

COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET HEARINGS
AUGUST 24, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David Fuhrman, President
Stephanie Campbell, Vice President
Phillip Gick
Danny Wallace
Larry Parker
Jay Alcorn
Keith Berry
Kristina Alexander
Evelyn Williams
Jacque Clements

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

AIC

The Putnam County Council for Budget Hearings on August 24, 2021, at the Putnam County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m. Dave Fuhrman opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Jacque Clements – Levy worksheet. Advertised version, Sheriff, Jail and EMS in two different funds. LIT revenues are up slightly. Discussion was made. She went over the levy worksheet with last years adopted amounts. Discussion was made on worksheets, insurance, and salaries. Ms. Clements suggested doing an annual input into the Rainy-Day Fund.

BINDING & NON-BINDING REVIEWS

Jacque Clements – what the circuit breakers were and current. Certified Levy's – 2021 certified and 2022 growth quotient. Debt is not taking tremendous increases. Cloverdale must present a letter requesting approval due to having a volunteer fireman on their board.

JUVENILE PROBATION

Renee Marsteller – Salaries come out of Circuit Courts budget. Supplies, etc. come out of user fees.

SUPERIOR COURT

Judge Bridges – asked for 7% pay raises. Didn't change anything else from last year. Discussion on public defenders. Judge stated they no longer use law books. They now use an online service. Requested \$5250, reduce to \$0. Judicial education – discussion. Can reduce from \$9841 to \$5000.

CIRCUIT COURT AND MAGISTRATE

Janet Jordan is filling in for Judge Headley. Only increases were salaries, facilitation program and IVD Commissioner. Discussion was made. Holding of Juveniles line item is always iffy.

ADULT PROBATION

Teresa Parrish and Garret Nichols – County general- no changes, Pre-Trial Grant, User fees. Pre-Trial Grant, transition two staff members, pay a public defender. Public Defender - 2 hours a week by video. Phil Gick questioned salaries. Ms. Parrish – was able to take out of user fees, not county general. Discussion was made.

SATP

Teresa Parrish – no change from last year. Currently, no employee running the program. Will be filling position. Four probation officers have been certified to do the evaluations.

CLERK

Heather Gilbert – Council questioned the part time positions, currently have two with one being open. She is trying to decide whether she needs the open position. Discussion was made. Phil Gick questioned Clerk Perpetuation and office supplies line-item increase request. Ms. Gilbert stated the book binder is finding more and more books with issues.

ELECTION

Heather Gilbert – cost of rentals increasing. The fairgrounds now charge a down payment that will be returned. Discussion was made.

ASSESSOR

Janet Brown – General fund – discussion on salaries.

REASSESSMENT

Council would like the First Deputy Stipend amount to come out of County General instead of Reassessment. Discussion on correcting appropriation numbers for the first deputy and data collectors.

RECORDER/PERPETUATION

Tracy Bridges – General Fund – no questions. Perpetuation – Phil Gick questioned repairs and maintenance increase. CSI (software company) increased their amounts. Discussion was made.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Stockton, Matt Demings, Tricia Clearwaters – General Fund – Dave Fuhrman asked about the 12% for deputies. Stockton – 2020 appropriated funds but never put it in to play. 5% increase request plus catching up, \$5000 per deputy (19 deputies=\$95,000). See handouts. Wants to close gap between Sheriff Deputies and City Police. They have 5 deputies bumping up next year for longevity. Police Pension – increasing next year per McCready & Keen. Overtime pay – discussion. Vehicles – 3 car rotation every year. Discussion was made. Keith Berry asked about the attorney line item. Sheriff Stockton said he takes care of their litigation. Discussion was made. Matt Demmings believes it relieves the burden on County Attorney. Stephanie Campbell and Dave Fuhrman asked if all or part of his salary could come out Commissary Fund. Discussion was made. Sheriff agreed to pay partial amount of salary coming out of Commissary Fund.

LIT Public Safety Fund – raised training, vehicles, and salaries. Discussion was made on fuel line item. Extradition – Dave Fuhrman asked if they should increase this item. Already spent \$4800 out of \$5000. Training – already spend \$9100 out of \$10,000.

JAIL LIT – Phil Gick questioned the administration salary. Tricia Clearwaters it is for two employees. Stephanie Campbell asked how many jail officers. Tricia – 12. Tricia – Scott Stockton asked for a raise for some of these positions. Some were approved. Kristina Alexander explained that a certain amount was approved for this line item but it's not necessarily what gets paid out. Discussion was made on salaries. Stephanie Campbell asked about the increase of inmate medical. They presented a letter from Quality Correctional stating the increase.

SURVEYOR

Dave Penturf – County General – Increased office supplies by \$100. He stated he would like to increase the part time rate from \$14.50 to \$15.50. Perpetuation Fund – Dave Fuhrman forgot to put in per diem line item of \$750. Auditor will correct.

SOIL & WATER

Sara Campfield – Increased mileage, and contractual labor. Discussion was made on progress report presented.

EXTENSION

Mark Evans – 5% increase on salaries. Discussion on programs and progress.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Joni Young – Administrator – Discussion on a budget correction that happened last year. Public Health Nurse – did not ask for increase because of already receiving a healthy one this year. She informed them of new grants the Health Department received. She would like county to pay ¼ of salary and grant would pay the rest for the first year. Second year ½ for county, ½ for grant. Third year county ¾, grant ¼. To ease into funding fully out of county general. The Commissioners want to pay for a nurse out of ARP funds.

Discussion was made. Dave Fuhrman stated they cannot speak for future that the Council will be able to guarantee the money will be there. Discussion was made on the Departments other grants and tobacco distribution. The department has spent over \$15,000 in overtime this year alone.

CORONER

Joni Young – County general - increase to repairs and maintenance due to the old vehicle and one new one. The Commissioners (Tom Helmer) will check with the Sheriff’s Department to see if they can get one of theirs that will be coming out of rotation. Remove \$25,000 vehicle request. Hazardous Waste - Uniform allowance was questioned. They currently get a cover up provided already. Council agreed to remove the uniform allowance from budget request.

GIS

Robbie Cudnik – requested 5% salary increase. She stated that she will be retiring within the next few years and will need to hire someone to train to take her place.

COUNCIL

Discussion was made on the Per Diem/Conference line item and whether \$2000 was enough. Decided to leave it and do an additional next year if necessary.

Lengthy discussion on department budgets. Jacque stated that the Jail Matron salary has a state statute. Commissioner Helmer suggested using ARP funds to give the Sheriff Merit deputies a one-time dollar amount.

AUDITOR

Kristina Alexander – she gave the Council a handout with a breakout for each employee due to some being lumped with their appropriation number. She also explained the reasoning of the job description increase for some employees. When she compares what her department does compared to the other departments her employees do not make near enough. Discussion was made. Explanation was given on the repairs/maintenance increase. She told the Council of a program that her software company works with a company to do paystubs online.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion was made on the department budgets and nonbinding budgets.

ADJOURN

Danny Wallace made the motion to adjourn. Phillip Gick seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

David Fuhrman, President

Stephanie Campbell, Vice President

Larry Parker

Phillip Gick

Danny Wallace

Keith Berry

Jay Alcorn

Attest: Auditor’s Office

