

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JUNE 2015 SESSION**

FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET HEARINGS WITH COMMISSIONERS

Sixth Day

Wednesday, June 24, 2014

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:30 a.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg, Vice-Chairman Angenie McCleary, Commissioner Lawrence Schoen; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Chief Deputy Clerk Leslie Londos; Chief Deputy Assessor Martha Heuston; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Chairman Greenberg called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET HEARINGS WITH COMMISSIONERS

- **Indigent** - Blaine County Indigent Services Manager Brooke Baird
FY2016 Budget Request: \$389,911.

Indigent Outcomes are similar to last year and staff expects them to stay the same. There were 75 indigent cases last year, and 44 cases to date this year. Applications go from the hospital to the State to determine if the patient qualifies for Medicaid or other assistance, then come to the County as a last resort. The majority of applications are for emergencies. All indigent benefits result in a lien against the patient. The Indigent budget has stayed fairly flat; and most of each year's budget is actually used.

- **Prosecuting Attorney** - Blaine County Prosecutor Jim Thomas
FY2016 Budget Request: \$881,901.

Prosecuting Attorney staff is aware that the national justice system is in crisis, and is doing its part to improve confidence and trust at the local level by addressing recidivism, veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and substance abuse. Both defendants and victims feel victimized. County personnel and financial resources are stressed, particularly by the current murder case and potential future Sarah Johnson case concerns.

The County needs to find and contract with a local designated examiner.

Thomas requested a 5% increase for himself. The Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney is due for a step increase that will put him at the same rate as the elected official.

- **Information Technology (IT)** - Blaine County IT Manager Clay Landon
FY2016 Budget Request: \$507,176.

Also present: Information Technology Analyst Spencer Gorringer.

The IT department's outcomes are to keep hardware and software up to date and provide support to all County departments.

BREAK

- **Sheriff** - Blaine County Sheriff Gene Ramsey
Sheriff FY2016 Budget Request: \$2,587,184.
Jail FY2016 Budget Request: \$2,598,434.

Also present: Blaine County Chief Deputy Sheriff Steve Harkins; Sheriff's Captain Curtis Miller; County Jail Administrator Captain Jay Davis; Ketchum Police Chief Dave Kassner; Command Staff Assistant Holly Carter; Blaine County Disaster Services Coordinator Chuck Turner; and County Operations Administrative Assistant Andrea Walton.

Sheriff Ramsey thanked the BCC for allowing him to review his budget and present a reduced request. The Sheriff's Department's purpose is to help people and keep them safe. Jail revenue is higher than projected. Staff proposed the following expenditures:

- Deputy Harkins said the Sheriff was responsible for Blaine County's 26,000+ square miles; and average patrol is 40,000 miles per year per vehicle. The department is behind on its scheduled fleet rotation, and needs to begin to catch up. Harkins requested \$136,000 for four new vehicles. Equipping the vehicles will cost \$8,000-\$10,000 each, depending on the equipment and what can be reused.
- The Department is requesting a pay grade adjustment to train a Records Deputy to manage the evidence room.
- Jail Administrator Davis said radio communication needs updating. The department purchased seven 700 MHz radios with grant funds, and recommends adding maintenance fees for the seven radios at \$240 each, totaling \$1,680.
- Captain Miller asked the BCC to consider purchasing tasers at a total cost of \$20,000. Ketchum Police Chief Kassner said Ketchum had deployed tasers, and found they were a considerable deterrent to violent encounters.

Ketchum Police Chief Dave Kassner said the City of Ketchum is very pleased with its relationship with the County Sheriff's office. Ketchum Police Officers focus on community-oriented policing, with some

officers walking or biking 8-10 miles each day. The Department budgeted carefully and was able to purchase a new vehicle and in-car camera system.

The Blaine County jail accepts inmates from other counties that are unable to house them, which provides useful revenue to Blaine County. Blaine County Jail meets every standard, and inmates are content and feel safe. The Jail has used trust funds to purchase a server upgrade, medical equipment, safety equipment and cell extraction gear to protect jail deputies and inmates in the event of violent encounters.

Sheriff Ramsey said he had to make tough short-term budget decisions, and ended up prioritizing valued employees over inmate programs. He also committed to cutting two full-time employees.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 3:46 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
JoLynn Drage County Clerk Jacob Greenberg Chairman