

Garland County
Special Finance Committee Meeting
October 10, 2022
Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McKee, Vice Chairman Braziel, Justices Horner, Owen, Anderson, and Hunter

Members Absent: Justice Raney

Also present: Citizens, Elected Officials, Staff, and Media

Chairman McKee called the meeting to order, and Justice Anderson gave the invocation.

Chairman McKee asked for consideration of an ordinance to set a materiality threshold related to the remittance, collection, distribution, and disbursement of property tax refunds. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Braziel. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion. Judge Mahoney explained that we need to set a threshold for tax refunds being prorated to all taxing units, and others will be allocated from the appropriate taxing units. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee asked for consideration of an ordinance to establish a County General Sub-Fund to be called the Local Assistance Tribal Consistency Fund (LATC) and to declare an emergency. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Hunter. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and Judge Mahoney explained the federal property tax funding from Treasury. Justice Reagan asked if it was based on the timber tracks, and Judge Mahoney said it would be part of the calculation. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee asked for consideration of an ordinance approving assessment increase within the boundaries of the Lake Hamilton Fire Protection District (LHFD) Effective January 1, 2023. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Anderson, seconded by Justice Braziel. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and Judge Mahoney explained the request and indicated that the department had increased its Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating. Mr. Tom Sakowski, Commissioner, and Secretary/Treasurer for LHFD, spoke to the committee on the increase. He stated that the rate structure has existed since 2012, with one increase in 2016. He explained the need due to the increase in the cost of equipment. There was some discussion on the ISO rating and how it helps homeowners insurance rates. With nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee asked for consideration of an ordinance to amend the 2022 Garland County Budget Ordinance O-21-45; to anticipate revenues and appropriate funds in the various budgets.

- a. The Sheriff applied for the Arkansas Full-Time Law Enforcement Officer Salary Stipend Act of 2022 grant and received \$10,765.00 from the Department of Finance and Administration. Ordinance O-22-27 approved this grant, and the receipt is to pay for two eligible county law enforcement officers at \$5,000.00 each plus the social security matching. He would like to appropriate \$5,382.50 to the General Fund, Sheriff's Budget

to pay one eligible officer and appropriate \$5,382.50 to the Detention Facility Fund, County Jail Budget to pay one eligible officer.

- b. The Sheriff requests an appropriation of \$824.60 in the County General Fund, Sheriff's Budget, and \$824.60 in the Detention Facility Fund, County Jail Budget, to pay retirement matching on stipends.
- c. The County Judge anticipates to receive \$3,334,226.97 in the Road and Bridge Improvement Fund from the February 8, 2022, special election to levy a five eighths of one percent (0.625%) sales and use tax within the County to be distributed by the State Treasury per capita. He would also like to appropriate these funds in the County Road Budget.
- d. The Sheriff requests an appropriation of \$900,000.00 in the County General Fund, Sheriff's Budget to pay for 55 in-car video systems and 70 body-worn cameras with support.
- e. The County Judge would like to appropriate \$40,000.00 in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund, County Judge's Budget to pay for consulting costs.

Chairman McKee asked Undersheriff Lawrence to speak to the committee on the two additional stipends for Officers who met the requirements. He also spoke about the in-car video and body-worn cameras system the Sheriff requested to purchase. A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Braziel, seconded by Justice Anderson. Chairman McKee asked Judge Mahoney to explain the other two requests, as noted above. He spoke about the recent Road and Bridge Improvement Tax and explained the need to appropriate funds to pay for a consultant firm for the (ARP) Fund. There was some discussion and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee asked for consideration of an ordinance to amend the 2022 Garland County Budget Ordinance O-21-45; to anticipate revenues, appropriate, and transfer funds in various budgets.

- a. The Circuit Court Division II Juvenile Judge was awarded a Supplemental Juvenile Court Funding (SJCF) Grant from the Administrative Offices of the Court for \$18,000.00 and deposited it with the County Treasurer. Resolution R-22-10 approved the application for this grant, and the Juvenile Judge would like to establish the fund and appropriate the money to the Supplemental Juvenile Court Funding Grant Fund, Circuit Court Division II Budget, to pay for therapists and program supplies.
- b. The County Judge was awarded an Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) Grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage for \$125,182.00 and deposited it with the County Treasurer. Resolution R-21-27 approved the application for this grant, and the County Judge would like to appropriate the money in the AHPP Grant Fund, County Judge's Budget, to pay for repairs to the Courthouse. This grant is a reimbursement grant and will require the funds to be provided by the Ouachita Memorial Hospital (OMH) Sale Fund until reimbursements are received.
- c. The Sheriff was awarded a Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant. Resolution R-22-15 approved the application for this grant, and he would like to appropriate \$59,450.00 in the Sheriff's Budget.

- d. The Sheriff was awarded a Bulletproof Vest Grant from the Department of Justice for \$4,071.96. Resolution R-22-12 approved the application for this grant. This is a reimbursable grant that requires a 50% match. The Sheriff would like to fund the grants part through the OMH Sale Fund until reimbursements are received and appropriate the County's match from the County General Fund. He would also like to appropriate the money in the Bulletproof Vest Fund, Sheriff's Budget.
- e. The Sheriff was awarded an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the Department of Justice for \$25,846.00. Resolution R-22-14 approved the application for this grant. This is a reimbursable grant, and the Sheriff would like to fund the grants through the OMH Sale Fund until the reimbursements are received and appropriate the grant in the JAG Fund, Sheriff's Budget.

A motion for a do pass was made by Justice Braziel, seconded by Justice Hunter. Judge Mahoney explained the grants. There was some discussion on the courthouse renovation. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion; with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

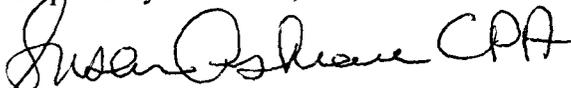
Chairman McKee asked for consideration of a transfer in the County Road Fund for \$294,214.06 from the Machinery and Equipment line item to the Vehicles line item as follows:

Transfer Out	Transfer In	Amount
2000.0200.4004	2000.0200.4005	\$294,214.06

A motion was made by Justice Braziel and seconded by Justice Anderson. Judge Mahoney explained that we had classified it incorrectly when we appropriated it in September. There was some discussion on the vehicles being purchased. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee deferred the review of the Hot Springs Metro Partnership review to the Quorum Court. The Justices to review the position changes, overtime, sales tax, Oaklawn, and grant reports. There was some discussion on staffing; then, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Ashmore, CPA
Garland County Comptroller