

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
October 4, 2017

The Board will begin conducting reviews regarding preliminary 2018 budget requests. The following departments are scheduled to discuss their requests as follows:

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 Roxie Devers, Roundhouse Project Coordinator – Roundhouse Restoration Budget and Transportation Enhancement Grant Budget

9:30 Jim Covington – County Treasurer’s Budget

9:45 Jeremiah Higgins – County Assessor’s Budget

10:00 Rich Johnson – Office of Emergency Management Budget

10:30 Trey James – Land Use Budget

11:00 Travis Taylor – Extension Office Budget

1:00 Rick Ashcraft, Chris Monks and Bruce Walters – Road and Bridge Budgets

1:45 Tom Nestor – Sheriff’s Operations, Jail and Victim Assistance Budgets

2:30 Pat Phillips – Department of Human Services Budget

3:15 Corinne Lengel – County Clerk and Recorder and Elections Budgets

Other budget requests that will be reviewed during the day as time allows include the following:

Commissioners

Administrator

E911 Fund

Weed Control

Administrative

Maintenance of Buildings/Plant

Health Inspector

(Fairgrounds)**

Veterans Office

(Library Fund)**

Contingent Fund

Conservation Trust Fund

(Landfill Fund)**

(Lodging Tax/Tourism Fund)**

East Central Council of Local Governments

Fire Control

Ambulance Service

Emergency Medical Service

E.M.S. Subsidy

Developmentally Disabled

Community Development Block Grant

(Public Health)**

**Pending further submission of requests to budget officer

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on October 4, 2017, for the annual budget hearings. The following attended: Chairman Doug Stone, Commissioners Ed Schifferns and Steve Burgess, County Administrator Gary Ensign, Administrative Assistant Jacob Piper, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel.

Chairman Stone called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roundhouse Project Coordinator Roxie Devers met with the Board at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the Roundhouse Restoration and Transportation Enhancement Grant budgets. Also attending the discussion were Chris Fox and Dan Merewether. Ms. Devers provided copies of the Interior Design Concepts and Master Plan from Roundhouse Preservation, Inc., as well as funding provisions and a work cost estimate. The Local Agency has estimated the total cost of the work to be \$343,750, which would be funded 80% through federal funds and 20% with local agency matching funds. The 20% match would be \$68,750. Previously, RPI was allowed to pay the 20% match, but CDOT will not allow that same practice with the new grant. Ms. Devers asked the State Historical Fund if RPI could write the check to the county as she would be able to track everything through paperwork, but they told her she needed to work with CDOT. RPI did get a \$200,000 grant from the State Historical Fund, but her preference would be to use the CDOT funds first, since she is worried that the state is moving away from historical funding. RPI went to the Lincoln County Tourism Board to request funding, but they suggested meeting with the county commissioners. Ms. Devers said she was hesitant to do that because county contributions are taxpayer dollars. On the other hand, it doesn't look good when requesting grant funding if the entity that owns the building will not contribute to the project. It will take approximately \$342,000 to finish the doors, windows above the doors, and the interior screens, but work won't begin until sometime next spring. Ms. Devers asked the commissioners to include the 20% match of \$68,750 in the 2018 budget, stating that the county will not get that money back. However, it may not all be used either. The next phase of the project will be to hire someone to guide them through the process of starting work on the interior. If the Board didn't feel like the county could make the entire contribution, Ms. Devers said RPI would take what they could get.

Mr. Burgess asked if she'd heard anymore regarding the painting that needs to be done. The foreman from Spectrum was supposed to come out and look at it, but Ms. Devers said she'd never heard from him. She added that it would probably be cheaper to have a contractor submit a combined separate bid, as the State Historical Fund does not pay for maintenance.

Mr. Schifferns wanted to know how much it would cost to complete the interior. Ms. Devers said that when the plan was done back in 2012, the estimate then was \$1.4 million, so of course it would be higher now. To date, there has been roughly \$2 million put into the project. Mr. Schifferns was concerned with how the building would be heated and cooled once it is complete. Chris Fox spoke up to say that floor heating was being considered in order to preserve the beauty of the roof and ceiling. Mr. Schifferns was also worried about creosote, but Ms. Devers said that if it causes a problem, they can always use something else. When asked where future funding would come from, Ms. Devers said they could try another El Pomar

grant and that Coors and Budweiser also offer funding for historical projects. The majority of it will come from the State Historical Fund. She added that funding is never guaranteed and people are upset with the slow process, which is beyond their control.

Dan Merewether spoke on behalf of the Tourism Board, stating that the board's bylaws dictate that they cannot invest in capital improvement projects or pay capital improvement costs. They can contribute in other ways, however. He felt it is incumbent on the tourism board to help the roundhouse become a useful venue, which will also hopefully create a tourism draw.

At 9:30 a.m., County Treasurer Jim Covington and County Assessor Jeremiah Higgins met with the Board to present their respective budgets. Mr. Covington said that his budget increased approximately \$14,000 overall, mainly due to salary increases and capital outlay items. He would like to promote one of his employees in order for her to begin learning the Public Trustee functions of his office. He explained that the Public Trustee's budget is fee-based, so nothing is paid for from the Treasurer's budget. Mr. Higgins said that the \$11,000 increase in his budget is also mainly due to employee step and cost of living raises.

At 10:00 a.m., Richard Johnson presented the Office of Emergency Management budget. He did not know what to include as a salary since he had never presented a budget for the department, so Mr. Ensign helped him figure it.

The Office of the Board and Administrator budget requests were reviewed between appointments.

At 10:30 a.m., Land Use Administrator Trey James met with the Board to present the 2018 budget for his department, which increased approximately \$5,000 from the 2017 budget.

Other budgets reviewed were Weed Control, Administrative, Grounds and Buildings, Health Inspector, Veterans Service Officer, Contingent Fund (which is required under TABOR), and Conservation Trust Fund.

Travis Taylor met with the Board at 11:00 a.m. to present the budget request for the Extension office. Again, the increase of approximately \$4,000 was due to salaries.

The Board also reviewed the ECCOG, Fire, Ambulance, EMS, EMS Subsidy, Developmentally Disabled, CDBG, and Coroner budget requests. Due to an increase in the Support Staff line item, the Coroner's budget would go up \$950 from 2017.

At 11:20 a.m., Corinne Lengel presented the County Clerk-Operations and Elections budget requests for 2018. Since the digitizing project is complete for all practical purposes, Ms. Lengel stated she had reduced the Clerk budget by nearly \$60,000. She did include some funding in the line item in case any outstanding bills are received after the first of the year for the project completed in 2017, or if they find that some of the images need to be redone at some point. She also asked if the commissioners had given further consideration to digitizing county

commissioner records. Ms. Lengel asked to create an Education and Training line item in the Clerk budget, due to the fact that the Department of Revenue will implement a statewide motor vehicle system on August 6, 2018. All employees will be required to attend at least three days of training, and some will require a week. The state had suggested counties close their offices to attend regional trainings, but Ms. Lengel said she refused to do that, so would split her staff and send half one week and the others the next. DOR is supposed to reimburse for the hotels, travel, and meals, but Ms. Lengel was not confident that reimbursements would occur statewide prior to the end of 2018.

The 2018 Election budget, which will include two elections, a primary and a general, increased by approximately \$4,000 from 2016. Ms. Lengel said they had to remember to use even year elections as a comparison, since there is only one election in an odd year. The primary election will be more costly, due to the ballot issue passed in 2016 that requires ballots for all major parties be sent to unaffiliated voters. This will mean an increase in the Operating Supplies line item, which includes ballots and envelopes, as well as a possible postage increase.

At 1:00 p.m., road foremen Chris Monks, Bruce Walters, and Rick Ashcraft met with the Board to discuss the 2018 Road & Bridge budgets. Main discussion included the desire to increase the Maintenance of Oiled Roads line item, but everyone agreed that the allotted \$900,000 divided between the districts would probably have to do. Mr. Ashcraft said he is still pursuing the idea of purchasing a paver.

At 1:45 p.m., Sheriff Tom Nestor, Undersheriff Gordon Nall, and Jail Captain Michael Yowell presented the Sheriff's Operations, Jail, and Victim's Advocate budgets. Although the sheriff's budget request reflected an increase of \$120,000, the sheriff reminded the Board that the department does bring in approximately \$155,000 of supplemental income through civil process, grant funding, and the Model Traffic Code. Sheriff Nestor informed the Board that he has asked for bids from a couple of other companies concerning the medical contract. He is dissatisfied with the way Lincoln Community Hospital has been fulfilling the current contract, particularly several issues with emergency room visits, nurse/doctor coverage, and billing. The sheriff asked for an additional road deputy and another detentions deputy in the jail, as well as a promotion for a current employee who has completed his POST certification. Sheriff Nestor explained that the x-ray machine at the courthouse entryway is not working properly. To fix it would cost around \$11,000, while a new machine would be \$17,000. He will include a new machine in the Court Security Grant application, but wanted the commissioners to be aware of it in case the grant funding is not approved. Lastly, Sheriff Nestor said that Adams County is willing to sell the command vehicle that Lincoln County used during the Turnpike Troubadour concert event weekend. They are getting a new one and the Adams County Commissioners have agreed to sell this unit to Lincoln County for \$25,000. The sheriff said it was an excellent deal, especially since the vehicle only has 7,000 miles on it. They would need to purchase new radio equipment, and possibly a few other things, as Adams County has said they will take those items out.

At 2:50 p.m., Human Services Director Patricia Phillips and Sherri Hansen presented the DHS budget request for 2018. Ms. Phillips stated that, overall, the county request was no higher than the current year. Mr. Ensign explained that 2.5 mills should not be required if they are only asking for approximately \$312,000 in county funds.

After Ms. Phillips and Ms. Hansen had gone, Mr. Ensign said that the E911 Fund, Fairgrounds, Library, Landfill, Lodging/Tourism Fund and Public Health budgets would have to be done at a later date. As for the Capital Projects budget, there were several items to consider. With the new sheriff's car and the command center, roundhouse match request, fair building, courthouse parking lot/drainage project, and work on the annex building that was never done, the county is looking at almost three-quarters of a million dollars. Mr. Ensign said that he still needs information regarding liability insurance and workers' comp.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on October 6, 2017.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Doug Stone, Chairman