

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
2024 Budget Hearing Day 2-1st Reading
August 30, 2023

President Chittum – Present
Councilman Donaldson – Present
Councilman Allen – Present
Councilman Wiles – Present
Councilman Sailors – Present
Councilman Nutt – Present
Councilman Fruth – Present

President Chittum called the meeting back in session from recess.

Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Chittum, at the recommendation of the Board of Commissioners issued the following statement prior to each departmental budget review.

The Board of Commissioners over the past few years, have experienced Elected Officials/Department Heads that are not following or fail to demonstrate consistently following the Miami County Employee Handbook. The Board of Commissioners have addressed some of the issues with the Elected Officials/Department Heads. Some conversations have proven to be productive, but some to no avail. Lack of accountability or failure to demonstrate consistency creates liability for the county if there were ever a wrongful termination or disciplinary action taken against an employee under the Miami County Employee Handbook. After discussion with the County Attorney, the Board of Commissioners were advised and subsequently made the recommendation to the Council that if Elected Officials/Department Head fails to follow the Miami County Employee Handbook, their budgets will be cut. This could include loss of employees, loss of potential raises, etc.

CIRCUIT COURT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Circuit Court budget as follows:

Personal Services \$126,361
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$11,200
Capital Outlays \$11,500
Total 2024 Budget \$149,061

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

SUPERIOR COURT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Superior Court budget as follows:

Personal Services \$127,061
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$11,900
Capital Outlays \$10,000
Total 2024 Budget \$148,961

Councilman Allen 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

SUPERIOR COURT II

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Superior Court II budget as follows:

Personal Services \$123,961
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$13,200
Capital Outlays \$9,000
Total 2024 Budget \$146,161

Councilman Allen 2nd the motion.

Judge Winkler stated he included the \$5,000 stipend for himself to the budget. Judge Winkler understood why the Council removed the \$5,000 stipend for 2023, however feels that he does the same level of work as the others and is looking for fairness. Councilman Donaldson explained the Council has been discussing the stipend for years and the only time it can be removed is when a new judge takes office. Councilman Donaldson went on to state part of the Council does not want the stipend in the budgets. Councilman Donaldson made a motion to amend the original motion to approve the 2024 budget, removing the \$5,000 stipend. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 4-3 (Fruth, Chittum and Nutt opposed).

Councilman Donaldson made a motion to approve the new 2024 Superior Court II as follows:

Personal Services \$118,961
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$13,200
Capital Outlays \$9,000
Total 2023 Budget \$141,161

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 5-2 (Fruth and Chittum opposed).

JURY FEES

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Jury Fees budget as follows:

Personal Services \$0
Supplies \$500
Other Services & Charges \$32,000
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$32,500

Judge Grund noted that the state increased the jury reimbursement amounts from \$15 to \$30 per day if ordered to appear as a juror and from \$40 to \$80 per day and after 5 days, \$90 per day if selected to serve as a juror. Judge Grund noted the juror stipend has not been increased by the state for 25 years.

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Clerk of Circuit Court budget as follows:

Personal Services \$248,721
Supplies \$3,500
Other Services & Charges \$8,000
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$260,221

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Clerk of Superior Court budget as follows:

Personal Services \$153,424
Supplies \$2,500
Other Services & Charges \$500
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$156,424

Councilman Allen 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

CLERK OF ELECTION

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Clerk of Election budget as follows:

Personal Services \$59,400

Supplies \$9,000
Other Services & Charges \$79,100
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$147,500

Clerk Sherry Raber explained the increase in the budget for 2024 covers the cost of the Presidential election and the purchase of some new iPad and cases for the vote machines.

Councilman Allen 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

CLERK OF VOTER REGISTRATION

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Clerk of Voter Registration budget as follows:

Personal Services \$38,308
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$0
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$38,308

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

CLERK PERPETUATION

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Clerk Perpetuation budget as follows:

Personal Services \$21,530
Supplies \$4,200
Other Services & Charges \$2,100
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$27,830

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

HEALTH

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Health budget as follows:

Personal Services \$298,851
Supplies \$30,600
Other Services & Charges \$44,486
Capital Outlays \$800
Total 2024 Budget \$374,737

Councilman Allen 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

GPHC FUNDING

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 202 GPHC Funding budget as follows:

Personal Services \$149,470
Supplies \$32,700
Other Services & Charges \$247,150
Capital Outlays \$52,200
Total 2024 Budget \$481,520

Dr. Rudolph, Health Officer explained the budget and new funding coming from the state. The funding allows the department to partner with local community programs in specific target areas outlined by the state. The budget includes moving the current part-time Environmental Health Specialist to full-time and allow the department to hire a part-time float to help go between the Health and Environmental Health departments. Dr. Rudolph noted the funding is ongoing and required the county to opt-in to participate. Auditor Brown stated the department will administer funding to the community partners in grant form and the department will be required to come up with the perimeters for application, award, reporting, etc. Dr. Rudolph noted the part-time would be paid at the normal part-time rate as established each year by the Council.

Councilman Allen 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

LEAD GRANT

Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the 2024 Lead Grant budget as follows:

Personal Services \$0
Supplies \$3,497
Other Services & Charges \$0
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$3,497

Diana Vigar, Health Registrar explained the funding for this grant comes from the lead cases reporting in the county and only reimbursed when a case is completed.

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

SCHOOL LIAISON GRANT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 School Liaison Grant budget as follows:

Personal Services \$28,651
Supplies \$60,000

Other Services & Charges \$63,000
Capital Outlays \$20,000
Total 2024 Budget \$171,651

Registrar Vigar noted this funding is reoccurring yearly and helps cover supplies for the schools such as hairbrushes, toothbrushes, sanitary napkins, clothes, etc. for the area school kids who are in need.

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

HEALTH PREPAREDNESS GRANT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Health Preparedness Grant budget as follows:

Personal Services \$16,525
Supplies \$4,237
Other Services & Charges \$0
Capital Outlays \$4,238
Total 2024 Budget \$25,000

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

EXTENSION OFFICE

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Extension Office budget as follows:

Personal Services \$71,390
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$61,240
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$132,630

President Chittum explained the Council had discussions after the Budget Committee meeting about moving the Secretary from full-time to part-time. Councilman Fruth explained there is hesitancy to honor the requires because other departments are in the same situation. Councilman Fruth made a motion to keep the part-time Secretary as it is in the budget. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 5-2 (Chittum and Allen opposed).

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the new 2024 Extension Office budget as follows:

Personal Services \$53,947
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$61,240
Capital Outlays \$0

Total 2024 Budget \$115,187

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-1 (Chittum opposed).

CORONER

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Coroner budget as follows:

Personal Services \$135,700
Supplies \$2,250
Other Services & Charges \$4,167
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$142,117

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

PROSECUTOR

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Prosecutor budget as follows:

Personal Services \$210,944
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$0
Capital Outlays \$4,350
Total 2024 Budget \$215,294

Prosecutor Jeff Sinkovics noted the county adding the new IV-D Prosecutor and moving the Deputy Prosecutor to focus on prison cases has made a significant difference in the work performed. Now, the Deputy Prosecutor is not splitting time between IV-D cases and prison cases and each can devote more time to their respective positions. Prosecutor Sinkovics tried to get the state to provide funding for another Deputy Prosecutor, but did not gain any traction.

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

IV-D CHILD SUPPORT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 IV-D Child Support budget as follows:

Personal Services \$266,190
Supplies \$2,500
Other Services & Charges \$5,500
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$274,190

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

USER FEE FUNDS (DEFERRAL)

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 User Fee Fund budget as follows:

Personal Services \$15,409
Supplies \$1,150
Other Services & Charges \$25,500
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$42,059

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

VICITIM'S ADVOCATE

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Victim's Advocate budget as follows:

Personal Services \$44,237
Supplies \$750
Other Services & Charges \$2,686
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$47,673

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0

SURVEYOR

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Surveyor budget as follows:

Personal Services \$68,536
Supplies \$2,900
Other Services & Charges \$3,100
Capital Outlays \$100
Total 2024 Budget \$47,673

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

DRAINAGE BOARD

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Drainage budget as follows:

Personal Services \$6,100
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$0
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$6,100

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

SURVEYOR PERPETUATION

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Surveyor Perpetuation budget as follows:

Personal Services \$0
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$1,500
Capital Outlays \$15,500
Total 2024 Budget \$16,500

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

EMA

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 EMA budget as follows:

Personal Services \$77,421
Supplies \$2,000
Other Services & Charges \$44,850
Capital Outlays \$10,000
Total 2024 Budget \$134,271

Councilman Fruth stated that the Budget Committee had several questions after meeting and wanted to address them with EMA Director Kris Marks. Councilman Fruth explained the Budget Committee felt it would make the most sense to get rid of the non-operational vehicles and use the funds from the sale and put with what is appropriated in the budget to purchase more reliable vehicles. Councilman Fruth questioned if \$10,000 would be enough to purchase a reliable vehicle and then have yearly funding to provide a rotation of vehicles. EMA Director Kris Marks stated 1 car needs disposed of and another is on the bubble. The EMA Advisory Board recommended putting in the \$10,000 to the budget, but would cost another \$5,000 to put equipment on.

Councilman Donaldson questioned how many volunteers typically go out to an accident. Director Marks stated he has 2-3 volunteers that consistently assist with traffic control at accidents. Director Marks said the volunteer program will probably go away, but he doesn't want to be the one to tell law enforcement EMA will no longer be assisting because they use EMA as a "crutch." Councilman Donaldson asked if the page-outs are mandatory. Councilman Fruth noted he could not find a state statute that says the county is required to have a volunteer program. Councilman Fruth he added an increase in fuel costs due to the rising prices. Director Marks stated he is not asking for part-time help, but may need to ask for help down the road.

Councilman Fruth noted he still had not heard a straight answer on \$10,000 being enough for a new vehicle. Director Marks stated the \$10,000 would get a decent, used vehicle and keep the department on a normal rotation.

Councilman Nutt inquired as to the number of cars Director Marks thinks is needed as a minimum. Director Marks stated volunteers all want take home cars and currently, there are 3 out in the county and his car as the Director. 5 cars are needed on the busier events.

Councilman Fruth expressed the Budget Committee concern over adding the Deputy Director position if the volunteer program could possibly go away. Director Marks claims it takes 2 people to run the office. It is a 24/7 job and is more relational job than anything else. The added position would help for future work. Director Marks stated services will suffer because he is currently running 2 boards, managing 3 buildings and doing the administrative duties, including cleaning toilets and emptying the trash. Councilman Fruth questioned how the responsibilities would be divided if the Council were to add the position. Director Marks would have the Deputy Director get to know the contacts around the state, how to work the state reporting system and then split the administrative duties. Director Marks would like the person to be cross-trained and not just be a pencil pusher. Councilman Fruth feels this particular situation is not unique to EMA and questioned what the job would look like if the volunteer program were gone. Director Marks stated law enforcement would come out of the woodwork without the volunteer program, but regardless would still need help with administrative duties and cover while he out of the office. Councilman Fruth does not feel they could even find someone for \$30,000. Director Marks explained the EMA Advisory Board made the salary recommendation. Councilman Nutt asked how long it would take to get someone trained or certified. Director Marks said it depends on what classes are available for the new person to take, but at least 6 months. Councilman Fruth noted that he does not feel comfortable about not have a clear plan and the uncertainty of the volunteer program and made a motion to eliminate the Deputy Director position from the 2024 budget. Councilman Nutt agreed with Councilman Fruth and 2nd the motion and it passed 4-3 (Wiles, Chittum and Allen opposed).

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the amended 2024 EMA budget as follows:

Personal Services \$47,421
Supplies \$2,000
Other Services & Charges \$44,850
Capital Outlays \$10,000
Total 2024 Budget \$104,271

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 4-3 (Wiles, Chittum and Allen opposed).

Councilman Nutt suggested EMA go to 5 reliable vehicles as it is better to have fewer, more reliable vehicles than a fleet of questionable vehicles. President Chittum explained the denial of the position was failure to have a clear plan in place on a volunteer program.

LEPC

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 LEPC budget as follows:

Personal Services \$2,265
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$13,500
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$15,765

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Weights and Measures budget as follows:

Personal Services \$15,098
Supplies \$200
Other Services & Charges \$1,188
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$16,486

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

CUM COURTHOUSE

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Cum Courthouse budget as follows:

Personal Services \$0
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$340,000
Capital Outlays \$143,000
Total 2024 Budget \$483,000

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

DRUG FREE COMMUNITY

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Drug Free Community budget as follows:

Personal Services \$10,350
Supplies \$2,650
Other Services & Charges \$46,422
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$59,422

Jodie Hutchins, Drug Free Community Treasurer noted the amounts submitted were not correct for wages and supplies. The Treasurer and Coordinator should each be at \$5,400 and supplies at \$2,200. Councilman Allen made a motion to approve the corrected amounts as presented. Councilman Fruth 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the amended 2024 Drug Free Community budget as follows:

Personal Services \$10,800
Supplies \$2,200
Other Services & Charges \$46,422
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$59,422

Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROJECT INCOME

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Community Corrections Project Income budget as follows:

Personal Services \$108,714
Supplies \$16,500
Other Services & Charges \$103,100
Capital Outlays \$2,000
Total 2024 Budget \$230,314

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

OPIOID RESTRICTED

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Opioid Restricted budget as follows:

Personal Services \$30,765
Supplies \$9,300
Other Services & Charges \$22,000
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$62,065

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

DRUG COURT USER FEES

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Drug Court User Fees budget as follows:

Personal Services \$0
Supplies \$4,000
Other Services & Charges \$0
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$4,000

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT

Councilman Sailors made a motion to approve the 2024 Community Corrections Grant budget as follows:

Personal Services \$318,491
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$0
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$318,491

Councilman Fruth 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

SAHMSA DRUG COURT GRANT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 SAHMSA Drug Court budget as follows:

Personal Services \$109,200
Supplies \$4,000
Other Services & Charges \$255,086
Capital Outlays \$4,500
Total 2024 Budget \$372,786

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

PROBLEM SOLVING GRANT

Councilman Fruth made a motion to approve the 2024 Problem Solving Grant budget as follows:

Personal Services \$0
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$4,037
Capital Outlays \$00
Total 2024 Budget \$4,037

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

2021 DOC GRANT-CRRP

Councilman Chittum made a motion to approve the 2024 DOC Grant-CRRP budget as follows:

Personal Services \$74,238
Supplies \$0
Other Services & Charges \$71,800
Capital Outlays \$0
Total 2024 Budget \$146,038

Councilman Sailors 2nd the motion and it passed 7-0.

Budget hearings will stand in recess until 8/31/2023.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Brown
Miami County Auditor