

There Union County Budget Meeting
May 28, 2014

Present: Commissioner Steve McClure
Commissioner Mark D. Davidson
Commissioner William D. Rosholt
Kyle McAndie, Budget Member
Dale Case, Budget Member
Cedric Shanks, Budget Member

Call to Order

Commissioner McClure called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with all budget committee members and commissioners present.

Election of Chair

Kyle McAndie was elected Budget Committee Chair by a motion made by Commissioner Davidson. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Message

Budget Officer Shelley Burgess reviewed the written budget message included in the budget packet materials. Shelley also went over the summary of capital outlays and significant changes to the budget. She explained the items that are significant changes from the budget that was presented last year. The first one is in the Animal Control budget. The staff is being increased by .25 FTE to accommodate contracts with the City of Elgin and the City of Union for Animal Control services.

The Assessor/Tax Collector budget reflects a reduction in one clerical staff. That position had been left unfilled during the current fiscal year and is now being removed from the budget. It is due in part from the slow down from the Real Estate market but mostly due to the experience and efficiency of current staff and processes. This budget also has a replacement vehicle added to the budget.

The Clerk's budget includes funding to complete the digitization project that began last year.

The Computer Services budget reflects a replacement of the primary printer used for reports and checks. There was a part time hourly network assistant position added to that budget.

The Corrections budget shows an increase to upgrade the jail door and monitoring system.

The Facilities budget includes \$50,000 for parking lot improvements which may be necessary to satisfy parking requirements resulting from a new Circuit Court building. There is also a new sub-department added in the Facilities budget to cover the Circuit

Court building that includes a payment on the debt service that was borrowed for the County's share of the project.

In the MERA budget there is a purchase of a mini excavator and a side by side. Those are grant funded purchases.

The Public Works Department reflects some capital expenditures including repair and maintenance to the Public Works building, replacement of Little Creek Copper Road Bridge, replacement of two pickups, installation of the overhead hoist in the shop and purchase of a used tractor/truck and two used belly dump trailers.

The Sheriff's Department includes a request to add a part time grant funded traffic safety officer. There is also a capital purchase to lease two new patrol vehicles.

The Surveyor has a small increase to accommodate the conversion of records to a point and click retrieval system for better user access.

The Human Services budget includes the addition of two Resource Coordinators to work with schools to connect students and families to available services and programs. The positions are grant funded through the Department of Human Services. This is a cooperative effort between GOBHI, Intermountain ESD and the school districts. It is designed after a CARE program that has been successful in Umatilla County.

She explained that she did have to make reductions in some budget requests in order to balance the budget. Within the District Attorney's narrative there was a request to consider reclassification and a new salary schedule within the department. She did not include that in the budget but is suggesting those be reviewed through the normal H.R. process. Shelley explained that she did not include the requested general funds for the Sheriff's office to potentially back fill grant funded positions. The Predator Control program requested an increase in funding. Shelley put the amount that was funded for last budget year and left the increase out.

Shelley explained that there was one new request from the Union County Safe Communities Coalition asking for \$7,500 for an advertising campaign to target Marijuana education.

MERA

Doug Wright, Public Works Director, explained that Sean Chambers is the Parks Coordinator who resides under Public Works but establishes the budget. He is unable to attend the meeting so Doug will present his budget. He explained that MERA was purchased in October of 2008 with grant funds from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Blue Mt. Habitat Restoration Program. MERA has been receiving an annual operations and maintenance grant from OPRD since 2009. MERA has been in good standing with OPRD but the grant will see a 15% decrease in funding. They are requesting capital purchases of a mini excavator and a side by side to help maintain the

park. The objectives for MERA are to manage for sustainable grazing, manage timber and focus on reducing fuels, maintain trails, trailheads and campground, maintain and improve signage, construct new trails and carry out existing grants while seeking other grant opportunities.

Parks

Doug Wright explained that Sean Chambers also manages three other County parks; Thief Valley, Wolf Creek and Pilcher Creek. The four major objectives are to apply dust abatement, widen and lengthen the RV spaces at Pilcher Creek, improve camp grounds at Wolf Creek, and maintain a high standard of restroom cleanliness. Other objectives include match dollars for MERA to purchase equipment and expenses. There is one part-time, seasonal employee who removes garbage, cleans restrooms and maintains the grounds.

Airport

Doug Wright also presented the Airport budget. He explained that the major objectives for the Airport are to complete the Runway Safety Area Project, complete the Runway 12-30 Overlay Project, prepare an update of the Airport Master Plan through grant funding, and to continue to collect rent from the Forest Service to pay the debt service on the new Fire Cache and dispatch center constructed for their use. Other objectives include maintain a high quality FBO, increase fuel sales, and hire a full time lead worker to oversee daily operations of the airport.

Public Works

Doug Wright explained that the County has 650 miles of county roads and 70 bridges linking the communities. Major objectives for Public Works are to maintain County roads and control noxious weeds. The main focus this year will be to do general maintenance, which includes crack sealing, asphalt patching, culvert repair and gravel road repair. The capital outlay requests for Public Works are repairing the Public Works building, bridge replacement, replace two pick-up trucks, install overhead hoist and purchase a used tractor/truck and two used belly dump trailers. He explained that they did find a used belly dump trailer that was just purchased so he most likely will only be purchasing one more belly dump trailer in the next budget year.

Commissioner McClure asked if Doug has looked at getting a used pick-up in the State surplus. Doug explained that he has but the State now puts all of their vehicles in the State surplus on ebay and it is a very competitive process. He will continue to look at those vehicles but he felt it may be better to get new vehicles and keep them for twenty years.

Commissioner Davidson asked Doug to explain the weed program for this year and the changes that are happening with that. Doug explained that the roadside is staying the same. They used to spray the freeway for ODOT but ODOT has taken that program back and are spraying their own right of ways. The good thing is that it leaves the workers to concentrate more on the County road system. Another change is that they

entered into a personal services contract with Tri-county Weed to help with weed identification for the private land owner and get guidance on what needs to be sprayed.

City of Union

The City of Union was not in attendance

District Attorney

Kelsie Davis, District Attorney, explained that their changes fall under the material and services line item in their budget for a team building or working retreat. Shelley made a few minor changes but in the end the budget is the same.

Commissioner McClure asked how the new computer system is working. Kelsie explained that it has changed how cases are processed. She feels that if the Sheriff's office and Police Department are able to find an interface that works with their system it will cut down on a lot of things that they have to do in terms of transferring documents.

USDA Wildlife Services

Curt Mattson, Wildlife Specialist, came to the budget committee and is requesting an increased budget from last year. The producers have partnered with the County to fund the program. He would like to find a more formal way among the producers to get those funds in. He explained that there are rules on how he can handle the Wolf population which is costing him more money.

Commissioner Rosholt asked what his relationship is like with Baker County. Curt explained that Baker County has enough funds for a phone call here and there. They have budgeted additional support this year. All of the agreements are reimbursable so they are billed by the hour.

Betty Bottger, 702 Ash, Cove explained that she works for Alicel Feed and Seed. The program she is involved in is the hybrid sunflower seed production program. One of their large problems that they have is bird issues with the seeds. Curt has helped their program the last few years and they have seen a large difference in the size of the flocks. They have had a lot less problems with the birds this last year because Curt is working on the problem all year long to help control the birds.

Ron Dake, 66105 Hunter Road, sheep producer explained that without the predator control program he would be out of business. He stated that there is a cost benefit to the County for the program and he asked the County to continue to support the program.

Commissioner Davidson asked if Ron had ideas on having a more formal way of structuring producer contributions that could help the County budget more accurately to support the program. Ron explained that the sheep producers they are charging so much per head. He has talked to more producers that are willing so they should have more funds to contribute this year.

Jennifer Isley, 65195 Hunter Road, explained that they have had minimal coyote problems in the past. She lost four lambs one night within 50 yards from her house. If Curt wasn't out there all of the lambs would have been lost. She has about \$20,000 worth of lambs to sell this year. If you can't get a handle on the problem for the small producers it can end their operation.

Bob Beck, 64841 Imbler Road, Cove, Grande Ronde Angus, stated that they have lost three calves to coyotes. They call Curt and have used the airplane to get the coyotes. Curt is quick to respond. He asked what ODFW contributes to the budget. Shelley explained that in the proposal from wildlife services it shows a \$3300 contribution from ODFW. He felt that the County should go after ODFW for more money towards the program because Curt is protecting their wildlife as well. He asked what the County contributes to the program. Shelley explained that the County contributes \$30,000 and \$10,000 is pledged to come from the contribution from the producers.

CHD

Rico Weber explained that CHD is requesting the same amount that they have requested in previous years.

Byron Whipple, Veterans Services Officer, explained that he services the 2800 veterans in the County. He is maintaining a steady level of the veterans coming in and wanting services from the V.A. The number of people he is enrolling in V.A. healthcare is 20% higher than it was last year. He sees that number continuing to grow as healthcare prices continue to rise.

Carrie Brogoitti, Public Health Director, explained that they do quite a bit of work with funding that they receive from the County, State and Federal partners. The County funds support the basic infrastructure of the local public health department. Having the foundational capabilities is critical to the community. She explained that one of the large programs that they use County funds for is Adult and Child Health Maintenance. They use it to support places that they are not receiving funding for such as immunizations. She appreciates the County's continued support.

Dwight Dill, Mental Health Director, explained that there has been a reduction in their State funds but they are not asking the County to replace those funds.

Drug Free Communities

Robin Wortman, Safe Communities Coalition Coordinator, explained that the Coalition has some concerns regarding youth marijuana use in Union County. She gave the Budget Committee some statistics. Their funding is limited and they can only address two substances that were in the original grant application which were underage drinking and tobacco use. They would like to offer some educational opportunities for the public regarding marijuana and its impact to youth. The Coalition is asking the County for additional funding to address the issues and concerns regarding marijuana.

Thomas Stratton, Coalition member, explained that he is concerned about youth use of marijuana. Now that dispensaries have been approved within the State and the City of La Grande the drug will be more apparent within our community.

Jan Harris, Coalition member, feels that it is important to understand how critical it is that the community faces the challenge at the top of the hill. The candy that is sold in the dispensaries are targeted toward youth. She firmly believes that having dispensaries within the community will create a greater risk for youth. This money will be very valuable for them to do some good in trying to educate youth and prevent problems down the road.

Sheryl Roberts explained that Umatilla County is noticing that marijuana use by the parents even with a medical marijuana card is impacting the children in their education. She is starting the CARE program in Union County and did some training in Umatilla County for the program. She explained that they went on four home visits. On three of those visits marijuana was being used in the home by the parents and they were having problems with the children regarding truancy. The impact of what is happening with those parents does trickle down to the children even if the children are not using the marijuana.

Deanne Mansfield, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, explained that with the marijuana dispensaries and the moratorium process that just ended she found that there is a lack of information and a large amount of misinformation. They are hoping that they can counter that and provide the education that people need.

Commissioner Davidson stated that Union County passed the Moratorium. He asked if the Coalition has requests for funding into the City of La Grande and the other cities for support for this program. Robin explained that they have not requested funding from the city at this point. She will look into what their budget process is to ask for funding.

Sheriff

Boyd Rasmussen, Sheriff, explained that they are proposing to have a temporary or limited duration traffic safety coordinator that assists with public presentations and safety programs within the Sheriff's office and throughout the County. ODOT may be willing to put funds towards that program as well. Boyd explained that the Elgin contract is currently operating and there will be a small increase in funding for that officer and a vehicle purchase. He explained that they are trying to maintain a rotation of vehicles. Over the years they have seen less money spent on vehicle repairs because the vehicles are lower mileage. Boyd explained that the fleet is in good shape at this point. Cathie Falck explained that there are two vehicle leases that will expire in November 2014 and May 2015. Those vehicles are covered with the general fund dollars now. There will be money coming from the Elgin contract to buy or lease another vehicle. Commissioner Davidson asked if the \$27,000 from Elgin was an annual payment. Cathie explained that this is the third year of the Elgin contract which is also the last

year of the contract. The first year of the contract they negotiated to lease one vehicle and the City of Elgin gave the Sheriff's office two patrol vehicles. By the third year the lease would be expiring on the initial vehicle that was purchased and the other two would need to be rotated out. Commissioner Davidson asked what the mileage is on the vehicles that have leases expiring. Cathie explained that they rotate out the older vehicles that are in need of repair. They now have two 2008 Dodge Ram pickups that have around 140,000 miles on them. They would rotate those vehicles out and replace them with the new vehicles.

Commissioner Davidson asked how the acquisition of the vehicle with the Elgin money would work because \$27,000 would not be enough to purchase a vehicle. He asked if the County would be liable for the rest of the purchase of the vehicle. Boyd explained that they are counting on the contract continuing because the \$27,000 would not cover the full purchase. Boyd explained that he is in current negotiations with the City of Elgin now.

Commissioner Rosholt explained that one of the things the Commissioners have to think about is how to fund the new request for Jail software. A possibility is to not fund one of the vehicle upgrades to purchase that software.

Corrections

Boyd Rasmussen explained that one of the issues that the Jail has is maintaining enough beds for the prisoners. Parole and probation has done a fantastic job in giving the Jail extra funds to house State inmates. Those funds go to pay for the inmates to be shipped to Umatilla County.

Cathie Falck explained that they are finding that the current jail management software, Golden Eagle, doesn't work with Windows 7. To run the software with Windows 7 it has to be run in a virtual mode which is very unstable and continues to crash. They have looked into new software that is compatible with Windows 7 and is web based so instead of being housed on the County server it will be held on the software company's server and will have secure access. It is user friendly and it will be compatible with what the City of La Grande will be getting for their new software. It would allow the District Attorney and the Courts to have access to it to print off reports that they need instead of having to get copies to them. The cost of the software upgrade would be \$25,575 which includes the software, the user licenses and the interface with the digital fingerprint system. The annual fee is less than the current software by about \$900.

Commissioner Rosholt asked if there was more risk by having a web based software. Cathie said that there is some risk but they have been running their inmate commissary software through a web based program and they have had very little down time or problems.

Commissioner Davidson asked what the benefits are to being web based. Cathie explained that the company is responsible for all of the backups and storage. They have

the money and equipment to do that. If the software resides on the County server the County is responsible on the backups. Two years ago the Sheriff's server crashed and they never got all of their data back.

Cathie explained that the current camera system needs to be updated. The camera system functions but some are freezing up. She spoke with a few companies who do the closed circuit systems and she is proposing to start working towards using a network based system instead of the current system. She would like to have \$15,000 to start getting the network set up and putting new cameras in the cells. Currently there are no cameras in the cells. The maintenance department has spent a lot of time and money unclogging toilets because the prisoners can do what they want in their cells with no cameras. Most of the assaults happen in their cells because they know there are no cameras in that space. It is hard to prosecute the assault when there is no evidence. The funds would allow them to get cameras in each cell and they would be able to fuzz out the area where the toilet would be to have some privacy. It could have remote access and can be able to record the data easily. Once the initial cameras are in the cells in progressive years as funds are available they can upgrade other cameras starting with the most critical ones to the new digital cameras.

Commissioner Davidson asked if she knew how much the system will cost over the extended period of time for purchasing the system and how long it would take to upgrade the entire system. Cathie explained that it depends on how much they can afford to put towards the system each year. She explained that they will start with the most critical cameras and work backwards. Commissioner Davidson asked how much the \$15,000 will purchase of the system. Cathie explained that it will get the server and the network for the system as well as the new cabling that would have to be run. This year's investment would also be the cost of the cameras in the cells. The additional years would be to upgrade the existing cameras.

Cedric Shanks stated that he feels the upgrade to the camera system would help minimize the liability. The Sheriff stated that was one of the main reasons they started looking into the project.

Sheriff Rasmussen explained that the La Grande School District contacted the City of La Grande Police Department to provide a School Resource Officer and the City was unable to fund that program. He explained that he is in negotiations with the La Grande School District to have a School Resource Deputy covering La Grande schools. He is thinking that the deputy that is covering marine patrol can also serve as the School Resource Officer during the school year. He is negotiating a three or four year contract.

Community Corrections

Travis Miller, Community Corrections Director, explained that they are back up to full funding from the State. They are continuing to get grants from the Violence Against Women grant that fund half a P.O. position and they also received the OVW Rural Sexual Assault Grant that will also fund half a P.O. position. Travis explained that they

now have a full staff. They also have a Department of Corrections Grant that funds about half of the Probation Services Specialist position.

Commissioner McClure asked if the caseloads have increased. Travis explained that they are staying about the same. He explained that they are focusing on their high and medium ranked cases. They are funded entirely by State funding and supervision fees.

Buffalo Peak Golf Course

Bill Rosholt explained that there are not a lot of changes to the Buffalo Peak budget. He explained that last year they purchased a mower that is used in the rough and other areas of the golf course. They purchased this mower because the style was being replaced so they got it at a discount. The new mower is larger and can mow more areas than the two current mowers can. Commissioner Rosholt explained that they are continuing to cut costs as much as possible to survive because the revenue is still not adequate or where it should be.

Public Comments

There were no public comments received.

Budget Committee Deliberation

Commissioner Davidson asked if there was any interest to have increased support for the wildlife services. Also, if there is interest for the new Sheriff's requests. He would like USDA to request that ODFW put in more money towards the wildlife services program. If the producers don't match, Commissioner Davidson feels that it should at least be kept at the current level.

Commissioner Davidson feels that there are two items that need to be discussed. One being whether or not to increase the support for the predator control program and the other would be the Drug Free Communities request. He felt that the committee would want to add revenue and expenditures to make allowances for the School Resource Officer contract with the La Grande School District. He also advocates that the County forego the capital expenditure for the two expiring leases for the Sheriff's patrol vehicles and instead add a capital expenditure line item in the Corrections budget to purchase jail management software.

Commissioner Rosholt stated that there has to be a way to get the producers more involved and more obligated to make payments to the County but he is not sure how to do that. Dale explained that the problem with going to the producers is if they don't do it voluntarily there has to be legislation because then it becomes a tax. Dale asked Shelley how much Baker County is putting towards the program. Shelley explained that Baker County does not designate a certain amount. They use the services on an as needed basis.

Commissioner Davidson asked how it works if the producers don't come up with their match. Shelley explained that the County sets a specific amount and the producers put

in their portion which this year is set at \$10,000. The total amount of \$40,000 would not cover a full time program. The budget committee felt like ODFW should be paying more money into the program because the Wolf being listed by the State of Oregon has added cost to the program. The committee feels that the budgeted amount should remain the same and if more money is needed they can look to the producers or ODFW.

Cedric explained that he would like the budget committee to give to the Drug Free Communities. He likes their proposal to try and get at the population before they are into drugs or too far into drugs. The preventative side will save a lot of money down the road. Commissioner Rosholt stated that the biggest expense on their list is a billboard lease and he thinks that is good but that it doesn't have to happen and can be eliminated. Commissioner Davidson agreed and has some questions of the effectiveness of a billboard given their target audience. Commissioner Rosholt stated that if they felt they needed it they could go to the City of La Grande and ask them for the funds for it. Cedric stated that he feels a billboard may reach them more because most kids listen to ipods and not the radio so the radio ads may not reach the target audience either. Commissioner Davidson pointed out that there is no cost in the budget for social media advertising. He explained that they can debate the budget but he thinks there is general consensus that the Committee supports the idea of a campaign to try and educate the youth about the dangers of marijuana use. Dale feels that the Committee should let them know that they are concerned about the focus.

Commissioner Davidson moved to direct the Budget Officer to add revenue and expense line items to the Sheriff's budget for the School Resource Officer, reduce the capital expenditure for the two new vehicle purchases in the Sheriff's budget, add a capital expenditure amount for the jail management software in the Corrections budget for \$26,000 and fund the Drug Free Communities marijuana youth education request for \$5,000 and reduce the contingency by \$5,000. Dale Case seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Davidson moved to approve the publication of the budget as amended. Commissioner McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Wilhelm
Sr. Dept. Specialist II