

**FIRE, POLICE & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
DEEMBER 7, 2021 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Justice Rick Ash; Justice Harbans Mangat; Justice Molly Jackson; Justice Joe Lewis; Justice Reggie Cullom; Justice Betty Hepler; Justice Cecil McDonald; Justice Michael White; Justice Tobye McClanahan; Judge John Alan Nelson; Finance Kelli Jones; Treasurer Peggy Meatte; Collector Susan McCormick; Attorney Jake Holmes; Juvenile Daryl Turner; Public Affairs Tom Henry.

1. Meeting was called to order by Justice Rick Ash. Justice Ash welcomed Joe Lewis to the committee. Meeting was turned over to Judge Nelson. Discussion was held on purchasing two ambulances to have faster response. Wilson had accommodated a location for the ambulances. Price for two ambulances \$445,574.00. Purchase of ambulances moved over to the new committee American Rescue Plan Committee.

2. Justice Ash had concerns over the legalities of the contract with Pafford. Under ARP money the new ambulances could not be leased to Pafford. Meeting was turned over to Attorney Jake Holmes. Mr. Holmes stated the agreement entered into in 2015 by Judge Carney was a federal aid trust violation. An exclusive aid service could not be had for all ambulance services. Jake Holmes thought the contract should be renegotiated. The County could designate an emergency service from original source to hospital after that what other ambulance service available. Justice Cullom stated Pafford was unprofessional. No one in the south part of the County was satisfied with the service Pafford provided. Justice Ash asked why the County was buying the ambulances. Pafford should provide the ambulance and place it in Wilson. Ambulances purchased with ARP money one would be placed in Osceola and one in Blytheville per Pafford request.

3. Justice Cullom stated the road in Birdsong had been completed and the road in Bassett was widened. State Attorney Generals office said contract written for the county was not binding to the law. County could meet with Pafford but other options were available. Justice Ash recommended to authorize the Judge to go ahead and get Attorney Jake Holmes to renegotiate the emergency clause in the Pafford contract. Justice McDonald stated the entire County should have the same ambulance service. Motion was made by Justice Molly Jackson to allow Judge Nelson and Jacob Holmes to meet Pafford to renegotiate the contract. Second was made by Justice Betty Hepler. Motion passed. Judge Nelson would ask Pafford to come talk to the Fire, Police & Safety Committee.

4. Old business. Vehicle was purchased for Juvenile last year. Justice Ash requested a copy of the law that stated the arresting agency was responsible for initial transport of juveniles. Mr. Turner stated the vehicle purchased last year was set up for programming, community service, at risk programs. Vehicle purchased by County in 2008 was for transport. The arresting agency was responsible for transport to location the juvenile officer wanted. CYS transport funding had been cut. \$75,000.00 for housing was budgeted for 2022.

5. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George