

## **JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, May 11, 2010  
Administrative Center – Room 3220  
2:30 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vicki Burke, Joe Bilskemper (exc. 3:25), Ray Ebert, Bridget Flood, Tammy Gamroth

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Maureen Freedland, Brad Konkel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Steve Helgeson, Michael Horstman, Jeff Wolf, Doris Daggett, Mary Geske, Gary Ingvalson, Keith Butler, Al Blencoe, Jay Loeffler, Sharon Hampson, Margaret Norden

### **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Vicki Burke called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

### **APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2010**

**MOTION** by Flood/Ebert to approve the Committee Minutes of April 13, 2010.

**Motion carried unanimously.** Freedland, Konkel excused. The Chair corrected the committee date that was noted on the agenda.

### **APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Flood/Bilskemper to receive and file the following consent agenda items: Criminal Justice Management Council Minutes of February 17, 2010, and Criminal Justice Management Executive Committee of March 10, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Freedland, Konkel excused.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT**

None reported.

### **ANNUAL REPORT FROM SHERIFF**

Mike Horstman gave a report on law enforcement:

- There are 41 sworn officers;
- An average of 23,000-24,000 calls are received per year for services from process service to crimes;
- Officers in the training division instruct in firearms, standard field sobriety, traffic stops, emergency vehicles operations, taser use, boat safety, and others;
- Instructors also offer in-services to law enforcement in other municipalities, except the La Crosse Police Department, which has its own training department;
- Diversity training is offered in collaboration with several organizations in the community;
- The boat patrol operates Memorial Day through Labor Day;
- Squad cars are an "office on wheels" with computer capabilities and digital cameras;
- Community policing includes DARE and gang resistance courses, and visits to grade schools to talk about internet safety, bullying, and stranger danger;
- They are trying to get neighborhood groups started;
- Community events include boater safety, hunter safety, child ID programs, and seatbelt use;
- The K-9 program is working very well and has been well received;

Doris Daggett gave an update on the jail:

- The average population in 2009 was 179; the count in April was 188;
- The female jail population has seen higher numbers recently, with a high of 27 inmates;
- They have hired a new site manager, and interviews are being conducted for two new jailers;
- There is a new jail inspector;
- The transition team is working to place furniture and plan for housing of inmates during the move to the new jail;
- Training was conducted in tactical team leadership to assign responsibilities for dealing with combative inmates;
- Training was conducted in direct supervision, which will be utilized in two pods in the new facility, and is already being implemented when possible;
- Other training has been in CPR, self-defense, department policy changes, and the new facility;
- They are looking at programs for transitioning from jail to community.

Steve Helgeson provided a summary of the 27 jail programs, which include counseling, activities, education, and behavioral programs. He also spoke about changes instituted with HPL, the medical services provider, regarding availability of psychiatric medications in jail and upon release to the community. They continue to work with the Mental Health Coalition on crisis intervention training, and have changed the screening process to better identify inmates with mental health issues.

#### **ANNUAL REPORT FROM MEDIATION & FAMILY COURT**

Mary Geske reported that the program has been mandated by state statute since 1989, and is required for parents going through divorce, or unmarried parents who need to work out issues about child custody or placement. In 2009, they had 250 referrals. If parents choose to mediate, a plan is developed and there is a written agreement. If parents do not agree on a plan, they can request an appointment with a custody assessment team, which includes a staff member, a guardian ad litem for the children, and a psychologist/therapist. The team conducts interviews, researches records and personal references, and makes a recommendation to the family court commissioner. The cost is \$4,400 for a custody assessment.

#### **PROGRESS REPORT ON NARROW-BANDING COMMUNICATIONS**

Keith Butler and Al Blencoe provided a progress report on the switch to narrow-band communications that is mandated by the FCC to be implemented by January 1, 2013. A committee was formed to include agencies and organizations throughout the region that use any kind of two-way communication. They have developed recommendations and long range goals. The group as a whole prepared a uniform letter to go to governing bodies that includes recommendations for fiscal leadership in time for the 2010 budget process, well in advance of the 2013 deadline. They are doing a comprehensive inventory of all communication devices and the cost to replace. Butler spoke about Project 25 (P25) that is a new standard for digital two-way radio technology.

#### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None requested.

#### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 8, 2010, AT 2:30 P.M.**

The Chair corrected the meeting date noted on the agenda.

#### **NEXT LEC CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING – JUNE 8, 2010, AT 4:00 P.M.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Flood/Gamroth to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**Approved,** June 8, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder