

**THE MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL MET IN A BUDGET REVIEW SESSION ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 16 AND 17, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: KIM MERIDETH, VICKIE KIVETT, KELLY ALCALA, JASON MAXWELL, TROY SPRINKLE AND CHIP KELLER. ALSO PRESENT WERE DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; DAN BASTIN, COUNTY AUDITOR; AND JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. PAUL PRATHER WAS ABSENT (August 16).

**Budget Review:**

The following budgets were presented by office holders and elected officials:

- *LIT Economic Development Fund* - Josh Messmer, Morgan County Administrator and Bryan Collier, County Commissioner

Mr. Messmer stated that the MPO contribution has gone down; the Council approved an annual amount of \$10,000 for the regional sewer; the county museum has requested \$20,000; Commissioner Adams requested \$3,000 for a bicentennial historic marker as well as \$20,000 for the bicentennial; economic development is a new line item.

- *Parks & Recreation* – Josh Messmer, Morgan County Administrator, Bryan Collier, County Commissioner and Kenny Hale, County Commissioner

The three commissioners serve as the park director. The current structure is not conducive to future growth and they are asking for an assistant part time parks director. Kenny Hale stated that they are able to apply for Harris and Next Level grants without having a board, but they are not able to apply for land and water grants and National Park Service grants without a board. A job description has been drafted for the assistant that includes compiling the budget, overseeing rentals, coordinating events and programming, and park inspections among other duties. The office for this position would be at the Wilbur Community Building. Troy Sprinkle stated that some of the items increased in the budget were: fuel, pit toilets at Burkhart Creek, wifi at Wilbur and Waverly, mowers and expenses to install a boat ramp.

- *Highway / Engineer* – Tony Hinkle

Mr. Hinkle stated that the Highway Superintendent pay rate was just approved at a new rate of \$92,500. The LIT Fund (1112) has additional bridges as there is now a plan to replace or rehab the bridges that are listed as category 1 or 2. Mr. Hinkle applied for six LPA Grants and has been awarded five. The grant for Teeters Road was not awarded. Mr. Hinkle will be applying for five more grants for Bridges 107, 120, 188, 150 and 117. These will be 80/20 reimbursable grants. Mr. Hinkle stated that they could take in some of the I-69 frontage roads by the end of the year. The Local Road and Street Fund will be used to standardize the fleet, equipment lease and winterization. Mr. Hinkle requested a salary increase out of the 1173 Fund and \$2.6 million in contractual paving. One million is needed for the Community Crossings Grant match. Mr. Hinkle stated that with all the asphalt plants going for I-69, the county has the best chance to get the most bang for their buck.

- *Cumulative Capital Development* – Josh Messmer

Items included in this budget includes \$100,000 for real estate, an increase to reflect the correct lease amount for the Prosecutor's Office, parking lot paving, signage for the Prosecutor's Office, SharePoint, and a key fob system.

- *Commissioners* – Bryan Collier

Bryan Collier thanked the HR Director, County Administrator and Executive Assistant for the assistance they have provided in teaching him during this transitional period; he has seen more change in the last year or two than in the last decade. Mr. Collier looks for the Commissioners' role to change from the day to day operations to economic development and growth.

Everside Clinic (formerly Activate) will be key as they roll out a HDHP (High Deductible Health Plan) and HSA (Health Savings Plan). Mr. Collier has been approached by different organizations regarding the lack of public transportation; as the population grows, this will become a larger issue. Other items that increased were professional services and audits. They have requested an increase in salaries because the time required for the position averages between 24 and 32 hours per week. Mr. Collier asked how they would attract someone to the position that will look towards economic development. Josh Messmer stated that the intent is to get the conversation started as

they expect more from elected officials. Kenny Hale stated that quality of life and quality of place is tied to economic development. Networking is a big part of the position.

- *Maintenance* – Michelle Cooley

A line item has been added to seal coat and/or repave parking lots next year, they added a contingency line so they would not have to ask for an additional appropriation in case of an emergency, a line for overtime has been added. Several line items have been increased for increases in cost. They are changing the title of the department to Building and Grounds Maintenance.

- *EMS* – Donnie Warren

The run volume is up, they are setting records. Supply costs have greatly increased but are starting to decrease. Worker's Comp was over-estimated last year and was decreased for 2022. Mr. Warren reduced his salary to help with pay compression. They are implementing a 10-yr. lease with Zoll for ambulance supplies and equipment. The billing service takes 5.85% of whatever is collected; they are on track to collect \$1.4 – \$1.5 million.

- *EMA* – Mark Tumey

Mr. Tumey discussed the four increases to the EMA budget - Deputy Director salary, outdoor warning siren maintenance agreement, two sirens, and part time pay for interns. Torie Fraker mentioned that they attend an annual conference and would like to attend other classes in addition to the conference, so they increased this line item.

- *Sheriff / Jail* – Jail Commander Dave Rogers, Sheriff Rich Myers

Dave Rogers stated that they are requesting a new position of data administrator that will redact body camera footage (which is also an increase in the budget) for media, attorney, and public information requests and download cellphone information. They will eliminate a contractual position that is shared with the City of Martinsville and 911 Dispatch. The road division accumulates a lot of comp time pay and they would like to purpose that these deputies are paid like the jail, dispatch and EMS, which is paid holiday pay rather than long weekends or days off in lieu of the holiday pay. This requires an additional eight hours of pay on the holiday for approximately 24 deputies. They are in year three of the pay matrix and added an additional \$2,00 per category, which equates to 1.9% to 2.9% increase. The operating supplies increase to cover the purchase of a portable speed limit sign. The equipment lease line includes costs for body cameras. They typically pay for computer equipment from the commissary account; however, the jail population has decreased and the account is not able to maintain the same level.

- *Work Release* – Dave Rogers

The budget included a 3% pay increase for part time staff, as they are not in the matrix.

- *Solid Waste Management District* – Erick Kivett

PERF and other benefits have been added to the budget. The office is governed by a board that consists of the three County Commissioners, a County Council representative, Town Council representative from Monrovia and the mayor of Martinsville. Mr. Kivett writes checks out of an account rather than the auditor processing claims. This position could evolve into more of a county employee position in the future. Mr. Kivett stated that they had planned to move a recycle site out to the transfer station on Rose Street in Martinsville; however, the sponsorship fell apart, the concrete costs were over \$100,000 and the board did not want to invest that much money in a property they did not own. The board plans on making improvements to the site at the jail and putting up a fence.

- *Weights & Measures* – Scotty Manley

The following items were discussed: increased fuel costs, relocation of the Weights and Measures office and training.

- *Superior II* – Judge Brian Williams

Judge Williams discussed the water damage that recently occurred in his office. Walls have been cut back and the carpet is out. They will be able to re-use the metal desks, but not the wooden ones. They are currently using the space formerly occupied by the prosecutor. They would like to eliminate the first and second deputy job titles and use the title of court administrator with the first deputy pay rate.

- *Prosecutor* – Steve Sonnega

Mr. Sonnega stated that they developed a pay matrix last year and they have been able to hire people with experience. Mr. Sonnega would like to add a full time assistant investigator position. They are receiving more forensic evidence from DNA, cellphones,

video, witness statements and soon they will have body cameras. The assistant would process this information and the current investigator could be used for more outreach and training. They are eliminating the part-time forensic analyst position. Revenue is down for the Pre Trial Traffic Diversion Fund.

- *Title IV-D – Brian Deiwart*

The budget shows an increase in lawbooks, all other items are about the same except for a 4% COLA for salaries. The state will be updating the software that has been in use since 1996. This could require an additional part time employee; however, they are not sure if this expense will be paid by the state or by the county.

- *Purdue Extension – Rena Sheldon*

Added a new line item called program supplies and reduced the Instruction/Education line item. Increased the overtime line for wage increases.

- *Recorder – Jana Gray*

Budget is close to the same as last year, added a 10% pay increase for employees because they had to work through the time when the building was closed to the public because of COVID and they recorded over 16,000 documents.

- *Surveyor – Terry Brock*

The Partnership for Water Quality hired an MS4 educator and the Surveyor's office must share in the cost. The budget is close to the same as 2021 except for an increase in pay, consulting services to review plans, professional services to rewrite ordinances and contractual services for an educator in conjunction with the Partnership for Water Quality they also have an increase for computers. It was determined that the amount for computers should be in the Data Administration budget. There were no changes to the General Drain Fund.

- *Soil & Water Conservation District – Lisa MacPhee, Doug Peine*

They will be changing the first deputy position to a director position and adjusting the salary to reflect this. Other districts across the state operate this way. They are working to find more grant sources to bring more funds into the county.

- *Morgan County LEPC (renamed Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know) – Becky Waymire*

Steve Lyday, LEPC Chairman, stated that funds come from the state and the county is the steward of the funds. This board handles training to help first responders regarding hazardous materials. They also have exercises to simulate a hazardous materials situation. They have 12 members and meet quarterly; however there is a current vacancy for a representative from a government agency.

- *Convention, Visitor & Tourism Commission – Tosh Daugherty*

The budget request is \$120,000, which is \$20,000 more than last year. The Innkeepers Tax has rebounded better than expected since COVID, and while not back up to previous levels, it is creeping up a little bit. According to their website analytics, visitors are looking at upcoming activities, restaurants, and seasonal events. Fifty percent of the budget is spent on salary, office space and utilities and 50% is split between the website, advertising and grants.

- *Health Department – Jeanne LaFary*

They would like to increase the salary of the environmental specialists to the level of the nurse's salary and increase the stipend for board members to \$75. This amount was in the 2021 budget, but the Salary Ordinance was not increased. Ms. LaFary noted that an RN has a lesser degree than an environmental specialist. There are two leased vehicles for 2022. All salary expenses for the vital records clerk will come out of the Local Health Maintenance Fund for 2022.

- *Clerk / Election – Stephanie Elliott*

Ms. Elliott has increased the Election budget for the 2022 election, but if they need to have mail in ballots again, they will need a lot of help in the office. The state is providing redistricting software at no cost.

- *Assessor – Julie Minton*

Ms. Minton submitted two data analyst positions for the job study, but the study returned them as different positions at a lower rate. Kim Merideth stated that Ms. Minton will need to submit the information to HR and a subcommittee will meet to review the information.

## **Recess**

### **Reconvene**

The Council reconvened at 9:30 am on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. All Council members (Kim Merideth, Vickie Kivett, Paul Prather, Kelly Alcala, Jason Maxwell, Troy Sprinkle and Chip Keller) were present.

### **Introduction**

Tony Hinkle introduced Grant Collinsworth, the new Highway Superintendent. Mr. Collinsworth stated that he was looking forward to the new opportunity and gave a short bio.

- *Superior I* – Judge Pete Foley

Pete Foley noted that the budget includes a 3% salary increase and a name change of first and second deputies to office administrator or court administrator. The jury administrator salary is now in the Circuit Court budget and they have also allowed for an increase in postage rates.

- *Shared Court Expenses* – Judge Pete Foley

The budget includes a \$400 per case contract for public defenders and a \$200 per diem for probation violations

- *Circuit Court* – Judge Matt Hanson

The budget is the same except for an increase of 3% for salaries. Judge Hanson noted that the CHINS (Children in Need of Services) public defender cases have been historically low. Judge Hanson praised the Council for taking advantage of technology in order to have court hearings via Zoom. If courts need to work from home again, the one concern is the lack of internet in the county.

- *Superior III* – Judge Sarah Dungan

The budget is mostly the same as 2021 except for a 3% salary increase and changing first and second deputies to office or court administrator.

- *Court Services* – Brian Foley

Brian Foley stated that half of the budget is funded by grants and user fees. COVID has slowed things and collections are down 16%. They requested 28 desktop computers for 2022 and would like to replace several office chairs, filing cabinets and scanners. The Adult User Fee funds one employee and longevity for 15 probation officers as well as drug screens. They have a newly formed JRAC (Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council) that is concerned with reducing the jail population. Kelly Alcala and Bryan Collier are on this council. Mr. Foley summarized the grants that the court services office receives. Mr. Foley asked that a community corrections officer have the same classification as a community supervision officer. They must have certain titles to match what the state has, but the first deputy positions could be renamed as “bookkeeper” and “office administrator”.

- *Treasurer* – Terry Clelland

Ms. Clelland stated that the bond amount has increased. She also would like to add a chief deputy position and remove a second deputy position. Vickie Kivett stated that she would like to see cross training among the Auditor, Treasurer and Recorder Offices.

- *Magistrate* – Judge Terry Iacoli

Judge Iacoli stated that other than a salary increase, there are no changes to the budget.

- *Coroner* – Mike Ellis

Mr. Ellis requested a salary increase because of the many hours that go into the position. If it comes to a raise or equipment, he would rather lose the raise than the equipment. They have some unsafe carts and radios that are unrepairable because they can't get parts. Jason Maxwell stated that it is a busy office.

- *Veteran's Service Officer* – Rick Baum, Lindsay Smith

Mr. Baum stated that he plans to retire at the end of the year and Lindsay would need to step in the gap or take the place of the VSO if so appointed. If this occurs, they will need an administrative assistant to perform the duties Lindsay is currently doing. It would be best to have a veteran in this position so they can then be accredited, start doing claims and move into a deputy VSO. If an administrative assistant is hired after this occurs, they

would need more office space. Mr. Baum added that the \$100 veteran burial allowance is on the low side for neighboring counties.

- *Data Administration* – Joel Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated that there are no large increases for 2022. They have not been able to fill the deputy director position. Daree Fry stated that the pay for the position is much lower than what someone in the private sector could earn. Mr. Johnson stated that there have been numerous locates in the past six months.

- *Plan Commission* – Laura Parker

Included in the budget is an amount to purchase a document management system, Laserfich.

- *911 Dispatch* – Scott Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton stated that there are some reductions for 2022; for 2023 there will probably be a substantial increase for the AT&T lease. Hopefully, the state will continue to pick up some of the cost for AT&T. Equipment costs include a cost for switches for fire departments in order to use location, NEVO phones, Live 911 and a VHF fire operation system. The budget also includes \$26,000 for the fire department Emergency Reporting System. Mr. Hamilton would like the salary for the deputy director position to equal that of the EMS deputy director as this position is less than some of the employees that are supervised.

- *Auditor* – Dan Bastin

Mr. Bastin stated that he changed the titles of first and second deputies to titles that more define the roles. He also added a new position in order to pay claims twice a month and would like to change a first deputy position to assistant chief deputy. Kelly Alcala mentioned the need for a consultant for the ARPA funds. Mr. Bastin stated that the commissioners' budget would be a better fit for this. Mr. Bastin stated that there are 41,534 real estate parcels in the county and his office is doing an average of 20 transfers per day. They were going to switch to a different tax billing system this year, but it does not appear that the system will meet the county's needs. Mr. Bastin included \$50,000 for a timekeeping system, and lowered the amount for the financial/payroll system to \$15,000.

### **Adjournment**

Jason Maxwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 pm. Motion seconded by Troy Sprinkle. Motion carried 7-0.

MORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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Kim Merideth

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Vickie Kivett

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Kelly Alcala

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Jason Maxwell

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Troy Sprinkle

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Chip Keller

ATTEST:

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Dan Bastin, Morgan Co. Auditor