



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

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WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MINUTES – JULY 30, 2024 COLLEEN A. GUNNIP, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. May, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Abbott, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Garland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Romeo

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis, Mr. McCarron; also see attached

Chair Gunnip called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m., and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **ONONDAGA COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY:**

- a. **Confirming the Appointment to the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (Vincent Mangan, Elizabeth Bough Martin)** (*Sponsored by Ms. Abbott*)

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. May, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:** Archie Wixson, Commissioner

- a. **Amending the 2024 County Budget to Make Funds Available to Support Renovations to the Onondaga County Supreme Court Law Library (\$400,000)** (*Sponsored by Ms. Cody*)

Purpose: Renovations to Law Library in the County Courthouse

Objective/Work Plan: Provide renovations to the Law Library as requested by Unified Court System which include: built-in shelving demolition; construction of furred walls, gypsum drywall assembly, custom veneer walls/doors, painting, minor electrical and general cleaning.

Funding Source: NYS Unified Court System

- This request is fronting \$400,000 for a Library project that the Unified Court System (UCS) deems important

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Were renovations requested as a priority by the UCS?
 - Yes; have been talking about it for a couple of years
 - County architect prepared design; project was approved by Albany and is ready to go
 - The project has gone out to bid; contractor will hold pricing based on County approval process
- From climate control standpoint, repairs are needed to preserve documents dating back to the founding of County
- Library provides vital service to legal community and private citizens at no charge

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp to approve this item.

- Will reimbursement be in full or partial?
 - In full
 - County has a 5 year contract with the UCS and acts as landlord
 - UCS contacts the County once approval is received from NYS to fund a project
 - Actuals are not reconciled for approximately 1 to 1 ½ years
 - Reimbursements reconcile during contract renewal
 - Renovations are based on a “help” program implemented within the UCS organization
 - Renovations will prepare the “help” program environment for those using the library

Mr. May seconded the motion. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

3. SHERIFF: Lisa Dell, Chief, Civil Department; Maureen Murphy, Chief of Administration

- a. Amending the 2024 Onondaga County Budget to Accept Grant Funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (\$100,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)**
- b. Personnel Resolution (Create Director of Support Services) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)**

Purpose: Amend the 2024 County Budget to accept \$100,000 in New York State Division of Criminal Justice Service’s Public Safety Program grant funds and to utilize these funds to create and fund the position of Director of Support Services.

Objective/Work Plan: New York State Senator John Mannion provided the Onondaga County Sheriff’s Office (OCSO) with a grant of \$100,000, administered by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Service’s Public Safety Program, for operating expenses to support a mental health initiative for officers through OCSO. OCSO desires to utilize said grant funding to create and fund the position of Director of Support Services to support law enforcement personnel who deal with critical and traumatic incidents on a regular basis and their mental health, which services would be shared with all Onondaga County town and village law enforcement partners.

Funding Source: Funding for this initiative is provided by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services under the Public Safety Program.

Budget: 641010-Regular Employee Salaries-\$100,000
Director of Support Services-Gr 35 (\$87,377-\$115,833)

(Director of Support Services job specifications on file with the Clerk)

- This is a grant funded position in the hopes to receive a different form of funding to continue in the future if successful

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Is there other funding coming in for servicing other municipalities?
 - No, intend to open it up to all towns, villages, fire departments; anyone that has a need for this service
- Is support provided in any other way or are folks doing it on their own?
 - This position will replace current contract with Reverend Josh Czyz that will expire at end of the year
- Proposed salary aligns closely with grant, what is the plan to pay for the fringe benefits?
 - The Sheriff would return to the Legislature if budget is impacted or position continues past the grant
 - Personnel set the grade of pay based on specs and Civil Service
- Suggest taking fringe benefits into consideration to back up proposal

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve item 3a. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Abbott, to approve item 3b. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

c. Amending the 2024 County Budget to Accept Grant Funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Law Enforcement Technology Program (\$342,006.19)

(Sponsored by Mr. Olson)

Purpose: Amend the 2024 County Budget to accept \$342,006.19 in Law Enforcement Technology (LETECH) Program funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to assist OCSO with the acquisition of qualified law enforcement technology and equipment (e.g., cameras, drones, computers, batteries).

Objective/Work Plan: OCSO's Law Enforcement Technology (LETECH) program will allow OCSO to modernize operations and effectively solve and prevent crime with the acquisition of new technology and equipment.

Funding Source: Funding for this initiative is provided by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services under the State's Law Enforcement Technology (LETECH) Program.

Budget: \$342,006.19

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Is this request to replace existing equipment?
 - New purchases will add to existing equipment
- Is there a match to the grant?
 - No
- Will equipment be purchased and implemented this year?
 - Yes, will put in request upon full legislative approval

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Daniel Wears, Commissioner

a. Amending the 2024 County Budget to Accept and Make Funds Available to Replace the County's Mobile Command Vehicle (\$846,000) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)

Purpose: To accept Federal grant funds in the amount of \$423,000 and to modify the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget to transfer \$423,000 into a project account identified by the Office of Management and Budget for the purpose of replacing our mobile command vehicle and associated hardware/technology components.

Objective/Work Plan: This funding provides a critical emergency services resource that is available to all local municipalities and emergency service organizations to support response and recovery to large-scale incidents and pre-planned events in the county. The vehicle has been a critical asset to the County during responses to hazardous materials incidents, law enforcement responses, assisted living center evacuation, the COVID-19 pandemic and other events. The vehicle provides a centralized location to coordinate all public safety disciplines and supporting, non-governmental agencies involved in the response. In addition to purchasing the vehicle, some additional hardware will need to be procured to ensure the vehicle is compatible with the County's mobile radio network and IT infrastructure.

Funding Source: \$423,000- United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
\$423,000- Local Funding

Budget: \$846,000

- Mobile command vehicle is over 20 years old

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Does the price include all equipment needed?
 - Yes, also includes trade-in of existing vehicle

- What is considered a special event?
 - Farm Fest, Amphitheater events, Fireworks, etc.
- What is the trade-in value of existing vehicle?
 - Paid \$400,00 to \$500,000; trade-in value is \$75,000
 - 20-30% increase in cost within the last 2 years
 - Should have new vehicle by April 2025

Mr. May stated for the record: “Whenever we talk about things like this, it is always important to point out that this is something the County does for everybody. It is a luxury that we have something like this, not every County does; but we do and we can. The truth of the matter is that it is used or deployed all over the County. All municipalities that host these kinds of events or have these kinds of incidents benefit. It is another example of good things the County is doing. The other point I would like make is on the financial side. I commend the use of fund balance for something like this. This is what we should be doing, it is another example of how we are using fund balance for these one-time long-term investments rather than going out and taxing people for these kinds of things again or taking on debt service. This is the way to do it. Again, sticker shock from this seat, but it is what it is and it does provide a valuable service to the community. Thank you.”

- Appreciate Emergency Management doing due diligence on getting the best value
- With it being a specialized vehicle, is there a specific crew or is there training across the board to operate the vehicle?
 - Everyone in Emergency Management office is trained as well as part-timers
 - Have 15-20 people capable of deploying vehicle
 - Have 24/7 on-call person; someone is always available

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

5. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (911): Ben Yaus, Law Department

a. Authorizing the Acquisition of Real Property in the Town of Elbridge for a Communications Tower (\$7,096.09) (Sponsored by Mr. Olson)

- Currently lease 50x50 cell tower site for emergency communications located on Eagle Farms
 - Still have years left on long-term lease
- Eagle Farms is selling
 - County is exercising right to purchase pursuant to lease agreement
 - Notice of sale triggered 10 day notice requirement, have 60 days to close
- Will be a substantial savings over the life of the lease
 - Under lease agreement, County would pay ~\$102,000 through the end of lease
 - ~\$7,000 to purchase
 - Purchase price based on square footage of 3rd party purchase agreement

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- The tower is on Eagle Farms property
- Does the County need to go through the process of subdividing prior to purchase?
 - Probably will need to subdivide, but will be worked out as part of the purchase agreement
- How do you decide how much?
 - Another farmer is taking over
 - Will reserve easement out of the deed rather than grant a deed to cross the road
 - Probably fee title to 50x50 site with easement to and from or expand slightly to maximize space for buffer zone

A motion was made by Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Knapp, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

- 6. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING:** Staci Dennis-Taylor, Law Clerk
- a. Naming a Courtroom in the Criminal Courts Building at 505 South State Street in Honor of the Honorable Langston C. McKinney, Former Syracuse City Court Judge** (*Sponsored by Mr. Burtis*)
- Judge McKinney retired in 2011; passed away in May 2024
 - Judge McKinney was one of the founders of the William Herbert Johnson Minority Bar Association
 - Would like to rename courtroom due to Judge McKinney’s distinguished career and impact on many people

Questions/Comments from the Committee:

- Are any other courtrooms named after someone?
 - This would be the first
- Has a courtroom been picked out yet?
 - Would like it to be the arraignment part

A motion was made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. May, to approve this item.

Mr. Ryan requested to be a cosponsor.

Mr. Garland requested to be a cosponsor.

A vote was taken on the item. ***Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.***

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



TAMMY BARBER, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

DATE: **JULY 30, 2024**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Asst. Dep. J. J. Murphy	OCSU
Deborah Kerdinas	Administrative Judge, 5 th JTD
Garlan J. Cuffly	Acting Supreme Court Justice
Staci Dennis-Taylor	Law Clerk, Supreme Ct.
Dan Weas	EM
Steve Morgan	Finance
Isabelle Harris	Co. Exec
Archie Wixson	Facilities
Merybeth Primo	Co. Exec.
Darcie Lesniak	
Ethan LaMontagne	
Jim Beebe	
John DiSantis	
Joe Fieschi	