

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2020 1:30 ANNEX BUILDING**

ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Justice Michael White; Justice, Molly Jackson; Justice, Bill Nelson; Justice, Neil Burge; Justice, Howard Norvell; Justice, Betty Hepler; Finance, Kelli Jones; Treasurer, Peggy Meatte; Sheriff, Dale Cook; Major, Rob Rounsavall; David Burnett; Harban Mangat; Public Affairs, Steven Savage; NES Town Crier, Revis Blaylock.

1. Meeting was called to order. Regular monthly meeting before Quorum Court. County General balance less \$1.2 million. CD \$3.4 million. Justice White turned the meeting over to David Burnett.

2. Mr. Burnett talked about the prosecuting attorney's office budget. Mr. Burnett stated there were six prosecuting attorney positions in Mississippi County. \$112,000.00 appropriated. Blytheville \$102,000.00. Osceola \$10,000.00. Blytheville prosecuted 186 felony cases, Osceola 195. \$40,000.00 for a victim witness coordinator. County is reimbursed by the State for the position. Blytheville only. Felony cases handled by the South and North end of the County. North handles 60%, South 40% not drug related. We have no help with victim witness coordinator. All in Blytheville. The South needs more money to cover secretarial expenses. Catherine Dean received \$10,000.00 total expense money for the year. Catherine Dean asked for \$45,000.00. \$32,000.00 for support staff, \$1,800.00 telephone, \$200.00 postage, \$400.00 internet, \$200.00 insurance and taxes \$3,700.00 utilities, \$3,600.00 rent, \$1,000.00 dues and subscriptions, \$1,000.00 copier and supplies, \$1,050.00 miscellaneous. Justice White asked if there would be help from the State. Justice Norvell stated more money needed to be appropriated for Osceola. Justice Nelson recommended to put the request with the budget requests and see what is left after the budget is finished.

3. September expenditure report. 75% thru year. Elected Officials within budget. Courthouse and Other County high. Related to move to Burdette. Blytheville Construction Project. Expended \$4,527,895.15 Blytheville. Osceola Construction Project \$525,427.43. County General 70%, County Roads 59%, County Jail 67%. No issues found.

4. AAC requested a line item be set up to accept the CARES ACT money. Sample Ordinance provided the by AAC. Justice Burge made a motion to set the fund for CARES Act. Second was made by Justice, Bill Nelson. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

5. Energy & Property. Justice Jackson stated project is moving along. The pay app was not as high as anticipated because of delays. Instead of \$850,000.00 only \$250,00.00. Justice Jackson recommended to appropriate \$250,000.00 to the construction fund. Over \$1 million appropriated. Justice Jackson made a motion to appropriate \$250,000.00 to the construction fund. Second was made by Justice, Bill Nelson. Motion passed and will go to Quorum Court.

6. Possible expenditures with the software for the Assessor's office and Finance office. The old software has past years information. Access is needed. Conversion was expensive. Formats do not match. Justice Nelson asked if we can add something with the new company that this was our information. Data will be on the server with Apprentice. Peggy Meatte

stated we may want to seek legal advice to make sure the data is usable. Quote \$18,000.00. Data retention laws need to be kept longer than 10 years. Complete data extraction quote will be asked for. Contract ends in November and will need to be extended 6 months. Justice Nelson stated legal representation was fine with him but didn't want to spend \$10,000.00 for something that was ours. Harley Bradley and Susan McCormick need to be included in the discussion. Apprentice has offered their assistance. Expenditures for law suit. Between two sides. Judge Nelson and Quorum Court \$20,000.00. Justice Nelson asked when Assessor, Harley Bradley would be coming for his budget? Justice Norvell would like the Court to recommend he open the Osceola office. People were having issues getting new vehicles assessed and tags for vehicles.

7. Collector, Susan Short shared tax information. Current collections on real estate, personnel and utilities. 2019 \$28.6 million. 2020 \$30.5 million. \$1.9 million higher than 2019. Online payments \$781,326.51. County General does not get the entire amount. One manufacturing business has not paid. \$650,000.00.

8. Sheriff's budget for 2021. Sheriff Cook stated service contracts needed to be raised. \$12,000.00 to \$26,000.00. Fleet insurance increased \$37,000.00 to \$45,000.00. Increased for 12 new cars purchased. Other miscellaneous. 2020 \$69,721.00 to 2021 \$5,000.00. Litigation for law suits. Overtime. 2021 County General request \$48,000.00. Overtime in jail addressed in jail budget. Communication fund, drug control fund, helicopter fund same as last year. Jail budget. 2020 \$42,000.00. Actual spent 2020 \$108,026.12. 2021 request \$128,000.00. Increase was needed to staff the jail. Request for 6 cars. \$180,000.00. Equipment purchase for cameras \$60,000.00. 2021 request \$3,788,440.00. 2021 with raises \$3,853,197.00. Turn Key Health \$246,836.00. Transfer to jail end of September \$1,126,463.08. Jail fees down in 2019. No collection agency found to help collect old fines.

9. Update on insurance. Kelli Jones, Justice Nelson met with Stephens Insurance on zoom. June looked ok but did not look good last week. Would be an increase in premiums. Insurance Committee will meet Oct. 28 at 11:00 to make a decision to present to Finance Committee.

10. 911 budget. Kelli stated David Lendennie was going to buy new equipment this year. \$100,000.00 was put in equipment line item. 911 has started receiving extra wireless fees. Adjustments would be made later if needed. 2020 request \$415,632.00. 2021 request \$508,361.00.

11. Health Department. 2020 budget. \$95,052.00. 2021 request. \$115,452.00. \$19,200.00 for painting, wall repair, material and labor. Approximately 20,000 sf. \$50.00 per month increase to Marcus Anderson to purchase cleaning supplies. \$600.00 total. Mr. Anderson would be responsible for all cleaning supplies.

12. Assessor, Landfill, Juvenile next Finance meeting.

13. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Cindy George

