

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner McGaughey, Commissioner Shapland and the County Clerk present. Commissioner Stewart was absent due to illness. Ulysses News Reporter, Tammie Hensley was in attendance. Commissioner McGaughey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Ms. Hensley provided prayer.

Sarah Loewen joined the meeting, introduced herself and relayed she was the new Ulysses News Editor.

James Biddle, Sheriff, presented bids to replace air conditioning in the jail area of the Law Enforcement Center from Air Comfort Consultant and Weber Refrigeration and Heating. Kevin Shapland motioned to approve the low bid from Weber Refrigeration to replace and repair the air conditioning in the jail at a cost not to exceed \$21,000.00, and for this expense to come from ARPA funds. Mark McGaughey seconded motion, and it passed unanimously. Next, the Sheriff shared information on tag reader cameras he is wanting on the stop light at Hwy 25 and Hwy 160. The four-camera system will catch a tag and relay within seconds if the vehicle is stolen or if it is suspect in an occurrence. The County Attorney agreed to pay the installation and first year expense from the Diversion fund. After the first year, the City of Ulysses has agreed to pay half the \$5,000.00 yearly expense and the Sheriff's budget will pay the other half. It was consensus of commissioners to allow the purchase. Lastly, the 2023 Sheriff budget was submitted for review \$1,273,775.00, a 11.10% increase from 2022 budget.

Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor, presented the Kansas Department of Transportation federal fund distribution letter and requested trading all the allocation to state transportation dollars. It was the consensus of commissioners to move federal funds of \$78,231.08 to state transportation dollars at 90% rate, exchange \$70,407.97. Next, the 2023 Road Department budget was submitted for review \$2,676,425.00, an 8.36% increase from 2022 budget. Thirdly, the 2023 Noxious Weed budget was submitted for review \$226,600.00, a 9.02% increase from 2022 budget. Lastly, road equipment was discussed. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the Public Works Supervisor to seek bids for a truck.

Terri Trotman, County Treasurer, submitted the 2023 County Treasurer budget for review \$134,567.00, a 14.12% decrease from 2022 budget. The wages of County Treasurer employees are moved to Motor Vehicle fund for 2023. Next, wage for the County Treasurer was brought back to the commissioners table from a prior meeting for discussion. Mark McGaughey motioned to increase Terri Trotman's wage \$1,250.00 per year. Kevin Shapland seconded motion, and it passed unanimously.

Marieta Hauser, Grant County Chamber Director, presented the Chamber's appropriation request of \$12,500.00, same as given prior year.

Jeff Baier, EMS Director/EM Coordinator, submitted the 2023 Ambulance budget for review \$883,090.00, a 17.04% increase from 2022 budget. The Emergency Management budget will be combined into the Ambulance budget in 2023.

Dana McDaniel, Register of Deeds, submitted the 2023 Register of Deeds budget for review \$117,015.00, a 4.78% increase from 2022 budget.

Denise James, Health Department Administrator, submitted the 2023 Health Department budget for review \$701,091.00, a 7.59% increase from 2022 budget. The Administrator relayed she would be hiring a full-time nurse to replace one that is retiring, would hire a full-time person for the WIC Coordinator/COVID Tracer, and she would assume the duties of the billing clerk. Commissioners discussed employee benefit packages and asked the Administrator to wait until the full-time nurse retired before bringing someone on to replace her or hiring a nurse part-time until after the leaving nurse retired.

After discussion, it was the consensus of commissioners to support the IMPACT Ulysses Outdoor Fitness Center Project verbally and in writing but in review of budget increases by almost all departments could not find any budget area to support it monetarily.

Cindy Wellbrock, County Appraiser, submitted the 2023 County Appraiser budget for review \$273,200.00, a 1.83% decrease from 2022 budget.

John Crosby, Fire Chief, submitted the 2023 Fire Department budget for review \$259,470.00, a 13.84% increase from 2022 budget. The Fire Chief said this budget allows for an across the board raise for fire fighters since the pay scale had not been raised since 2015.

Commissioners discussed the new IRS standard mileage rate for employees using their personal vehicles for company business. Kevin Shapland motioned, due to fuel prices, to amend the January 18, 2022, motion and set mileage at 62.5 cents per mile when using personal vehicles for county business effective today. Mark McGaughey seconded motion, and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Shapland motioned to approve the Road Department wages for summer mowers as recommended by the Public Works Supervisor; a Senior Center Transportation Driver new hire wage as recommended by the Senior Center Director; and a Deputy Register of Deeds wage increase as recommended by the Register of Deeds. Mark McGaughey seconded motion, and it carried unanimously. Next, a written request from the Civic Center Manager to hire one more seasonal worker at the Civic Center through July was discussed. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the hire as requested.

Mark McGaughey motioned to approve meeting minutes for June 7, 2022, along with claims against various funds of the County: payroll total \$140,502.38 dated June 15, 2022; accounts payable voucher numbers ending 167223 totaling \$329,744.33. Kevin Shapland seconded motion, and it carried unanimously.

Denise Wood, Julia Traster-Rowe, Kim McGaughey, Janet Watkins, and Leliani Sullivan met with commissioners to introduce the newly formed Forever Friends Humane Society of Grant County, which will be a non-profit 501C3. Ms. Sullivan relayed The City of Ulysses approached a group of them about running the dog pound. The plans are to start up a no kill animal shelter that will be countywide. They will form alliances with other shelters to transport animals out to

centers for adoption. The group hoped the County would consider donating to the cause when setting County budgets.

Sheila Brown, County Clerk, submitted the 2023 County Clerk budget for review \$126,407.00, a .74% increase from 2022 budget. Next, submitted the 2023 Election budget for review \$77,553.00, a 4.52% increase from 2022 budget. The County Clerk requested permission to increase the election worker wages for 2023. Thirdly, submitted the 2023 Data Processing budget for review \$102,000.00, same as prior year.

Commissioners discussed Jeff Reppart's request to set off fireworks again this year at the Airport alongside the city fireworks display. It was the consensus of commissioners to allow the request if the Fire Chief was in favor of it.

Steve Rice, Airport Manager, submitted the 2023 Airport budget for review \$191,413.00, a 15.79% increase from 2022 budget. The increase reflects the County's portion of FAA and KDOT Projects: a runway MIRL System Project, a runway Rehabilitate and Remark Project, a replace AWOS and install Primary Wind Cone Project, and Replacement and Installation of a new Fuel Tank Facility.

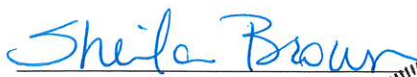
Mike Myers and Steve Rice, Fair Board members, submitted the 2023 Fair Board budget for review \$55,600.00, an increase of 9.88% from 2022 budget.

Mari Honstead, Civic Center Manager, submitted the 2023 Park Maintenance budget for review \$318,331.00, an increase of 10.39% from 2022 budget.

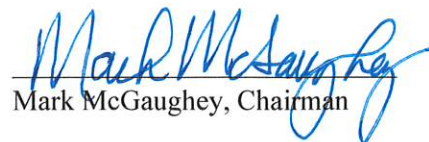
Ludivina Gonzales, Senior Center Director, submitted the 2023 Senior Center budget for review \$321,461.00, a decrease of 3.23% from 2022 budget.

Ulysses Stampede Rodeo Board Members, Bravane Phelps, Chad McCormick, Larry Borthwick, and Scott Buxman, submitted the 2023 Rodeo budget for review \$3,000.00, same as prior year. Mr. McCormick gave an update on changes being made to the arena. The board would like to install several poles for electrical boxes and purchase a sound system. Kevin Shapland motioned to approve \$2,000.00 for nine poles and electrical boxes to be installed in the arena this year. Mark McGaughey seconded motion, and it carried unanimously. Mr. Phelps relayed a new sound system would cost \$14,000.00 and he would send information.

Commissioners adjourned at 2:15 p.m., to meet again in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5, 2022.

  
Sheila Brown, County Clerk



  
Mark McGaughey, Chairman