

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: July 10, 2023, 6 p.m., Community Center

Present: Shane Burton, Grant Cothron, Chris Gregory, Judy Kerr, Tommy Belcher

Others Present: Sheriff Ray Russell, Chief Deputy Wayland Cothron

Shane Burton called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Belcher, second by Cothron. Motion approved.

Committee reviewed sheriff's budget passed in June by full Commission. Sheriff Russell noted that people have asked him about filling the new positions; he expects will be a slow process. One potential new dispatcher has been sent for drug screen and new deputies will have to attend academy, expected to take 6-8 months to fill all positions. Some at jail are moving to dispatch and those positions will need filling as well.

Sheriff Russell presented committee with bid results for medical care at jail. Dr. Dan Carey was only bidder for three-year contract. Carey has had the jail contract for 5-6 years, per Russell, and has done good work at saving the county money. Per paperwork provided, cost is \$11,337.04 monthly for 2023-24, \$11,677.15 for 2024-25, \$12,027.46 for 2025-26.

Gregory asked how much of an increase in new contract compared to old. Based on recent budget figures, does not appear to be much of an increase.

Motion to recommend approval of contract by Kerr, second by Cothron. Motion approved.

Russell said food contract at jail will be bid in near future and noted the jail can no longer get free bread as had been the case previously. Jail goes through four racks (40 loaves) every five days, he said.

Jail was reinspected on July 5 and passed. Jail remains under plan of action from the state as inmates were two over capacity (females) at time of inspection. Belcher asked if jail is still getting state inmates and how many are there now. Yes and 16 as of July 10, per Burton. Russell noted some state inmates have to be shipped elsewhere, depending on space available in TC jail. He tries to keep about 15 at any one time.

Kerr noted the discussion on effects from CoreCivic prison in January meeting minutes and asked about informing commissioners and the public. Russell noted that at last court date, seven vans of inmates from five different counties had to be kept in parking lot under guard until cases were called. Russell and Cothron noted that any crimes that occur at TTCC have to be tried in Trousdale courts, which requires TCSD officials to pick them up from facilities across the state. This adds to TCSD overtime, other costs.

Gregory asked when next meeting with new jail architect was scheduled. Supposed to be this week, per Russell.

Further discussion on shortcomings of current Justice Center and what is needed at new jail. Commissioners are invited to tour current jail and justice center with sheriff to get firsthand look.

Motion to adjourn at 6:28 by Gregory, second by Belcher. Motion approved.

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory