

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JUNE 26, 2012**

The Justice Committee met on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 in the Committee Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building beginning at 2:40 p.m. Mr. Davis, Committee Chairman, presided.

Members Attending:

George H. Davis, Chairman
Frank J. Townsend, III
K. Brad Matthews

Bobby C. Keisler, V Chairman
Johnny W. Jeffcoat

Also attending: Joe Mergo, III, County Administrator; Larry Porth, Finance Director/Assistant County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; 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.

Pretrial Service Program Grant Award (Goal 1) - Magistrate Court Services - Ed Lewis, Court Administrator - Mr. Lewis presented a request to accept the Pretrial Service Program Grant award in the amount of \$31,500 with a 10 percent match at \$3,500 for a grand total of \$35,000. The match amount is included in the department's recommended FY2012-13 budget. The funds will be used to hire a consultant to design a Pretrial Release Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeffcoat, seconded by Mr. Matthews to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to accept the Pretrial Service Program Grant award.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Drug Parcel Interdiction Unit Grant Award (Goal 1) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to accept the Drug Parcel Interdiction Unit grant award in the amount of \$110,927 with a 20 percent match at \$24,957 for a grand total of \$135,884. The match amount is included in the department's recommended budget for next year. The funds will be used for one drug parcel interdiction investigator, operating supplies and necessary equipment.

A motion was made by Mr. Matthews, seconded by Mr. Keisler to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to accept the Drug Parcel Interdiction Unit Grant award.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Gas Chromatograph/Gas Mass Spectrometer Grant Award (Goal 1) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to accept the Gas Chromatograph/Gas Mass Spectrometer Grant award in the amount of \$94,860 with a 10 percent match at \$10,540 for a grand total of \$105,400. The match amount is included in the department's recommended budget for next year. The funds will be used to replace the Gas Chromatograph/Gas Mass Spectrometer purchased in 2003 that is beyond repair.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Townsend to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to accept the Gas Chromatograph/Gas Mass Spectrometer Grant award.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Portable Live Scan Unit Grant Award (Goal 1) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to accept the Portable Live Scan Unit Grant award in the amount of \$32,400 with a 10 percent match of \$3,600 for a grand total of \$36,000. The match amount is included in the department's recommended budget for next year. The funds will be used to purchase a portable live scan unit with printer that will enable personnel to scan and print sex offenders' finger and palm prints immediately. Sex offenders are required to have their finger and palm prints recorded every three years to remain registered in accordance with State Law.

A motion was made by Mr. Keisler, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to accept the Portable Live Scan Unit Grant award.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Davis asked how many current sex offenders are registered in Lexington County. Col. Paavel responded that the total number of actively registered sex offenders is approximately 400-500; however, the Sheriff's Department screens three times that many as part of the process every year.

White Collar Crime Unit Grant Award (Goal 1) - Sheriff's Department - Col. Allan Paavel - Col. Paavel presented a request to accept the White Collar Crime Unit Grant award in the amount of \$72,609 with a 10% match \$8,247 for a grand total of \$83,065. The match amount is included in next year's recommended budget. The funds will be used for continuation of the white collar crime investigator's salary and part of the operating costs. Col. Paavel noted that the Sheriff's Department has to utilize funds from their general fund to supplement this position in order to have sufficient funds for the coming year because of cutbacks from the State grant funding.

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

This the third and final year for this grant funding; if the Sheriff's Department is unable to secure another grant to fund this position they plan to continue the unit by absorbing it into their general

fund. Mr. Davis wanted to clarify that white collar crime will be continued to be investigated in Lexington County.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

New Business - Political Signs - Mr. Kinard said it has been two weeks since the primaries and asked Col. Paavel at what point do the political signs have to come down? Col. Paavel replied he thought it was 30 days but was not sure. He said he would find out and provide the answer to Council.

Old Business - None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy R. Busbee
Assistant to the Clerk

George H. Davis
Chairman

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk