**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Friday, June 7, 2019

**PRESENT:** M. Walters, M. Parkinson, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman, G. Glasper

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS:** J. Wiesahan, Judge Napp, D. Burch, M. Von Nida, J. Rekowski, C. Cooper, J. Connor, C. Cohan, T. Picchioldi, C. Uhe

Minutes from the regular and special May meetings were approved by all members present.

**PURCHASE REQUEST:**

The following purchase request was presented:

1. SHERIFF/JAIL: Forty-Eight (48) Suicide Preventive Mattresses. **The cost is $5,131.20.**

Ms. Glasper moved, seconded by Ms. Dutton, to approve the purchase request as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: M. Walters, M. Parkinson, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman, G. Glasper NAYS: NONE.

Mr. Parkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Chapman, to approve the bills for the month of June. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: M. Walters, M. Parkinson, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, J. Goggin, P. Chapman, G. Glasper NAYS: NONE.

**DETENTION HOME:**

On behalf of J. Volkmar, C. Cooper presented the monthly report for the Detention Home.

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| --- | --- |
| Highest Daily Population | 30 |
| Average Per Day | 26 |
| Average Females | 6 |
| Average Out of County | 9 |

**PROBATION:**

J. Wiesahan reported there are 3,647 people under supervision; 3,450 adults, 197 juveniles. She also mentioned 2 officers have recently retired so they will be replaced the near future.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:**

J. Rekowski spoke about an issue in his office pertaining to one of his assistants. He said he had an assistant that provided false information thus resulting in not being a licensed attorney. This individual practiced for 7 months and participated in 80 cases; the largest case having been sentenced for 8 years in prison. Mr. Rekowski explained that clients in the cases that were finalized have been sent certified letters and will be meeting at 9am on the 12th to discuss moving forward; the client will have the option to reaffirm previous plea deals or can start over. The former assistant was charged with forgery, impersonating an attorney and theft over $10,000. Since her firing, all property and files have been retrieved.

J. Rekowski discussed an update on the office space acquired from the Auditor. He said when the building was built, it was not an office area so fire safety standards are not existing (i.e. sprinklers) which will have to be addressed before becoming a usable work area.

Ms. Dutton inquired if the matter pertaining to the Public Defenders former Assistant will cost the County money and also what the hiring policies are. Mr. Rekowski said this should be at zero cost to the County except for the time spent on the case; time is money. Mr. Rekowski voiced how infrequently Bar Cards are shown or asked for. He requested Certificates of Good Standing from the ARDC and placed them in everybody’s file. Mr. Rekowski said that Mr. Gibbons will also be checking the roles for everybody in his office as well. Please refer to the audio for Mr. Rekowski’s full statement.

**CIRCUIT CLERK:**

M. Von Nida reported that the legislature passed 3 bills that will amend the Criminal Traffic Assessments and 1 bill that will amend the Code of Civil Procedure. He said that D. Burch has been working with the supervisors on implementing changes which won’t be noticed until after July. Mr. Von Nida said a training was held with Judges on the different variations on discretion of charging fees. Ms. Burch reported they are looking into purchasing a Gavel Software which will calculate court costs per a new law that requires a Financial Sentencing Order; the annual cost is around $12,000 which will be paid out of Office Automation.

Mr. Parkinson asked Mr. Von Nida and Ms. Burch to look into issuing DUI tickets on a felony case. He said the tickets are currently being hand written because if they are put into the system (DigiTicket), the defendant could possibly plea to the traffic charges which will drop the DUI/Felony. Mr. Parkinson inquired if there is a way to separate or flag the tickets in the system to eliminate the option to plea. C. Uhe briefly discussed how DUI’s are processed. Please refer to the audio for the full discussion.

**CIRCUIT COURT:**

Judge Napp announced that Chief Judge Mudge has taken over the Chief Judge position. She also mentioned a meeting has been scheduled with the Circuit Clerk’s Office to get the fees and fines all coordinated by July 1.

**SHERIFF:**

Major Connor provided the Committee with jail numbers and briefly spoke about the purchase request for the Sheriff’s Office. He said the mattresses will be used for the inmates that are being housed in Alton.

**STATES ATTORNEY:**

C. Uhe reported they had 2 murder sentencing hearings last week along with another today. She said this would leave 2 individuals awaiting sentencing and are now under a dozen individuals that have been there over a year. Ms. Uhe said they are fully staffed and have trials scheduled all summer. Ms. Uhe said they have been working with the Public Defender on redisposing those cases that were handled by Mr. Rekowski’s former assistant and have the intention of offering the same deal they already pled too.

M. Parkinson spoke about a recent case that involved an individual from Madison, IL.

**CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:**

C. Cohan provided the Committee with documents reflecting budgetary breakdowns and amounts collected from fees and fines. Discussion was held on how the new fees and fines will affect the Child Advocacy Center.

M. Parkinson inquired if the money is not reinstated to the CAC budget, if cuts to services and staff would be a result. Ms. Cohan confirmed it would be.

P. Chapman inquired how such a significant increase in grant money happened. Ms. Cohan said this is due to the VOCA Grant and prior to 2017 the Center was not receiving this grant. Ms. Cohan said our CAC see’s the third most number of children in the state of Illinois which well justified the funding need.

P. Chapman inquired how losing $2 from the fees and fines will affect the CAC. Ms. Cohan said there will be a significant decrease based on the incoming fees starting in July. She explained that the numbers provided are annualized numbers.

Several members of the committee reiterated the importance of funding the CAC.

The golf tournament sponsored by 1st MidAmerican Credit Union is on September 13th. Please refer to the audio for the full discussion.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

P. Chapman spoke briefly about repairs to the Detention Center’s HVAC system. Mr. Chapman said he believes Facilities should act expeditiously to continue those repairs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was discussion on moving the July meeting to not interfere with the holiday.

Mr. Parkinson moved, seconded by Ms. Dutton to reschedule the July Judiciary Committee meeting to July 12, 2019 at 3pm. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Ms. Glasper to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

/mds