

Budget Update

October 20, 2020

3:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Fund, Commissioner Jackson, County Manager Erik Martin, Becky Butler

Guests: Chris Roden and Willie Painter

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Becky Butler discussed upcoming budget updates. She noted that the jail and Superior Court have requested increases.

Erik Martin said the indigent defense attorneys have not had an increase since 2007 and are requesting a salary adjustment.

Becky said Health's preliminary budget meeting will be Oct. 27.

Becky said she will work on a revised sales and use tax estimates.

The commissioners discussed plans for the informational budget meeting.

Becky reviewed year-to-date revenues and expenditures.

Becky discussed Coronavirus Relief Funds. She said the county's team has met to continue planning how to meet deadlines with invoicing.

Becky said the county has received \$5.9 million, of which it has spent \$2.9 million and has known costs totaling \$2.3 million. Becky said the county has allocated \$1.3 million in grants.

Chris Roden said the PUD has spent \$600,000 in response to COVID-19. He said PUD customers are in arrears for roughly \$350,000 in collections. He said the PUD is waiving fees and making efforts to avoid shut-offs.

Becky said the county is allowed to use sub-recipients for utility assistance, similar to the county's agreement with Thurston County PUD.

Chris said the PUD works with the CAC to help customers. Willie Painter said the PUD has reviewed Lewis County's agreement with Thurston County and has reviewed Thurston County's application. Willie said the PUD likely would replicate Thurston County's application.

Chris Roden said the Lewis County PUD would waive any administrative fees.

Erik and Becky noted that they are recommending funding of \$100,000.

Commissioner Fund made a motion authorize \$100,000 to work with the PA's Office and Lewis County PUD to help with utility assistance for those struggling in the wake of COVID-19.

Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Motion passed 3-0.

Chris Roden and Willie Painter left at 4:09 p.m.

Becky said the United Way has requested additional funding totaling \$200,000. She noted that more information is needed.

Becky said Tim Murphy has requested funding for a jail transport vehicle to transport inmates safely during the pandemic. Erik said the rough estimate for the van itself and the needed parts would be \$70,000. He said the county could be on the hook for the labor of roughly \$12,000 to \$15,000 if the work is not completed before the CRF deadline passes.

Becky said the county has earmarked \$100,000 for the rental and setup of RE Bennett as an alternative site for Superior Court cases. She said the cost would cover sound systems, ADA ramps, etc. She said the school is charging utilities only.

Becky said Facilities has submitted a \$15,000 request.

Becky noted that the Administrative Office of the Courts has approved an additional \$187,000 for the courts.

Becky said she is looking into whether the county and EDC would be able to extend the deadline for the new grants.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.