

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
November 14, 2019

Easterday called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. Committee members present:

Cary Joholski - Absent
Frank Easterday
Mary Henry
Sheriff John Spears

Mike Leis
Darrel Clark
Chief Deputy Nathan Campbell

Others in Attendance: Supervisor Roger Call

Easterday confirmed the Agenda was properly posted. Henry moved to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Leis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Invoices:

The Sheriff's invoices were reviewed and explanations provided as requested. Sheriff Spears said a metal detector was purchased for the Vernon County Detention Center. Sheriff said it is 6' tall and portable. Henry moved and Leis seconded a motion to pay the invoices in the sum of \$58,718.95, which the motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff's Activity Report:

Sheriff Spears reported it was a busy month for talks. Sheriff said there were active shooter and armed robbery trainings. There were no problems on Halloween. Sheriff said Erik Sackett is in the Vernon County Detention Center for probation violations and his probation will be revoked. Sheriff stated two level three sex offenders were released in the county (Lewis Byrd III and Charles Levendoski) and notifications were made to the public. Sheriff extended his thank you to everyone for the discussions about and support for the radio system upgrade.

Matters pertaining to maintenance and operation of office:

Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell said there are currently 50 state inmates in the Vernon County Detention Center. He explained the Sheriff's Office is projected to received \$75,000 over the anticipated revenue. Chief said there is a decline in sanction holds since the La Crosse County Jail now houses sanctions. Sheriff Spears stated we will receive \$19,000 from the state for probation holds in 2019.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell explained the Sheriff's Office is having difficulty hiring part-time patrol deputies and dispatchers. There are six dispatchers who work 35 hours per week, and the plan is increase their time to 40 hours per week. Money from the part-time budget will

cover this. The goal is to hire two additional full-time dispatchers in the future. Leis suggested hiring a full-time patrol deputy who floats between the shifts. Chief agreed it was a good idea but stated it is not possible due to the budget at this time. Chief said the reason for the difficulties in hiring part-time employees is low wages and not having enough applicants. He said the county is looking into a wage study next year. A discussion ensued.

ATV / UTV Ordinance Requests: None.

Chipmunk Ridge radio tower purchase:

Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell said Vernon County Corporation Counsel is submitting a written offer of \$40,000 for the land (3,600 sq. ft.) and abandoned 180' tower on Chipmunk Ridge Road. He said it has been accepted by the landowner contingent on the right of first refusal from the adjoining landowner. Chief said there would be no increase to the budget for this purchase.

Leis moved to pay for the tower with \$20,000 from the 2019 budget and \$20,000 from the 2020 budget. Clark seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell discussed the potential De Soto tower site at the salt shed on Will Kumlin Road. Chief said ComElec conducted a study and the site is viable. Chief said there is a radio tower collaboration meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. in the conference room of the Sheriff's Office to discuss this site. He said many law enforcement offices have been invited including the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Allamakee County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, and Iowa State Patrol. A discussion ensued.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Campbell said the Finance Committee will discuss the \$1.1 million radio system upgrade at their meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2019. Chief said ComElec will begin work on current towers once a payment plan is decided. Work on the Stoddard tower will not start until approximately next spring. Chief said the upgrade will improve the radio system throughout the entire county.

Henry moved to adjourn, Clark seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 12, 2019.

Amy E. Dvorak, Acting Secretary