

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, October 19th, 2020, AM

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Aaron Culp, Undersheriff
Cari Hall, Auditor
Pam Johnson, Treasurer's Office
Lisa Shrekengast, Financial Manager

(Time stamps refer to a recording of the Zoom meeting, available on the County Watch website.)

Summary: Sheriff's Office Budget report (led by AH). 34:49 - About 26 vehicles to be resold in auction. 1:44:02 - Operating fee for sophisticated new license plate readers. 1:56:00 - Discussion on Refinancing (or paying off?) loan for purchase of 7 new vehicles. 2:06:00 - Investigation budget increase honed down in consideration of lower jail population. 2:12:50 - New radios for patrol cars. 2:27:00 New dispatch position. 2:48:00 - For now \$169,000 budget shortfall projected.

34:49 **Proceeds from about 26 vehicles** from the Sheriff's Office and a few from other departments will be re-sold in an auction to generate revenue estimated at \$60,000.

1:14:00 Money reserved for **tasers** (\$6,000) in last year's budget was spent on other equipment. This year's budget allows for the tasers as well as an anti-troll application for computer equipment.

1:44:02 **License plate readers** bought with a federal grant require a semi-annual operational fee of \$6,000. They can recognize a stolen car, send an alert, locate the car, send an exact image of the vehicle.

1:55:00 AC says they will change to smaller **power inverters for laptops** (to 110v) because the ones they have are too strong and overheat the laptops.

1:56:00 **Seven new vehicles** are being purchased for a total cost of \$515,000. A first loan payment at 3% interest is due next June. PJ raised the possibility of paying it out of the 700,000 reserve fund instead since the lending interest is more than what the reserve fund's interest earns. AH would prefer leaving the reserve fund in place and re-negotiating a 3-year loan for the total sum at a renegotiated rate of 3.25% .

56:00 &
2:06:00 **A 60% increase in the budget for Investigation**, mostly intended for wages, says AH, should be reduced because it is not necessary at this time to fill the vacant Jail Deputy position. The decrease in numbers due to the pandemic era policy of not holding prisoners for lesser crimes is compensated by an increase in rates, resulting in a budget surplus.

2:12:50 **The Communications Department** has asked for \$20,000 to replace mobile and radios each time a patrol car is replaced. 2:27:22 A new Dispatch position will be added at a cost of 70,000 in salary and benefits. The employee will: be charged with insuring adherence to process and procedure; be available during busiest times of day. Tax revenue is down from 80,720 to 57,00 due to a decrease in land lines (although in recent months a slight increase of \$1,000, possibly due to Covid.

2:48:00 **Repairs and maintenance:** a \$27,0000 increase, including \$15,000, owed for a 5-year 901 phone system hardware purchase to be paid off next June.

2:48:00 **Revenue** generated by a new Communications Sales Tax has been eaten up, says AH, by \$50,000 for postage in this election-year's budget, and by software upgrades. He calculates a shortfall of 169,000 in this year's budget so far. "We'll have to see where we're at." A consensus decides to reconvene after the elections and review these remaining budget items: Sheriff's Special Projects, Therapeutic Drugs . Road Safety, Drug Control Fund.

3:19:00 **A motion** is voted on and approved to spend \$291,132 **on body cameras**, with CARES Act funds.

3:20:00 Meeting adjourned.