

March 21, 2022

BOARD OF FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Location: Franklin County Annex Building Commission Chambers

Chair Dunn called the study session to order at 8:30 a.m.

All Commissioners present except Commissioner Dickinson.

Community Partners- Discussions with each proposed partner regarding their request.

CASA- Ken Haliburton, President of the CASA Board, discussed the request of \$15,000. The requested amount would represent no increase over last year and would be used to support the two paid positions of Director and Volunteer Coordinator.

Commissioner Dickinson joined the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

COF Training Services- John Griffin, CFO and Patrick Gardner, Assistant Director, discussed the request of \$125,000. The request would help serve 107 clients in Franklin County. The request is an increase of \$30,000, and COF has not requested an increase in 10 years. COF has four residential settings in Ottawa. The additional funds requested will help support pay increases for the employees.

Elizabeth Layton Center- Leslie Bjork, Executive Director, and Chis Scott, CFO, discussed the request of \$183,750 an increase of \$8,750 from last year. ELC served 6.8% of the population in Franklin County in 2021 with services. The requested funds would serve the citizens of Franklin County in four ways: 1. 24-hour emergency crisis assessment. 2. Funding assistance to the underserved population. 3. Civic involvement by allowing employees to serve on area boards. 4. Community Outreach.

Franklin County Conservation District- Keri Harris, District Manager, discussed the request of \$55,000, an increase of \$10,000 over last year. The Conservation District received no COVID funds during the pandemic to assist with expenses. She said the district can “do a lot with a little” by leveraging the \$45,000 in county funds to generate \$653,038 in projects for Franklin County in 2021. This year will be the district’s 81st year. The requested increase will help cover growing routine business costs and plan for the future of the district.

Franklin County Development Council- Paul Bean, Director, discussed the request of \$64,375. The request is flat compared to last year. FCDC works with regional partners for economic development in Franklin County and provides services like the housing study that was done in 2021. Also, in 2021, FCDC moved into the remodeled Administration Suite in the Annex Building as an in-kind donation that saves organization \$30,000 annually.

Chair Dunn recessed the Commission at 9:18 a.m. for a five-minute break.

The Commission reconvened at 9:23 a.m.

Franklin County Historical Society- Diana Staresinic-Deane, Director, discussed the funding request of \$73,700, an increase of \$2,700 over last year. She discussed the change in programming over the last year during the pandemic and also the increased programming via Zoom. She said the one-room school house program has restarted in 2022. The increase would go to supporting a traveling Smithsonian exhibit “Voices and Votes: Democracy in America”.

Franklin County Services for the Elderly- Sharon Geiss discussed the funding request of \$265,600, an increase of \$40,000 over last year. The requested increase would assist with a funding match of \$20,000 for a KDOT Grant to purchase two new vehicles. The remainder would go to cover increases in staffing costs. The Commissioners discussed the portion of the funding that goes to East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging. \$82,600 of the funding for the last two years and planned for next year will go to ECKAAA. The Commissioners asked if there would be a problem with separating the funding into two direct funding streams to provide transparency. Sharon Geiss said that wouldn’t be a problem.

Hope House- Rick Oglesby and Leigh Hansen discussed the funding request of \$10,000. This is a new request for 2023 to assist the organization with the response to homelessness in Franklin County. The organization provided 219 nights of hotel stays for 21 males, 19 females, and 9 children on the coldest nights. Leigh Hansen said that the calls to 211 have doubled in the last two months requesting assistance during cold weather. All the requested funds would go toward direct services and would cover no administrative costs.

Prairie Paws Animal Shelter- Vanessa Cowie, Director, discussed the funding request of \$50,000, and increase of \$9,224 over last year. Cowie said in her short time with the shelter, she has been able to reduce expenses by 28%. She said that 14% of the funding for the shelter comes from Franklin County. She also discussed the increased cost of housing animals picked up out in the rural county areas.

Richmond Free Fair- Sarah Peters, President, discussed the funding request of \$1,400, an increase of \$200 over last year. She discussed the number of animals that are at the Richmond Fair and said how valuable the experience is for the kids preparing to go to other fairs, like the Franklin County Fair. She said many kids come from neighboring counties also, making it a better experience for the local kids. This year will be their 100-year anniversary.

Chair Dunn recessed the Commission for a five-minute break at 10:20 a.m.

The Commission reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Sheriff Jeff Richards discussed the proposed Work Release program for the Franklin County Adult Detention Center. The inmates allowed to participate would be those already sentenced and must be currently employed. Per Kansas Statute, the cost to participate in the program is \$20 per day to be paid at least one day in advance. The program will be limited to five participants. The Commissioners said they would be in favor of putting this on the Wednesday agenda.

Derek Brown, County Administrator, discussed providing premium pay to County employees pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The recommendation for premium pay came from the Employee Retention Committee. The committee is made up of 9 employees of different levels of management and both appointed and elected. The proposed plan is a three-tiered plan: tier 1 would be those individuals that were directly responding to Covid, tier 2 would be routine customer contact during the pandemic in their everyday work, and tier 3 would be all other employees that did not have regular customer contact. Both full-time and part-time employees would qualify for the premium pay plan. Many other counties have already participated in similar plans including Anderson and Miami counties. The total cost of the plan is estimated at \$316,678 and will be paid directly out of ARPA funds. The Commissioners said they would be in favor of putting this on the Wednesday agenda.

Chair Dunn adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Clerk

Chair