

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2019 1:30 DIXON BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Betty Hepler; County Clerk, Janice Currie; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Finance Director, Kelli Jones.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White.

2. Road budget. Finance Director stated Judge Nelson and Road Supervisor, Tony Stone had brought her the figures for their budget. Justice White stated the Judge had not made the changes that was expected. The uniform budget increased from \$14,000.00 to \$28,000.00. The reason for the increase the uniforms now are not meeting safety standards. The new uniforms will be high visibility and reflective. Justice Jackson asked if the road department would use Cintas. Asphalt budget left at \$200,000.00. Culverts \$50,000.00. Gravel/dirt/slag carried across \$250,000.00. Judge Nelson wanted to purchase 300 loads of red clay gravel. 200 loads would be put out now leaving 100 loads carry over for spring. Cost around \$76,000.00. Bridges & Steel carry over. \$500,000.00. Machinery & equipment carry over \$100,000.00. Grader blades. \$30,000.00. Justice Jackson asked about the \$500,000.00 for bridges & steel. Justice White stated we do not have the capability of building bridges but the money could be used to sub contract the building of bridges. Communications/radio \$15,000.00. Equipment lease. \$187,226.00 to \$227,859.00. Increase for 2 new graders. Cost of a tractor taken out. Correct amount \$189,523.00. Transfer to County General. Lowered from \$72,007.00 to \$57,954.00. Finance Director stated the Ordinance for the Finance Office only includes 1/3 for salaries. 2019 figure includes supplies and everything for the office. Total 2020 request without raises. \$3,565,935.00.

3. Justice White asked Kelli Jones if there had been any news on insurance increases. Mrs. Jones stated it would be around the first week in November. Companies like to be 60 days out.

4. Circuit Judge Ralph Wilson. Telephone from \$2,400.00 to \$3,532.00. 2020 request \$15,426.00. Expenses for 11 Judges are shared by 6 Counties by case loads. 2020 will be 12 Circuit Judges.

5. Court Automation Fund. Small equipment. \$22,000.00 to \$2,000.00. Decrease was for cameras purchased in 2019. Metro Internet increased from \$8,210.00 to \$11,072.00. Court Automation Fund balance. \$20,190.00. Circuit Judges have to approve anything coming from this account. 2020 request. \$13,172.00.

6. Coroner's Budget. Vehicles. \$30,000.00 expenditure in capital outlay was for the van purchased in 2019. 2020 request. \$42,863.00.

7. District Courts. Osceola District Court, Judge Betterton sent a letter to Mayor, Sally Wilson and Judge, John Alan Nelson stating a 3% salary increase for the Court Clerks. Operating expenses stayed the same. Kelli stated operating expenses are included but the County does not pay this. The County had agreed to pay 50% for salaries, social security and medicare, and our portion for the Judge. 2020 request \$91,994.00. Blytheville District Court. Same requirements as Osceola 2020 request. \$87,014.00.

8. Justice White stated the big question in all the budgets is insurance, then raises. There is little difference between a 3% raise or across the board. Raises are from now on just like insurance is from now on. The \$300,000.00 in raises given in 2019 carry over to the next year. A 12% increase in insurance would be \$1,000.00 per employee. \$200,000.00 potential increase in insurance. Raises around \$200,000.00. Raises overall budget \$400,000.00. Expenditures will be compared to revenues and a decision made. The County is paying \$9,720.00 per employee for insurance. \$1,000.00 increase will be close to \$11,000.00 per employee.

9. November Quorum Court Meeting will be the 26th. Next Finance Meeting Nov. 4th.

10. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George