

**MINUTES FOR THE
JACKSON COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 12, 2022

The Jackson County Budget Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Craig Morris at 8:30 a.m. in the Jackson County Courthouse Auditorium and by audio/videoconference. Roll call was taken.

Present: Craig Morris, Chair; April Sevcik, Budget Committee Member; John Rachor, Budget Committee Member; Rick Dyer, Commissioner; Dave Dotterer, Commissioner; and Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

Staff: Danny Jordan, County Administrator; Harvey Bragg, Senior Deputy County Administrator; Traci Carrier, Budget Analyst; and Alycia Hartley, Recording Secretary

Members of the Public and Press

Airport

Mr. Jerry Brienza, Airport Director, presented the recommended budget (*Submission No. 1*) for the Airport. He went through the total number of passengers and flights per day for 2021-2022, which are at 2017 numbers but increasing every month. The Airport now has 13 direct routes, and has retained all routes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Brienza spoke about many different grants that the Airport is receiving, and spoke about completed and upcoming projects. He referenced the economic development in progress with a digital billboard installation, hotel development, and an Annual Agreement with the United States Forest Service, which was previously seasonal. He explained operational revenue and expense projections, and how an 11 percent increase is projected in passenger capacity compared to 2019. Mr. Brienza noted that the Airport's budget has a little over \$4,000,000 of total revenues over expenditures. He also explained the Coronavirus Relief Funds for 2021 and 2022, and how those funds are utilized.

Mr. Rachor asked, in the way that the terminal is configured, if more jet bridges could be added. Mr. Brienza answered that, yes, they can be and eight more will be put in with the terminal expansion project. Commissioner Dyer asked if parking expansion is being considered as well. Mr. Brienza explained that it is always on the radar; however, Federal Aviation Administration funding cannot be used for parking so the Airport must find other sources of funding that could be applied. He further noted that, even prior to inflation beginning, it would be about a \$45,000,000 project.

Sheriff

Sheriff Nathan Sickler began his presentation (*Submission No. 2*) by reviewing the Sheriff's Office Mission and Values, and how his Office utilizes them throughout the organization. He reviewed the Sheriff's Office goals that were instated when he became Sheriff, and will continue to be the main goals of the Office. He provided highlights for 2021 and noted that 75 percent of jail capacity was maintained through COVID-19 protocols; one of the highest percentages in the State while mitigating the risk of COVID-19 within the facility. Sheriff Sickler spoke about employees that were recognized by the Oregon State Sheriff's Association, and effective criminal justice partnerships. The Sheriff's Office has worked closely with State legislators to effect legislative changes, particularly with regard to cannabis enforcement. He reviewed additional key highlights for the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Sickler reviewed Corrections Bureau comparisons between other counties; Measure 11 lodgings; warrants and failure to appear; concealed handgun licenses processed; calls for service; fatal motor vehicle accidents, which have drastically increased; and response times. He discussed the projected fiscal year 2022-2023 budget and explained the increase in expenses. The majority of funding, 72 percent, comes from the County's General Fund, and he explained the breakdown of expenditures by Bureau/Division. Sheriff Sickler further explained staffing levels and how the positions are broken down. He noted many of the Office's goals moving forward and its current needs.

Chair Morris stated that Mr. Jordan had gone over the impacts of illegal marijuana and the challenges created for the Sheriff's Office. He asked about the approach that the Sheriff's Office is taking as community members are concerned about rising crime and its connection with illegal marijuana. Sheriff Sickler explained that, while the illegal marijuana industry certainly contributes to rising crime, there are many different things that impact it. He noted that violent crime is what is up, and limited space at the Jail contributes to that as well. He hopes that reducing the number of illegal marijuana grows will help to curb that, but Measure 110 is a very big factor. Another grant opportunity is expected and he will be requesting additional staff with those funds; however, the amount of funding is still unknown. Commissioner Dyer asked how the grant process is going. Sheriff Sickler stated that the grant allocation was \$20,000,000 for law enforcement; however, there has not been the opportunity to request the funds through the grant process yet. He is hopeful to be able to start recruiting and hiring around mid-June. Sheriff Sickler answered additional questions from the Budget Committee related to traffic fatalities and cold case files. Chair Morris thanked Sheriff Sickler for the continued cultural training and agility.

Justice Court District

Judge Damian Idiart explained the fiscal year 2022-2023 recommended budget to the Budget Committee for the Justice Court District. The Justice Court has four full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, and contributes roughly \$800,000 to the County's budget. He explained that cases are currently low at about 11,000; however, he expects cases to increase with the COVID-19 protocols lessening.

District Attorney

Ms. Beth Heckert, District Attorney, presented the fiscal year 2022-2023 recommended budget (*Submission No. 3*) for the District Attorney's (DA) Office. She noted that, within the last 30 days, restrictions on courts have been lifted and she is hoping to return to multiple trials to reduce the backlog. She began by sharing the DA's mission, and provided an overview of the Office's revenues, General Fund target, total expenditures, and FTEs. Ms. Heckert noted that the Office

has active participants on many interagency task forces, including interagency teams that are statutory and community partner teams; these collaborations in communities are very rare. She explained funding sources for prosecution, most of which is from the General Fund. She highlighted accomplishments of the Criminal Division including the number of cases filed, participation in alternative Court programs, and per day Court appearances. Ms. Heckert explained that there are currently 24 people in the jail that the Office is prosecuting for murder, with the oldest murder case being from 2018. She also spoke about legislative changes that have occurred, which make it easier to have convictions set aside. As fees cannot be collected for these applications, they have created a very large burden. Ms. Heckert explained funding and accomplishments for Family Support and Victims' Services.

Mr. Rachor asked if the County has any liability with regard to Sixth Amendment ramifications with the length of time to get a trial. Ms. Heckert explained that, in Oregon, there is a 60-day rule for most crimes to get a case to trial, not including murder or attempted murder. Defendants typically waive that right since they cannot be ready in 60 days. She explained reasons why cases may get delayed; however, most delays are caused by the defendant.

Commissioner Dyer asked about the effects on the Recovery Opportunity Court (ROC) following the passage of Ballot Measure 110. Ms. Heckert explained that, as ROC has always catered to higher-level crimes, it has not been really affected by Ballot Measure 110; however, it is too early to tell if there will be effects on recidivism.

Mrs. Sevcik asked if there is a time limit on processing motions to set aside. Ms. Heckert answered that, yes, it was lowered to either 30 or 60 days and, even if fingerprints are not back from the State, they still must be filed.

Community Justice

Mr. Eric Guyer, Community Justice Director, began his presentation (*Submission No. 4*) by describing the essential functions and core values of Community Justice. He spoke about the impacts of community-wide collaborations and how the multi-agency coordination of services has had a positive effect at many levels. He spoke about the organizational breakdown between Adult and Juvenile Services, the Transition Center, and Administration, as well as additional FTEs from State funding. Mr. Guyer explained major revenue sources from the Community Corrections Partnership Act, the General Fund, and grants and fees by source, as well as how each of those funds address needs across the Department. He provided statistics for the Department of Transitional Care graduates, resource center services, DUII intakes, Pathfinder Peer services, community service hours, and dispatched work crews. He also discussed youth referrals and how that number is expected to increase with schools returning to in-person. He highlighted several recent successes of the Transition Center and Juvenile Services. Mr. Guyer noted a statewide comparison of juvenile recidivism and explained how it relates to the Department's benchmark for Juvenile Services. He spoke about key accomplishments of Adult Services, and noted that they have completed the highest number of assessments within 60 days in the State. He further explained the impacts of Ballot Measure 110 and the COVID-19 pandemic, and areas of emphasis for the Department.

Commissioner Roberts noted that the Budget Committee has heard from all public safety departments about the collaboration between agencies, and she thanked each of them for that. She asked what the youngest served is within Juvenile Services, and if it will lower. Mr. Guyer

explained that they serve as young as 11; when younger than that, the juvenile will likely be treated at a hospital facility or work with child welfare.

Development Services

Mr. Ted Zuk, Development Services Director, presented the recommended budget for Development Services (*Submission No. 5*). He began by reviewing the overall Department organization, goals, and how performance measures are used to assess if goals are being met. He reviewed some key accomplishments for the year, including the implementation of a virtual inspection program and the establishment of the Wildfire Resiliency Permit Center (WRPC) for Alameda and South Obenchain Fire survivors. In addition, a Fire Hardening Grant Program is in process and will provide \$5,700,000 in grant monies for wildfire survivors who are rebuilding. He reviewed the Department's revenue and explained the Community Development Fee, which is based on appraisal and that causes an increase to this Fee. Mr. Zuk noted that 75 percent of the Department's expenditures are for Personnel Services. He explained the breakdown of total FTEs, the number of customers served, and performance measures by Program. Mr. Jordan noted that these are internal performance measures, which are intended to be better than what the State allows. Mr. Zuk explained that over half of the Code Enforcement Program funding comes from the General and Solid Waste Funds; fees and fines are only 3 percent of its total funding. Mr. Jordan provided additional information on the addition of one FTE for Code Enforcement, which he anticipates funding from the State to cover; a supplemental budget would be needed to add that appropriation authority. Mr. Zuk continued by reviewing the Code Enforcement performance measures, with an emphasis on cannabis cases which went from zero in 2015 to 1,094 in 2021. He explained the Comprehensive Planning Program and how the majority of it is funded through the Community Development Fee. Mr. Zuk provided additional information on the WRPC and permits that were processed, including applications for the Fire Hardening Grants.

Commissioner Dyer asked if there is an ideal number of projects per Planner for effectiveness and efficiency. Mr. Zuk replied that it is hard to specify an exact number as the complexity of the applications is part of the issue. There was a discussion related to the difficulty in recruiting and hiring additional planning staff.

Commissioner Roberts noted that the Board supported the increased penalties for cannabis cases, and asked why it does not appear that there has been an increase in fines resulting from that. Mr. Zuk explained that there has been an increase in the amount of fines issued; however, the revenue from it is not yet seen due to the hearings process and the time those take. He noted that the Department will not likely see an increase for one to two more years. Chair Morris expressed appreciation for the performance measures utilized in the Department.

At 10:44 a.m. Chair Morris recessed the meeting for 10 minutes. At 10:55 a.m., Chair Morris reconvened the Budget Committee Meeting.

Finance

Ms. Shannon Bell, Finance Director, presented the recommended budget for Finance (*Submission No. 6*). She thanked her staff for their hard work and noted that the County has won the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Triple Crown Award, being one of only two counties in the State to have done so. She reviewed the Treasury objectives of safety, liquidity,

and yield. Ms. Bell explained risk mitigation through investments and discussed economic rates. She further reviewed Taxation and Property Management objectives and outcomes.

Expo

Ms. Helen Funk, Expo Director, began the Expo's recommended budget presentation (*Submission No. 7*) by highlighting the success of the Jackson County Fair. She spoke about the Expo's contribution to the County's Strategic Plan through facility rental incomes, marketing investment, youth participation, and income from sponsored events. She reviewed additional highlights from fiscal year 2021-2022. Ms. Bell continued the presentation by providing the fund balance report for the Expo, which has an expected fund balance of \$1,300,000. She provided the Expo's financial overview and compared its performance with prior years. Ms. Funk explained many challenges that the Expo has faced and reviewed opportunities for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Chair Morris noted the remarkable job that is being done to manage the Expo's finances. He noted a \$1,000,000 fund balance is higher than what is necessary and it needs to be reinvested. He said he would like to be provided with a sense of where the fund balance should be next year.

Mr. Rachor asked about rate comparisons with the J&C Auction, and if there were revenues generated from the Country Crossings Music Festival. Ms. Funk explained that the rates with J&C Auction are based on a percentage of the auction, or the base rental rate for the day. She further explained that there was a three-year Agreement for Country Crossings, in which case it would have generated revenue; however, the final year had to be canceled due to COVID-19. Mr. Jordan noted that the significant increase in Reserves was not from operations at the Fair, but was due to reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State.

Information Technology

Mr. Mark Decker, Information Technology (IT) Director, presented the IT recommended budget (*Submission No. 8*). He explained the two Programs of this budget; Computer Replacement Fund and Information Technology Services. He explained the revenue sources for each, as well as annual customer satisfaction survey that is completed, challenges in 2021, and progress in 2022. He discussed budget highlights for 2022-2023, including major upgrades for the County's website and phone system.

County Counsel

Mr. Joel Benton, County Counsel, presented the recommended budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 (*Submission No. 9*). He explained that County Counsel serves as in-house, dedicated advocates and advisors to the County's elected and appointed officials and departments. He reviewed the services provided by County Counsel's Office, current staffing levels, revenue sources, and expenditures. He reviewed the cost efficiency of in-house versus outside counsel, and additional efficiencies for utilizing in-house counsel. He also spoke about the Department's objectives and performance measures.

Mr. Rachor asked if the increase in personnel costs is due to raises. Mr. Benton explained that it is due to cost increases and benefit chargebacks. Mr. Jordan provided additional information on the County's step system for pay and how cost of living adjustments are accounted for.

County Administration

Mr. Bragg presented the County Administration's (CAO) recommended budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 (*Submission No. 10*). In 2021, the Service Employees' International Union was brought into the County's self-insurance health plan. He reviewed the Ending Fund Balances and noted that Reserves are being built up for self-insurance. He reviewed the budget and FTEs by Program, with the majority of the budget allocated for risk, workers' compensation, and health insurance.

Public Comment

Chair Morris opened the public comment period at 11:48 a.m. No one wished to speak. Chair Morris closed the public comment period at 11:48 a.m.

Chair Morris noted that the Elected Officials' Salary Committee, established by Oregon Revised Statute, will meet at noon in Room 214 to develop a recommendation for the Budget Committee to consider during deliberations on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Chair Morris recessed the meeting at 11:48 a.m., to reconvene on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Craig Morris
Craig Morris, Presiding Officer/Chair

/s/ Alycia Hartley
Alycia Hartley, Recording Secretary

Approved on: 11/28/2022