

Budget Meeting

November 3, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Andy Caldwell, Megan Eastman, Daleyn Coleman, Steve Wohld, Matt Jaeger, and Chris Panush

Guest: Frank Corbin

Zoom: Paul Crouner, Bill Serrahn, Casey Mauermann, Sara Heinricher, Scott Tinney, Katie Conradi, Aimee Albright, Claudia Yaw

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Benefits / rates for non-represented employees:

Megan Eastman said 2021 PEBB open enrollment period is open from November 1 through November 30, 2020. HR is asking the Board to make a decision as to county contribution amounts for 2021.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve Option 2 to increase the contribution to benefits of a flat \$25 for non-represented employees for the 2021 year. Commissioner Fund seconded. **Passed 3-0.**

IT staffing:

IT staffing has staffing needs. Erik Martin asked about adding a new position and explained how it can be funded. IT had \$75,000 budgeted for consulting services set aside during the re-organization. Matt Jaeger asked to move the funds. This will be an addition to the Help Desk. This will primarily be equipment and resource support due to the demands placed on the County from COVID-19. Steve Wohld justified the monetary amount by being net neutral due to the re-organization and IT consulting funds not used. This would be a budgeted amount for 2020 that was not used and is budgeted as well in 2021.

SW Washington Fairgrounds – emergency work for roof “eyebrow”:

The roof “eyebrow” at the fairgrounds is need of an emergency repair totaling about \$63,000. Steve is asking to escalate this because of the piece that has fallen. It is a cause for concern to safety.

Coronavirus Relief Funds:

Kevin Anderson from Fire District 15 reached out to Becky for a CRF request. He wanted to know if the Fire Districts could purchase LUCAS Automated CPR devices for cardiac arrest patients. These devices will relieve 2-4 first responders from CPR to perform other lifesaving functions. Becky said Commerce indicated this would be a good fit for CRF Funds. Each device is approximately \$14,000. They are asking for 1 per district for 17 districts that currently do not have the device. There are currently 2 districts within Lewis County currently implementing the LUCAS Automated CPR devices. The total amount

requested is \$237,395. Commissioner Fund made a motion to approve purchasing LUCAS Aid CPR devices. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Passed 3-0.

Project Update:

Becky said Breeze indicated that they will not be able to utilize \$100,000 in CRF funds due to funding deadlines. They were able to complete six out of 10 total sites.

Becky asked to reallocate funds not used by Breeze. Commissioner Stamper would like to send some of that funding to United Way to help school districts that still need broadband assistance. Becky asked for allocation requests and Commissioner Stamper asked for more research to make some final decisions on where the monies need to go.

Becky also wanted to inform the Commissioners the jail isolation cells are in the construction process.

The City of Vader is offering utility assistance using CRF funding. They have \$15,000 to allocate and have 83 applications requesting assistance. November 10, 2020 is the deadline.

The EDC is working to notify all grant recipients. They are working on publishing a list of awardees and the award amounts.

Funding usage deadlines are looming. NACO is having a conference November 6, 2020. They will be discussing deadlines and strategies to ensure funds are used before they expire.

2021 Budget:

Becky said that on November 12th there will be a presentation overview/outline. Last year, the Commissioners picked a topic they would like to discuss during the next budget process. She said this year's topics could include items such as unfunded mandates, indigent defense, public disclosure, and COVID-19 impact allocations and how funding was used. Commissioner Stamper would like to know what kind of an impact this would have on the County and how this will impact services that need to continue after COVID funds. What costs will impact the budget without a stimulus 2021, including increase requests.

Taxes – details to come at the next budget meeting. The IPD was less than .602%

Becky asked Daleyn to join for evaluating Coroner positions. The rate of pay for casual employees at the Coroner's Office had been discussed in the past and at that time, it was recommended the pay scale be a grade 16. This did not take into consideration the schooling and requirements to be a coroner deputy. With benefits the position should be a grade 17. 2019 has seen staffing changes/levels at the Coroner's Office. Warren is asking for additional full time employees (FTE's) to be added to his department. These individuals would not be a casual status. It is more fitting for a FTE, but also more expensive to have a FTE. Commissioner Stamper is wanting to see on paper how adding a FTE position fits to the Coroner's schedule. He would like to know if there will be down time. Will there be overlapping of people? Warren is asking for 5 FTE's. Human Resources will assist him in the budget process, but Warren McLeod needs to provide information for what it is he is asking, per Erik Martin.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.