

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 24, 2007**

The Justice Committee met on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 1:45 p.m. Mr. Banning, Committee Chairman presided.

Members Attending:

William B. Banning, Sr., Chairman	James E. Kinard, Jr., V Chairman
George H. Smokey Davis	Bobby C. Keisler
William C. Billy Derrick	

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Alive at 25 Grant Application - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Colonel Paavel presented a request to apply for the National Safety Council Award allocation of \$57,199 for the "Alive at 25" program. The Lexington County Sheriff's Department will manage the "Alive at 25" program. The grant will fund all personnel costs associated with a sergeant's level position but will not fund operating and capital costs. The mission of the "Alive at 25" program is to help young drivers, target age 16-24, choose safe driving practices, take responsibility for their behavior, and be aware of typical hazards. The program functions by using certified law enforcement officers to facilitate an intervention program which uses a combination of workbook exercises, interactive video segments, small group discussions, role-playing scenarios, and short lectures to help young drivers develop skills and strategies that will keep them safer on the road. Wray Automotive will donate a lease vehicle to the county for this program at no cost. The County will be responsible for the maintenance and insurance of this vehicle. There is no actual match to this grant, but there will be operating and capital cost that the Sheriff's department will be responsible for to operate this program. Total program cost is \$84,585 with the County's portion at \$27,386. \$15,581 has already been taken out of this year's current operating budget and set aside for the program.

A motion was made Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Kinard to recommend to full Council for approval contingent with final details of the terms of the lease vehicle from Wray Automotive and vehicle insurance.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

FY06 - State Criminal Alien Assistance Grant Award - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan

Paavel - The United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has awarded Lexington County \$33,615 for the FY06 State Criminal Assistance Program (SCAAP). SCAAP provides assistance for the housing of alien prisoners for at least four consecutive days in the Lexington County Detention Center. The award is to reimburse a portion of the salaries and wages (no fringe) for personnel that work in the jail during the fiscal year of 2006. The deadline requires that award recipients must accept their award through the Grants Management System (GMS) within 45 calendar day of BJA's official notification. The award was released on June 21, 2007 and must be accepted by August 5, 2007. Total award is \$33,615 minus 20% fee to GMS, who provided the information from inmate statistics to determine the County's eligibility for funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Kinard to recommend to full Council to approve acceptance of the \$33,615 for the FY06 State Criminal Assistance Program (SCAAP) grant award from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance minus 20% fee to Grants Management System.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Revision to the False Alarm Ordinance (Goals 1 & 2) - Sheriff's Department - Chief Bruce Rucker, Assistant Sheriff/Director of Public Safety & Homeland Security and Lt. David Dannels - Chief Bruce Rucker, Assistant Sheriff/Director of Public Safety and Homeland Security and Lt. David Dannels of the Sheriff's Department presented the proposed revisions to the false alarm ordinance, Ordinance 05-15 – An Ordinance Governing False Alarms. Chief Rucker reported that over the last two years there has been a 37% reduction in false alarms which has saved the County money. Since the ordinance was passed, changes are recommended in order to enhance effectiveness, clarity, and make it easier to enforce with available personnel. The three main category changes are: 1) Removal of "Alarm Malfunctions" and include with "False Alarms." Having separate definitions and fee schedules causes significant confusion for deputies and citizens. By combining the two alarm types into one "false alarm" definition would significantly reduce phone calls from citizens, most confusion with the ordinance, and dissatisfaction by the alarm companies. 2) Add language to clarify administrative responsibilities relating to enforcement and notification of false alarms. The addition to the ordinance identifying the "False Alarm Coordinator" is necessary due to the added language outlining the administrative responsibilities. 3) Remove/change parts of the false alarm ordinance that are difficult to manage with current staff and workload. After one year of enforcement and implementation it is clear some parts of the ordinance are difficult to administer and manage and not necessary for success.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend that full Council approve staff's recommendation for the revisions to the false alarm ordinance and move forward with first reading at today's Council meeting.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes - Meetings of June 12 and June 26, 2007 - A motion was made by Mr. Derrick, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve the June 12 and June 26, 2007 minutes as submitted.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Old Business/New Business – None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

William B. Banning, Sr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk