \$11,150.00.

6. Public Defender. Justice White handed out a letter from Eddie Jones on the responsibility of the County. The County is responsible for facilities, costs, supplies and other office expenses. Requests the same as 2018. Mr. Bradley's secretary will be retiring and he will be asking for a full time secretary. Rent may increase if the building is sold. 2020 request. \$132,596.00.

7. County Judge. Requests same as 2018. 2020 Request \$160,204.00. Judge Nelson was not in attendance. Passed until later in budget process.

8. Quorum Court. Justice's are bound by State law as to what they can make based on the size of the County. When the County dropped in population in the 2010 census the number of Justice's dropped from 13 to 11. This did not change maximum per diem. Total \$8,734.00. \$309.00 per diem. The State has given a cost of living raise to the JP's. The maximum is \$10,125.00. \$350.00 per diem. This amount is shown in the budget. 2020 request \$191,438.00.

9. Justice White will be out on Oct. 28, 2019. The Sheriff's Department, Jail, Landfill will be presented next Monday. Road Supervisor, Tony Stone is working on the Road Department.

10. Justice Burge stated the bid opening were held for the construction of the cells at the landfill. There were 2 bids received. The bids were about 10% above what FTN had estimated. \$2.2 million for the Class 1 and Class 4 cells. Cost will be included in the landfill budget. Landfill balance \$1.2 million. Contract has not been awarded. Justice Burge stated there is some equipment that the lease is running out. These will be rolled over for new equipment. Judge Nelson has looked into a new process for covering the cells. The cover will be a plastic and will cover the cell daily. This would cut down on costs. The cost is \$82,000.00 and will fit on the compactor. \$155,000.00 per year will be needed for product.

11. Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George