

RESOLUTION NO. R-17-15

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF GARLAND COUNTY, STATE OF ARKANSAS, A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED:

“A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INCREASED EFFORTS OF THE UA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE AND THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO SEEK OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS CITIES AND GRANTORS AND DONORS AS PARTNERS TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING.”

Whereas, the Cooperative Extension Service has suffered major cuts in federal funding over the years, and the sustainability of our programs are in jeopardy;

Whereas, the Cooperative Extension Service has increased the scope and responsibility of their programs in service of the common public of our state, county, cities, and other local citizenry;

Whereas, county governments throughout Arkansas have long been supporting partners in the services and programs of the Cooperative Extension Service appropriating more than 3 million dollars annually and currently \$4.4 million dollars for program salaries (this does not include furnishing of local offices and facilities for the Cooperative Extension Service by counties);

Whereas, county governments are mandated under Ark. Code § 14-14-802(a) provides: *“the following necessary services for its citizens: (1). For the administration of justice through the services of the courts of record of the county; (2). Law enforcement protection services and the custody of persons accused or convicted of crimes; (3). Real and personal property tax collection, and custody of tax proceeds; (4). Court and public records management, as provided by law, including registration, recording and custody of public records; and (5). All other services prescribed by state law for the performance by each county officers or departments of county government.”*

Whereas, county governments cannot continue to sustain the level of discretionary funding the county judges and quorum courts throughout this state provide under discretionary spending under Ark. Code § 14-14-802(b);

Whereas, as per legislative audit, county governments statewide are subsidizing the criminal justice system at the circuit court level more than 46 million dollars over and above revenues collected and retained by the county;

Whereas, county governments statewide are subsidizing the 911 public service answering points, equipment and staffing more than 20 million dollars over and above user fees collected and allocated to the local level for 911 cell phone user fees and wireline revenues (with no costs share from the state);

Whereas, the Garland County Quorum Court continues to support the efforts of the General Assembly to increase the state appropriation and funding for the UA Division of Agriculture and

the Cooperative Extension Service and to incrementally make those increases as part of the base appropriation for future annual budgets of the many services and programs which are of importance to our citizenry and the Arkansas way of life;

Whereas, the Garland County Quorum Court supports the efforts of the Division and Cooperative Extension Service, the Governor and General Assembly to seek other local governments as additional partners in providing sustainable funding to assure the services and programs of the Cooperative Extension are made available to all constituents. Currently, cities and other local partners derive benefits from the programs but for the most part, are not participating in providing sustainable funding. Also, cities are not under the underfunded legal and financial burdens of state mandates such as are imposed upon counties;

Now, Therefore, the Garland County Quorum Court is resolved to support the efforts of the UA Division of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Governor and General Assembly to provide sustainable funding for the Division of Agriculture & the Cooperative Extension Service via incremental increases in base funding for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and successive annual fiscal year budgets;

Now, Therefore, the Garland County Quorum Court, are resolved to support the increased efforts of the UA Division of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service, the Governor and General Assembly to seek other local governments such as cities and grantors and donors as partners in providing sustainable funding to assure the services and programs of the Division and the Cooperative Extension are made available to all constituents and in the county and statewide;

Now, Therefore, the Garland County Quorum Court is resolved to continue to place primary focus on additional efficiencies and sustainable funding for priorities mandates such as the criminal justice system and 911 public safety: answering points, equipment, staffing, and training;

Now, Therefore, Securing sustainable funding for mandatory & discretionary services for our citizenry is a continuous task in which county officials are responsible partners. However, continued reduction of discretionary funding at the county level may inevitably create a roll back in the level of support by counties for the Cooperative Extension Service and these local programs. The directive upon the counties to provide priority funding for the mandated services set forth in Ark. Code § 14-14-802(a) and the lack of adequate funding from the state and other local governments for cooperative extension services and programs will necessitate a retraction of funding by counties as discretionary services and a corresponding reduction of the county programming by the Cooperative Extension Service including 4-H, Master Gardeners, Extension Homemakers, Livestock Market Reporting and Agricultural Production Recommendations for pest management, soil testing, fertilization, pastures, row crops, turf, fruits and vegetables and gardening among others,; a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Governor, the General Assembly, the Cooperative Extension Service and the Association of Arkansas Counties.

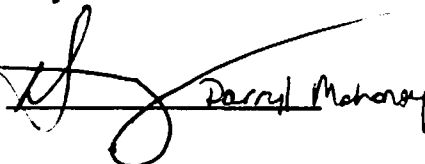
ATTEST: _____


Sarah Smith
County Clerk

APPROVED: _____


Rick Davis
County Judge

SPONSOR: _____


Darryl Mahoney

DATE: _____

8/14/17