

**KITTITAS COUNTY
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
BOCC AUDITORIUM ROOM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 215 - ELLENSBURG**

Tuesday	1:30 PM	October 31, 2023
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Board members present: Cory Wright, Brett Wachsmith, Laura Osiadacz
Others: Brian Carlson, Bryan Elliot, Zack DeHaven, Andrew Yoder, Chris Whitsett, Mark Cook, Cody Cupp, Patti Stacy, Kady Porterfield, Sarah Keith, Barb Demory,

Call to order: 1:30pm

1. Citizen Comments (1 min. time limit): None

2. Declaration of Emergency Event Center

Ms. Poterfield explained the extent of the current fire system failure necessitating a declaration of emergency. A sprinkler head in the fire suppression system failed causing extensive water damage to multiple areas of the event center. To compound the issue dirt and debri were disloged by the flow adding further difficulty to the repair efforts. Until the system is repaired it must remain dry and unable serve in a fire supression function. The emergency has been submitted to the county insurance provider for review.

3. Mr. Carlson oriented the board with the current methodology for project evaluation. The roster presented includeds all projects and capital equipments requests omitting public works. Several large scale projects were removed from the analysis as they warrant stand alone consideration. The projects included in the mulitple listings were presented in tiers of criticallity. Projects scoring a one are health and safety issues given the highest criticallity score and projects scored as a three are less of an immediate concern.

The first grouping presented were jail maintenance and repair projects to be funded by the 1/10th Jails reserve tax. The commissioners unanimously approved this list.

The second grouping presented by Mr. Carlson were all projects for solid waste locations. These projects will all be funded by solid waste fee structure, outside loans, and existing fund balance. The commissioners unanimously approved this list.

The third grouping included projects to be carried out on the county's event center. This included a proposed 75,000 dollars of general fund and 65,000 dollars left to be determined. The commissioners approved the list with the modification that the general fund impact be adjusted to 140,000 dollars to absorb the undetermined amount with the caveat that staff continue to look for external funding sources.

The Fourth grouping offered for consideration included all the remaining projects. Ms. Demory explained the need for a jury box extension in the lower district court room, highlighting the increased functionality and ability to serve as a back up location for the superior court room. She expressed her desire that the trial courts fund not be used as a funding source. Further analysis will be conducted to quantify impacts and benefits. Water diversion away from the IT exterior door and the ADA motor replacement were both agreed upon as general fund expenses totaling 20,000 combined. Conversation shifted to the topic of exterior sidewalks and stairs and the county's responsibility to maintain them. Commissioner Osiadacz raised the possibility of removing the south set of courthouse stairs leading from the courthouse parking lot to the sidewalk adjacent to the street. The proposed repair expense and minimal usage were highlighted as rationale for removing the stairs from services. Chairman Wright expressed his desire for clear direction regarding the county's desire to maintain the current courthouse and corresponding infrastructure versus a serious effort toward relocation and/or rebuilding. Mr. Carlson offered a condensed list of Courthouse centric projects for consideration at a future meeting.

The Fifth and final grouping was composed of equipment. Vehicle requests were highlighted as being subject to change as we await the outcome of the fleet analysis currently underway. Mr. Whitsett spoke to the need and funding behind the equipment requests for the Sheriff's office. The jet ski request will be primarily funded by the

vessel replacement fees collected and with the remainder being sourced from 3/10ths funds. The snowmobile trailer is primarily used for search and rescue and has no other appropriate source but the general fund. Mr. Whitsett emphasized the need for an underwater rescue drone while acknowledging its cost of 250,000 and lack of outside funding sources. ARPA funds were mentioned as a possibility to consider. The listed vehicle uplifts are a carryforward of work begun and budgeted for in 2023 that will not be completed until 2024. The equipment listing will be revisited at a future meeting for consideration.

Next steps for Mr. Carlson and team finance include:

- Award status of outside funding applications.
- Concise listing of county funds identified in this presentation including their sources, levels and uses.
- Inventory of Trial Court's designated project list with estimates.
- Isolated analysis of Courthouse and Jail projects.
- Defined scope and deliverables of the countywide security camera project
- Results of the 2023 North Jail Parking lot discussion

4. Concluded: 2:58 PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Brian Carlson



Cory Wright, Chairman