

July 7, 2021
Reno County Annex
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a special budget work session with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, and County Clerk Donna Patton, present.

At 9:00 Chairman Ron Hirst called the meeting to order.

Fire District #2 Chief Steve Beer and Hutchinson Finance Director Angela Richards discussed their requested budget needs. Contractual Services increased \$464,265 and Capital Improvement decreased \$158,174 for a total increase of \$306,091. The increase is due to a 2 1/2% wage increase and the increased labor costs to work on the fire vehicles. This also includes the bond payment costs to build a new station for Fire Station #1. Chief Beer explained that he will be deploying brush trucks to help with out of state fires, and they will be reimbursed with Federal money. This will be used to update the trucks and reimburse some wages.

Ms. Richards and 911 Communications Director Jessica Lynch explained the 911 Communications requested budget. There was a significant increase due to adding 5 new consoles for dispatch, software and licensing. A brief discussion ensued about the communication between the City and the County and to be informed about these major increase before the budget is set.

District Attorney Thomas Stanton and Office Manager Deana Mock discussed their requested budget. Their requested budget increased by \$29,518 with most of that being designated for a new vehicle purchase.

Automotive Director Kyle Berg presented his requested budget. Overall, his budget decreased \$107.

Aging & Transportation Director Barbara Lilyhorn presented her requested budget. She stated that transportation is all grant funded and decreased by \$9,275. Overall, the Aging budget increased by \$201,790 with most of that for the Cash Basis Requirement.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar discussed his requested budget. The overall increase is \$35,768 with most of that to add a full-time Administrative Assistant that has been

working with them for over a year and paid through a temp agency.

District Court Clerk Amanda Flores and Chief Court Services Officer Stephanie Springer discussed their requested budget. Their overall budget increased \$15,737 with most of that in Contractual Services due to an increased amount for Court Appointed Attorneys.

Fire District #3 Chief Bobby White and Adam Weishaar discussed their requested budget. Contractual Services increased \$12,300 and the other funds remained flat. Chief White explained that they need to replace some trucks and build a new fire station.

Information Technology Director Mike Mathews and Senior Network Administrator Timothy McClatchey discussed their requested budget. Overall, their budget decreased \$1,427 due to a decrease in Personal Services and an increase in Contractual Services due to software maintenance costs increasing.

At 12:30 p.m. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen** to adjourn for lunch until 1:15 p.m. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 3-0.

Fire District JT #2 RN/HV Fire Chief Royce Regier, Assistant Chief Chris Ledbetter and Adam Weishaar discussed their requested budget. Overall, their budget increased \$14,000 in Contractual Services due to needing to buy some bunker gear and informed the Board that they are wanting to build a new fire station.

Reno County Treasurer Brenda Kowitz discussed her requested budget. Her requested budget increase is \$33,369 for a new position in the Treasurer's Department and explained why she needed another employee.

Reno County Registrar of Deeds Michelle Updegrove discussed her requested budget. Her overall request is up \$10,867 due to her request to hire a part-time employee to digitize her records.

Fire District #7 Chief Dennis Kalmar and Adam Weishaar discussed their requested budget. Overall, their budget increased \$20,532 with most of that for Contractual Services. They informed the Board that they are wanting to build a new fire station.

Reno County Clerk/Election Officer Donna Patton discussed her requested budgets. The Clerk budget has a requested increase of \$21,642 with most of that for the SB13 Consolidated Notices that will be required to be sent out to all taxpayers. The overall Election Budget remained flat.

At 2:50 p.m. **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst** to go into Executive Session for 30 minutes for privileged legal matters with no legal binding action to take place, requesting Sheriff Campbell, Under Sheriff McHaley, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan and County Administrator Randy Partington remain. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 3:25 p.m. they reconvened, and **Mr. Friesen moved, seconded by Mr. Sellers** to extend the Executive Session for 15 minutes. The motion was approved with a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 3:40 p.m. they reconvened, with all three commissioners, Mr. Partington and Mrs. Patton present.

Mr. Sellers stated that he wants to keep the mill levy at 39.400 and would like to fund Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr's request at \$60,000 or \$90,000 to keep the staff he has. He wasn't in favor of the Sheriff to purchase the extra car but agreed that the Appraiser's Office needed a car. He wanted to keep the County Fair and the Museum at last year's funding levels.

Mr. Friesen would like to keep Emergency Management's Administrative Assistant the way it is for another year then look at it again. He would like for the Health Department to find some things to trim, use some capital infusion to have contractors do some repairs for the Maintenance Department and favors the PT person in the Register of Deeds Office.

Mr. Hirst would like to keep the funding for the County Fair and the Museum at last years level and would like the Sheriff to look at purchasing 3 cars instead of 4. He doesn't want reserves cut too much if possible. He would like to take \$500,000 from the \$1,000,000 and remodel the 5th floor for the District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Sellers isn't happy with the 1st floor plan and Mr. Friesen would like to transfer the money to the Capital account and use for Courthouse issues. Mr. Hirst doesn't like contracting out things for the Maintenance Department and stated

that they need to get the AC fixed in Emergency Management. He's ok with the Administrative Assistant in the Emergency Management's Department.

At 4:05 p.m. the meeting adjourned until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday July 13th, 2021.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
dp

Date