



# Cumberland County

## Finance Committee

### Meeting Minutes - Final

142 Federal St  
Portland, ME 04101

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Tuesday, January 30, 2024

5:00 PM

The meeting will be in person with the option to join remotely. Peter Feeney Room, 205 Newbury St, Portland ME 04101

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The meeting will be in person with the option to join remotely.

To View: [www.cumberlandcounty.org/live](http://www.cumberlandcounty.org/live)

To Participate: See instructions on the agenda.

To Submit Public Comment: [gailey@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:gailey@cumberlandcounty.org)

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#### CALL TO ORDER

The Finance Committee met at the Cumberland County Courthouse in the Peter Feeney Conference Room, the meeting was called to Order by Chair Dustin Ward at 5:03 p.m.

#### WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

**Present:** 3 - Committee Member Bob Vail, Chair Dustin Ward and Committee Member Paul Tworog

#### County Staff:

James Gailey, County Manager  
Alex Kimball, Deputy Manager  
Theresa Grover, Finance Director  
Commissioner Susan Witonis, District 2  
Commissioner Stephen Gorden, District 3 (*Virtual*)  
Commissioner Patti Smith, District 4 (*Virtual*)  
Kevin Joyce, County Sheriff  
Brian Pellerin, Chief Deputy  
Craig Smith, Captain  
Kerry Joyce, Captain

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [FC 24-002](#) Approval of the minutes, January 16, 2024, meeting of the Finance Committee

*This Finance Committee Document was APPROVED.*

County Manager Jim Gailey gave an overview of the Sheriff Budget that it was up 8.2%. The Civil budget is up 1% or over \$4k, recent increase in civil fee structure so there is an increase in revenues. He gave an overview of the vehicle budgets because purchasing costs have increased significantly, close to \$50k. The total increase is 8.7%, total budget is 4.86% to 4.97%. Union wages have increased as well and have an impact on the budget.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Ward opened public comment. There were no comments from the public, Chair Ward closed public comment.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2. Providing Answers to Committee Questions
3. Budget Presentation: Sheriff's Department and Jail

Sheriff Joyce gave an overview of the recently formed advisory committee of the Jail Board of Visitors established in 2011. The county jail is one of three accredited jails in the State and the medical treatment services offered to inmates. He gave an overview of the different law enforcement services contracts with 15 different towns.

Funding new positions includes a part time Computer Forensics position in exchange of a fleet vehicle. Funding for an Administrative Position training support position.

### **Sheriff Joyce answered the following questions and comments by the Finance Committee and County Commissioners which included:**

Bob Vail: Asked about fleet vehicles, does the Ford Expedition have a police package, how does it compare to cost of an alternative like the Tahoe (Chevrolet)? Have you priced out and compared vehicles?

Paul Tworog: How many vehicles do you have in rotation? Do you track the service life on a spreadsheet?

Paul Tworog: For future Financial planning, it would be helpful to have a list of vehicles that are in rotation and need to be replaced.

Chair Ward: When Vehicles are ordered, how long does it take to replace and outfit the new vehicle?

Paul Tworog asked how many staff vacancies are there and how many officers are on staff. If the Jail was fully staffed, what is the average population could the jail hold?

Bob Vail asked in the big scope what can the County government offer to Towns, from the Cumberland Town Manager and Ronald Copp, noticed that increased operations include electricity expense, sewer expenses, large insurance expense. All of the expenses are going to go up, a few cars could be purchased for the cost of the operational expenses. Many municipalities rely on solar power and that is something that the County should consider. Why is the position for computer forensics half time, why not reach out to the communities to see if the position could be funded for services and be a full-time position? He also stated that he was appalled that it takes 18 months to order and receive a vehicle.

Paul Tworog: With respect to the Law Enforcement side, excluding the Jail, the Town of Bridgton has a police department and what is the share that the Town of Bridgton pay to the County. While the Town of Standish (for example) pays the lion share of the services and the Town of Bridgton pays a portion as well while they already have their own police department. What is the Bridgton PD getting from the County's Law Enforcement?

Could the services for Law Enforcement provided to Bridgton be broken down? Because no one is able to see the services.

Chair Justin Ward asked about the concept of computer forensics; How is need initiated? There were six different options listed, how can the services be used? How many current cases are utilizing computer forensics?

Commissioner Witonis asked if there is an inhouse person that could be utilized and then make an additional Law Enforcement position at a later time. She asked if this was a new position or per diem position of an in house employee?

Commissioner Witonis asked about items relating to the Jail budget, why are some of the positions flat funded in the Jail for facilities? She asked about the discrepancy about the training and education budget line? Does the same budget line apply to the line 6512? Budgeted 23-24 amount is \$35k, spent amount is \$40k, this budget request is \$15k for Training and Education Seminars. Does the same concept apply to maintenance contracts 6514, budgeted in 23-24 for \$43k, spent \$69k in 2022 and flat funded it back to the old amount? Is that also the same for the cleaning supplies budget?

Will 3% be enough to cover costs in the upcoming budget? Is the Jail an area where regionalization of services can be done? ICE inmates?

Commissioner Gorden commented that most budgets are consumed by jails. From a legislation perspective, States are not funding programs that they have imposed and programs are then funded by property taxes. He also commented that the State Police are pulling back officers from rural patrol and Counties are covering the gaps and Counties are not getting funded with the resources that they need to perform patrol duties.

Bob Vail asked the Sheriff to clarify the Computer forensics position, would it need to be a patrol position or could it be a civilian position with computer science training. Could Sheriff Joyce make this pitch to other Police Depts in Cumberland County as a potential service and asked for contributions to fund the position? It would serve as a community resource and benefit the County. He compared it to the contract with the County Dispatch Emergency Services.

Chair Dustin Ward asked Sheriff Joyce to clarify his budget request; new vehicles or funding a Computer Forensics Investigator position? Which request will improve the services of the Department?

Paul Tworog commented on the budget process. He commented that the cost of vehicles is increased in the budget, in the Sheriff Department budget, does the Sheriff feel that the budget is adequate and not constrained. On the other side of that, it seems that there is a possibility of more revenue in the future. Is the position a timing issue and it could overlap with revenue and be funded?

Bob Vail asked what the contract is for special services? What is the length of the contract for Jail

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Medical Assisted Services? Is the service open to competitive bidders? What are the healthcare costs, how does it compare to the rest of the County?

Sheriff Joyce concluded his budget proposal and Chair Ward thanked Sheriff Joyce for his time.

#### 4. Committee Work on the 2024/2025 Budget

##### **The following comments and questions were made by the Finance Committee:**

Chair Ward asked County Manager Gailey about the adjustment amount to the budget line, \$711k increase resulting in an increase of 8.7% of the Sheriff Budget? He confirmed that it would bring the total County budget to 4.97% up from 4.86%. With the increase, he stressed that the importance of determining a budget's priority versus it's need. Extra reductions all add up, the loss of ARPA funding is an impact but his Town (New Gloucester) planned for the reduction.

Paul Tworog commented that residents who are on the state program with a state tax stabilization freeze, the increase in the mil rate will be significant.

Chair Ward stated that he needed to determine the need for vehicles versus the need for the requested position. The position seems like it's the priority for the budget. Vehicle costs are not stand alone, they include future maintenance and gas costs.

Paul Tworog commented that the position sounded like it needs additional resources that would include the expenses for technical equipment including a vehicle that was outlined by Sheriff Joyce. How is it determined who receives a vehicle?

Bob Vail encouraged the County Manager to contact council member Ronnie Copp about vehicle costs. He will bring the information to the Cumberland Town council.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE**

- a. Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:00 p.m. (Wrap Up)

Chair Ward clarified the expectation of the finance committee for the February 20th meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.