

OUACHITA PARISH POLICE JURY FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008
POLICE JURY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Mr. Charles Jackson, chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Jurors present were Jackson, Mrs. Pat Moore, Mr. Mack Calhoun, Mr. Shane Smiley, and Mr. Dorth Blade.

Jackson announced that the Coroner, Dr. Terri O'Neal, had called to say that she would not be able to attend the meeting.

Mr. Michael Rhodes, director of Green Oaks Juvenile Detention Home, presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets. Mr. Brad Cammack, the Police Jury's treasurer, spoke about an error that was on the spreadsheet at the last meeting. This corrected budget does include a 2.5% increase in salaries.

Rhodes said that the budget had come before his committee. He also spoke about the possibility of an additional building at the facility. It would possibly be 2010 before that project would be included in the budget.

No action was taken on the Green Oaks Juvenile Detention Home budgets.

Mr. Craig Lott, director for the 9-1-1 Communications District, presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for his department. He also had a handout with comparison data from four other parishes.

No action was taken on the 9-1-1 Communications District budgets.

Mr. Hack Tull, director for the parish's Animal Control department, presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the department. Cammack assisted in the discussion.

No action was taken on Animal Control's budgets.

Cammack presented the budgets for the Eagle Lake fund. There has been a cost estimate prepared for a turn around to be included on Eagle Lake Drive. Public Works would do the work. The fund does have money to pay for this project. It will appear on the Public Works committee agenda.

No action was taken on the Eagle Lake Fund budgets.

Cammack presented the amended and proposed budgets for Smith Cemetery and J S Clark Cemetery. Avenues for reducing costs such as outsourcing the maintenance costs are being considered. Jurors also discussed possible revenue sources.

No action was taken on the budgets for Smith Cemetery and J S Clark Cemetery.

Miss Karen Cupit, senior accountant for the Police Jury, presented the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the various Road Lighting Districts.

No action was taken on the budgets for the Road Lighting Districts.

Cammack reported that Dr. O'Neal planned on attending the next Finance Committee meeting.

Jackson moved that the agenda be amended to include Coroner's Fees. Smiley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to amend the agenda.

Jackson discussed a provision in the state law for Judges to add up to \$10.00 in fees to help alleviate costs of the Coroner's office. A copy of a memo was distributed.

Moore asked for an added fee for traffic tickets to be investigated as well.

Jackson also reported that a cost share with Morehouse Parish for court reporters was being investigated.

Moore moved that a letter be sent to the Judges' office concerning the added fee on non-traffic related cases and traffic tickets. Jackson seconded the motion. There was no opposition. Motion passed.

Cammack discussed the 2008 amended budget for LCDBG – Bawcomville Streets project. The work was completed in 2007. A transfer from the general fund to this fund will be returned.

Calhoun moved to approve the budget. Blade seconded the motion. There was no opposition. Motion passed.

Cammack discussed the 2008 amended and 2009 proposed budgets for the Juvenile Drug Court fund. Grant funds are available until September 30, 2009.

No action was taken on the budgets for the Juvenile Drug Court.

Cammack mentioned to the Jurors that minutes from the last meeting are available and will be on the next regular agenda.

Jackson opened a discussion on personnel and compensation. Departments are asking what direction the Jury is planning on going with raises. Cammack discussed a memo in

which he had prepared and distributed to the Jurors. The current consumer price index (CPI) is 4.9%.

Cammack recommended moving departments to a 0.5% pay scale from the current 2.5% pay scale. He said that it would give more flexibility in granting raises.

Smiley moved that the Jury move departments from the current 2.5% pay scale to a 0.5% pay scale. The motion was later dropped. The item will appear on the next Personnel Committee Agenda.

Cammack reported that LaTanya Harper, human resources coordinator, was working on an analysis of departments that should be ready for that meeting.

Moore brought up the pay raise opportunity that was approved by the Legislature in the past session. Discussion ensued. The consensus of the jury was to not take any action on it at this time.

Jackson discussed dates and times for future Finance Committee meetings that are dedicated to reviewing the budgets.

Blade asked Cammack if the current Administrative budget included a new hire to work within administration at the Police Jury. Cammack indicated that it was included.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM.