

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 8, 2011
Administrative Center – Room 3220
2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Burke, Joe Bilskemper (exc. 3:35 p.m.), Ray Ebert, Bridget Flood, Tammy Gamroth, Maureen Freedland, Karin Johnson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve Helgeson, Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Bev Heebesch, Jan Contreras, Mary Powell, Keith Butler, Bryan Jostad, Doris Daggett

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2011

MOTION by Flood/Johnson to approve the Committee Minutes of October 11, 2011.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bilskemper/Flood to receive and file the following consent agenda items: Criminal Justice Management Council Minutes of July 20, August 17, and September 21, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

REPORT ON INTEROPERABILITY INITIATIVE AND THE NATION-WIDE EMERGENCY ALERT, NOVEMBER 9, 2011

Keith Butler reported that the new federal mandate to alter spacing between radio channels has been met. All communication equipment among the local entities has been replaced or updated to narrow banding. Butler reported they worked closely with vendors and partner agencies around the area to have completed in 2012. The only township to report some problems with the new communication is Farmington. Butler stated that with an additional transmitter, there could be collaboration with the Highway Department, as well. He also reported on the nation-wide emergency alert, which enables simultaneous broadcast on radio and television in case of a national emergency. He reported that the next generation of integrated public alert systems, IPAWS, would allow wireless devices to receive messages directly. NOTE: The Chair allowed budget questions regarding hazardous materials funding under the agenda item, rather than the Final Budget Questions and Review item. Butler explained that state funding for HAZMAT units is unknown. If there is a drop in funding, the La Crosse region could lose its HAZMAT team. He will be addressing a letter to state representatives on behalf of the La Crosse Emergency Planning Commission.

UPDATE ON WOMEN'S JAIL ISSUES

Doris Daggett reported on female jail population, which has been on average in the low 20's the last three months, which is higher than anticipated. She spoke about the female inmates being moved temporarily into one of the large direct supervision areas while there was work being done on jail showers. The jailers encountered behavior problems with all females grouped together and in general felt that they were more comfortable in smaller pods with more structure. Discussion was held regarding trends in female jail populations,

which has apparently risen statewide. Supervisor Ebert asked about coordinating data with Justice Sanctions to enable better comparison between jail and community programs. Daggett responded that Information Technology is working on streamlining data collection and reporting to give a better picture of recidivism and inmates who could benefit from different programming.

UPDATE ON VIDEO CONFERENCING

Doris Daggett reported that the entire video visitation camera system had to be replaced. The vendor and the architects were involved in getting the system working. Public visitors have accepted the video visitation, and attorneys seem more willing to use it. Sheriff Helgeson explained that there is no policy, but in general face-to-face visits are used in certain situations, and at the recommendation of mental health staff and the chaplain. The major obstacle with it has been with manpower because it is more time consuming to transport inmates between floors. He stated that when there is a reliable video system, they will be able to make changes.

RESOLUTION RE: AGREEMENT FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY OF CELLS IN LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL

The Resolution states that double occupancy in jail cells requires meeting certain conditions from the state Department of Corrections, including a joint agreement between the Sheriff and County Board to provide staffing and services that ensures the health, safety and security of staff and inmates. The Resolution authorizes the County Board Chair to enter into such an agreement. **MOTION** by Bilskemper/Johnson to approve the Resolution Re: Agreement for Double Occupancy of Cells in La Crosse County Jail. **Motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE VENDOR FOR NEW LA CROSSE COUNTY JAIL CANTEEN

The County Jail currently uses paper orders for commissary items. A new technology is available, which uses a touch-screen kiosk to access current and past orders and monetary balances, and make inmate requests such as medical inquiries. The kiosk is tied to the Trust Fund System. Friends and family may also access via the internet to deposit funds and purchase care packages. The service generates revenue via commissions for commissary sales. Five proposals were received from kiosk vendors, which were evaluated by Sheriff, Jail, and Finance staff and evaluated on the following points: Correctional specific references (20 points); vendor understanding and approach to service (40 points); Trust Fund accounting system (60 points); commission structure (80 points); interview/demonstration (200 points). The results were as follows:

Vendor	Evaluation Score	Commission
Aramark	361	20%
Canteen	320	28%
Swanson (did not offer friends and family) Portal	231	23%
Keefe	Did not interview	17%
Stellar (did not offer kiosk)	Did not interview	20%-35% depending on items

The evaluation team recommended Aramark to provide inmate commissary and trust fund services for 36 months. Discussion was held about the sturdiness of the kiosks, and Doris Daggett responded that they were designed for jails, and had been tested to withstand any abuse. **MOTION** by Freedland/Bilskemper to approve Aramark for the La Crosse County Jail canteen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

FINAL BUDGET QUESTIONS AND REVIEW

There were no further questions regarding the 2012 budget.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None requested.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: DECEMBER 6, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Flood/Johnson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Approved, December 6, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder