

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 11, 2022

FULL DETAILED REPORT

The Board of Fremont County Commissioners met in Regular Session at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Chairman Travis Becker, Vice-Chairman Larry Allen, Jennifer McCarty, Clarence Thomas and Michael Jones. County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 4, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to accept the bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A & I Distributors	Vehicle Maintenance	Oil/Fluids	\$1,488.00
Ace Hardware-Riverton	Vehicle Maintenance	Materials/Supplies	\$51.63
Allred, Ryan	County Sheriff	Expense Reimbursement	\$50.00
Alsco Inc	County Buildings	Laundry	\$310.34
American Shooters Las Vegas, Inc	County Sheriff	Ammunition - Supplies	\$615.00
Apex Surveying, Inc	Lower North Fork	Engineer	\$12,852.50
Apex Surveying, Inc	Road Construction	Survey Services	\$2,875.12
Bailey Enterprises, Inc	Inventory	Bulk Fuel Account	\$14,496.11
Bank of the West	Segregated	Credit Card Charges	\$93,330.36
Best Western Ramkota	County Sheriff	Lodging	\$172.00
Black Hills Energy	County Buildings	Utility Service	\$10,727.02
Bowdel Steven P.	Detention Center	Medical Services	\$1,687.50
Bull's Service & Towing LLC	Segregated	Fuel/Towing	\$725.20
C C & G, Inc	North Fork	Road Reconstruction	\$34,330.25
Caselle, Inc	Computer Services	Source Code	\$200.00
Clancy II, Michael	Transportation	Expense Reimbursement	\$110.00
Clifford, Gregory P. MD PC	Detention Center	Inmate Medical	\$2,862.00
CMI Teco	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$495.20
Communication Technologies Inc	Support Services	Maintenance Agreement, Repairs	\$2,961.87
Cowboy Chemical Inc	Detention Center	Inmate Laundry & Kitchen Supply	\$919.30
Danyne Cooper Counseling, LLC	Juvenile Treatment Court	Contractual Services	\$1,350.00
Detimore, Bryar	Detention Center	Expense Reimbursement	\$27.96
DOWL LLC	3rd Street Bridge Project	Road Reconstruction	\$29,994.05
Dubois Frontier, The	Support Services	Advertising	\$52.20
Dubois Telephone Exchange	Segregated	Telephone Service	\$715.07
Fremont County Library System	Health Promotion	Reimbursement	\$35.00
Fremont Motors - Lander	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts/Supplies	\$51.06
Frontier Ambulance LLC	Fremont County Ambulance	Ambulance Subsidy	\$451,764.00
Globalstar USA	Search & Rescue	Satellite Phone	\$200.37
Gruber Technical Inc	Segregated	Maintenance Agreement	\$3,956.00
Redacted	Health Promotion	Reimbursement	\$100.00
Int'l Academies of Emergency Dispatch	Dispatch Center	Training	\$80.00
Intoximeters Inc	24/7 Program	Supplies	\$280.00
Kairos Broadcasting LLC	Prevention Program	Radio Advertising	\$1,250.00
Lander Vision Center	Detention Center	Inmate Medical	\$215.00
Lander, City of	County Buildings	Water & Sewer	\$2,559.14
Mahlum, Zachary Hamilton	District Court	Court Appointment	\$687.32
McAuley, Lindsay	Detention Center	Inmate Medical Services	\$250.00
Mountain West Towing LLC	Abandoned Vehicles	Vehicle Towing	\$125.00

Mr D's Food Center Inc	Detention Center	Supplies	\$659.29
Norco Inc	Segregated	Supplies	\$5,683.25
Office Shop Inc, The	Agriculture Department	Repair/Service	\$4.83
Olson's Auto Body & Towing	County Sheriff	Vehicle Repair	\$2,884.15
Palace Pharmacy	Detention Center	Inmate Rx's	\$6,619.74
Paws for Life	County Sheriff	Animal Boarding	\$945.00
Post, Raymond	County Sheriff	Car Wash	\$27.93
Print Shop, The	County Sheriff	Printed Office	\$254.00
Priority Dispatch Inc	Dispatch Center	Service Agreement	\$15,360.00
Quadient Inc	County Sheriff	Postage Machine Meter	\$29.72
Quill Corporation	Segregated	Office Supplies	\$385.67
R T Communications	Segregated	Telephone Service	\$541.37
Ratigan, Daniel, M.D.	Detention Center	P.A. Supervisor Contract	\$4,950.00
Reed's Moghaun Office Supply	Detention Center	Office Supplies	\$53.00
RELX, Inc.	County Attorney	Research Subscription	\$674.00
Remote Satellite Systems	Search & Rescue	Equipment	\$56.00
Riverton, City of	Transportation	Water	\$26.11
Rodriguez, Jessica	Detention Center	Contract Services	\$3,750.00
RR Donnelley & Sons Company	County Clerk	Office Supplies	\$327.57
Skaggs Companies Inc	County Sheriff	Uniforms/Supplies	\$855.00
Smith Psychological Services	Segregated	Services	\$800.00
US Foods Inc	Detention Center	Inmate Board	\$16,707.24
Utah Medical Insurance Assoc.	Detention Center	Insurance	\$5,245.00
Verizon Wireless	Segregated	Cellphone Service	\$4,919.15
Whiting Law, P.C.	District Court	Professional Services	\$2,295.00
Windmill, LLC	Transportation	Supplies	\$1,653.65
WY Assoc of Co Ag Agents	Agriculture Department	Association Dues	\$100.00
Wyoming Sheriff's Association	County Sheriff	Association Dues	\$687.00
Wyoming Waste Systems	County Buildings	Trash Service	\$2,956.66
Wyoming.com	County Sheriff	Monthly Service	\$675.65

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) Jennifer McCarty moved, Larry Allen seconded, to approve a Fremont County Bank of the West Credit Card Application for Jeanna Stewart, Public Health Nurse, with a credit limit of \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve a South Lander Industrial Park Findings of Fact and Proposed Plan of Dissolution and Liquidation regarding Dissolution of a Special District. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve a letter of support to the Economic Development Administration on behalf of CWC to develop a curriculum and accredited program to train individuals in the emergency first responder field. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Priority Mail were reviewed: 1) Agenda and registration for the Wyoming County Commissioners Association 2022 Legislative Conference; and 2) thank you letter from Popo Agie Ranch Homeowners Association spokesman Bill Lee regarding County assistance over last four years to address flooding issues in that area.

Election of offices was held. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to re-appoint Travis Becker as Chairman of the Board for 2022. Motion carried unanimously. Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to re-appoint Larry Allen as Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2022 County Commissioners Liaison Contact list was updated and several changes made to appointments. The new list will be sent to Departments for their information.

There was nobody present for the Public Comment period.

Building Maintenance Supervisor J.R. Oakley updated the Board on the Detention Facility Security Upgrade project that required a forklift for the physical portion of the project last July. The Commissioners at that time recommended a lease with Bobcat of Big Horn Basin at a cost of \$4,000 a month. This week the physical portion of the project will be completed and a decision needs to be made

on returning the Bobcat or exercising the option to purchase it. A quote was reviewed indicating a full selling price for the 2021 Bobcat S76 with Bucket and Pallet Forks totaling \$49,239.24, less \$20,000 paid by Fremont County on the monthly lease, plus and an additional \$7,089.15 for a 96" Snow Blade and 84" Sweeper, for a total cost of \$36,328.39. Several funding avenues were discussed. Oakley stated the Youth Camp has offered \$3,000 for the John Deere tractor that Building Maintenance now uses to plow snow. Mike Jones moved, Larry Allen seconded, to approve purchase of the Bobcat for \$36,328.39 with the funding avenue to be finalized the following week. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Ryan Lee presented a monthly update. Detention: December bookings totaled 138 (down from 13 the month prior). Riverton Police Department had the most with 59, Fremont County Sheriff's Office at 42, Lander Police Department at 33, Wyoming Highway Patrol at 6, US Marshall's Office at 1 and Shoshoni Police Department at 3. Current inmate population, as of January 10, 2022, is 176 in house and 181 in custody (118 males, 58 females, 3 juveniles, 1 on home confinement and 1 adult housed out of county). Sentencing demographics total 53 sentenced (36 males and 17 females) and Pre-Adjudicated inmates total 99. There are no COVID issues at this time. The facility upgrade project is slated for completion this week. End of year statistics are a total booking total of 1,583 in 2021, compared to a total of 1,007 bookings in 2020. Staffing vacancies include one Cook, four Deputy Sheriffs (3 conditional offers have been made) and one Nurse. The budget at 50% of the fiscal year elapsed is prisoner board at 46%, 63% on overtime pay, medical under at 29% and contractual services over at 57%, for an overall budget being under at 43%. Expected revenues from Wyoming Department of Corrections total \$47,000 for September through December services. Emergency Dispatch Center: Staffing is currently down five positions with three conditional offers of employment. There are no budget considerations at this time. Patrol/Enforcement: Staffing is down one Deputy position in the Riverton Division. Total calls for service in 2021 were 7,448 (compared to 7,834 calls in 2020). They are still awaiting arrival of the new vehicles, expected around the first of February, purchased through the Capital Revolving Fund. Budget considerations are fuel, which at this time is 50% of budget. Search and Rescue: There have been 16 missions this fiscal year (compared to 25 this time last fiscal year). Out of those missions, air resources were utilized six times and three fatalities occurred. Vice-Chairman Allen updated Sheriff Lee on his discussion with Dispatch Supervisor Freeman who continues to work with Frontier Ambulance on getting the Spillman system upgraded to be able to track numbers. Commissioner Jones stated firm figures are paramount to entering into any sort of funding discussion with local municipalities and he will be inviting Sheriff Lee to an upcoming Fremont County Association of Governments (FCAG) meeting to discuss how the Dispatch fees are assessed. General discussion was held on potential funding avenues from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, at which time Vice-Chairman Allen stated Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Meredith informed him that at least ten Sheriff's Office vehicles need to be replaced in the near future, this is in addition to the new ones that should be arriving in February. Other uses of the funding may be overtime costs.

Coroner Larry DeGraw and Deputy Erin Ivie were present to provide a 2021 Case Summary and Comparison Report. There were 388 recorded deaths (28 less than that of 2020), of those 45.3% were Coroner cases at 176 (4 more than 2020). Among Coroner cases, 36% (63) were "non-natural" in manner (accidental, homicide, suicide, undetermined) (slightly less than 2020 at 64). Of those, the number of accidental deaths is 44 (39 in 2020). This rate is about twice that of the national average for our population and is the highest number for a single year going back 40 years. Deaths by suicide is 17 (20 in 2020). This is about three times the national average for our population. Deaths by homicide is 2 (5 in 2020). Motor-vehicle/Traffic Deaths had 16 (same in 2020). Ten (67%) of the total deaths involved alcohol and/or drugs. This about three times the national average for our population. Five cases are pending toxicology and/or autopsy at this time (these results will change the totals). The leading cause of accidental deaths is motor vehicle accidents (16), second is drug and/or alcohol toxicity (15), third is falls (7), fourth is fire trauma (3), followed by accidental drowning (2) and hypothermia (1). Suicide numbers have remained high after lows of five suicides in 2018 and 2000. The year 2020 saw the highest year total at 20 which is the highest for the past 40 years. Previous highs were recorded at 19 in 2012 and 18 in each of 1985 and 2006. There was one unclaimed remains burial. The 3rd and 4th quarter had over 50 cases each (51 and 53 respectively). There has not been another time in the past seven years where two quarters of the same year saw over 50 cases each. 2021 had the largest number of Coroner cases since 2014. Total drug and alcohol related deaths account for 56 of all 176 cases (32%) and a slight decrease from 2020 (34%). Of the non-natural deaths, 36 of 56 were drug/alcohol related (65%) which is a large increase from 2020 (48%). The contributing factor in accidental deaths of drugs and alcohol is at 57% (25 of 44 deaths) and an increase from 2020 of 49%. Of all 55 of the total drug and alcohol related deaths, the primary substance of abuse remains alcohol at 38 (67%); second is Methamphetamine at 15 (27%) and up from 2020 at 9; third is Opiates (14%) (fentanyl, oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, etc.). Cannabis related deaths have dropped from #2 in 2019 (14 deaths at 24%) to only 3 in 2021 (same as

2020). It is important to note that some cases involve more than one substance relating to drug and/or alcohol. For 2021, seven Coroner cases were directly related to complications of COVID-19. Sixteen COVID-19 deaths were reported to the Coroner office by Fremont County medical facilities where the death occurred (these deaths are not included in the Coroner cases of 176). The balance of all other reported COVID-19 deaths for Fremont County occurred in medical facilities or were attended deaths and not Coroner cases (these numbers are tracked but not part of the Coroner case numbers). A spreadsheet of Coroner case totals from 2012 to present was also presented for review. Ivie noted that reporting has changed and that prior to 2020, Homicide may include motor-vehicle homicides, as of 2020 per national standards, most motor-vehicle deaths are certified as "accident" unless the vehicle was used as a weapon. As the County still has a vacant County Health Officer position, the Coroner's Office has to work with the State when necessary. In other business, Chairman Becker informed Coroner DeGraw that Commissioner Clarence Thomas will now be his Liaison.

Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks, DOWL Engineer Kasey Jones and Financial Specialist Michelle Neuenschwander discussed Country Acres Road Reconstruction project. Meeks stated the project is ready to bid and recommending revising the 1% budget as a result of the MOU with the Tribes to take over maintenance of four roads on the Wind River Indian Reservation, of which work overlay work had been budgeted at \$1.7 million. He would like to move that amount to the Country Acres Road Reconstruction project budget. At this time \$150,000 has been budgeted for engineering and the infusion of \$1.7 million for the \$1.9 million project could move the project up the list so that construction could begin this spring. Meeks felt comfortable that the remaining shortage could still be funded within the 1% budget. The Commissioners were not opposed to the recommendation; however, asked that a revised 1% budget be made available to them at their next meeting so they could see how the entire funding picture looks. Due to time constraints in getting the project advertised, Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve advertisement for bids for the Country Acres Road Reconstruction Project. Motion carried unanimously. A budget hearing will also be needed to document the budgetary changes within the 1% budget. The Commission asked Meeks to visit with WYDOT personnel regarding the possibility of a lower speed limit on Highway 789 that intersects this Road. In other business, Chairman Becker informed Meeks that Vice-Chairman Larry Allen will take over Liaison duties for the Transportation Department.

Commissioner Clarence Thomas was absent from the remainder of the meeting.

Wellness Coordinator Penny Fahey presented the 2021 Wellness Program Annual Report. Present in the audience were Executive Health Insurance Committee members Margy Irvine and Jim Anderson. The Premium Reduction Program total eligible participants decreased in 2021 from 76% to 69%. She is aware of only two participants who did not participate in 2021, so the drop may be due to new employees not signing up for the program and she plans better outreach efforts to encourage participants. By category, of the 236 employees participating in the Program, 34 are receiving between \$50 and \$100 off their monthly premium, 37 are receiving \$50 and 8 are at below \$50. Four premium reduction standards must be met for the reduction at \$50 each (BMI, Cholesterol, Blood Pressure and Glucose) and physician waivers are accepted by those receiving treatment for a pre-existing condition that directly affects a premium reduction standard. BMI is the standard most missed, followed by Cholesterol. Four participants did not submit health fair results and therefore did not record cholesterol or glucose and met only the blood pressure standard. Participation incentives are given to individuals who do not meet the four standards and that work with Fahey on a monthly basis, the total number in 2021 was 59. Disease Management/Prescription Coverage participant number is currently 80, a decrease from 84 in 2020. She noted many participants receive more than one type of medication. She stated the decrease is due to employees no longer participating in the insurance program due to change of employment or retirement. The Spring Buk program incorporates wellness data and cost outlook for the health insurance plan and she will provide an update on that program in the future. The change from Western Health Screenings to Wyoming Health Fairs occurred during the pandemic years so a full comparison is not available at this time. She felt the new business is doing a good job overall but having some challenges with their workforce and continuity issues. They also provide an opportunity to test monthly in this area. Irvine stated there is work to do with educating them on what tests the County is offering to employees.

Commissioner meeting reports were given:

Commissioner Mike Jones attended the monthly Elected Officials/Department Heads meeting the prior day and gave kudos to a presentation by IT Supervisor Kevin Shultz regarding cyber security and his Fremont County Breach Avoidance Plan that we will be hearing more about. He has been reviewing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule issued by the U.S.

Treasury and has the Chief Civil Deputy reviewing it as it opens up a lot of options for the County. He has asked Building Maintenance Supervisor Oakley to get a list of improvements he felt was needed (windows, carpeting, etc.). He envisioned a letter to all Departments at some point in the future asking for their list of uses for funding. He attended a DUI Task Force Meeting presented by Fremont County Prevention Coordinator Tauna Groomsmith with law enforcement and municipalities that raises awareness issues. There was good visibility of the Task Force during the holiday season with signage within the county.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen sits on the Governor's EMS Task Force and he reviewed Fremont County's submission of six ambulances and three command vehicles. At this time the Governor is recommending \$10 million towards these needs and he understands it will be one of the first bills to be reviewed at the upcoming Legislative session. Representative Pepper Ottman was present via Zoom and stated she has been in contact with the Governor's Office and did not feel that amount was finalized at this time but she will stay on top of the issue. Commissioner Allen reminded the audience that even if six ambulances are ordered today, it would take at least one year to get them on the ground for local use and asked Ottman to remind the Legislature of this fact.

Commissioner Travis Becker updated the Board on two minor accidents with ambulances, both of which will be repaired in house. He stated the majority of the ambulances in the fleet are older with many miles. As part of the Fiscal Recovery Fund Committee, he reached out to the IT Supervisor who would like to improve broadband between Riverton and the Courthouse and tower improvements. He will provide a more detailed list for the Committee meeting scheduled for the following week.

Solid Waste Disposal District Board members Mark Moxley (Vice-Chairman), Jennifer Lamb, Rob Dolcater and Mandy Rose were joined by Bookkeeper Susan Brodie and Attorney Rick Sollars following the Commissioner's invitation to discuss budget concerns. It had been brought to the Commission's attention that wage adjustments had been made following their preliminary budget presentation to the Board on May 18, 2021. Moxley suggested a work session to get into the details and he agreed at that time the preliminary budget did not include any increases. However, following County Clerk Freese's memo to offline boards and districts stating that the County was looking into Standard Occupational Classifications for the NW Region for all their positions, they too looked at the SOC classification and inserted \$60,000 into the final budget as a result. Commissioner Mike Jones, liaison to their board, expressed his frustration that he had to hear about the 10% raise given the Superintendent second hand and he had been up front with the District Board regarding the Commissioners' intent of holding the salary line item steady. He felt the intent of the Commission was that employees be given "salary adjustments" depending on where they fell in the NW region for their SOC. Chairman Becker and Vice-Chairman Allen both continued to express concern that the new salary level for the Superintendent was higher than what the Governor of Wyoming was paid and that the district operates on taxpayer dollars and need to be held accountable to the public. Moxley stated they have strived over the years to keep employees in general fairly compensated for their work both in salary and benefits and in general they fall in line with SOC's for their positions. They were further able to give each employee \$1,000 in November a disaster relief payment. He further noted that the District's priority at this time was the Superintendent's salary as a result. Brodie also stated that the timing of that adjustment coincided with the annual review process which is different from the other employees. Chairman Allen had requested the Wyoming County Commissioner Association poll other counties to determine the title and amount paid their employees, specifically the manager or superintendent. Fremont County ranks the highest of those reporting with Sublette County second. Moxley noted that they had found four SOC's that worked in part for the Superintendent position, but nothing entirely perfect. Commissioner Jones stated the Commission had that dilemma as well and had to look outside of the NW Region and go to a state SOC in some instances. No individual SOC will be perfect but it should capture the majority of duties of the employee. County Clerk Freese stated the County made it very clear that any increase was a "Salary Adjustment" and not a "raise" and that levels were set depending on job description, experience and education. Mike Jones moved, Larry Allen seconded, to adjourn into Executive Session for personnel. Motion carried unanimously. Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to return to Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously. County Clerk Freese stated the County is statutorily required to publish all employees name, base salary and position in both the legal newspaper and website on an annual basis. She questioned why Districts did not have to do the same to which Sollars stated the District was not statutorily required to do so. In closing, the Solid Waste Board members agreed to commit to the SOC process and look into developing levels for each position. They will further look into the issue of publishing salaries. The Commission thanked the members for attending and for the good conversation held.

County Clerk Julie Freese had sent out four dates to County Representatives and Senators regarding a meeting with the Commission prior to the legislative session in February. The date of January 31st was selected and she will ask for an RSVP for a dinner/meeting that date. A Zoom meeting alternative will also be offered. Elected Officials will be invited to the 4:00 p.m. meeting as well.

She is preparing information for a final budget hearing for budget transfers for the following meeting to include the SOC adjustments. Most Elected Officials had agreed to not take their raise in 2021 based on the salary resolution in place; however, those earlier approved changes will begin in 2022 and be part of the adjustments as well.

She will provide an update on the proposed Legislative Districts at the next meeting and further show how they affect the County Commission Districts. The Legislators are meeting the following day in Casper to try to finalize their plan.

There being no further business, Larry Allen moved, Mike Jones seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on January 18, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

A full detailed report (informational only) and the official minutes are posted on Fremont County's website (www.fremontcountywy.gov). The meeting can also be accessed via You Tube (Fremont County WY Government).

/s/ TRAVIS BECKER, CHAIRMAN
FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

/s/ JULIE A. FREESE, FREMONT COUNTY CLERK AND CLERK OF THE BOARD