

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING
Macon County Office Building
Macon County Board Room #514
141 S. Main Street, Decatur, IL 62523**

March 28, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Greenfield
Debra Kraft
Linda Little
Greg Mattingley, Chair

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bill Oliver
Andrew Hogan
Grant Nolan

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT

Tammy Schneider, EMA
Amy Smith, Probation
Michelle Sanders, Public Defender
James Root, Sheriff
Matthew Jedlicka, Chief Deputy
Jean Dubree, Child First
Sherry Doty, Circuit Clerk
Doug Brackett, Public Building Commission
Carol Reed, Auditor
Diane Couri, States Attorney
Tamara Wilcox, County Administrator
Deborah A. Blair, County Board Office

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mattingley at 3:00 p.m. at the Macon County Office Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

Motion to approve minutes of February 22, 2024 made by Kevin Greenfield, and seconded by Debra Kraft. Motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS

Motion made to approve the claims by Debra Kraft, and seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Circuit Clerk:

Mrs. Doty reported that the Circuit Clerk's Office just got hit with more work regarding pre-trial detention hearings. We have new codes. Springfield wants to track them. This begins April 01, 2024. Staff will have to learn new codes and every time that person goes to court, the code goes in. Mrs. Doty stated that Macon County will not be receiving any funds for this. Mrs. Doty has less staff to learn this. This will also go to the Public Defender's Office.

Circuit Court:

Judge Rodney Forbes: Just to follow up the Court is going to have more work to do also. The Appellate Court is inundated with appeals, people appealing their detention. So instead of the appeal going to the Appellate Court, now there is going to be a review done in the Trial Court to determine the Trial Court acted properly. Whatever record we create at the review hearing will be sent to the Appellate Court and will create the Appellate Record and the Appellate Court will

review that record. Essentially, we are having to do these detention hearings twice. It means more work for the Clerk, the Public Defender, State's Attorney and everybody.

Judge Rodney Forbes had no further reports for Circuit Court.

Coroner: No Report

Court Services / Probation:

Amy Smith from Probation reported on behalf of Pat Berter, that we currently have 13 juveniles being held in Juvenile Detention. As of today, we have juveniles in Peoria, McLean, Vermilion, and Adams County. And those are on very serious charges. The last point that Mr. Berter wanted Ms. Smith to make was to make sure that the Sheriff's Department knows how much we genuinely appreciate the support and the assistance that they have always given us and are giving us especially right now with all of this going on.

Kevin Greenfield asked if we pay for nine (9) beds.

Amy Smith stated that we have six (6) beds in Peoria that we pay for on a daily basis. Anything after that is additional.

Kevin Greenfield inquired as to how much a day.

Amy Smith could not answer at this time.

Mr. Greenfield believed the cost to be \$189 a day.

Ms. Smith is not aware of that information and does not want to misspeak. The Court, Probation and the Sheriff's Department and everyone involved is doing everything they can, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defenders, to move these cases. This is happening faster than we can keep up. The two (2) in Adams County were new this week. These are attempted murder cases.

Kevin Greenfield inquired as to the age of these kids.

Ms. Smith stated anywhere from 13 to 17. Ms. Smith stated primarily 14, 15, and 16.

Judge Rodney Forbes stated he handles all of the juvenile calls and they are all very serious cases. They are either gun cases or attempted murder cases that they are being held on. We are having sentencing hearings that are having to be delayed because if I do sentence them to IDJJ we don't have a bed to hold them. It is a real problem. And kids that I noticed that I have sentenced to IDJJ the average time they are there is four (4) to five (5) months. They are not there long.

Sheriff Root stated sometimes they are repeat offenders.

Judge Rodney Forbes stated that several of them now have committed new gun offenses while on after care or parole.

Emergency Management Agency:

Tammy Schneider if you interested in anything Emergency Management Office does or would like more information please reach out to me anytime as I am happy to educate.

Public Building Commission: No Report

Public Defender's Office:

Michelle Sanders, Public Defender, presented resolution to amend the Public Defender's FY 2024 Budget for the additional funding provided by the State of Illinois. This was from back in the fall when we received the additional funding from the State of Illinois of \$124,000. We need to be able to spend it and we didn't have it set up for the spending. We have spent some of it and we need the authority to use it now.

Motion made to approve by Debra Kraft, and seconded by Kevin Greenfield.

No questions/discussion.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Sanders stated that one of the things they will be using the money for is a new bit of technology that has been developed, JusticeText, which allows us to take body cam or squad videos, any interview that is recorded and turn that into a transcript using AI. It is a very nice high-tech program. We are going to use some of the money to get a multi-year (three-year) licensing. This should help cut down the amount of time it is taking us to watch the endless hours of footage in every single case we get.

Ms. Sanders stated the Public Defenders are dealing the Pre-Trial Fairness Act stuff and the drama that comes with it. So far we are on pace to have 2,400 felonies this year, which is a little bit alarming. Last year we basically hit record of a little over 2,000 felonies. We are pretty close to 600 as of today. The numbers are much higher which is requiring a lot more of our office's time.

Sheriff's Department:

Sheriff Root reported that there are at 230 inmates, 36 are Federal, and 7 of them are Champaign County.

Sheriff Root presented resolution approving appropriation of funds for the purchase of equipment for court security (walk-thru metal detector) for \$6,938.94.

Motion made to approve by Debra Kraft, and seconded by Kevin Greenfield.

No questions/discussion.

Motion carried 4-0.

Sheriff Root presented resolution approving contract for Macon County Sheriff's police services for the Village of Macon, Illinois.

Sheriff Root stated that we lost this contract back in 2018. The Village of Macon would like to re-enter into a 48 month contract in the amount of \$579,595.50. The terms of the contract is the same as what we use for the Village of Forsyth. This contract will actually break pretty close to being even and it might possibly be over with the revenue we are actually spending depending on what the deputy is making that we are sending down. This is far better than we were prior to the contract being canceled before.

Kevin Greenfield inquired if that money will go into the General Fund.

Sheriff Root stated it will go into the LEST fund.

Mr. Greenfield stated it will come out of LEST to pay them but the money Macon pays.

Sheriff Root state that whatever line the deputy is pulled from will be the line we put the funds back in.

Sheriff Root amended this resolution as a FY 2024 budget amendment to change the funds to go into the General Fund.

Kevin Greenfield made a motion to amend the resolution to include the expenditure lines, seconded by Debra Kraft. Motion carried 4-0.

State's Attorney:

Diane Couri presented a resolution designating the Illinois Sate's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor as it's agent to administer the operation of Appellate offices and process Appellate cases for Macon County during FY 2024. This is basically to provide funding for the Illinois State Appellate Prosecutors Office to take some of our cases and to assist in our office. It is \$28,000 and this is something the State Appellate Prosecutors Office asked that we have a resolution.

Motion made to approve by Kevin Greenfield, and seconded by Debra Kraft.

Chair Gregory Mattingley inquired if this was the same amount as in the past or did they increase it.

Diane Couri stated it was \$27,000 last year and they increased it to \$28,000 this year.

Motion carried 4-0.

Child First:

Jean Dubree, Child First, presented resolution amending FY 2024 budget for the Child First Center DCFS Grant. Child First received additional funds from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for July 01, 2023 – June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$9,511.22. IDCFS has also disallowed out-of-state travel for Children Advocacy Centers of Illinois for training, which is resulting in necessary expense revisions.

Motion made to approve by Debra Kraft, and seconded by Kevin Greenfield.

No questions/discussion.

Motion carried 4-0.

CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT:

Abeer Motan expressed her concerns.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Closed Session: None needed.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Chair Mattingley adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Deborah A. Blair, Macon County Board Office