

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Rick Ash; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Collector, Susan Short; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Finance, Kelli Jones; Tobye McClanahan; NEA Town Crier, Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice, Michael White. Justice White passed out a revenue budget and 5 expenditure budgets. JESAP report had been received. Last year there was not a raise and bonuses do not reflect in JESAP. Justice White stated he thought the County could not afford to do a raise and a bonus. Finance Director, Kelli Jones was asked to put a \$1,000.00 raise per full time employee and \$2,000.00 per Elected Official. \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00 cost to the County. 3% was close to the across the board raise. Justice Burge stated he thought our loss ratio would be less because some employees moved off the County insurance to Medi Care. Would the County ever consider freezing top paid employees. Justice Ash stated the County needs to give raises instead of bonuses because JESAP would not increase. Justice Jackson stated the County pays 100% of insurance. Most companies do not pay 100%. Justice White asked Peggy Meatte to contact other Counties to see what percentages they are paying for employee insurance. Does the employee pay anything.

2. Prosecuting Attorney. Carried across. 2020 budget. \$128,865.00. 2021 request \$128,921.00. 2021 request with raises. \$130,151.00. Kelli Jones stated she received an update from AAC for public defenders and prosecuting attorneys for budget purposes.

3. Veterans Office. Carried across. 2020 budget. \$50,441.00. 2021 request \$44,787.00. 2021 budget with raise \$46,017.00. Lower because of insurance decrease. Employee went to Medi Care.

4. Cooperative Extension. 2020 budget \$129,480.00. 2021 request \$129,480.00. 2021 request with raises \$129,480.00. Match basis of \$120,000.00 to U of A. Four agents \$30,000 per agent. Extension office was moved to Osceola.

5. Circuit Judge Dan Ritchey. 2020 budget \$11,150.00. 2021 request \$11,250.00. 2021 request with raise \$11,250.00. The County is part of the 2nd Judicial District. 11 Circuit Judges, soon 12, six counties, 9 courthouses. Expenditures were split with among the courthouses based on case load. \$100.00 increase.

6. Senior Citizens. Revenue budget. COVID had affected the center. They had asked to carry over from last year. \$42,000.00 was awarded for a van. \$26,000.00 projected a month. Expenditures. 2020 budget \$682,790.00. 2021 request \$649,437.00. 2021 request with raise \$659,275.00. The center had several part time employees that were part time. Minimum wages increases in January to \$11.00. The numbers were based on if the center were open. The center requested to hire a full time janitor, help getting another vehicle. The handicap van that was purchased has not been used a lot because of the virus. The center fell under the legislative audit and also one from East Arkansas Area on Aging, Thomas Speight &

Noble. Association of Arkansas Counties doesn't think all have to be done. \$8,000.00 expense. The center received money from the CARES Act in August. \$9,100.00.

7. Justice White stated when JESAP was reviewed he would like to see if additional adjustments could be made for employees in the lower quartiles.

8. Elected Officials were asked to have their budgets by the first of October. Next Finance meeting will be October 5, 2020 but may need to be moved.

9. Third SRO for Rivercrest. Sheriff Cook told Justice Ash Mrs. Bennett was not going to ask right now. The school board voted for the SRO. 20% of students were on virtual learning. Request will be presented when students return.

10. The County had not received any COVID money to date.

11. Collector, Susan Short stated the last day to pay taxes would be October 16. Office would be closed 19, 20 and 21st to do the settlement and roll the books over.

12. Justice Burge stated some counties had contracted with collection agencies to help collect old fines. 30%. Discussion at a later date.

13. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George