

Maine Cumberland County

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

3:00 PM

The Finance Committee met in person in the Feeney Conference Room in the County Courthouse, 205 Newbury St, Portland ME 04101

Attendance

Finance Committee

Janice de Lima, Falmouth
Tim Thompson, Cape Elizabeth
Bob Vail, Cumberland
Chair Dustin Ward, New Gloucester

Cumberland County

Alex Kimball, Deputy Manager
Jim Gailey, County Manager
Theresa Grover, Finance Director
Commissioner Patti Smith
Commissioner Steve Gorden
Elizabeth Blackwell Moore, Dir of Public Health
Melinda Fairbrother Dyer, Dir of CCRCC
Sheriff Kevin Joyce
Mike LoConte, CIA GM
District Attorney Jackie Sartoris

1. Call to Order & Attendance
Chair Dustin Ward asked to go around the room and introduce those in attendance.
2. Public Comment Received
No Comments were received.
3. Budget Update
No budget update by staff.
4. Presentation by Departments
The Finance Committee requested the following departments to present their budgets and talk a little about what is happening in their departments. Four departments presented this evening.

District Attorney's Office – District Attorney Jackie Sartoris

District Attorney Sartoris presented information on her budget through a prepared slide deck.

Vail – Are you prosecutors based on your case load?

De Lima – Asked a question about new position in the Sexual Assault Kit Grant

Smith – How much is the grant for?

DA – 4k short of 2.5million
Vail – Nurses funded how?
DA – Nurses already funded. Grant will fund testing of the kits.
Vail – Is there flow down training to the patrol car?
DA – Yes, already started training
Gorden – Of the anonymous group, what percentage of interest?
Steve – Have the feds given you any numbers?
DA – Budget wise, I'd like to expand restitution.
Vail – Yellow Flag, need to engage the local councilors/select boards and Augusta delegation to push for Red Flag.
Ward – What are some of the long-term items you want?
DA – Restitution and Restorative Justice
Kimball – Asked the DA to talk a little about Sharefile
DA – Explained that Sharefile was a software program to handle Body Cam videos from local law enforcement agencies. Sharefile goes with Axion Justice.
Ward – Axion hold video?
Kimball – Yes, we are proposing to increase it to 88 TB.
De lima – Asked about a joint purchase with Axion.
Gailey – The 88 TB was for all towns to download to the DA Office.

Regional Communications Center – Melinda Fairbrother Dyer, Director

Melinda went through a slide deck talking about the last year in Communications.

Vail – Has an 829-exchange gone to you?
De lima – How many communities have their own dispatch?
Thompson – Do you have further capacity?
Ward – Call per person rate based on?
Kimball – Total population.
Vail – North Yarmouth pays 35k and Cumberland 220k
Kimball – North Yarmouth has Sheriff Office
De Lima – Asked a question on recruiting.
Ward – Are all 19 communities up to date to be able to talk on the new radio?
Gorden – Analog will be phased out by the industry
De Lima – Can you offer remote work?
Vail – Do street addresses pop up when you call 911?
Vail – Do you monitor marine frequencies?
De Lima – Asked a question about radio coverage maps.
Vail – What can you do to reduce my costs? Is there a way to save the County money?
Kimball – Frequency sharing
De Lima – More towns would push the cost down.
Gorden – a 911 call is dispatched by town, not who its closest too.

Public Health Department – Liz Blackwell Moore, Director

Liz went through a slide deck talking about what Public Health has to offer and how it is funded.

Vail – 300k bargain for everything you do. How do we improve the early prevention?
De Lima – Worried about federal dollars moving forward. How do we fill the gap?
Moore – Think big picture and look at it at the larger community level.
De Lima – County take a look at what towns/cities are doing nationally to bring happiness to the community.
Moore – If there are ways the towns would like to work together with Public Health on specific areas, it will add capacity.

Vail – Wealthy communities have the programming in schools, but not all communities have high incomes.

Moore – We are working with communities that have excessive barriers.

Ward – Do you write your own grants? Have you thought about revenue ideas to offset?

Kimball – We are charging an indirect on grants and in some instances, Liz gets paid for her external work.

Cross Insurance Arena – Mike LoConte, General Manager

Mike talked a lot about the different way he needs to budget being an enterprise account and events need to be booked to meet the expenditures.

Ward – Is there a deadline for shows?

Vail – Is there a value in the County retaining the asset?

De Lima – So many other venues attracting same artists. Cost benefit analysis done? Summer events?

Ward – Economic impact is majority of State. What is trending.

Thompson – Lot of positions at the arena. Three years in the black is great.

Sheriff Office, Civil Division & Jail – Sheriff Kevin Joyce

The Sheriff went through a brief slide deck.

Vail – Triple crown – how does that stack up nationwide?

Vail – Does the accreditation trickle down to hiring?

De Lima – What are the standards for mental health and does the accreditation make recommendations?

Ward – Asked question about mental health calls for service

De Lima – Do you have mental health staff?

De Lima – K9 purchase question – training.

De Lima – Do we have a tank like Brunswick?

Ward – Asked about hiring process and training for certified out of state applicant.

Vail – How can we do things together and collectively?

Vail – So take over smaller departments for cost savings?

De Lima – How long do people stay in jail after being arrested?

5. Next Finance Committee Meeting

Jim announced that the next Finance Committee meeting would be Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Tim Thompson reminded everyone that he will be away and would need to video into the meeting. Jim said they could arrange that.

6. Adjournment

At 7:58 pm de Lima made a motion, seconded by Vail to adjourn. Vote 4-0

*The meeting was recorded and can be found on the County's website.