

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting Date: November 2, 2023, 6 p.m., county mayor's office

Present: Shane Burton, Amber Russell, Steve Whittaker, Chris Gregory, Sheriff Ray Russell

Others Present: Amy Thomas

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

Minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting were not printed out for committee members but were reviewed by Gregory. Motion to approve by Whittaker, second by A.Russell. Motion approved.

A.Russell asked about clarification of budget item at last Commission meeting. Sheriff Russell said there were seven positions approved in 2023-24 budget and doesn't understand where eight dispatchers came from. Gregory noted there was confusion among commissioners.

Election of officers was held. Motion to elect Burton as chair by Gregory, second by Whittaker. Motion approved. Motion to elect Russell as vice chair by Gregory, second by Whittaker. Motion approved. Motion to elect Gregory as secretary by Whittaker, second by A.Russell. Motion approved.

Burton encouraged committee members and all commissioners to tour current jail. Burton noted tree fell on jail roughly two months ago, sheriff's office still trying to address. Sheriff Russell said 45 inmates were at jail today with official capacity of 44, Burton said was at 50 last Sunday. Sheriff noted county has inmates at other facilities, also noted Clay County bid for jail came in at \$19.5 million for 100-bed facility.

Sheriff gave update on staffing. One dispatcher will be moving over from jail at end of month and will need to fill three additional jail spots (one male, two female). Four deputies have been hired, one certified, others will have to go to academy. Sheriff said one has 15 years' experience but POST would not accept his certification. Burton also noted he will be retiring from sheriff's office in January. Sheriff noted difficulty in finding people willing to work with clean records.

Burton noted this committee typically meets when sheriff has something that needs addressing or if committee members have questions.

Sheriff said seven vehicles have been ordered that were in budget. Last year they cost \$37K, now \$44K but were budgeted at \$40K. Amy Thomas noted ARPA funds are paying for cars for this fiscal year. Sheriff said last year's ordered cars are just now getting in, and there is almost always a vehicle in the shop being worked on.

A.Russell asked if surplus items are being sold via GovDeals, sheriff said yes. Sheriff gave example of bridge boat that is too big for his staff to use, he wants to sell it and buy a patrol boat that could be used locally. Sheriff noted that former EMA director Allen Lewis got county a lot of military-type equipment that is sitting unused. Patrol boat would help sheriff's office address a number of concerns that sheriff discussed.

A.Russell asked about LEO ongoing training requirements. Sheriff said state requires officers to train in handling child sex abuse, EVOG, mental health, firearms, other things every year. Most training is done online but deputies are sent to in-person training as well. Sheriff said state requires 40 hours in-service every year, Trousdale usually exceeds. County has firearms training every month.

Sheriff also noted outreach efforts to public, such as food boxes at Christmas, help with Christmas For Kids program, inmate crew help at Community Help Center, Meals on Wheels.

A.Russell asked about interaction with CoreCivic prison. Sheriff noted a number of upcoming cases from inmates, including murders. Burton said of 60 indictments by most recent grand jury, 44 came from Trousdale Turner prison, with 22 cases scheduled for court in February. Russell also explained how sentencing and transports work for county with regards to prison cases.

Gregory asked if food contract had been awarded. Sheriff said yes, to IWC. Anderson local meat plant provides beef, other items bought locally when possible. Sheriff also noted that clothes are bought at Walmart or wherever cheapest.

Motion to adjourn by Gregory, second by A.Russell. Motion approved.

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory