

**FIRE, POLICE & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 3, 2019 1:30 ANNEX BLDG.**

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman, Justice Rick Ash; Justice, Howard Norvell; Justice, Fred Fleeman; Justice, Michael White; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Alvin Clay; Justice, Betty Hepler; Justice, Jo Ann Henton; Justice, Molly Jackson; OEM, Wayne Reynolds; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Homeland Safety Systems, Tony Marquis, Casey Jackson; Mayor, James Sanders; Blytheville Police Chief, Ross Thompson; Sheriff, Dale Cook; Marsha Robinson; Captain, David Gladden, Captain Morgan George, Prosecuting Attorney, Catherine Dean; Attorney, Chris Brown; Gosnell Mayor, Teresa Walker; Judge, Shannon Langston; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; John David Nelson; Angie Nelson; NEA Town Courier, Joseph Fondren; Judge, John Alan Nelson.

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman, Justice Rick Ash. Justice Ash turned the meeting over to Captain, Morgan George of the Sheriff's Department.

2. Captain George presented the specifications from Homeland Safety Systems for the new cameras and control board in the Sheriff's Department. Captain George introduced Tony Marquis and Casey Jacobson. Originally when the jail was built there were around 32 cameras placed throughout the building. None of the cameras were pointed to the day rooms or jail cells. The cameras were located on the doors and around the perimeter of the building. Captain George has installed some additional cameras in the halls, day rooms and jail cells. The new cameras would help protect the Officers and the inmates. There are 64 cameras at the present and would like to add 64 new cameras. We would be adding additional cameras in the day rooms and perimeter. Captain George presented a drawing of the Sheriff's Department where the cameras would be placed. The cameras will record for 30 days and will be monitored by dispatch, Juvenile and jail. Justice Ash stated the Sheriff's Department will get three bids. Mr. Marquis presented their proposal. The camera system will save valuable resources and time. There will be personnel available to train when the systems are changed over. Captain George stated Homeland Safety Systems was the company he preferred because of their service. The cost of the system will be around \$280,000.00. The cameras will be under warranty for one year. We will maintain a service contract for life after the first year. The cost of the service contract will 5% to 10% of the initial investment per year. \$30,000.00 per year.

3. Jail Fees. Sheriff Cook handed out information on the Mississippi County Sheriff's Department Jail Board, open accounts 1/1/1990 thru 3/31/2019 and income, disbursements-turnback all monies collected from 1/1/2018 thru 12/31/2018. Justice Ash contacted other jail facilities. Jonesboro has a flat rate of \$2 million a year to house inmates. Wynne pays \$45,000.00 a year flat rate. They have other facilities that pay as little as \$45.00 per day. All are charging up to arraignment or probable cause hearing. None charge for DTF. Crittenden County has 1cent sales tax which pays for their jail operation. The jail fees go from \$30.00 to \$53.00 per day. Everyone Justice Ash talked to stated they were looking to increase their rates. Sheriff Cook stated the cost per day to house inmates varies on population in the jail. 2013 cost \$78.68, 2014, \$64.22. 2015, \$73.24, 2016, \$74.79, 2017, \$76.56, 2018, \$84.27. The cost to house inmates is always more than what we are charging. Arkansas

Association of Counties checked with other Counties and their finding were anywhere from \$68.00 to \$72.00 per day for inmates. Justice Ash stated we stopped charging for DTF until it was decided how we would handle it in the future. The State pays \$29.00 per day across the board. Our current rate is \$55.00 per day. If we negotiate a signed contract it may be the same for each city. If the cities do not have a contract then the jail fees are set by the Ordinance \$55.00 per day. The last time we set the fees was in 2012. Justice, Howard Norvell made a motion to table negotiations for a flat rate increase until the next Fire, Police & Safety Meeting in July. Justice, Bill Nelson made a counter motion to increase the jail fee by \$3.00 per inmate. This would give the County an additional \$138,000.00 annually to go toward the jail. Justice Jackson stated she would like to give the cities a chance to catch up. Discussion was held. Second was made by Justice, Molly Jackson to the motion made by Justice, Howard Norvell. Motion passed and will be tabled to the next Fire, Police & Safety Meeting in July 2019.

4. Old Fines. Sheriff Cook has been working with the Rainwater Firm on how to collect old fines. Judge, Shannon Langston asked if the Committee would like to know the process to collect the old fines. An example: If you come to Court and park in the wrong parking area are issued a ticket for \$200.00. There will be a payment date issued for the person to come pay the fine. Down payment is paid at the County and the person signs a time pay agreement. The person never comes back to make another payment. After 90 days a citation is issued and it goes to the computer world. If that person is ever stopped for a traffic violation it will show up as a failure to make payment. Another Court date is set. The Court will do the collecting. The City of Blytheville has been successful in collecting old fines this way. Marsha Robinson stated Court costs have to be collected first then restitutions, fines and all other costs. Justice Ash asked Attorney, Catherine Dean how she could help. Mrs. Dean stated if she could get the information she could add them to any Court date. Justice Ash asked Marsha Robinson to give a report at the next Fire, Police & Safety meeting.

5. OEM. The County has too many lost work days due to injuries on the job. We will now have to meet certain safety guidelines. OEM Officer, Wayne Reynolds will be in charge of the safety program. There will be a safety meeting held each month. The Elected Officials will need to create a light duty position.

6. John David Nelson stated the County received a AA- rating from S & P. April 9, 2019 there will be a Special Quorum Court Meeting. 6:00 p.m. at the Blytheville Courthouse for the bond issues. We have to have a Quorum. 8 people. Justice White stated we will also present the Private Club License for the Essence Club and an Appropriation Ordinance for Economic Development.

7. Justice White made a motion to adjourn.

8. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George