

**RILEY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
SPECIAL LAW BOARD MEETING
City Commission Meeting Room
1101 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS
April 7, 2016 5:30 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present:

Craig Beardsley	Robert Boyd
Wynn Butler	Karen McCulloh
Usha Reddi	Ron Wells
Barry Wilkerson	

Absent:

Staff Present:

Director Schoen	Assistant Director Doehling
Captain Fink	Captain Hegarty
Captain Hooper	Captain Kyle
Captain Moldrup	

I. Establish Quorum: By Chairman Boyd at 5:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Director Schoen.

III. General Agenda:

A. Public Comment: None.

B. Board Member Comments: Beardsley extended his appreciation to Riley County Police Department (RCPD) administration and staff for their work on the 2017 Budget Narrative. The analysis that was conducted definitely helps the Law Board focus on areas that need attention, as well as explain how the Department arrived at the proposed budget figures.

C. 2017 Budget Development: Members of the Law Board were provided copies of the Riley County Police Department 2017 Budget Narrative as part of their packets. Also provided was 2017 Budget Draft 1 which includes scheduled merit increases and a 0% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for employees. This option represents a 3.836% increase from the 2016 approved budget when the 2015 carryover is applied.

Assistant Director Doehling briefed the Board on budget options A through E. A brief description of each option to include non-personnel and personnel related costs, and the percent increase over the 2016 approved RCPD budget are depicted in the chart below.

	2016	2017 (Base Budget)	<i>Option A</i> Courtroom Security	<i>Option A</i> Courthouse Security	<i>Option B</i> Mental Health Response	<i>Option C</i> Dispatchers (2)	<i>Option D</i> Shift Differential Pay	<i>Option E</i> Education Pay	Options A-E	2017 Budget Draft 1
Personnel	\$17,313,000	\$17,255,298	\$60,050	\$150,381	\$87,468	\$94,356	\$30,460	\$134,987	\$557,702	\$17,813,000
Non- Personnel	\$2,451,000	\$2,721,500	\$3,000	\$5,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,729,500
Total	\$19,764,000	\$19,984,798	\$60,050	\$150,381	\$87,468	\$94,356	\$30,460	\$134,987	\$557,702	\$20,542,500
% Change	-	+1.117	+304	+761	+443	+477	+154	+683	+2.822	+3.939

Director Schoen spoke with City staff yesterday concerning courthouse security for Municipal Court. As a result, there will be some upward revisions to the abovementioned courtroom and courthouse security budget recommendations. In addition, there are a number of computer servers at the Department that are due to be replaced. Riley County Police Department Information Technology (IT) staff is waiting to determine precisely what those costs will be, specifically with respect to the maintenance agreements.

Pawnee Mental Health Services Executive Director Robbin Waldner Cole briefed the Board on the proposed mental health response position (budget option B). She explained that she is very happy with the working relationship between Pawnee Mental Health Services and the Riley County Police Department. The two entities have discussed some very exciting possibilities that will ultimately benefit the community. During her conversations with the public regarding the mental health response initiative she has received nothing but universal applause. That does not mean that there aren't or won't be members of the community who are nervous or unsupportive of the idea of community mental health and law enforcement working together. However, she certainly has not encountered those individuals.

Cole said that the proposed level of funding would allow for one full-time mental health response professional with a Master's level degree. The ideal individual would be experienced, and have both a license to practice independently as a clinician and a license as a substance abuse counselor. She does not envision the position being filled by a recent graduate or new professional. It would not be an entry level position; therefore, the salary and benefits would need to reflect that. Lastly, the individual would need to be comfortable working on the streets with people who may or may not be of danger to themselves or others and who have come into contact with law enforcement for whatever reason.

Reddi commented that the mental health response professional would need to be available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. She wished to know if Pawnee Mental Health Services has plans to fund an additional mental health response position.

Cole responded that Pawnee Mental Health Services currently lacks the financial capacity to add resources to devote to this project. If they were to contribute additional responders to be stationed at the police department, it would require extra funding support for Pawnee Mental Health Services. She noted that Pawnee recently completed a grant application for City of Manhattan's alcohol tax dollars. They are asking the Special Alcohol Fund Advisory Committee to consider the possibility of funding a position so that there would be a mental health team of two.

Reddi mentioned that there is interest among the City Commission in Junction City to have a mental health co-responder for their area. Perhaps this can be a regional project and resources can be pooled to fund additional positions.

Cole said that Pawnee serves ten counties in North Central Kansas. They are the mental health authorities as designated by Geary County, Pottawatomie County, and Riley County. Pawnee already receives funding from all ten of the counties. From her perspective, it would not be about finding a community mental health center that could cooperate. It would be about cooperation that would need to be ironed out between the governing authorities of the counties to work with each other. The governing authorities have the ease of having one community mental health center (Pawnee Mental Health Services) that is already responsible for providing services in those counties.

Beardsley wanted to know if it would be feasible to incorporate interns in the program.

Cole said that it would be possible. They would need to find out what the university requirements are for the interns. Different programs have different requirements. Whether they look at social work, marriage and family therapy, or psychology interns, those conversations would need to happen at the university level. Typically, the university is concerned about students having direct client contact and clinical experience. Certainly there would be many opportunities for direct client contact in the field. They would need research the expectations of the university in terms of documentation and progress reporting, but it is definitely something that can be explored.

Butler asked if it would be a contracted position with Pawnee or an employee of RCPD.

Schoen said that the details have not yet been worked out. Whether the position is contracted or an employee of RCPD is not as relevant as the provision of the services. Either way it has the potential to be awkward if the two organizations do not work well together. In either case, it is truly an arrangement where responsibility for oversight of the position is shared.

Butler stated that he was not opposed to the concept. He wanted to know when the position would be filled and the plan would go into effect. Conceivably the amount could be cut in half if the plan were implemented in June 2017.

Schoen said that he could easily imagine having the position filled and the plan completed by January 1, 2017.

Cole concurred with Schoen. She added that if the commitment to the funding is made in a timely manner there would be adequate time in 2016 to recruit and hire a mental health professional who would be appropriate for this kind of role in the community.

Wilkerson said that had something like this been in place several years ago they may have been able to save a gentleman's life. The state has put this obligation on local communities for some time now. In his opinion, the addition of a mental health position is long overdue. It was his preference to have the plan implemented by January 1, 2017 and funded for the entire year.

Reddi also voiced her support of the mental health position. She would like the Board to look at the big picture without getting lost in the weeds. She said that she does not want to micromanage the process; however, she would like to view a skeleton plan.

There was a consensus among the Board to consider funding the mental health response position. However, additional information was requested regarding the overall plan. Schoen and Cole will provide the Board with the requested information at the regularly scheduled June Law Board Meeting.

Boyd said that following a Joint City/County Meeting a working group was formed and tasked with determining the best avenue going forward with respect to District and Municipal Court security. The group discussed whether it would be prudent to contract with a private firm, contract with RCPD, or house it in RCPD. The group concluded that the best option would be to have the security section housed within RCPD and funded directly through the police department's budget. The desire is to eventually consolidate the District and Municipal Courts.

Boyd explained that for 2016 the District Court will require two security officers: one sworn law enforcement officer to rove the building and one courtroom security officer. Funding for this in 2016 has not yet been identified. In 2017 the addition of two Transportation Security Administration (TSA) type positions will be added handle screening at the entrance. The Municipal Court will require one sworn law enforcement officer and one courtroom security officer. Further, additional security measures will be required if American Airlines changes the type of airplanes come in to the Manhattan Regional Airport.

Boyd stated that planning for courtroom and courthouse security for the District and Municipal Courts will become increasingly complicated as things progress. He recommended, and the Board agreed to postpone any decision regarding these two options to allow RCPD administration to establish the necessary staffing level and calculate new budget figures.

Schoen explained that in 2015 the Department recommended the addition of four dispatchers. At that time, the decision was made to hire only two dispatchers and hire the remaining two at a later date. He explained that it is becoming increasingly problematic for law enforcement agencies to retain qualified dispatchers. It is a very technical and complex job that requires a special skill set. Not only is he questioning the need for additional dispatchers, he is also questioning whether or not it will be necessary in the foreseeable future to adjust the pay scale in order to attract and retain quality candidates.

The Board discussed shift differential pay (option D), and education pay (option E). A consensus among the Board was reached to continue to discuss all budget options at the April 18, 2016 Law Board Meeting. The Board arranged the budget options in order of preference, and they are as follows: courtroom and courthouse security (options A), the addition of two dispatchers (option C), and the addition of a mental health response professional (option B). Although the options will still be considered, shift differential and education pay were least preferred.

Riley County Police Department administration will provide the Board with a fallback/worst case scenario budget option should the legislation pass without the exemptions.

Assistant City Manager Kiel Mangus informed the Board that legislation has already passed which exempts state and federal mandates from the property tax lid. It is his assumption that courtroom and courthouse security would be exempt as they are being mandated by the state. The exemption is also in the new legislation that is being proposed.

Schoen said that he and Riley County Law Enforcement Agency Attorney Michael Gillespie recently looked over the legislation. The current version has two exemptions that would apply to the Department and the Riley County Law Enforcement Agency (Law Board). The first is a general exemption for emergency services. The second deals with local authorities who can approve a budget and send it to the City and County who cannot modify it. Most likely the preference statewide would

be that the legislation exempt all emergency services. However, if it does not, and the other exemption remains, RCPD would still qualify.

D. Executive Session: It was determined that an executive session was not needed.

E. Adjournment: The April 7, 2016 Special Law Board Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.