

**FIRE POLICE & SAFETY MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2021 1:00 ANNEX BUILDING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Neil Burge; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Tobby McClanahan; Justice Michael White; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Cecil McDonald; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Sheriff Dale Cook; Major Rob Rounsavall; Collector Susan Short; County Clerk Janice Currie; Public Affairs Tom Henry; NEA Town Courier Marcus McClain.

**1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. The State had an overage in taxes. The Governor was calling a special session to look at tax breaks. Average wage for full-time law enforcement officers in Arkansas ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation. \$40,750.00 annually, below the average statewide wage in Arkansas of \$42,690.00 and average entry level wage for law enforcement officers \$28,610.00. No cost to the County. State income tax refund \$3,000.00. Justice Ash handed out a Resolution of support for the bill being brought before the Legislation. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to support the tax incentive for the law enforcement officers. Second was made by Justice Betty Hepler. Motion passed. Would go to Quorum Court.**

**2. Justice Ash received from Judge Nelson information for the DTF case coordinator. Case load information had not been received. Judge Nelson and Tom Henry went to the Fire Police & Safety meeting in Blytheville and would meet with Osceola. Blytheville wanted the compensation package. No commitment was made. Committee wanted to table until more information was received.**

**3. Sheriff Department cars. Sheriff Cook provided a list of all vehicles. Admin 1 was the jail administration vehicle. Had 119,000 miles on it and driven for business. Older vehicles were given to deputies when they would be called in. R 1 was a reserve vehicle. T 1, 2, 3 were transport vehicles. C 1, 2, 3 would be used for transport when Courthouse renovation was completed. DTF had a vehicle at the Sheriff's Department that was going to be signed over. Transport vehicles were in fair condition. Justice Jackson asked if the department was going to keep all 59 vehicles. Older vehicles were auctioned and better ones kept for spares. There were 48 deputies that operated on a daily basis, three transport vehicles. Full time deputies took cars home. Rotated about 6 cars per year. Justice Ash asked if the vehicles could be taken to 55 vehicles. Justice Jackson thought the vehicles should be replaced every eight years. Replace the six vehicles in the budget and do additional ones later. Justice Ash asked Sheriff Cook to see how many vehicles he could eliminate.**

**4. Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes submitted by: Cindy George**