

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
September 19, 2018

The Board will begin conducting reviews regarding preliminary 2019 budget requests. The following departments are scheduled to discuss their requests as follows:

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 Fred Lundy – Land Use Budget

9:30 Ken Stroud – Office of Emergency Management Budget

10:00 Jim Covington – County Treasurer’s Budget

10:30 Jeremiah Higgins – County Assessor’s Budget

11:00 Jobeth Mills – Public Health Budget

11:30 Tom Nestor – Sheriff’s Operations, Jail and Victim Assistance Budgets

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

1:45 Pat Phillips – Department of Human Services Budget

2:30 Andy Lorensen – County Coroner’s Budget

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

Commissioners	EMS Subsidy
Administrator	Developmentally Disabled
County Clerk and Recorder and Elections	Community Development Block Grant
E911 Fund	Transportation Enhancement Grant
Weed Control	Hospital
Administrative	
Maintenance of Buildings/Plant	
Land Surveyor	
Health Inspector	
Fairgrounds	
Veterans Office	
Library Fund	
Contingent Fund	
Conservation Trust Fund	
Capital Projects	
Landfill Fund	
Lodging Tax/Tourism Fund	
East Central Council of Local Governments	
Fire Control	
District Attorney	
Ambulance Service	
Emergency Medical Service	

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on September 19, 2018, for the annual budget hearings. Those attending were Chairman Doug Stone, Commissioners Ed Schifferns and Steve Burgess, County Administrator Jacob Piper, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel.

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

Land Use Administrator Fred Lundy met first with the Board to present his 2019 budget request. Except for the cost-of-living adjustment recommended by the commissioners, a significant increase in the advertising, and a slight increase to his contract labor line item, Mr. Lundy said everything was the same as 2018.

After Mr. Lundy left, the Board reviewed the Office of the Board and County Administrator budgets. Again, the only increases were for cost-of-living raises. Mr. Piper did increase the commissioners' travel line item a bit and said his budget actually went down because he'd removed the assistant line item.

Mrs. Lengel presented the Clerk and Recorder and Election budgets, stating that both of her budgets had actually decreased as well, despite the cost-of-living increases for her employees and the department head increase. She reduced her digitization line item but stated that she didn't want to do away with it until her office was sure there were no problems. Her part-time summer help planned to return at Christmastime, and she hoped he would come back next summer to finish the project. As for the Election budget, the decrease was due to having only one election in 2019. However, since voters approved a Presidential Primary in 2020, the clerk's office will start work on that election even before finishing the Coordinated Election next November. There might be costs associated with the Presidential Primary that will be payable toward the end of 2019. The Secretary of State will reimburse all expenses related to the Presidential Primary, but Mrs. Lengel said it could very well be later in the year before that happens. She also increased her Education & Training line item significantly as she hopes that she and her election deputy will finish their national election certification next year.

While reviewing the E911 budget, Mr. Schifferns asked if the sheriff and emergency manager still planned to purchase radios next year. They set aside the E911 budget until Ken Stroud arrived.

As for the Weed Control budget, Mr. Piper added \$6,600 for a new 1,000-gallon nurse trailer to pull behind the weed truck. They should be able to sell the old trailer.

Mr. Piper presented the Administrative budget, stating that the health insurance increase would be 3.5%. He included expenditures for the new Tyler accounting system, and when asked about whether or not the retirement fund needed supplementing, Mr. Piper said they should receive some information from the company any time.

The Maintenance of Building/Plant budget increased due to cost-of-living adjustments, and the miscellaneous line item decreased slightly.

Mr. Piper increased the Land Surveyor budget due to a raise, and there were no changes to the Health Inspector budget.

Emergency Manager Ken Stroud arrived at 9:30 a.m. to present the budget for his department. The Board asked about the radios and whether or not he planned to purchase them in 2019. If he did, they wanted to know if he could use some of the E911 funds. Mr. Stroud said they need to have a committee meeting regarding the radios, but he did know that they will need to buy a new clock that runs off of satellite for all of the computer servers. They are out of sync, and they all need to be displaying the same time. The clock will be about \$3,000, and they will also need to buy a one-year maintenance contract. Partial funding for the radios could possibly come out of the E911 fund, but the total cost will be around a quarter of a million dollars, and Mr. Stroud said they hadn't had that discussion yet.

The Office of Emergency Management budget increased due to Mr. Stroud's cost-of-living raise, but this budget only allows for half of his salary. The other half comes from EPR in the Public Health budget. Public Health pays all of his benefits. Mr. Stroud is still looking to create an office in the sheriff's office and got a bid for the electrical installation from Leo's Electrical for \$1,450. He also talked to Wayne Nestor who might submit a proposal. There should be enough left in his 2018 budget to pay those costs. Mr. Burgess spoke to Chris Monks who told him the OEM vehicle was at the shop because it was leaking antifreeze. Mr. Stroud said he'd keep an eye on it and was waiting to see what vehicles the sheriff might get rid of if he's allowed to purchase new next year. Mr. Stroud also budgeted for a Hot Spot for internet coverage in areas where internet is limited. He explained that with the unit, they should be able to operate several laptops and cell phones when on the scene of an emergency anywhere in the county.

Mr. Stroud left, and the group discussed the Fairgrounds budget. John Palmer did not want a raise, so there was no adjustment for that, but he did increase the Entertainment/Carnival line item to include the cost of another day of the ninja event. He would also like to attend a conference and possibly take a fair board member or two, so he raised the amount in the Dues and Meetings line item. Other increases were in the Operating Expenses, Kids' Contest, and Repairs & Maintenance line items.

The only increases in the Veteran's office was for the salary and office supplies, and then the Board reviewed the Library Fund budget. Katie Zipperer had included the price of a new bookmobile in her request, but the commissioners agreed that for no more than the vehicle travels in a year, there was no justification in spending over \$250,000 for one. Mr. Burgess suggested they try and find a used one and offered to do some research. Mr. Stone commented that, sadly, people don't read books as much now that electronic devices such as Kindles have become popular.

At 10:00 a.m., County Treasurer Jim Covington and Assessor Jeremiah Higgins met with the Board to present the budgets for their respective departments. Increases to both budgets were

for department head salaries, and employee cost-of-living raises, as well as upgrades to the Tyler computer system. Mr. Higgins stated that he and Mr. Covington agreed to split those costs evenly rather than try and figure them out separately. Mr. Higgins did add more to his in case Amendment 73 should pass. If so, Tyler is required to provide programming to make the changes work, but Mr. Higgins said he might need to have someone from the company come onsite to help his staff figure it out. The passage of the amendment would split everything into two databases, so Mr. Covington commented it would mean two separate tax rolls. Mr. Higgins added that the state has some ideas on how to make the new program work, but he wanted to make sure he had enough in his budget to cover whatever the outcome is.

Mr. Covington and Mr. Higgins left, and discussion returned to the Library budget. Mr. Burgess thought they obtained grant funding the last time the county purchased a bookmobile and said they might be able to buy new decals for the old one if nothing else. Mr. Piper suggested the expense come from Capital Projects if they agreed to anything, as it would help the mill levy required for the Library budget.

The Board reviewed the Contingent Fund and Conservation Trust Fund budgets for 2019 and then discussed the Capital Projects budget. They agreed to remove \$100,000 from the budget, initially designated for the County Annex. Although the steps still need to be fixed, the cost for repairs shouldn't be that high. Mr. Burgess still thought they should buy a set of scales for the Landfill and wanted to plan \$85,000 or \$90,000 for those. Mr. Stone wasn't convinced a set of scales is necessary.

The only change to the Landfill budget was to increase the part-time hourly rate to \$12.50. Also reviewed were the Lodging/Tourism, East Central Council of Local Governments, District Attorney, and Ambulance Service budgets.

At 11:00 a.m., Public Health Director Jobeth Mills met with the Board to present her 2019 budget request. Mr. Piper commented that the fund balance is taking a huge hit due to the loss of the tobacco grant funding, the fact that Richard Johnson was not on the health insurance, and the possibility that they'd included Ken Stroud's salary twice. The Public Health budget also includes Regional EPR Coordinator Darcy Janssen's salary (even though the state fully reimburses it), so the salary line item appears quite high. Mrs. Mills recently hired an office manager so the office will now be fully staffed. Mr. Piper was concerned with the amount of mill levy it would take to cover the Public Health Fund.

Mrs. Mills asked for the chairman's signature on the Memorandum of Understanding with Kit Carson County to increase their rent to \$275, which she had discussed in a previous meeting. Mr. Stone signed the MOU.

Sheriff Tom Nestor, Undersheriff Gordon Nall, and Jail Captain Michael Yowell met with the Board at 11:30 a.m. to present the Sheriff's Operations, Jail, and Victim's Assistance budgets. Increases included the department head salary, full-time salaries, and a request for three new vehicles to replace those current vehicles with high mileage. The sheriff said that if the Board

grants his request, one of the pickups that he replaces will make an excellent vehicle for the emergency manager. He is looking into other options for the medical contract as well. Mr. Burgess said he'd heard that the sheriff removed the expenditure of new TASERS in order to include the vehicles in his budget request and asked if that would affect officer safety. Captain Yowell said they discussed it and decided they could rotate the TASERS to the officers on duty for this year and add them to the 2020 budget.

When the meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m., Road & Bridge foremen Chris Monks, Bruce Walters, and Rick Ashcraft met with the Board to discuss the 2019 Road & Bridge budget. If Proposition 110 passes in November and the county gets the projected \$1.7million, everyone agreed that the money would be divided equally among the districts. Mr. Monks felt they needed to increase the Signs line item since all three districts need to replace more signs. The group discussed equipment needs, and then Mr. Ashcraft asked if leftover funds in one line item could be used to pay off or purchase equipment. Mr. Stone and Mrs. Lengel didn't think it was allowed, but she suggested that the commissioners check with the county auditor to make sure. Mr. Schiffers said he'd included a step promotion for Chris Monks based on his longevity and years of dedicated service.

At 2:10 p.m., Human Services Director Pat Phillips and bookkeeper Sherri Hansen presented the DHS 2019 budget request. Mrs. Phillips said they were closed out on everything but County Administration, which could potentially be over by about \$75,000. They will have to use county funds for that. The 2019 mill levy request will remain at 2.00.

County Coroner Andy Lorensen met with the Board at 2:30 p.m. to discuss his budget request. He increased the professional services line item, which is mainly used to cover autopsies, and there is certainly no way to predict how many he will require during a year. Mr. Lorensen also increased his support staff line item.

Other budgets reviewed were Emergency Medical Services, E.M.S. Subsidy, Eastern Colorado Services for the Developmentally Disabled, Community Development Block Grant, Transportation Enhancement Grant, and the Hospital.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Stone adjourned the meeting until 9:00 a.m. on September 27, 2018.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Douglas D. Stone, Chairman