

**Waukesha County Board of Supervisors**

**Minutes of the Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee  
Friday, November 17, 2023**

Chair LaFontain called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Jacob LaFontain, Mike Crowley, Robert Kolb, Johnny Koremenos, Tom Schellinger, Terry Thieme and Matthew Weil

**Also Present:** Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Fraley, Administrative Specialist Barbara Hollander, Director of Emergency Preparedness Gary Bell, Financial Analyst Britan Smith, Sheriff Eric Severson, Inspector Jim Gumm, Business Manager Josh Joost, Financial Analyst Catherine Kienast, Captain Nick Ollinger and Financial Analyst Tyler Livesey

**Discuss and Consider 178-O-069 Approve Tower And Ground Space Lease Agreement With Dish Wireless L.L.C.**

Bell presented that this ordinance approves a cell tower and ground space lease with DISH Wireless L.L.C. on and around the smokestack located at 500 Riverview Ave. in the City of Waukesha. The lease will start no later than December 1, 2023, and will run for an initial period of ten years with two renewal period of five years each, for a potential total period of 20 years. Dish Wireless will pay the County \$30,000 annually beginning in 2023, with increases of 3% per year thereafter. The revenue will be applied to the Radio Services proprietary fund and used to fund Radio Services operations in the future.

**MOTION:** Crowley moved, second by Thieme to approve Ordinance 178-O-069. Motion carried 7-0

**Discuss and Consider 178-O-070 Authorize The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department To Continue Contracted Municipal Patrol Services With The Village Of Merton**

Gumm, Joost and Severson presented that this ordinance authorizes the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department to enter into a contract with the Village of Merton and continue to provide municipal patrol services from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028. The proposed contract requires the Sheriff's Department to provide one shift of municipal patrol services, along with necessary equipment, on a rotating schedule consisting of five days on, two days off, followed by four days on, two days off.

**MOTION:** Thieme moved, second by Koremenos to approve Ordinance 178-O-070. Motion carried 7-0

**Discuss and Consider 178-O-071 Authorize The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department To Continue Contracted Municipal Patrol Services With The Village Of Sussex**

Gumm, Joost and Severson presented that this ordinance authorizes the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department to enter into a contract with the Village of Sussex and continue to provide municipal patrol services from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028. The proposed contract requires the Sheriff's Department to provide municipal patrol services, along with necessary equipment, for two deputies twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (approximately 10.02 FTE), and one additional deputy on second shift (1.00 FTE).

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by Schellinger to approve Ordinance 178-O-071. Motion carried 7-0

**Update on Sheriff's 2023 Budget Objective to Study the Implementation of a Fully Functional Body Worn Camera Program**

Severson and Gumm gave an update on their budget objective to study the use of body cameras. Gumm said that it is the department's belief that body cameras are good for the profession and they absolutely believe in transparency. Most often they will either exonerate the officer from complaints, and they also assist in the evidentiary investigative needs of the department. The department undertook a study of the product and the cost of service and talked to other communities to analyze the impact. For the product itself, it would cost about \$1.7 million (\$350,000 per year) for a department the size of the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department. On top of that, most agencies have to employ one or two FTEs to manage the open records requests and body warrant camera requests. On the low end, it would cost another \$100,000 for an FTE including benefits, bringing the total to \$450,000 to implement a program like this. As good as the product is, it is not worth losing staff to pay for it on an ongoing basis. LaFontain requested documentation of the studies that were done.

In answering Koremenos' question, Severson said the last two years have averaged 22 complaints per year, and that is just the aggregate total complaints; that is not founded complaints. Founded complaints are extremely low, and he believes the purchase of body cameras would not be a good return on investment.

Schellinger said the county should pay for it, but the cost should not come out of the Sheriff's Department's budget.

Crowley said he does not see this being an opportunity for the Sheriff's Department because of the significant cost. Severson said if he had a choice, he would rather see a deputy in the community doing the job rather than have cameras on the remaining deputies.

Koremenos is fully supportive of body cameras, but would rather see deputies patrolling.

The committee would like to continue discussions on body cameras.

**Approve Minutes of October 13**

MOTION: Thieme moved, second by Crowley to approve the minutes of October 13. Motion carried 7-0

**Next Meeting Date**

December 8

**Executive Committee Report of October 23**

LaFontain reported that this was a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and they approved three operating budgets and adopted the 2024-2028 Five-Year Capital Projects Plan.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Body cameras

**Legislative Update**

Fraley reported that a few HHS bills continued to progress last week. The legislature will not be back in session until after the first of year.

MOTION: Koremenos moved, second by Schellinger to adjourn at 9:14 a.m. Motion carried 7-0

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Thieme  
Secretary - Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee