

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2009**

The Justice Committee met on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Kinard, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

James E. Kinard, Jr., Chairman
William C. Billy Derrick
Debra B. Debbie Summers

George H. Smokey Davis, V. Chairman
Bobby C. Keisler

Also attending: Katherine Hubbard, County Administrator; Joe Mergo, Deputy 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.

Coroner's Equipment Grant Application (Goal 3) - Coroner's Office - Harry Harman, Coroner - Mr. Butch Reynolds, Special Deputy Coroner, presented a request to apply for the Coroner's Equipment Grant for a total of \$120,620. The application amount is for \$114,589 with a five percent County match of \$6,031. The funds will be used to purchase the following equipment; three SUVs (4X4), three handguns, three laptops, three digital cameras, a mobile printer, and three 800 MHz encrypted radios. Mr. Reynolds said fees collected by the Coroner's office could assist to offset any additional cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve the Coroner's request to apply for the Coroner's Equipment Grant.

The Committee asked who would be authorized to carry the handguns. Mr. Reynolds responded that according to the SC Code of Laws, Section 17-5-110, the law allows coroners on the scene to carry a handgun.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Forensic Death Investigator Grant Application (Goal 3) - Coroner's Office - Harry Harman, Coroner - Mr. Butch Reynolds, Special Deputy Coroner, presented a request to apply for the Forensic Death Investigator Grant for a total of \$101,198. The application amount is for

\$96,138 with a five percent County match of \$5,060 that will come from the Coroner's budget. The funds will be used for an investigator, equipment and operating cost for the investigator. This is the second year of funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve the Coroner's request to apply for the Forensic Death Investigator Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Courthouse Security Enhancement Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Courthouse Security Enhancement Grant for a total of \$78,475. The application amount is for \$74,551 with a five percent County match of \$3,924, which will be appropriated in next year's budget. The funds will be used to install additional video cameras throughout the courthouse, an exterior surveillance, and a duress alarm system.

The Committee asked Col. Paavel about the number of new positions created through recent grants and expressed concerns of how these positions will be sustained in the future. Col. Paavel responded the Sheriff's office would not create more positions than the department can sustain.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Courthouse Security Enhancement Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Gang Task Force Grant Application - Sheriff's Department (Goal 3) - Col. Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Gang Task Force Grant for a total of \$188,628. The application amount is for \$179,197 with a five percent County match of \$9,431, which will be appropriated in next year's budget. The funds will be used for two gang task force officers, equipment and operating supplies for the officers. This is the continuation of a three-year grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Gang Task Force Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Regional DNA Laboratory Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the Regional DNA Laboratory Grant for a total of \$721,403. The application amount is for \$685,333 with a five percent County match of \$36,070, which will be appropriated in next year's budget. The grant will help to

establish a regional forensic DNA laboratory for Lexington County and the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. The funds will be used to hire two new positions, a DNA Technical Leader and a DNA Analyst, as well as the necessary equipment and supplies. If approved, this would be the first regional DNA laboratory in the State by Judicial Circuit.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the Regional DNA Laboratory Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

White Collar Crime Unit Grant Application (Goal 3) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to apply for the White Collar Crime Unit Grant for a total of \$240,838. The application amount is for \$228,796 with a five percent County match of \$12,042, which will be appropriated in next year's budget. The funds will be used for two investigators, two vehicles, equipment, and operating supplies for the investigators.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Davis to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to apply for the White Collar Crime Unit Grant.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes - Meetings of October 13 and 27, 2009 - A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve the minutes of October 13 and 27, 2009 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

James E. Kinard, Jr.
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk