

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023**

AGENDA

4:30 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Chairman Parsons.

2. Roll Call

Blake Parsons, Tim Worner, John Krug, Randy Barth (arrived at 4:39) and alternate Jerry Smith are present. Nick Miller is excused.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of February 15, 2023 minutes

Motion to approve February 2023 minutes made by Krug, seconded by Worner. *Motion passed.*

4. Public Input

None

5. Approval of Claims

a. Approval of March 2023 Claims

Motion to approve March claims made by Krug, seconded by Smith. It was explained that there are individual claim sheets for each claim in the County Clerk's office that can be pulled if anyone has a question regarding a claim. *Motion passed.*

6. Coroner

None

7. Probation

a. Squad Car Purchase

Mr. Noar is requesting a Resolution to purchase a vehicle. He has budgeted \$40,000 for this vehicle. He would like to have it paid in vacation, so once he finds the vehicle to purchase, we can cut the check right away and he can purchase it. Motion to approve the purchase of a vehicle not to exceed \$40,000 and to be paid in vacation made by Worner, seconded by Krug. *Motion passed.*

b. Automation Update

This project is from last year. The local agencies are being linked to the state in Springfield for data collection. We applied for a grant and have received it. However, the grant is a reimbursement grant – we have to pay for the equipment but will then be reimbursed for it. Mr. Noar just wanted to give the committee a heads up that in the next month or so they will see a bill come through for \$12,000.

8. Health Department

None

9. Sheriff

a. Approval of Fire Alarm Project Bid

This is an ARPA funded project. This will be for Annex 1 & 2, Annex 4, and EMA. There were 3 bids received. Each bid was broken down into the cost for each annex.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023
MINUTES
4:30 PM**

Sheriff Smith recommends going with Seico Inc. for \$45,716.00. Motion made to approve Seico bid of \$45,716 for the fire alarm system made by Worner, seconded by Krug. *Motion passed.*

b. Approval of Body Scanner (Jail) Project bid

This is an ARPA funded project. There are several parts to this project. This project has come in under what was appropriated for it. Motion to approve the Tek 84 quote for the body scanner, BP Electric for the electrical work, and Schindler for the building modifications made by Smith, seconded by Worner. Sheriff Smith explained that a suspect would be brought into the sally port, put the device on, and the device would project an image that would show if suspect has ingested anything. It was asked if it only detected metal, and the answer was no. It will detect anything. Sheriff Smith already has a policy in place for the device. *Motion passed.*

c. Approval of Courthouse / Restroom Remodel Project quote

This is an ARPA funded project. We have received two quotes, and both are under what was budgeted for. Motion to approve Wright Way for \$10,512.00 made by Barth, seconded by Smith. The men's restroom was made ADA compliant with the RLF. We will now bring the woman's bathroom on the first floor of the Courthouse ADA compatible. The ceiling tiles will also be replaced as they are dingy yellow. *Motion passed.*

d. Courthouse Technology Modernization Grant Project Information

Sheriff Smith applied for a grant and received it for \$77,400.00. This will add wireless access throughout the Courthouse. This is a 100% reimbursable grant. The grant has a timeline of when funds can be used, so we will be starting this project right away and will be done by the end of June. Heart will help with the installation.

e. CH & PSB HVAC Project Update

This project is moving forward. The vendors have been in and have completed a lot of the work. They are putting in new controls this week. The roof top units will be here in August for the Courthouse project.

f. Sheriff App Project Update

The Sheriff provided pictures of what the app would look like on a phone. He hopes to have the project completed by the end of the month.

g. Sheriff BWC Project Update

The body worn cameras have been issued to the deputies and they have all been trained on them. They are having a download issue with the speed of the download. The download is very slow no matter if the device is in the dock or downloading by wi-fi. They are not sure if it is an Axion issue or an issue with our system. This is being looked into.

h. Approval of Sheriff Used Replacement Vehicle Purchase Jail Transport

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023**

MINUTES

4:30 PM

They took the old jail transport vehicle out of service and auctioned it off. This vehicle is used strictly for the jail – won't have the abuse of a road car. The Sheriff is looking at a used van that already has the cages in it and fully equipped for \$20,000. The van he has found has between \$5,000-8,000 worth of equipment in it. We would just need to install StarCom. Motion to approve purchase of jail van for \$20,000 and to be paid in vacation made by Worner, seconded by Krug. *Motion passed.*

i. Radio Tower Lease termination Sheriff UHF Information

The Spring Bay tower was used with the old radio system. We have kept the old radio system running as back-up, but StarCom is up and running and there are no issues, so we don't really need the back-up or use this tower. This tower has been sold several times and was recently sold again. The lease on the tower was going to go up significantly, so they opted to not renew the lease. We will be removing our equipment from the tower.

j. Approval of Front Office Position Clerical FTE

Sheriff Smith was asked to break down the expense of having the part-time office help move to full-time. He provided information on what was budgeted, what will actually be paid since the AFSCME contract was ratified and what they would be paid if they moved from part-time to full-time. The current person who is working part-time would be interested in the full-time position. She is not interested in taking part in the county's health insurance. Motion to approve the full time position made by Smith, seconded by Worner. One committee member felt that this should come through the budget process and not now. There is a cost of health insurance for the next person taking the job. A vote was taken – 1 yes, 2 no's, and 1 present. *The motion failed.*

k. Sheriff MDC Project Update

We are just waiting on the equipment to come in.

l. EMA – Cyber Security Training

Texas A&M is offering a cyber security training on June 13th. There is no cost, but you must register through the student portal at Texas A&M.

m. Sheriff Report

Sheriff's Office information for February 2023

Below is a partial list of calls for service for February

Assist other Agency	22	Noise Complaint	8
Business Checks	410	Open Door	5
Burglar Alarm	20	Paper Service	188
Criminal Damage	2	Reckless Driver	23
Check Wellbeing	24	Road Hazard	13
Dispute	5	Suspicious Activity	6

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023
MINUTES
4:30 PM**

Domestic Disturbance	22	Suspicious Person	1
Flag down	2	Suspicious Vehicle	35
Follow up	55	Thefts	13
Fraud	10	Threats	8
Keys Locked in Vehicle	15	Trespass	1
Motorist Assist	59	Traffic Stop	740
Motor Vehicle Accident	31*	Unknown Problem	4
Vacation Checks	59	Extra Patrol	192

Feb. Total Calls 2598

(Jan. Calls Total 2469)

*All Types
**Includes OP

Total Calls for Service as of the end of February 2023: 5067

Total Calls for Service as of the end of February 2022: 2455

Below is information for the Corrections Facility February 2023

February 2023 Average Daily Population: 81

February 2022 Average Daily Population: 77

Bookings February 2023:

Male: 67 Female: 20 Total: 87 Year To Date Total: 186

Bookings February 2022:

Male: 44 Female: 14 Total: 58

Prisoner transports completed February 2023: 10

IT Report

	2022		2023
January	53		49
February	49		37
March	52		
April	41		
May	54		
June	50		
July	28		
August	50		
September	60		
October	66		
November	50		

Total Service Tickets 2021 – 599

Total Service Tickets 2022 – 582

Total Service Tickets YTD 2023 - 91

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023
MINUTES
4:30 PM**

December	41		
-----------------	-----------	--	--

Year End	582		
-----------------	------------	--	--

Open tickets as of March 7, 2023 - 25

10. Animal Control

- a. Discussion and Action on Changes to Animal Control Ordinances (Section 13 Running at Large/off Leash and Section 11 Violations and Citations)

They have been working on some animal control changes – upping the fees, and adding a couple other violations that citations can be written for. The proposed fees would double in costs – going from \$50 to \$100 for a first offense, \$100 to \$200 for a second offense, and \$200 to \$400 for subsequent offenses. The Assistant State’s Attorney Mr. Gibson pointed out several areas of concern. We have been a county that has gone from doing nothing with Animal Control to a county that is going full force. We have always operated under the principal that we wanted to get people in compliance and are now switching to penalizing those that are not in compliance. We need to clarify the court process versus the citation process. If we start raising fees so dramatically, it become extremely costly. Mr. Gibson is all for compliance but has a hard time fining someone \$800 because their dog got out. Another change request was to take the dog if it had a third offense. We cannot take people’s dog because they do not comply with the rules. Due process applies and the only time we can take a person’s dog is if it is vicious and is a public threat. In Section 11 the new verbiage states that if you do not turn your dog over to the Animal Control Administrator, the case will be turned over the State’s Attorney which will file a complaint with the Circuit Court. You cannot command a State’s Attorney to file a charge. The discretion of filing charges lies solely with the State’s Attorney. It can be referred to the SA for the possibility of filing charges but cannot be required. Another concern was in Section 21 for a dog barking and becoming a public nuisance. It is hard to prove these cases. One dog starts barking and the others in the neighborhood soon join in. There was concern about the public nuisance verbiage. Some people may use the public nuisance as a way to punish a neighbor that they have a dispute with. Mr. Gibson would also recommend that instead of listing penalties in each section, have a penalty section that lists it all. Mr. Abney has requested that it be made so that he is the only person who can dismiss a citation. He is an outside contractor, and they are Woodford County Citations, therefore he does not have the authority to dismiss them.

The Treasurer’s office had Mr. Abney write citations for dogs that they have received notification from a vet more than 30 days ago and that the animal was vaccinated, but they have not registered the dog. There were about 246 violations, and each one registers their dog, it will bring in over \$12,000 in revenue. The Treasurer realized that she is the

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023
MINUTES
4:30 PM**

one who is going to have to deal with the disgruntled citizen when the fee jumps from \$50 to \$100, and doesn't have the time to handle all the complaints. It was discussed adding a qualifier to the increase. Leave the initial fine at \$50, but adding subsequent offenses would be at a higher amount. Also adding a time limit on those offenses so that a dog owner who has a 1st offense, and then 15 years down the road has another offense does not pay the higher amount. It was also brought up that Mr. Abney has forgiven some offenses, and then people have complained that their neighbor did not have to pay the fine, why should they have to? It should not be up to Animal Control Administrator to forgive any fine.

Mr. Gibson will go over the changes presented and work on making those changes the committee wants. The Committee feels the initial fine should stay at \$50, and then increase additional offenses. Mr. Gibson will bring those changes back next month.

11. New Business

None

12. Unfinished Business

a. Continued discussion in IT Department FTE Position and How to Proceed Sheriff Smith was contacted by another company who heard we were looking for an in-house IT person. Sheriff Smith feels that we need someone here on a daily basis and someone who is looking out for the County. Right now, Heart says we need to do this or that, and all we have is Heart's word that it needs to be done. We need to figure out what we need and for what value. A Tech I would be roughly \$40-50,000.00. A Tech III would roughly be \$80-100,000.00 It was asked if there was anyone in the county who could tell us what we need, and the answer was no. Last month Mr. Martin gave a presentation on his company and how they could help us. While he brought up some very good points, this would still not be someone looking out for Woodford County. Neither Heart nor Martin would have someone here every day. The committee feels that we need someone who will protect our interest and that it be a Tech III. We still need to do some research and see what all needs to be covered. This will be an ongoing discussion.

b. Discussion and action on Cost Study for Sheriff's Dept. and Animal Control with Bellwether

The Sheriff's Department has not had a fee study done since the early 2000's. The committee is open to doing the Sheriff's fee study now and waiting on the Animal Control fee study. Doing an Animal Control fee study will help us in determining the financial end of having our own facility. Motion to approve the fee study for the Sheriff's Department and holding off on the Animal Control fee study made by Worner, seconded by Krug. *Motion passed.*

13. Other

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
COUNTY BOARDROOM
MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023
MINUTES
4:30 PM**

It was asked if we could have small bottles of water in the Boardroom for presenters. As people speak, their mouths get dry. It was brought up having a water fountain. That expense would be too great and people would have to walk in and out of their presentation to get a drink. We could get a palette of water rather cheap.

14. Executive Session – Roll Call Vote

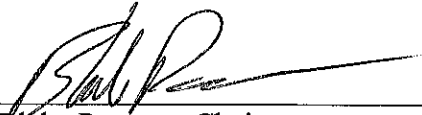
15. Any action coming out of Executive Session

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Barth, seconded by Worner. *Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Submitted by: Deb Breyman



Blake Parsons, Chairman
Public Safety.