

**MINUTES
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007
1:00 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair
Bernie Heier, Vice Chair
Ray Stevens
Deb Schorr

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

COUNTY COURT (622)

Present were County Court Judge Jean Lovell and Becky Bruckner, Judicial Administrator for County Court.

Bruckner and Lovell gave an overview of the budget request.

Brian Pillard, Records & Information Manager, appeared and discussed the Digital Reel Software request (\$27,310).

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, recommended review by the Information Technology Consultant.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, noted an additional appropriation for Fiscal Year 2006-07 in the amount of \$47,500 for witness fees and legal services.

DISTRICT COURT (624)

Present was District Court Judge Karen Flowers.

Flowers gave an overview of the budget request.

In response to a question from Schorr, Flowers said the 22 computer monitors that were requested in the budget could be phased-in.

DISTRICT COURT CLERK (621)

Present was Simon Rezac, Deputy Clerk of the District Court.

Rezac gave an overview of the budget request, noting the following: 1) An increase in personnel costs due to employee reclassifications; and 2) An increase in rent due to expansion of office space. He suggested that \$10,000 be moved from the Data Processing (Object #64285) to Furniture and Fixtures (Object #67465) to cover the purchase of furniture for the additional office space.

Rezac also presented a microcomputer request (Exhibit A).

Meyer noted an additional appropriation for Fiscal Year 2006-07 in the amount of \$20,000 for personnel costs.

Rezac said the initial shortage was over \$32,000 and said the rest was made up through adjustments to the budget.

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded to take the microcomputer request out of the Fiscal Year 2006-07 District Court Budget. Schorr, Heier and Workman voted aye. Stevens voted no. Motion carried.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (751)

Present was Simon Rezac, Deputy Clerk of the District Court.

Rezac gave an overview of the budget request.

COUNTY EXTENSION (645)

Present were Gary Bergman, County Extension Agent, and Kay Coffey, Administrative Aide.

Bergman gave an overview of the budget request and discussed the request to surplus two vehicles with high mileage and in need of repair and to lease two vehicles from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) for extension travel. Daily lease of vehicles, as periodically needed, is also requested.

Heier said he would prefer that County Extension retain the existing vehicles, in addition to the leases.

Meyer questioned the increase in Temporary Salary (Object #61250).

Kay Coffey, Administrative Aide, explained that the amount was underestimated last year. She said the cost had been included in Regular Salary (Object #61210) in the past.

Bergman also discussed the request for capital outlay.

Meyer recommended that it be moved to the Building Fund.

JUVENILE PROBATION (673)

Present were Lori Griggs, Juvenile Probation Administrator, and Sara Hoyle, Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator.

Griggs gave an overview of the budget request, noting the State has taken over the personnel costs for Juvenile Drug Court and reduced the interlocal agreement.

Griggs also discussed the microcomputer request and said of the three laptop computers requested, the one for Juvenile Intake is less of a priority.

The Board asked Griggs to try to absorb the cost of one of the laptop computers and the software licenses in this year's budget.

PUBLIC DEFENDER (625)

Present were Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, and Monica Ross, Office Manager.

Keefe gave an overview of the budget request and said the most significant increases are related to the move to Courthouse Plaza.

Meyer said he moved \$96,000 of the capital outlay request to a microcomputer request.

Keefe said he would also like to add a part-time runner position at an estimated cost of \$9,000 (the cost was not included in the budget).

Keefe also discussed the Justice Miscellaneous Budget. He noted that the Board approved two additional legal contracts last year so there were less appointments of counsel. Keefe said Juvenile Court's assigned counsel costs are approximately \$32,000 less this fiscal year than the previous fiscal year and said the cost should continue to decrease as the legal contracts pick up cases.

Meyer asked Keefe to estimate the financial impact if the Nebraska Supreme Court adopts recommended standards for assigned counsel.

Keefe said it will probably be a “wash” in Juvenile Court, due to the legal contracts. He estimated the increase in District Court at \$33,000 and County Court in the \$25,000 to \$40,000 range.

COUNTY ATTORNEY (652)

Present were Gary Lacey, County Attorney; Joe Kelly, Chief Deputy County Attorney; and Eileen LeGrande, Administrator.

Lacey offered to give the County \$20,000 in drug forfeiture funds to fund an independent study of whether funds that the County has invested in the Adult Drug Court are well spent.

Workman said he would like to see a similar study of Community Corrections.

Lacey and LeGrande gave an overview of the budget and microcomputer requests.

LeGrande said a request for additional appropriations in the amount of \$16,000 has been submitted.

Lacey suggested that the City and County explore transferring the city prosecution function to the County Attorney’s Office.

ELECTION COMMISSIONER/JURY COMMISSIONER (607/627)

Present were Dave Shively, Election Commissioner; and Maura Kelly Tolzin, Chief Deputy Election Commissioner.

Shively gave an overview of the budget requests (Exhibit B).

Shively was asked to verify the amount shown for AutoMark Tech, Absentee Board, Election Day Assistance, Canvassing Board and Voter Registration Assistance.

CORRECTIONS (671)

Present were Mike Thurber, Corrections Director; and Angie Koziol, Business Manager.

Thurber gave an overview of the budget request. He also presented the following documents (Exhibit C):

- * Lancaster County Corrections, Summary Analysis of Requested Budget
- * Actual Expansion Costs 2008
- * Total Days Served, FY 1991 - FY 2007
- * Lancaster County Corrections Department, Average Population by Month, Including Platte County
- * Lancaster County Corrections Department, Monthly Status Report

Thurber discussed his request for a 15 passenger van and was asked to check with Don Killeen, County Property Manager, about ownership of the vans parked in Trabert Hall's parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 p.m. Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

NOTE: Documents referred to are included in Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2008 (a copy is on file in the County Clerk's Office).