

Minutes of Meeting
FY2020 Preliminary Budget Review – Sheriff
Session 1
May 13, 2019
1:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, Undersheriff Dan Mattos, Captain Kim Edmondson, Captain Matt Street, Captain Andy Deak, Captain John Holecek, Administrative Assistant Tammy Exley, 9-1-1 Communications Manager Collin McRoy, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Locke, Finance Director Dena Darrow, Budget Accountant Michelle Chiaramonte, Human Resources (HR) Director Sylvia Proud and Deputy Clerk Ronnie Davisson.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. **Business:**

FY2020 Budget Review – Sheriff (Discussion)

Finance Director Dena Darrow presented working graphs on the Sheriff's respective budgets and turned the discussion over to Sheriff Ben Wolfinger. Sheriff Wolfinger explained there were too many variables at play to be able to anticipate what would happen during the year, such as major events or crimes, fuel costs and rapid population growth.

Sheriff Wolfinger began the budget overview with the Administrative budget. He said one priority in that budget was the lateral and moving bonuses, which had previously been within the Human Resources budget, and was now asking for it to be moved to the Sheriff's Budget. He then spoke to the addition of agency-issued cell phones, explaining that other local law enforcement entities provided cell phones for their deputies. Sheriff Wolfinger said another priority for the department was the addition of a part-time Personnel Technician, as the full time Personnel Technician was swamped.

Captain Matt Street presented the Patrol budget, which also included the Animal Control, Marine, OHV, SAR and SWAT budgets. Captain Street pointed out that within the Patrol budget, there was an increase of approximately \$6000 for digital cameras; however, if the cell phone proposal were approved, the cameras could be cut from the budget. He also pointed out the current request for patrol vehicles was 37, but acknowledged that was not a realistic request and that funding would not allow that many vehicles to be purchased. He further explained that after a conversation with the Sheriff, they had decided that a more optimal request would be 15 vehicles. Captain Street then pointed out that there was a \$26,600 increase in gun supplies; there was a need to change out all the duty and practice ammunition, replace Taser cartridges, and update the armory. He also pointed out a substantial increase in the uniform budget and explained that the

objective was to begin phasing in the purchase of Class C uniforms, in lieu of the deputies purchasing the jumpsuits themselves. Captain Street also then pointed out the requests for an increase to the Special Duty Pay at a rate of \$1 an hour for six lead deputies, one K9 handler, and two marine deputies.

Captain John Holecek provided an overview of the Jail Budget, explaining that the most noticeable increase would be for Jail overtime. He also pointed out that the only personnel request he was making was to convert a Detention Sergeant to a Detention Lieutenant in order to mirror the structure of the Patrol Division, and was approximately \$8000 for the conversion. Captain Holecek also explained that the Jail Operations Budget had increased approximately \$86,845 and said his only Capital request was the Full Body X-Ray Scanner for approximately \$135,000. He said it was the third year in a row requesting the Body Scanner and that the potential liability was higher than the cost of the Body Scanner. Captain Holecek also pointed out that because they were paying less for Jail Overcrowding this year (\$112,000 decrease over last year), that it would help cover the cost of the Body Scanner. He touched on a New Program request, the Iris ID Scanner, and said that outside of those few requests, his budget had remained mostly the same over the prior year.

Adding to the New Program request discussion, Captain Street said the Patrol Division was requesting a new program for the Dive Team, so that they could buy equipment and create a standalone budget so the money was not being taken from the Vessel Account.

Captain Andy Deak presented the budget on Jail Services, stating that he was requesting a new Warrant Clerk position at a pay grade "D" because they were backlogged with warrants and noted that they had been using seasonal help to process all the warrants. Within the Jail budget, there were three vehicle requests: two transit vans for approximately \$79,972 and one Ford Expedition for approximately \$42,000 that would be used for single inmate transport.

Captain Kim Edmondson presented the requests for the Professional Standards and Investigations Division. She said there were no notable increases in Professional Standards, but there were requests within the Investigations side. She explained that if the cell phone proposal were to be approved, then the \$12,672 request related to phones could be removed. Further, there were two personnel requests that were priorities – one background detective and an administrative assistant for Detectives. She explained that due to an increase in candidates, the two background detectives were overwhelmed and could use the third backgrounds position to help alleviate the stress on the other two. Captain Edmondson also explained she had requested four pickup trucks, but might be able to cut the number down to two, which would be approximately \$42,101 for each.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger then presented an overview of the Civil budget. He explained that the biggest item was a software package (Softcode), which he felt was critical for efficiency. Not only would it help reduce overtime, it was compatible with Idaho Law and was being utilized in Ada County.

Sheriff Wolfinger began to speak on the E911 Fund and introduced 9-1-1 Communications Manager Collin McRoy. Mr. McRoy explained there was an increase of approximately

\$29,000 for a call queueing auditing system and then explained there was a large decrease of \$63,000 in their access fees line. He also pointed out that the computers needed a refresh and the 911 phone system needed maintenance, as it was seven years old and could either be replaced with a brand new system or refreshed, both of which would be equal cost. He acknowledged it was a large ask (approximately \$650,000), but it would be funded entirely out of Enhanced 911 fees.

Sheriff Wolfinger pointed out that the Sheriff's Office number one priority had not changed; it was still staff compensation. Captain Deak spoke to two position conversion requests at the Post Falls Driver's License Office. He said they were requesting to convert one assistant position to a supervisor position, which would be an increase of \$1 an hour and to convert a clerk to the assistant position, which would be an increase of \$0.40 an hour.

Ms. Darrow showed that the total increase of all personnel requests was approximately \$1.1 million, but was exclusive of matrix movements.

Chairman Fillios recessed the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Chairman Fillios reconvened the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Commissioner Bill Brooks expressed his concerns that sworn and civilian staff members pay was not where it should be and it was driving good people away from the department, costing the County enormously. He said before they were to purchase another gun or car, he would like to see that resolved so it was something that did not come up year after year. Sheriff Wolfinger said he appreciated Commissioner Brooks' opinion, and he agreed, but there was still a business to run. Commissioner Brooks said that was his number one priority and he was willing to tackle that issue, even if it were nasty and tough. He acknowledged the fact that it would influence the way business was done, but if the Sheriff's Office kept losing the highly trained and experienced employees, it would also influence business.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Chairman Fillios had several clarification items they needed addressed; upon a lengthy discussion, Ms. Darrow asked if they had any further items they would like further research on before the next meeting. Commissioner Duncan asked if they could decrease the amount of requested vehicles from 37 to 15 and there was agreement across the Board. Ms. Darrow asked if the Board would be amenable to decreasing the amount of unmarked detective vehicles from four to two; the Board opted to hold off on discussing that request until after the Fleet Management team met.

There was no further discussion or decisions made.

- D. Public Comment (Discussion):** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

E. Adjourn: Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Ronnie Davisson, Deputy Clerk
