

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
February 13, 2013
KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: Daniel Esposito, Ronald L. Johnson, Boyd Frederick, David Arrington, Anita Johnson, Angelina Montemurro, Douglas Noble, Trevor Foster (YIG), Audrey Simard (YIG)

Others Present: Sheriff David Beth, Chief Deputy Charles Smith, Capt. Larry Apker, Capt. Ken Weyker, Lt. Tom Gilley, Nancy Otis

Meeting Called to Order: 6:17 p.m. by Chairman Daniel Esposito

Citizen Comments: 6:17: None

Supervisor Comments: 6:18: None

Chairman Comments: 6:18: Chairman Esposito commented that he would like Committee Members to be thorough with their debate regarding the Command Vehicle.

Minutes Read: 6:19: January 9, 2013 Meeting

Motion by: A. Johnson **Seconded by:** Frederick **Approved:** unanimously

Sheriff Mobile Command Post Update:

6:19: Sheriff Beth distributed a handout detailing specifications for the Mobile Command Center. Sheriff stated that this update is for informational purposes only. He stated that it is his responsibility to give this community the best service possible. This proposal is a new option to finance the purchase of the Command Center thanks to a “perfect storm” scenario that included delayed introduction of last year’s budgeted squads; accidents that resulted in the totaling of four squads; and the verbal approval to use grant money of \$116,000 for a bomb vehicle towards the Command Center. Last year’s squads were so late in coming, and take at least one week each to modify, so they will not be on the road until 2013 allowing 2013’s budgeted squad amount of \$397,000 to be used towards the Command Center. They are still awaiting an official written approval to use the grant money and will hopefully present this via resolution in March. Combining these funds with expected proceeds from selling the current Mobile Command Center of between \$10 and \$20,000; funding would nearly be available in full.

Some changes to the unit specifications are still possible. Galley is not necessary. They would like a heavier duty chassis from another company that would last longer. The final cost on the spec sheet is about \$528,000. They are still waiting on a price quote for the upgraded chassis and to remove the galley. \$25,000 would be needed for radios to be added. They currently have a trailer from the Federal Government with equipment that patches radios together; this would be added to the Command Unit. This unit would roll-out with the Bomb Unit and would include the bomb equipment. Unit would respond to tactical or SWAT calls, flooding, major accidents/incidents, etc. Country Thunder would not be the only use for this unit. Country Thunder does not ask for the Mobile Command Unit. The Sheriff’s Dept. pushed their presence and wants the equipment there. Sheriff believes that if he asks Country Thunder for a contribution towards the new unit and/or radios that they would get one. They are good people that are great to work with.

Supr. Noble asked if there is a place to park the unit. Sheriff replied the cold storage at Highways 45 & 50, where the current one is stored. Noble asked if the new unit is bigger than the current one. Sheriff replied yes, six feet longer. Noble asked if adding the ramp is qualification for

the \$116,000 grant. Sheriff replied yes, this has already been confirmed. Noble mentioned recollection that it was suggested previously at the Finance level to purchase the Command Unit instead of squads and the Sheriff said no. Sheriff replied that this is true and circumstances have only changed due to the “perfect storm” scenario mentioned previously.

Supr. Frederick stated that his calculations come up about \$45,000 short and asked for plans to make this up. Sheriff offered several possibilities including not getting radios this year, Country Thunder contribution, or extra federal inmate revenue. They will get the money somehow. Possibly they will have a better idea by next month. Frederick suggested having a Command Unit brought to Kenosha to allow County Board Supervisors to tour.

Supr. A. Johnson commented about the amount of work put in by Joint Services. Sheriff replied yes, they are only able to equip about one car per week. A. Johnson added that she has watched this process and that it is extensive. The Command Unit can be used for any large community event and she believes it is needed due to the size of our community, increased events and incidents, as well as weather incidences.

Supr. Montemurro stated that when this unit was first proposed, reference was made that the unit would have the capability for updating to keep it effective long-term. She asked if this was still so. Sheriff responded yes. The current unit has no schematics and the new unit will have all.

Noble asked what was going to be located in the area that is now proposed for bomb equipment. He asked if we are losing anything necessary just to get the grant money. Sheriff replied that basically only storage has been lost; we will have everything that is needed. There was also 3.5 feet added to accommodate this use.

Esposito asked for confirmation that no additional squad car money will be asked for in 2013. Sheriff replied no, only what is already budgeted. Esposito raised concerns about aged equipment, would there be any affects on officer safety? Sheriff assured the committee that all are completely safe with new radios and current technology in all cars. Cars are still being replaced with cars from last year’s budget. Esposito asked if there could be any compensation when the Command Unit is used, possibly at least if used for private events. Sheriff replied that he would check but Sheriff Dept. responsibility is to protect citizens; not for profit. Esposito added that County Thunder could also be approached from the point of view that it is beneficial to them also to have state of the art equipment. A. Johnson agreed that the unit should not be looked at as private security and they should stay away charging, however, OK to approach Country Thunder as part of their overhead. Noble added that Country Thunder here was at risk a while back due to security concerns. They are still in business due to the Sheriff’s Department and this could be used in the approach.

YIG Foster asked if a mobile command center was previously used at Country Thunder. Sheriff replied yes, the current antiquated one that is mechanically insufficient.

Esposito asked if any bomb equipment could be sold as a result of incorporating an area in the Mobile Command Unit. Sheriff replied that they would still need the current smaller equipment and transport system for smaller situations. It is easier to maneuver. Sheriff asked Committee members if they have ever seen a demonstration of the bomb equipment and said he would set something up when the weather gets better.

Noble asked if we could bill other counties if the unit is used there. Sheriff replied that this is mutual aid; other counties help us as well. No department can handle all major situations, they need each other.

Sheriff’s Department 2013 Capital Outlay – Change in Copier Purchase Plan – Budget Modification:

Motion by: Frederick ***Seconded by:*** A. Johnson ***Approved:*** unanimously
6:57: Capt. Apker explained that there was an original budget item of \$9,000 for a copier

for the Detective Bureau. After speaking with IT, they suggested multiple function devices and those we can get for a little less than half the price. Sheriff Administration and the Detective Bureau would each get one within the total of \$9,000. Noble commented that they just got one for his company and that there are different types and cost based on primary function (copy, scan or fax). He also suggested to be sure that within the maintenance contract you do not pay for scans. Noble also commented that the cost per copy is higher on personal printers. Apker responded that the purchase is being made based on type of usage and that IT said they would not be charged for scans.

Resolution from the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department:

1) W.I.D.O.T. BOTS – Traffic Enforcement Grants 2012-2013

Motion by: Arrington ***Seconded by:*** R. Johnson ***Approved:*** unanimously

7:02: Lt. Gilley presented the resolution to accept a grant of \$74,300 from the WI Bureau of Transportation Safety. Funds offered will be used to reimburse personnel costs for increased patrol presence to control alcohol/drug impaired drivers, speeders and seatbelt enforcement in targeted areas and to purchase law enforcement equipment. The 25% local match required is met with soft dollars within the current budget and will not require any additional tax levy dollars. Noble commented that he prefers getting more equipment and the equipment portion is getting less and less. Only \$8,500 is allocated for equipment and he asked what is being purchased. Gilley responded primarily digital audio recorders, radar devices, and Fatal Vision Goggles. Noble asked for a specific attachment of equipment before the resolution goes to the County Board.

Noble asked about digital warning signs for the road side. Do we have a sufficient number and could this money be used for these? Sheriff replied that the signs are not used in the winter due to weather and snow plows, however, are used regularly in warmer months. Noble stated that one does not seem like enough. Lt. Gilley stated that possibly this could be proposed in place of radios. Noble rebutted that he prefers less overtime.

Chief Deputy Smith added that there has never been a back log of requests for the digital warning sign. He does not feel that two are necessary at this time. YIG Simard added that this equipment has been used in her neighborhood and was very beneficial.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law: 7:11: Esposito mentioned to the Sheriff that it was brought up at a meeting, the previous night, for a report on the adequacy of Courthouse Security. Sheriff asked if calls for services and types of calls are requested. Esposito replied yes.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:12 p.m. on motion by A. Johnson, seconded by Arrington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna L. DeBree