

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Council met for 2025 Budget Hearings Monday August 12th 2024 9:00AM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Councilmembers present were Kenneth Boswell, Michael Tiede, Jeffrey Richwine, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez, Tim Overmyer, Bradley Bonnell, Jerome Locke and County Auditor Laura Wheeler.

President Boswell opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance,

IN RE: SUPERIOR COURT

Superior Court’s #1 expense is public defenders, #2 is jury trials and appeals. In 2023, there were 19 jury trials; in 2024, six jury trials with eight more scheduled. Superior will schedule multiple trials per day to utilize the juries. Public defenders are for the jury trials and pauper counsel is for the appeal process after conviction. Public defenders are on contract so that budget is controllable. Currently paying \$100.00 per hour but increased to \$110.00 in 2025 budget. Superior and Circuit Court spent around \$160,000.00 on Public Defenders but State will reimburse County 40%. Biggest grant is the Community Navigator, which is a liaison between justice system and rehabilitation. Current grant only runs through first half of 2025 and Judge Kocher requested that position be as an employee in 2025. Circuit Court and Probation also utilizes the Community Navigator. Pay is \$40,658.00 on Matrix with 2-4 years of service. They will continue to apply for grants.

IN RE: PROBATION

Salaries increased to State required amounts. Currently have 4 officers and 2 part-time employees but will give up one part-time for a full-time position.

IN RE: CIRCUIT COURT

The State says Circuit Court currently has 551 open cases and 9 more trials schedule this year. Office supplies (postage, envelopes) have greatly increased.

IN RE: MAINTENANCE

Maintenance is no longer supplying Lysol, paper towels or Kleenex as Larry does not consider these office supplies. Having issues with copier supplies for copy machines that are not part of Cardinal lease, mostly the desk top copiers. Maintenance wages discussed.

IN RE: PURDUE EXTENSION

5% wage increase including 2 part-time and office manager in budget. The contract with Purdue increased by 3%. Only increase besides wages and Purdue contract is travel which went from \$5,000.00 to \$6,500.00.

IN RE: RECORDER

Only increase besides 5% on wages is Dues/Subscriptions as dues based on amount Recorder is paid. Recorder also has an ID Security Protection Fund at \$1,700.00, which is for image redaction. The Perpetuation Fund is used for preservation of records and pays part-time staff wages.

IN RE: SHERIFF

Increased OT Deputies to \$105,000.00, Health Professional Services increased by 5% per request and this is only for 28 hours per week, upgraded WTH and has \$120,000.00 for 2 new vehicles as vehicles cost \$40-42,000.00 and equipment \$15-16,000.00, which is all in County General. Animal Control pay increased by 5%. Firearms Training Fund has a small increase in equipment and flares. Accident Report fund is used for training and equipment. Public Safety-LIT has increase in OT Dispatch from \$20,000-30,000 which also increases SS, PERF, and insurance. Misdemeanant is used to replace roof AC unit and is increased from \$30,000-90,000 to replace another unit. New 2-tiered desks for 9-1-1 discussed. No changes requested for Sheriff’s Pension Trust and Statewide 9-1-1.

IN RE: ASSESSOR

In addition to wage increases, cyclical reassessment increased \$50,000, which includes software from Eagleview, if Council approves, and postage increase. Pulaski County has about 15,000 parcels and each parcel gets a Form 11. Brian Cusimano is an Attorney with NEXXUS, which assists Pulaski County with reassessment (4-year cycle), new property assessments and appeals. 2025 is the last year of the current \$125,250.00 annual contract with Pulaski County. Lowell Davis is a representative of Eagleview, which will do aerial imagery, data analytics and mapping. He gave a demonstration on their system. WTH not needed but will not go away with this new system. Fly-overs every 2 years is recommended. County pays around \$8000.00 for WTH.

IN RE: HUMAN SERVICES

An over-view given of the services provided. Pulaski County contributes \$30,000 annually but Human Services is hoping for a slight increase in 2025.

IN RE: PROSECUTOR

A 5% Cost of Living adjustment on support staff. The investigator’s car needs two new tires. There is an issue with her submitted budget as many lines had -0-, which Auditor will correct. Approval of a new 2-year cycle of the Victim’s Assistance grant of \$154,748.89 received, which will run from September 2024-2026. Child support disbursed \$453,000. No intern this year but will have one next year. Pretrial Diversion has a balance of \$113,000, which is used for recurring fees, cell phones.

HEARING RECESSED AT 12:20 PM FOR LUNCH
HEARING RECONVENED AT 1:00 PM

IN RE: BUILDING

Biggest increase is in demolition as there are 18 current files. Standard demolition is \$5,000-7,000 and when complete, lien is filed on property. About 50% will do their own demolition after receiving notice.

IN RE: RECYCLING/TRANSFER STATION

A newer used backhoe is requested. Current Case K is 33 years old and is hard to get. Cost can be split between recycling and County General. He finally has estimates to replace roof on shed and money for this is in his current budget.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

Fund 1176 has \$300,000 for new equipment to replace the single axle used on town route/patching. MVH Restricted has \$100,000 added for road work-chip seal. Cum Bridge has \$50,000 for machinery and Local Road & Street has \$20,000 for machinery & equipment.

HEARING RECESSED AT 1:39PM
HEARING RECONVENED AT 2:00PM

IN RE: CDC

A Project Coordinator position added as the Courthouse project is taking up much more time than the Justice Center project did. Increased marketing and Development by \$10,000 but reduced Economic Development by \$100,000.

IN RE: COMMISSIONERS

County General increased \$20,000 for insurance, \$20,000 for SS and \$20,000 for PERF. LIT includes \$30,000 for Human Services, \$10,000 for Crisis Center, and \$12,000 for Fair Board. \$10,000 in security moved into IT. Commissioners looking into new time clocks as several have quit working. Checking out biometrics or using a card that will also allow entrance to Courthouse. \$137,000 for 4C Health, which is determined by the State. Economic Development \$200,000 covers Roeing contract and DeGroot services on site. Riverboat was going to cover new Recycling roof but money is in recycling 2024 budget. 2025 lease payments will be \$1,100,000 for Courthouse and \$340,000 for Justice Center. The Economic Development fund is used for IT and gives \$5,000 to each County fire department. Cum Cap is used for IT and has \$35,000 for new time clocks. ARPA funds and grant money discussed.

IN RE: AUDITOR

Includes a \$2500 stipend per State legislation for extra work required of Auditor. Scanning continues moving old books to PDF and eventually on microfilm, allowing destruction of books. \$10,000 in budget for preservation of records.

IN RE: TREASURER

Wages increased 5%. Postage increased since tax statement mailing cost about \$5,800.

HEARING RECESSED AT 2:15PM
HEARING RESUMED AT 3:40PM

IN RE: AVIATION

Gas, storage tanks and board pay discussed.

IN RE: CORONER

Alternative deputy pay increased from \$3,000 to \$3,700 and autopsy fees increased from \$35,000 to \$39,000 as doctor performing the autopsies will be increasing his fees in 2025. Cost of an autopsy for the County will go from \$3,000 to \$3,250. Eight autopsies performed so far this year. Budget includes purchase of one new radio.

HEARING RECESSED AT 4:08PM
HEARING RESUMED AT 9:00AM TUESDAY AUGUST 13TH 2024

Sheila present by phone.

IN RE: SURVEYOR

Full-time or part-time assistant requested and budget has \$8,000 for this.

IN RE: HEALTH

Health Department filed a SB1 with State for a grant without review by Council first. Fund 1159 is a property tax fund and has a bare minimum budget for salaries and what is needed to run the office. Fund 1161 (SB4)—pays nurse’s salary and other fundamental operations. Septic fees discussed briefly. Fund 1168, 8912, 9102, and 9103 will be going away once balances are used.

Immunization Grant runs from 7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025 and is not budgeted as do not know what funds will be left over in 2024. Will appropriate for 2025 whatever is not used in 2024.

Grant funding discussed at length.

IN RE: CLERK/ELECTION BOARD

Voter Registration Clerk requested to go from part-time to full-time. The State passed a law that the Clerk is eligible for a \$2500 stipend during election years. Dues increased because they are based on Clerk’s salary and travel increased.

Replacement of 20 voting machines that are over 20 years old discussed. New machines run \$2,800 each.

There was no change to Perpetuation Fund.

IN RE: EMS

Payroll increased 5%, uniforms, supplies and repairs also increased. Town of Francesville increased rent by \$100 per month. 273 transfers done in 2023 and 202 so far in 2024. Ambulances need to be on a rotation plan as it takes three years to order a new one.

IN RE: SOIL AND WATER

Job title is District Support Coordinator not secretary. Postage up and increased wages for Educational Coordinator.

IN RE: VETERANS OFFICER

Put \$850 in budget for a lap top with card reader and web camera.

IN RE: EMA

Wages and Part-time help increased. A new vehicle is requested.

IN RE: COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Kay DeArmond is the President of the Board requested \$15,000.

IN RE: RECAP

Superior Court—make Navigator an employee position	Human Resources—New department
Probation—make one part-time position full-time	Surveyor---assistant
Maintenance—raise for Director	Clerk---make part-time voter registration position full-time
CDC---Project Coordinator position	Soil & Water---raise for educator
EMA—New Truck	

With no other business to discuss, budget hearings adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Approved and signed this 9th day of September 2024 by the **PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**.

KENNETH BOSWELL

MICHAEL TIEDE

JEFFREY RICHWIINE

SHEILA HAZEMI-JIMENEZ

BRADLEY BONNELL

JEROME LOCKE

TIM OVERMYER

ATTEST: _____
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN