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REPORT ON BUDGET DISCUSSION
JULY 16, 2021

Mayor Connie Shell, Council Member Ronnie Thompson and Clerk-Treasurer Jane Dailey met with County Commissioner Jake Stewart and Dawes County Sheriff Karl Dailey in the City Hall Council Chambers, 135 Elm Street, Crawford, Nebraska on the 16th day of July, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

County Commissioner Jake Stewart's comments included the County's Blue Cross Blue Shield rates have increased, being a member of L.A.R.M. has saved SWANN considerable expense, the C.O.L.A. is 1.6%. Other factors involved in the budget for law enforcement services are the increase in fuel prices and personnel receiving a 3% raise.


The changes involved with the passage of LB51 will go into effect in September. At that time, training requirements for law enforcement officers will increase from 20 hours to 30 or 35 hours. Officers that are not certified will not be able to do much of anything until they are certified. Sheriff Dailey will get a copy of the changes to the City.

The County hopes to use some of their ARPA funds for upgrades to the communications system. The communications system will also be undergoing some changes in management, moving from Chadron Communications to regional communications. Currently, Dawes County and Chadron support the communications system, but with the change in management, the various entities served will have to contribute to the operations. The City of Crawford currently falls under Dawes County because of the contract for law enforcement, but if the City were to go back to having a city police department, the City would have to contribute a pro-rated amount to the communications center, probably tens of thousands of dollars per year. Currently, Dawes County contributes \$350,000 and the City of Chadron contributes \$450,000 – a large part of it being for personnel.

For future planning, the north side of the Crawford "Sheriff's Office Complex" (Sheriff's Office, BNSF office and Rhonda's New Waves) is still in need of repair. The front door to the Sheriff's Office section could use a threshold with a rubber strip, some weather-stripping with a rubber strip on the bottom of the door and another coat of paint on the door. The HVAC system that feeds the Sheriff's Office and the BNSF office is also old.

The 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the General fund was also presented.

Submitted by:


Jane Dailey
City Clerk/Treasurer