

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kevin W. Hines, Chairman
Glenn R. Ehlers, Robert C. Sassi, Genesis Ramos

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Betsy N. Abraham, Esq., Legislative Counsel
Harold J. Porr, III., Deputy County Executive
Richard B. Golden, County Attorney
Paul Arteta, Sheriff
Wilfredo Garcia, Undersheriff
Evelyn Mallard, Undersheriff
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Vini Tankasali, Deputy Commissioner, Fire Services
Timothy A. Davidian, Director, Probation Department
Gretchen Riordan, Deputy Budget Director
Erin L. Sztendor, Budget Analyst

Chairman Hines opened the meeting at 3:33 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Sierra who was excused and Legislators Stegenga and Sutherland who were absent.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request confirmation of appointment and reappointment to the Orange County Fire Advisory Board (S. Christian, T. Amodio, M. McNamee, J. Conner, R. Vought, R. Graham, E. Schmick, Jr., R. Launt, T. McBride, S. Gerow, E. Pavlich, Jr., F. Spinelli), seconded by Mr. Ehlers.

Mr. Porr stated these recommendations come from the battalions and he is asking for approval of re-appointments and a new appointment.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate the proposed 2022 Capital Project No. 62 for \$290,000.00 to finance the update/refresh of the audio/visual equipment in the Fire Training Center classrooms and to replace the tables and chairs. This project was not included in the 2023 Capital Plan; however, it was included in the 2022 Capital Plan but

was not brought to the Legislature to move forward.
If approved, a new capital project will be created
(bonding), seconded by Ms. Ramos.

Mr. Tankasali explained this is for the update of audio/visual equipment and replacement of tables and chairs in the Fire Training Center classrooms as the current equipment and furniture is 30 years old and has reached its useful life. Most of these date back to when the building was built in 1991/1992.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to accept Body Worn Camera (BWC) funding in the amount of \$114,000.00 from NYS DCJS. This is a one-time payment for the purchase of BWCs and software related to BWCs. Also request to appropriate \$14,000.00 for additional equipment and \$100,000.00 to be used to offset Capital project No. 323. Bonding required to reallocate funds to State Aid, \$100,000.00 (bonding), seconded by Mr. Ehlers.

Mr. Davidian stated that in the fall of last year, he discovered that DCJS was offering EWC funds. He inquired as to whether it would apply to the Probation Department which it did, therefore, he filed the grant application and was advised that it was approved. The \$114,000.00 will be put toward software related to BCW's.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved the request to accept and appropriate, as a subcontractor to the Orange County District Attorney's Office, Discovery Reform Grant funds which will be used to fund one (1) System Integration Manager position (already created by the Legislature), \$128,200.00, seconded by Ms. Ramos.

Mr. Davidian explained that through Discovery Reform funds, the District Attorney's Office allocated funds to the Probation Department for a System Integration Manager to work in concert with the one that the District Attorney's Office. The position was already approved by the legislature, and this request is to accept the funds to fund the position.

Mr. Hines asked if this person will report to Mr. Davidian.

Mr. Davidian replied yes.

Mr. Sassi asked how long the grant lasts.

Mr. Davidian replied the funds are coming from 2022/2023 funds and there is additional funding earmarked for 2023/2024.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate funding from the AKC Reunite Program for purchase of a new Explosive Detection Canine, \$7,500.00, seconded by Ms. Ramos.

Sheriff Arteta stated that this is for a new K-9 that just started school last week.

Mr. Hines clarified that this K-9 is replacing a retired one.

Sheriff Arteta stated that is correct.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to approve the request to accept and appropriate grant funds from the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP 21). This a reimbursement from the Federal Government for the housing of illegal aliens in the Orange County Correctional Facility. Reimbursement is for the expenditures made during the period 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021, \$144,436.00, seconded by Mr. Ehlers.

Sheriff Arteta explained that this is a reimbursement from the State for having ICE prisoners at the facility and the funds are used towards the incarcerated individual population (jail enhancement).

Mr. Hines asked for a few examples.

Undersheriff Mallard stated it would be for equipment such as t.v.'s for the population and safety items throughout the jail to make it safer.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Sassi moved to discuss the Corrections Report, seconded by Mr. Ehlers.

Undersheriff Mallard stated that for the month of February, there were 318 incarcerated individuals which include ICE detainees and the average boarders. The average daily population for the month is 346 and the total revenue is \$646,736.00.

Mr. Hines asked if any significant changes have been made at the facility.

Undersheriff Mallard replied that they are awaiting the hiring list, there is a new food vendor which has gone over very well with the incarcerated individuals and staff, they are trying to purchase a body scanner for the in-take of those coming into the facility, as well as new software to make the scheduling easier on the staff.

Sheriff Arteta added that they have given several tours of the facility to legislators, assembly people and the senator.

Mr. Sassi moved to discuss the Sheriff's Report, seconded by Mr. Ehlers.

Undersheriff Garcia stated that the White Collared Crimes Task Force has begun and they have a good working relationship with the District Attorney's Office and municipalities throughout the county.

Mr. Hines clarified that this is occurring in the Town of Newburgh.

Undersheriff Garcia stated no, it is throughout the county. He further stated that he had a meeting yesterday with Dr. Campbell from the Newburgh School District to try and help during the summer months.

Sheriff Arteta added the K-9 Facility floor has been fixed and he passed around a few pictures. He stated it was a lot of work, done in a little amount of time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.