

STATE OF WYOMING)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FREMONT)

LANDER, WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 12, 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, Jennifer McCarty, Clarence Thomas and Michael Jones. Vice-Chairman Larry Allen arrived later in the meeting. County Clerk Julie A. Freese was present.

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

Jennifer McCarty moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 5, 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	\$787.38
Ace Hardware-Lander	Segregated	Materials/Supplies	\$534.04
Alsco Inc	County Buildings	Laundry	\$325.65
Avail Valley Construction WY LLC	3rd Street Bridge Project	Road Reconstruction	\$148,097.00
Bailey Enterprises, Inc	Inventory	Bulk Fuel	\$39,485.64
Bank of the West	Segregated	Credit Card Purchases	\$23,622.35
Big Horn Co-Operative	Transportation	Parts & Supplies	\$37.38
Big Horn Water	Youth Services	Water	\$79.47
Bill Jones Plumbing & Heating	County Buildings	Services / Repairs	\$226.12
Bob's Truck Repair, Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Service / Repair	\$188.23
Charter Communications	Computer Services	Internet Services	\$359.96
Communication Technologies, Inc	Support Services	Maintenance/Repairs	\$2,961.87
Dealers Electrical Supply	County Buildings Detention	Materials/Supplies	\$37.55
DOWL LLC	3rd Street Bridge Project	Road Reconstruction	\$13,781.69
Dubois Frontier, The	Support Services	Advertising	\$52.20
Dubois Telephone Exchange	Segregated	Telephone	\$713.77
Edwards Communications	Prevention Program	Radio Advertising	\$2,209.00
Fremont County Solid Waste	County Buildings	Dump Fees	\$30.80
Frontier Ambulance LLC	Fremont County Ambulance	Ambulance Subsidy	\$75,294.00
Grainger	County Buildings	Materials/Supplies	\$541.02
Inberg-Miller Engineers	Road Construction	Project Engineer	\$450.00
Kairos Broadcasting LLC	Prevention Program	Advertising	\$1,250.00
Mahlum, Zachary Hamilton	District Court	Court Appointment	\$1,270.82
Midwest Connect	County Attorney	Postage Supplies	\$210.00
Napa Auto Parts-Riverton	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts & Supplies	\$3,459.33
National Food Group, Inc	Detention Center	Inmate Board	\$7,237.35
Orkin LLC	County Buildings	Pest Control Service	\$225.00
Osage Industries, Inc	Vehicle Maintenance	Vehicle Repairs	\$183.31
Quill Corporation	County Attorney	Office Supplies	\$227.70
R T Communications	Dispatch Center	Telephone	\$444.11
RELX, Inc.	County Attorney	Research Subscription	\$674.00
Richardson-Linville, Laura	Support Services	Vital Registrar Services	\$62.50
Riverton Little League	Special Tax	Move Award Funding	\$10,000.00
Riverton Ranger, Inc	Segregated	Advertising	\$1,564.38
Rocky Mountain Power	Segregated	Utilities	\$9,779.49
Rossi, Leroy	Vehicle Maintenance	Reimbursement	\$189.99
Shultz, Kevin	Computer Services	Reimbursement	\$62.40
Stanley Convergent	Detention Doors Upgrade	Jail Equipment	\$6,990.00
State of Wyoming	County Clerk	Digital Archives Storage	\$8.26
Truenorth Steel, Inc	Road Material Inventory	Materials	\$17,321.26
Verizon Wireless	Segregated	Cellphones	\$636.07
Weigel, Dominick J., Jr	Support Services	Vital Registrar Services	\$8.50
WY Clerks of District Court Assn	Clerk of District Court	Dues	\$150.00
WY Dept of Transportation	Vehicle Maintenance	Services	\$5.00
WY Public Health Laboratory	Juvenile Treatment Court	Lab Fees/Supplies	\$18.00
Wyoming Machinery, Co	Vehicle Maintenance	Parts	\$3,847.82
Wyoming Office Attorney General	24/7 Program	Sobriety Program Fees	\$4,974.00
Wyoming Waste Systems	County Buildings	Trash Removal	\$2,864.69

Clarence Thomas moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to accept a voucher from Wyoming Behavioral Institute in the amount of \$754.00 for one Title 25 patient and \$6,900 from Fremont Counseling Service for Title 25 patients from January and February. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Signature File were reviewed: 1) Executive Exemption Checklist for Museum Director Scott Goetz and Administrative Exemption Checklist for Site Managers Randy Wise and Jessica Moore; and 2) Record of Proceedings. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Amendment One to the Grant Award Agreement between Wyoming Office of Homeland Security and Fremont County for an additional \$5,419.61 for the purchase of mobile and portable radios. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to ratify approval of Resolution No. 2022-10 "Appointment of a Special Prosecutor" with the Sweetwater County Attorney's Office. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2022-11 "Appointment of a Special Prosecutor" with the Hot Springs County & Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to Proclaim the month of April 2022 as Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a Notice of Award with S&L Industrial in the amount of \$174,825 for the Fremont County 2022 Delineator Project. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items in the Priority Mail were reviewed: Resignation letter from Juvenile Treatment Court Judge Teresa McKee. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to accept the resignation effective May 31, 2022 with regret. Motion carried unanimously.

There was nobody present for the Public Comment period.

Transportation Superintendent Billy Meeks informed the Board of a recent resignation in Lander and requested authorization to begin advertising for the vacancy, at a salary range between \$37,500 and \$43,000. Jennifer McCarty moved, Mike Jones seconded, to approve refilling the position. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Ryan Lee presented a monthly update. Budgets have been submitted, along with applications to the ARPA and Capital Revolving Fund for vehicle replacements. Staffing shortages reflect the same issues as other counties and nationally. A new addition to the Department is a therapy dog assigned to the Victim Witness Program, named Finn by Jesse Jensen of Shoshoni who won the contest to name him. Finn joins other K9 members (one drug K9 and 3 bloodhounds). Detention: March bookings totaled 186 which was down by nine from the month prior (Riverton PD - 83; Fremont County Sheriff's Office - 55; Lander PD - 4; Wyoming Highway Patrol -6; US Marshal's Office - 1; Shoshone PD - 4; Extraditions - 3). Current inmate population as of April 11, 2022 total 164 in house - 168 in custody. Sentencing demographics are 60 (40 males and 20 females). Pre-adjudicated inmates total 108 (up 5 from previous month). No COVID issues at this time. Staffing vacancies are for one Cook, six Deputy Sheriffs and one Nurse. Budget at 75% of the Fiscal Year elapsed stands at 63% overall, with Prisoner Board at 84% of current budget (average food increase of 5.5% on most food items, some have an increase as high as 65%); Overtime Pay is at 86% of budget; Medical at 46% of budget; Contractual Services at 87% of budget. Revenue includes \$171,000 from the Wyoming Department of Corrections. Emergency Dispatch Center: Currently down four positions and temporary, part-time employees total five. Reported on the Windy Ridge tower failure located in Riverton which impacted the analog system and working with County IT and the Riverton Fire Department and possibly WRTA to utilize the County's other existing site on Griffey Hill. No budget concerns at this time. Patrol/Enforcement: Down one position in the Riverton Division; Total calls for service this calendar year are 1,702; vehicles approved through the Capital Revolving Fund last fiscal year are currently at the uplifter with four being built now. Budget considerations at 75% of the fiscal year elapsed indicate Fuel over at 88%; however, the overall budget is at 68%. Search and Rescue: Mission count total 20 this fiscal year, compared to 33 this time last fiscal year. Out of these 20 missions, air resources were utilized eight times (at no cost to Fremont County) and there have been four fatalities this fiscal year. There is a possibility of a new team forming in Jeffrey City which would be a very positive addition for that area.

Coroner Larry DeGraw was joined by Deputy Erin Ivie who reviewed the 2022 1st Quarter Summary (as of March 31, 2022). There have been 100 recorded deaths in Fremont County for this quarter (40% were Coroner Cases - 40), these total eight more than the first quarter of 2021 (32). So far for this quarter, the total number of cases "non-natural" are down significantly at 25% (10) compared to 43% in 2021 (14) and are as follows: Accidental deaths is at 7 (4 less than 2021 of 11); Suicide deaths are 3 (two more than 2021 of 1); Homicide is 0 (one less than that of 2021 (1)); Motor-vehicle/Traffic deaths total six (one more

than 2021 of five). There are currently two pending cases at this time so these figures for this quarter may change. Drugs and alcohol related deaths account for 27% of the Coroner cases (down significantly from the same period in 2021 of 38%). Four of the ten non-natural deaths involved drugs and/or alcohol (44%) but noted two cases are still pending toxicology or autopsy results. This is significantly less than the same period in 2021 when eight of the non-natural deaths involved drugs or alcohol (57%). Trends indicate total case numbers are slightly higher than the same period a year ago; however, the percentage of non-natural cases is less. Accidental deaths are down with over half being motor-vehicle related. Drug and alcohol related deaths are also trending downward. All drug related deaths for this quarter are methamphetamine related/caused (there have been zero fentanyl deaths this quarter). There has been one COVID-19 related/caused death. There have been three unclaimed decedents in this first quarter. Two were buried at the Fremont County Cemetery located at the Wyoming Life Resource Center and the third was a US Veteran who was buried at the Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery in Casper per Wyoming Statute. Coroner DeGraw updated the Board on his certification process, which the Coroner Board has changed from a week long course at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy to an on-line course based out of Missouri, not Wyoming. There are no hands on or classroom time associated with the training of candidates nor is there course content that is specific to the statutory requirements by the State of Wyoming. The Coroner's Board approved the change, so the stated they will contact the Governor's Office as they appoint this Board, to relay their concern that even though Coroner DeGraw has completed the on-line training, he has not received training on requirements specific to Wyoming which are not available at this time. Budget considerations at this time indicate the Coroner's budget is 5% over budget in their bottom line due to travel to Fort Collins for autopsies, overtime and fuel costs. County Clerk Julie Freese stated she and the Financial Assistant will monitor their budget. McGraw noted the budget for the upcoming fiscal year will be an increase from the current budget to compensate for these expenses.

Riverton Fire District Business Manager Jeff Kehl reviewed the District's application of a Federal Mineral Royalty Capital Construction Account Grant to the State Loan and Investments Board for a 50% match of \$425,000 for a fire truck replacement (combination pumper/tanker fire apparatus) to service the rural areas of the District, including portions of Fremont County and the Wind River Indian Reservation. District reserves will fund the other 50% match for the total cost of \$850,000. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve a letter of support to SLIB supporting the efforts of the Riverton Fire Protection District for the very specialized piece of fire apparatus. Motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Jeff Kehl was joined by Sheriff Lee and stated the District's support of funding to assist with repairs to the damaged Windy Ridge tower located at the Riverton County Shop or efforts to secure another site that will serve for many years to come.

Library Director Anita Marple presented personnel updates and requests to rehire. Present in the audience was Riverton Branch Manager Shari Haskins and Library Board member Susan Gose. She reviewed the Lander Library Adult Services Library Assistant II position, a part-time, benefitted position (34 hours/week) that is vacant due to a resignation. The starting wage for this position will not exceed the current base salary of \$24,045. The second position discussed is an existing 30-hour/week, benefitted Custodial/Maintenance position, which has been vacant since October 2021 in order to give them time to evaluate the needs for this position. The conclusion is that the current full time and part time Custodial positions are adequate and this position is not needed. They would instead like to change the custodial position to a 30-hour/week position as a Youth Services Librarian position for the Riverton Library. They have supplemented this need temporarily with funding through a Wyoming Humanities Operating Support Grant for an employee, however, this funding will be done the end of the year. If approved, the remaining \$5,822 of this grant would be moved to the General Fund salaries and benefits budget. Funding for this change is also within their current budget. Benefits of this change is the desire to bring the staffing at the Riverton branch up to the same level as the Lander branch. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve filling the 34-hour/week, benefitted Library Assistant II for the Adult Services at the Lander Library with a base salary not to exceed \$24,045 and the change from a Custodial position to a 30-hour/week, benefitted Library Assistant II for Youth Services at the Riverton Library, with a base salary not to exceed \$20,670, with both hires not to take effect prior to May 1, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen joined the meeting at this time.

Commissioner meeting reports were given.

Commissioner Clarence Thomas stated the next meeting with the Wind River Intertribal Council is scheduled at the Frank B. Wise building on April 27, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Topics will include Ambulance, Fire and Solid Waste. He and Vice-Chairman Allen attended a collaborative meeting at Indian Health Service at the invitation of Dr. Babak Nayeri, Chief Executive Officer of the Wind River Service Unit under the Indian Health Service. Also attending was Frontier Ambulance and Sage West representatives, who all gathered to discuss improvement of EMS ambulance response in the Fort Washakie area.

Commissioner Jennifer McCarty attended the monthly Library Board meeting.

Commissioner Mike Jones attended a Lander Urban Renewal Meeting as. They are building up funds for another project, with the last one being the Jefferson Street project. He met with the Chair of the Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District to discuss their SOC adjustment proposal that will be part of their upcoming budget.

Vice-Chairman Larry Allen also referenced the meeting at Indian Health Service regarding ambulance response issues. They were informed of the availability of a new building, built for COVID supply storage, that the Shoshone Tribe would consider being turned into an ambulance station. Both he and Commissioner Thomas were invited to tour the facility later in the week. He stated Frontier Ambulance is conducting EMR and EMT trainings, at no cost to participants, and classes are filling up. Frontier Director Adam Stockton stated the company will bring in another ambulance to be dedicated to ground transfers in order to free up other ambulances for emergency transports. Frontier continues to work with BCBS regarding in-network status. He has heard no updates from the Governor's EMS Task Force as related to the County's submission of applications for new ambulances.

A Public Hearing was held at 10:15 a.m., as advertised, regarding Unanticipated Revenues. Present was County Clerk Julie Freese and Financial Specialist Michelle Neuenschwander. There were no comments from the audience. Mike Jones moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2022-09 "FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment No. 6." Motion carried unanimously.

Fremont County Wellness Coordinator Penny Fahey was present (via Zoom), along with Executive Health Insurance Committee members Julie Freese, Margy Irvine and Larry Allen, to inform the Board that she would not be renewing her contract with Fremont County in July. She will complete her scheduled activities such as Health Fair, Incentive Program, etc. through June 30th. She would like a seamless transition and thanked the County for the opportunity to develop the wellness program and all the help and support she received throughout her tenure. Chairman Becker expressed appreciation for her work and development of the program. Chairman Becker asked the Executive Health Insurance Committee members return on May 3rd with a succession plan.

County Clerk Julie Freese stated public meetings were held to review the County Commissioners Redistricting plans, one on April 5th at the County Commissioners Chambers in Lander and on April 7th at the Crowheart Fire Hall. Information was presented at both stating that in order to follow legislative redistricting, two proposed changes were made: 1) move the current Commissioner lines (between Commissioner Districts #1 and #2) in the Crowheart area from the river to Highway 26. Every voter situated north of Highway 26 would be in Commissioner District #2 and every voter situated south of Highway would be in Commissioner District #1; and 2) move the current Commissioner lines (between Commissioner Districts #4 and #5) on Lyons Valley Road. Every voter situated to the east would be in Commissioner District #5 and every voter situated west would be in Commissioner District #4. Based on discussion and an e-mail received, the Commissioners decided to only make the change in the Crowheart area and leave Lyons Valley as is for Commission Districts, as it would contain splits either way. Freese will advertise the one change for one final Public Hearing to be held at the Commissioners' next meeting on April 19th. Following discussion on any comments received, the Commissioners will finalize their districts at that meeting by Resolution.

Discussion was held on the County's intent to give the Town of Shoshoni a used patrol truck with no equipment. Mike Jones moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to sell the vehicle for \$1.00 for the vehicle. Motion carried unanimously.

Treatment Court Director Melinda Cox informed the Board of a recent vacancy for a Case Manager at a SOC salary range between \$43,000 and \$56,000. Mike Jones moved, Clarence Thomas seconded, to authorize filling the position at salary range indicated. Motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Melinda Cox reviewed the makeup of the Juvenile Treatment Court that includes a judge or magistrate, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, treatment provider, probation officer and program coordinator on the team. She distributed State Statute information regarding Article 16 – Court Supervised Treatment Programs Act, and specifically the definition of “program coordinator” pursuant to W.S. 7-13-1602(ix) “means the person responsible for coordinating the establishment, operation, evaluation and integrity of a program.” She reviewed the obstacles placed on the program in 2020 during COVID-19 and the need for virtual court, and then returning to in person in 2021. She further displayed the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) manual, a voluminous document with rules and procedures the programs must follow and stated the program is currently under review for accreditation renewal which is a huge time consuming process. She stated the management team members and that the treatment courts are a term of probation and the program itself serves as a condition of a court order. A decision from staff was made to meet one time per week instead of two, as each meeting consists of four hours. Due to students in school during the day, the meetings were held at night to accommodate their schedule. This change created some concern with current Judge McKee, to which Cox indicated she had spoken with her to explain her reasoning. She also acknowledged Judge McKee’s resignation from the Juvenile Treatment Court, effective May 31st. Cox presented the Juvenile Treatment Court orientation packet for the Board’s information, outlining the objectives which is a privilege in lieu of probation. Chairman Becker stated the Board needs to be more involved with the program as the Commissioners appoint the management team. He also asked for regular updates from Melinda.

The Commissioners recessed for a brief time to attend a swearing in ceremony. Judge Conder swore in Todd Shaker as a new member of the Wyoming State Bar, licensed to practice law in the state of Wyoming.

There being no further business, Larry Allen moved, Jennifer McCarty seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 p.m. and reconvene for a Regular Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on April 19, 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