

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Budget Meeting - May 1, 2023**

STATE OF NEVADA        )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA     )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on May 1, 2023. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Marty Plaskett, District Attorney Ted Beutel, Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling, and Deputy Clerk II Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice Chairman Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Chairman McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman McKay opened the floor for public comments; there were none.

**FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET**

Television District: Randy Klatt requested a \$40,000.00 increase to the Television District budget in order to pay FCC fines assessed against the Television District for failure to file license renewals in a timely manner. He explained that the District contracts with Eagle Communications and pays \$3,000.00 per month for telecommunication and technical services, and \$1,500.00 per month for clerical services.

Mr. Klatt felt the recent change in ownership and management for Eagle Communications was the primary factor in the failure to file license renewals. The Television District is currently working on a compliance plan to ensure that this doesn't happen again. Mr. Klatt explained that \$36,000.00 of the proposed budget increase will pay the fines and penalties, and the remaining \$4,000.00 will be spent on training and compliance issues.

Commissioners: Additions to the Commissioners' budget included \$200,000.00 for miscellaneous grants and \$100,000.00 for the Child Advocacy Center in Elko. In reviewing the budget, the Board asked that monies budgeted for water legal fees be reduced from \$500,000.00 to \$300,000.00. Ms. Todd reminded the Commissioners that their budget can be used for unforeseen expenses when the incurring department doesn't have adequate funds to cover emergency costs.

The Comptroller referenced \$5 million allocated for the 4G LTE project. She recommended that the Board transfer a portion of this to cover flooding costs. Jeb Rowley said flood repairs in the upcoming fiscal year are estimated to be \$3.2 million. After further discussion, the Board lowered the \$5 million to \$4 million, wanting to leave money if a broadband grant came through. The option of transferring monies within the General Fund to cover flood repairs was discussed.

Treasurer: Ms. Todd relayed that no changes were requested in the Treasurer and Public Guardian budgets. Treasurer Pernecia Johnson noted that investment fees could be reduced to \$30,000.00, telephone/fax could be reduced to \$1,500.00, and travel and training could be reduced to \$3,000.00.

Public Guardian: Ms. Johnson said the telephone/fax account could be reduced to \$1,000.00. She asked about decreasing legal fees, but the District Attorney advised against it.

Recorder: Ms. Todd met with Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling and made some adjustments to the Recorder budget. Telephone/fax was reduced to \$1,000.00 and \$10,000.00 was added for mining claims. Other adjustments resulted in an overall budget decrease of \$10,000.00.

Elections: Ms. Bowling noted that the Elections budget was increased due to the additional election in the upcoming year (Presidential Preference Primary Election). Software conversion was increased by \$5,000.00 to accommodate use of the State-mandated election software.

District Court: In the District Court budget, services and supplies were decreased to \$12,000.00 and telephone/fax was decreased to \$1,000.00. A capital outlay line item was added and \$15,000.00 was budgeted for purchase of chairs for the jury room.

Assessor: Assessor Michael Mears reviewed the changes in his budget. Postage was reduced to \$6,000.00, fuel was increased to reflect the rising costs of fuel, and data software contracts was increased for potential program enhancements.

Assessor Tech Fund: Mr. Mears relayed that this fund covers expenses related to aerial photography and GIS (geographic information system) related expenses. He typically budgets contingency, as this fund is often used for unforeseen technology needs.

Human Resources: The personnel support account in the Human Resources budget was decreased by \$32,000.00 for a compensation study that should conclude in the current fiscal year. Machine maintenance was reduced to \$1,000.00.

Comptroller: Ms. Todd stated that she increased data software in her budget for the Tyler Incode 10 system (used to some degree by all County departments). Office supplies were decreased to \$8,000.00, telephone/fax was decreased to \$750.00, and contract services was decreased by \$500.00.

Annual Audit: \$15,000.00 was added to the Annual Audit budget because a single audit, which is a very extensive review, will be required (mandated when \$750,000.00 in federal grant funds are received).

Senior Centers: Senior Center Program Director Linda Gordon reviewed changes in her budget. Due to rising costs, raw food, services and supplies, and fuel were all increased, but the Board felt the amounts were reasonable. Telephone/fax was lowered to \$1,500.00.

Sheriff: Sheriff Jesse Watts reviewed his budget requests. Coroner costs were increased based on usage. Machine maintenance was increased to cover the Livescan machine (maintenance was previously built into the contract) and addition of other equipment such as cameras (body cams, dash cams, and jail surveillance). Two patrol vehicles were included in the Sheriff's budget (typically budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund). An additional \$30,000.00 was added to capital outlay for fencind and a Conex storage container for Crescent Valley.

Ambulance & EMS: EMS Director Kenny Sanders included monies in his budget for replacement of computers in the stations and ambulances. He added a category for AED (automated external defibrillators) supplies and maintenance, due to those items doubling in price. Telephone/fax was reduced to \$5,000.00; the service contracts account was decreased to \$8,000.00; and capital outlay items were a rollover from Fiscal Year 2023.

There was a brief discussion about a request from Carlin for assistance in purchasing a new ambulance, estimated in the \$300,000.00 range. Chairman McKay said the County's budget would not support the entire purchase, but as the year progresses funds might be identified in the Commissioners' budget to consider a cab and chassis purchase, closer to the \$70-\$75,000.00 range, and Carlin could outfit it with the box and other equipment.

District Attorney: Ted Beutel reviewed budget requests for his department, with the following increases: \$5,000.00 in services and supplies; \$50,000.00 for contract services (necessary due to attorney fees related to public record requests); \$5,000.00 for investigations; and \$5,000.00 for office supplies. Travel and training of \$25,000.00 was a carryover from the previous year, and \$20,000.00 was budgeted for capital outlay (including a carryover of \$15,000.00) for replacement of cabinets in the vault.

Juvenile Probation: Ms. Todd noted that the Juvenile Probation budget had an overall decrease of \$3,000.00. A considerable portion of the Juvenile Probation budget is for programs that are reimbursed by grants.

Justice Court: The Justice Court budget reflected an overall increase of \$11,000.00. The court expenses account was increased by \$10,000.00; fuel was increased by \$5,000.00; and vehicle

maintenance was increased by \$5,000.00. Reductions in other categories helped offset the overall increase.

Natural Resources: Changes to the Natural Resources budget were minimal. The Firewise account was increased by \$1,500.00 for anticipated Title III funding.

Weed & Rodent Districts: No changes were proposed for the Rodent District budget. There was a minimal increase of \$1,500.00 to the Weed District budget. Ms. Todd noted that the Weed District receives substantial reimbursements through BLM grants.

Recreation Board: Chairman McKay requested a new line item in the Recreation budget for contract services, to be budgeted at \$65,000.00 for the Tourism Director. The overall budget decreased from \$210,000.00 to \$150,000.00.

Agricultural Extension: Ms. Todd noted that the Ag Extension receives tax dollars and sets the budget based on revenues. Capital outlay was decreased for the upcoming budget year due to completion of projects in the current fiscal year.

Fair Board: Other than a decrease in contract services, the Fair Board budget remained the same. The Fair Board has eliminated one day of events and will host a three-day County Fair in August 2023. The cost savings will likely be reflected in subsequent budgets.

Crescent Valley Town Board: The proposed budget for the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board reduced meeting expenses to \$500.00, postage to \$1,000.00, and services and supplies to \$4,000.00.

Information Technology: IT Director Misty Rowley proposed reductions of \$15,000.00 in services and supplies, and \$15,000.00 in circuits/broadband. Capital outlay includes a carryover of funds to support the fiber optic project. Other categories have monies that will only be spent if certain projects move forward, and there is some contingency that would support an additional position.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET- PERSONNEL REQUESTS**

**Public Works**: Jeb Rowley requested a custodian. Mr. Beutel noted that this is a necessary hire due to previous determination that the county was out of compliance with the law when janitorial services were performed by an independent contractor and not an employee. A recent audit revealed that the level of direction given by the County was too specific for an independent contractor.

**IT**: Misty Rowley requested a benefited part-time IT Support Technician. Ms. Rowley would like to open this position January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and will utilize contract services in the meantime.

**Sheriff's Office**: Sheriff Watts requested an additional dispatcher and conversion of an administrative position to dispatcher. This would ensure more efficient call monitoring, allow two dispatchers to be on duty for each 12-hour shift, and would increase supervisory capabilities. He also requested a community service officer for each the south end and the north end, and would like the south-end officer to begin as of January 1, 2024.

**EMS/Ambulance**: EMS Director asked that volunteer stipends be increased based on qualifications, effective in the upcoming fiscal year, as follows: \$75.00 for volunteer drivers, \$100.00 for Basic EMTs, and \$125.00 for Advanced EMTs.

**Senior Center**: Senior Center Program Director Linda Gordon asked that a part-time Kitchen Aide position be converted to a three-quarter time benefited position.

**Public Works**: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley requested that two casual positions in the Road Department be eliminated and one full-time position be created.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET – CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUESTS**

Kim Todd reviewed the capital outlay requests from various departments. The forklift, car lift, and oil room expansion (Eureka road shop) are budgeted in the Capital Projects Fund, since the Road Department budget cannot cover these expenses. She explained that \$100,000.00 is budgeted each year for radio repeater upgrades, and the balance is carried forward from year to year until a large project can be funded every three to four years. Water utility improvements are budgeted and will be reimbursed with grant monies from LATCF (Local Assistance & Tribal Consistency Fund).

Capital outlay items budgeted in the Water Mitigation Fund include well drilling (to provide water needed for road maintenance), generators to power the wells, and test well drilling in Kobeh Valley to secure a production well to supplement the municipal water supply.

There was a proposal to budget monies in the Landfill Fund for purchase of a high-side trash trailer to service the Crescent Valley area. Jeb Rowley commented that he would prefer to purchase two belly dump trailers and postpone the trash trailer purchase. After some discussion, the Board agreed to budget the belly dumps in the upcoming fiscal year, and the trash trailer can be budgeted for Fiscal Year 2025.

A contingency of \$75,000.00 will be budgeted in each water system (Eureka, Crescent Valley, and Devil's Gate), for unforeseen well repairs or replacement.

The Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board asked that funds be budgeted for purchase of additional tables and chairs, and a Conex storage unit for the Community Center.

The Television District has budgeted \$30,000.00 for purchase and installation of cameras on the mountain top repeater sites.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET – DEPARTMENT REQUESTS**

Director Jeb Rowley reviewed budget requests for all departments under the purview of Public Works. Amounts for telephone/fax decreased in every department since AT&T is no longer the primary service provider. Capital outlay was decreased in the Airport budget. The Planning Commission did not request any budget changes, but Mr. Rowley listed several categories that could be reduced by half based on spending trends.

Mr. Rowley added two categories for flooding expenses in the Emergency Management budget; this will provide a tracking mechanism for flood damage repairs that will be reimbursed by FEMA in future years. Nothing will be budgeted for Yucca Mountain until the Federal government provides additional funding for affected counties. Public Works contract services was reduced from \$530,000.00 to \$350,000.00 because some of the contracts have not continued.

Budgets for the Swimming Pool, Museum, and Opera House are virtually the same as the previous year. As noted earlier, some large ticket items were moved from the Road Department budget to the Capital Projects Fund. The Regional Transportation Commission budget includes \$11 million for the large road and utility project. The Eureka Town budget will remain the same, and the Crescent Valley Town budget had a slight reduction.

A minor increase in electricity costs was the only change to budgets for the Eureka, Crescent Valley, and Devil's Gate water systems. The budget for the Natural Resources Multiple Use Fund includes monies for a road inventory study.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman McKay called for public comments; there were none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.*

/s/ Rich McKay  
Richard McKay, Chairman

ATTEST: /s/ Kathy Bowling  
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk