

TERM OF COMMISSION: November Session of the November Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Room 243

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Linda Vogt
Deputy County Clerk Ashley Williams

The Sheriff and Corrections Department budget hearing was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

SUBJECT: Sheriff and Corrections Budget for 1998

Commissioner Stamper asked if Sheriff Ted Boehm and Warden Warren Brewer would address the supplemental items in their budget and not the core. Of course, he said, the floor is open for discussion of any issue.

The Sheriff addressed the issue of hiring an additional warrant clerk. If we are successful, he said, this person would be assigned to the Information center, increasing the number of employees on evening shifts to two. Their responsibility would be warrants, civil process, verification of warrants and to some extent the setting up of transport of people picked up throughout the United States to get them back to Boone County. He explained they would split the evening shift and the all-night shift in order to create a shift that would overlap.

Commissioner Stamper asked if this budget proposed an increase in Full Time Equivalent employees of 2.34 over 1997.

Sheriff Boehm said the block grant that addresses violence against women is still pending. The grant would fund 100% coverage for an employee's salary and benefit package. He advised that the funds would be available through the year 2000 with the possibility to renew in 2001 and 2002.

Commissioner Vogt asked if any other agency would receive an employee through the grant.

Sheriff Boehm replied that yes, they have all asked for an additional employee in the grant proposal.

Commissioner Stamper asked about the telephone system.

Sheriff Boehm said they were working with Public Works to see if the telephone system would work for both departments. The purchasing agent, he said, has been involved in those meetings to help establish up front costs to make sure they are comfortable with the numbers proposed in the 1998 budget. No bid has taken place, he said, and they were still looking at a variety of systems.

Commissioner Vogt asked about the ten chairs for staff and how long had they been in the Sheriff's department.

Sheriff Boehm replied they had had the chairs for six years.

Warden Brewer explained the mandatory drug testing in the Corrections budget was a marriage to the Sheriff's request and is computed on one to two officers drawn randomly per month.

Commissioner Stamper asked if this was a federal requirement.

Sheriff Boehm said it was a local decision.

Warden Brewer said they had estimated they would exceed \$100,000 this year for out of county housing. He knew recommendations and negotiations had begun for the renovation of existing space and if that were to happen, they would be able to delete out of county housing for the latter half of 1998.

Commissioner Stamper noted the 8% increase in the Corrections budget.

Warden Brewer replied he had taken into account the reclassification of ranges and noted their impact on overtime.

Warden Brewer said they were still discussing as to whether or not they would continue the existing contract for nursing services, or if the County should take it over. When they contracted for the physician, he said the Commission indicated their support of a complete take over of medical services and they want to proceed, making sure their t's are crossed and their i's are dotted.

Sheriff Boehm said they had drafted a job description for a nurse so the program can be evaluated. He said they had another program pending that involved a community based sentencing program. They were negotiating that issue with the department of Corrections and he said the program would bring dollars to the revenue side of the budget and they would be able to pick up monies from there to help finance the nursing staff.

Sheriff Boehm explained the program was a three-phase program that restricted movement and required an individual to go through several different programs. He said it was similar to the work release program they had been managing for the past 13 years.

Commissioner Stamper noted the Joint Communications budget, previously maintained in the Sheriff's budget had been pulled out. He said it showed a history of expenditures on a pretty steep curve and that was a concern. Total expenditures, he said, were up 29%. Commissioner Stamper said it was the auditor's intention to deal with these increases in a proactive and aggressive manner. He also noted the DARE program had been brought into the Sheriff's budget.

Sheriff Boehm explained the DARE program had been grant funded, but is now funded by the County.

Commissioner Vogt said she realized there were a lot of capital improvements involved in JCIC, but wondered if there were other things that could explain the increase.

Sheriff Boehm said the increase was based on the number of calls. He said they pick up all the dispatches for police agencies in Boone County, except Columbia and Centralia. He said a lot of people don't realize the County pays for Sturgeon, Hallsville and Ashland and that all of those expenditures are included in the Sheriff's budget.

Commissioner Stamper said there had been some concerns that the JCIC board was not meeting and considering the budget before it's adopted. He said the board has been more advisory in nature, but have requested that the City Council be involved in drafting the budget. He said they have agreed to meet quarterly to make sure that happens.

Sheriff Boehm also questioned how many non-emergency calls came through JCIC and said they were waiting for those statistics.

Commissioner Stamper said there had been a lack of information and that JCIC has been wandering along in something of a void. With no one sitting down to look at the whole picture, he said, it's become risky.

Sheriff Boehm said he had been pleased with Dr. Allen and has had the opportunity to chat with him at least once a month.

Commissioner Stamper asked about the satellite station activities.

Sheriff Boehm said they currently utilize the new clinic in Centralia, a computer at Hallsville and Ashland and one at the entrance to El Chaparral on WW. He said the satellite stations allowed officers to remain in an area rather than having to drive back to the Prathersville location. The stations give the officers computer access to the mainframe and a telephone. Sheriff Boehm said that Boone County Fire Chief Steve Paulsell has expressed an interest in making the fire station at Midway available. This ability, he said, has improved service throughout the County.

Commissioner Vogt asked how often they used the Centralia Clinic.

Sheriff Boehm said they had not kept track of its use. He said it was probably not utilized as much as the other locations, but they appreciated the fact they could have a terminal there hooked to the mainframe.

Commissioner Stamper asked for an update on the video arraignment system and the voice recognition dictating.

Sheriff Boehm said the video arraignment has helped, although they were going through a stage of getting used to it.

Warden Brewer said they were in a learning curve and that right now the system has not produced a manpower savings and that it might not for another six months or year. But, he said, in every other jurisdiction, once the courts become familiar and expand the amount of activity they allow, then the cost savings are recognized. He said the system was used every day for at least 1 to 15 people.

Sheriff Boehm said he was glad they received the grant money for the voice recognition program. The update, he said, has sped up the process. However, he said, the software is not compatible with the mainframe and works only with individual personal computers. He said they feel good that they've gotten the equipment and feels the system can work.

Commissioner Stamper noted there was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Attest:

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Linda Vogt
District II Commissioner