

Law Enforcement/Public Safety Committee Meeting

February 26, 2025 - 5:30 pm

The Law Enforcement/Public Safety Committee met on February 26, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room at the Williamson County Administrative Complex. Committee members present included: Chairman, Jennifer Mason, Chas Morton, Tom Tunncliffe, Drew Torres and Brian Clifford. Committee members Commissioner Ricky Jones and Bill Petty were unable to attend

Also present were: Bobby Cook, County Attorney with Buerger, Moseley and Carson; Sheriff Jeff Hughes; Conner Scott, Public Safety Director and various members of the WC Sheriff's Office staff and Commissioner Chris Richards.

Citizen's Communication: Chairman Mason reported that there were no signatures on the Citizens Communications form.

Minutes: Commissioner Morton made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2024 Law Enforcement/Public Safety Committee Meeting. Commissioner Tunncliffe seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote, 4-0-1, with Commissioner Torres abstaining due to his absence at the meeting.

Resolutions:

Late-Filed Resolution 3-25-19, Resolution Authorizing the Williamson County Mayor to Execute a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee Department of Military, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and Appropriating and Amending the Office of Public Safety 2024-25 Budget by \$491,726.15 – Revenues to come from Homeland Security Grant Program – Commissioner Clifford moved, seconded by Commissioner Torres to recommend approval. Public Safety Director, Connor Scott reported that this is a regional grant from the TN Homeland Security office as pass-through funding from the Federal Homeland Security program.

He stated that of the funds being received, the Sheriff's Office will receive \$297,000; Spring Hill, 26,000; Emergency Management Agency \$1,000; \$60,000 will be utilized for Gateway expenses for making the tractor trailer emergency response vehicle; and the remaining \$100,000 for hazardous materials training for Brentwood Fire Department.

The vote on the motion to recommend approval passed by unanimous voice vote 5-0.

Resolution No. 3-25-1, Resolution Accepting a Donation from the DUI Court Foundation of Williamson County, Inc., and Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 General Sessions Court Budget by \$25,500 – Revenues to Come From Donations - Commissioner Clifford moved, seconded by Commissioner Torres to recommend approval of the resolution. Ms. Gomez from DUI Court reported that \$25,000 of these funds are a donation derived from their annual fundraiser for DUI Recovery Court and the other \$500 is from a private corporation.

The vote on the motion to recommend approval passed by unanimous voice vote 5-0.

Resolution No. 3-25-17, Resolution Accepting the Donation of Law Enforcement Equipment from the 21st Judicial District Drug Task Force on Behalf of the Williamson County Sheriff's Office - Commissioner Clifford moved, seconded by Commissioner Torres to recommend approval of the resolution. Sheriff Hughes explained that the Drug Task Force is leaving their office furniture and donating it to the Sheriff's Office in the office space they are leasing.

The motion passed by voice vote, 4-0-1, with Commissioner Mason abstaining due to her involvement with the task force.

Resolution No. 3-25-9, Resolution Appropriating and Amending the 2024-25 Sheriff's Office Budget by \$51,200 – Revenues to Come From Law Enforcement Training Programs – Commissioner Torres moved, seconded by Commissioner Morton to recommend approval of the resolution. Sheriff Hughes reported that these are state funds to be awarded to School Resources Officers who complete the additional training required by the program.

Commissioner Torres reported that he was made aware that the SRO funding was not included in the proposed budget submitted by the Governor. Sheriff Hughes stated that he was not aware of this potential lack of state funding but would be following up.

The vote on the motion to recommend approval passed by unanimous voice vote 5-0

Resolution No. 3-25-8, Resolution Amending the Sheriff's Office Budget by \$60,000 – Revenues to Come From State Grants - Commissioner Torres moved, seconded by Commissioner Morton to recommend approval of the resolution. Sheriff Hughes reported that these funds are received from the state for hiring and retention bonuses. Commissioner Mason inquired how the funds are distributed and financial officer, Jennifer Davis responded that the state has a tier system that determines who receives the allocation.

The vote on the motion to recommend approval passed by unanimous voice vote 5-0

Resolution No. 3-25-12, Resolution authorizing the Williamson County Sheriff to Enter into a License Agreement with the State of Tennessee Acting Through its Commissioner of Transportation – Commissioner Torres moved, seconded by Commissioner Tunncliffe to recommend approval. Sheriff Hughes reported that this resolution allows the Sheriff's Office to install and operate automated license plate readers in the state right-of-ways.

Commissioner Morton questioned the potential for abuse of this recorded information and requested confirmation that the information is for law enforcement purposes only.

Sheriff Hughes stated that the data is stored for a small amount of time and is only accessed should there be information entered into the software system that a particular license plate is on the "hot list" or being specifically sought.

After further discussion, the vote on the motion passed by unanimous voice vote, 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:45 pm.

/dg