

**Minutes of the Judiciary & Law Enforcement Committee
Friday, October 1, 2021**

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

Present: Supervisors Peter Wolff, Christine Howard, Mike Crowley, Tyler Foti, Darlene Johnson, Jacob LaFontain, and Larry Nelson.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Chairman Paul Decker, District Attorney Sue Opper, Victim Witness Coordinator Jen Dunn, Office Services Coordinator Julie Delain, Chief Judge Jennifer Dorow, Clerk of Courts Monica Paz, Circuit Court Coordinator Wendy Muelling, Medical Examiner Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki, Emergency Preparedness Director Gary Bell, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Gail Goodchild, Operations Manager Chris Becker, Senior Financial Analyst Michelle Czech, Senior Financial Analyst Rob Dunn, Radio Systems Manager Chris Petterson, Sheriff Eric Severson, Business Manager Josh Joost, Deputy Inspector Patrick Esser, Jail Administrator Angela Wollenhaupt, and Financial Analyst Catherine Kienast.

Approve Minutes of September 17, 2021

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by LaFontain to approve the minutes of September 17. Motion carried 7-0.

Next Meeting Date

- October 15, 2021

Executive Committee Report of September 20, 2021

Wolff said at the September 20 meeting, they reviewed the 2022-2026 Capital Projects Plan including two proposed amendments and approved an ordinance.

Future Agenda Items

- Johnson would like to see a presentation on risk in bail setting.
- LaFontain would like a presentation on treatment court outcomes.
- Wolff would like a discussion regarding Medical Examiner workload and future labor shortages.
- LaFontain would like a presentation on Sheriff's Department staffing difficulties.

2022 District Attorney's Office Operating budget

Opper and staff discussed the proposed 2022 operating budget for the District Attorney's Office as outlined in the budget book including the financial summaries, major departmental strategic plan objectives, program highlights, and activities. Revenues total \$1,715,713 – an increase of \$580,945 or 51.2% from the 2021 budget. The County tax levy totals \$2,084,337 – an increase of \$53,000 or 2.6%. Expenditures total \$3,800,050 – an increase of \$633,945 or 20.0%. The number of full-time equivalent positions increased 7.00 for a total of 40.50. No major concerns were voiced.

LaFontain had questions regarding the target numbers listed under the strategic plan objectives. He also mentioned that he found the description of the treatment court outcomes confusing and asked that they be changed for the final budget and going forward. Opper indicated that she would look at these items.

Crowley asked about the status of the business court. Judge Dorow indicated that the business court continues to operate successfully.

Johnson asked questions about the supplemental ARPA funding allocated for the backlog in the court system.

MOTION: Nelson moved, second by Howard to approve the 2022 operating budget for the District Attorney's Office. Motion carried 7-0.

2022 Clerk of Courts Operating Budget

Paz, Dorow, and staff discussed the proposed 2022 operating budget for Circuit Court Services as outlined in the budget book including the financial summaries, major departmental strategic plan objectives, program highlights, and activities. Revenues total \$4,903,859 – an increase of \$590,799 or 13.7% from the 2021 budget. The County tax levy totals \$5,687,813 – an increase of \$100,000 or 1.8%. Expenditures total \$10,591,672 – an increase of \$690,799 or 7.0%. The number of full-time equivalent positions increased 3.37 for a total of 87.71. No major concerns were voiced.

Nelson asked about the use of video conferencing. Judge Dorow explained that Waukesha County is the only county in the state that is not able to provide video conferencing from the county jail facility. This has become a criticism from other jurisdictions.

Crowley asked about the status of the business court. Judge Dorow indicated that the business court continues to operate successfully.

Johnson asked questions about the supplemental ARPA funding allocated for the backlog in the court system.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by LaFontain to approve the 2022 operating budget for the Clerk of Courts. Motion carried 7-0.

2022 Medical Examiner's Office Operating Budget

Biedrzycki and staff discussed the proposed 2022 operating budget for the Medical Examiner's Office as outlined in the budget book including the financial summaries, major departmental strategic plan objectives, program highlights, and activities. Both revenues and expenditures total \$2,289,019 – an increase of \$130,000 or 6.0% from the 2021 budget. The County tax levy totals \$1,188,955 – an increase of \$59,000 or 5.2%. The number of full-time equivalent positions increased 0.47 for a total of 15.68. No major concerns were voiced.

Nelson asked a question regarding the prevalence of fentanyl in medical examiner cases. Dr. Biedrzycki indicated that this is very common.

Johnson asked about tissue recovery. Dr. Biedrzycki indicated that Waukesha County, like most other counties, follows a standard process for recovery.

Johnson asked what scenarios are required to have a body exhumed for examination. Dr. Biedrzycki explains that there is a high burden to meet before a body is exhumed. Johnson asked how the cost is covered. Dr. Biedrzycki explained that the cost would be incurred by the county, split between the Medical Examiner and law enforcement.

MOTION: Crowley moved, second by Howard to approve the 2022 operating budget for the Medical Examiner's Office. Motion carried 7-0.

2022 Emergency Preparedness Operating Budget

Bell and staff discussed the proposed 2022 operating budget for Emergency Preparedness Department as outlined in the budget book including the financial summaries, major departmental strategic plan objectives, program highlights, and activities. Revenues total \$3,099,127 – an increase of \$189,664 or 6.5% from the 2021 budget. The County tax levy totals \$6,732,294 – an increase of \$215,000 or 3.3%. Expenditures total \$9,530,450 – an increase of \$406,312 or 4.5%. The number of full-time equivalent positions increased 1.96 for a total of 70.21. No major concerns were voiced.

Johnson asked about the challenges with retention. Bell indicated that the pandemic made it difficult to hire as they normally do. They continue to gather information through exit interviews and through conversations with dispatchers that choose to stay with the county.

Johnson asked about the redundancy of the radio system. Petterson indicated that the system has built-in redundancy throughout.

MOTION: Nelson moved, second by Crowley to approve the 2022 operating budget for the Emergency Preparedness -Department. Motion carried 7-0

2022 Sheriff's Department Operating Budget

Severson and staff discussed the proposed 2022 operating budget for Sheriff's Department as outlined in the budget book including the financial summaries, major departmental strategic plan objectives, program highlights, and activities. Both revenues and expenditures total \$45,439,207 – an increase of \$1,448,313 or 3.3% from the 2021 budget. The County tax levy totals \$30,956,481 – an increase of \$825,000 or 2.7%. The number of full-time equivalent positions increased 3.30 for a total of 378.57. No major concerns were voiced.

Johnson asked what type of license plates are put on cars confiscated by the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff indicated that their vehicles are registered as any normal car would be.

LaFontain asked why the Sheriff's Department has not hired more deputies and corrections officers to help cut back on overtime costs. Joost explained that there are issues with getting to full employment of current budgeted positions. Wolff added that this is a re-occurring topic and there are nuances and practical reason why the Sheriff's Department cannot simply add positions.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Johnson to approve the 2022 operating budget for the Sheriff's Department. Motion carried 7-0

Legislative Update

Ignatowski gave an update on current issues at the State Capital.

MOTION: Johnson moved, second by Crowley to adjourn at 11:36 am. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Crowley

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Secretary