

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
GARLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
COUNTY COURTROOM 200
NOVEMBER 7, 2022, AT 5:30 PM.

AGENDA

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

Members absent: Justice Raney

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

Chairman McKee called the meeting to order and presented the invocation.

Chairman McKee introduced an ordinance to amend Ordinance O-22-26, Personnel Policy of Garland County Section L, to include the 911 Communication Center personnel for eligible certification pay incentives. Chairman McKee explained the certification pay. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Horner. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced an ordinance to approve an interlocal agreement between Garland County, Arkansas and the City of Hot Springs for Animal Control Services. Judge Mahoney explained the increase is due to a city cost of living adjustment. There was some discussion on the agreement and how it is currently working. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Braziel. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with nothing further, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced an ordinance regarding administration of the Garland County Library to begin on January 1, 2023. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Braziel, seconded by Justice Owen. Judge Mahoney indicated that this is the first step, and regionalizing the Library will provide more opportunities, resources, and funding. He explained the process. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced an ordinance regarding administration of the Garland County Law Library. Judge Mahoney said this process would be on a smaller scale than the County Library, but the process is basically the same. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Hunter, seconded by Justice Owen. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced an ordinance revising rates for House-To-House Solid Waste Collections. Judge Mahoney explained that the rates had not been raised since 2014, and the cost for hauling has increased per the consumer price index, which was 8% this year and continues to increase. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Braziel, seconded by Justice Horner. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced an ordinance to amend the 2022 Garland County Budget Ordinance O-21-45; to appropriate funds and authorize a one-time premium pay to essential county employees from funds received from the American Rescue Plan Fund to the County Judge's Budget. Judge Mahoney explained the premium pay and the funding for it. A motion for do pass

was made by Justice Braziel, seconded by Justice Hunter. Justice Owen asked if the act precludes the county from using the ARPA money for premium pay. Judge Mahoney indicated that the consultant had approved the premium pay. There was some discussion about how Treasury has encouraged these funds to be used for this purpose. There was also some discussion of other projects budgeted for 2023 from these funds. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

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

- a. The County Judge would like to establish a Southwest Trail Grant Fund and appropriate \$394,606.07 in the County Judge's Budget. He would also like to appropriate and transfer these funds from the Coronavirus Relief (CARES) Fund, County Judge's Budget to pay the county match and for land acquisitions as noted in Resolution R-22-01.
- b. The Sheriff will receive reimbursement of \$24,415.40 in the Peers Achieving Collaborative Treatment (PACT) Grant Fund, County Jail Budget and would like to appropriate these funds to pay for personal services for \$3,942.23 and reimburse the Detention Facility Fund, County Jail Budget \$20,473.17 for the salary and benefits of the position that was moved to the Detention Facility Fund.
- c. The Prosecuting Attorney requests an appropriation of \$8,202.48 and an un-appropriation of \$102.48 in the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Fund, Prosecuting Attorney's Budget. She would like to un-appropriate \$102.48 from Salaries, Full-Time with \$27.48 appropriated to Overtime Pay and \$75.00 appropriated to Other Fringe Benefits. She would also like to appropriate \$8,100.00 to Special Legal.

Judge Mahoney explained the Southwest Trail construction. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Braziel, seconded by Justice Owen. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

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

- a. The County Judge requests an appropriation of \$13,500.00 in the Emergency 911 Fund, 911 Communication Center Budget for overtime pay.
- b. The County Judge requests an appropriation of \$25,000.00 in the Solid Waste Fund, Solid Waste Budget, for overtime pay.
- c. The County Judge requests an appropriation of \$30,000.00 in the General Reserve Fund, Special Projects Budget to pay for health reimbursements arrangements (HRA) in 2022.
- d. The Circuit Clerk requests an appropriation of \$6,000.00 in the Circuit Clerk Commissioner's Fee Fund, Circuit Clerk's Budget, to purchase new chairs in her department.
- e. The County Librarian requests an appropriation of \$19,638.01 in the County Library Fund, County Library Budget, to pay a premium pay of 28 cents an hour to all County Library employees for hours worked between January 1, 2022, and October 22, 2022.

Judge Mahoney explained the need for overtime due to staff shortages and training. He explained the HRA process and how it helps our employees with their deductibles. Comptroller Ashmore explained the need for new chairs in the Circuit Clerk's office. Librarian Webb explained the Library premium pay. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Braziel, seconded by Justice Hunter. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced the 2023 Budgeted Personal Services and Capital Assets, as presented. Comptroller Ashmore explained the percentages and the numbers with and without a COLA. Judge Mahoney went over the capital assets. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Braziel, seconded by Justice Horner. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee introduced a 2023 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of \$1,500.00 annual increase for all full-time Garland County employees and Officials, excluding the County Library and the Quorum Court. The County Library salary increases were approved by the County Library Board and are as presented in the budget. The Quorum Court COLA to be considered is a 3% annual increase. Judge Mahoney explained that the \$1,500.00 flat rate helps get the low end pay up. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Braziel. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Other Business

Chairman McKee asked Mr. Cole McCaskill to give his presentation on the Hot Springs Metro Partnership (HSMP). Mr. McCaskill presented his report. A motion for do pass was made by Justice Owen, seconded by Justice Horner. Chairman McKee asked for questions or discussion, and with none, the motion passed without opposition.

Chairman McKee asked the committee to look over the reports. There was some discussion.

Chairman McKee asked Mr. Fleming to address the committee.

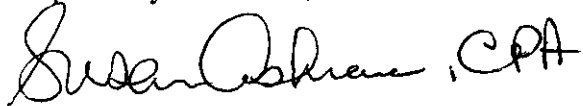
Mr. Fleming asked for the following as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests

1. Request for vacancies and departments of these vacancies.
2. Overtime pay, including the name, date, amount, and department for September and October of 2022.
3. Print out for the period of time for the overtime requests of \$25,000.00 and \$30,000.00 approved. Is it for past or for ongoing overtime?
4. Annual meeting concerning salaries, why not do a printout of the names, current salary, department, and amount of the bonuses. No one has mentioned what the bonuses will cost the county. The bonuses and the COLA. All that is on the table, along with Christmas bonuses of the county. Put this in black and white for the November meeting.
5. Print out the balance in the American Rescue Fund and the Coronavirus Fund.
6. Print out of what department and for what purpose the over 9 million dollars was moved and into what fund in June of 2022, why it was not used to sustain the water and sewer department instead of placing another burden of a rate increase and giving bonuses to certain Garland County employees. Mr. Fleming announced the county statistics. Attorney Howard asked Mr. Fleming to submit his request in writing, and Mr. Fleming said to use the

recording, and he asked for a copy of the tape and to have it given to Treasurer Stockdale. Attorney Howard said we would provide the tape to you and Treasurer Stockdale if Treasurer Stockdale has a request, and he did not.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Ashmore, CPA". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "A".

Susan Ashmore, CPA
Garland County Comptroller