

JUDICIARY AND LAW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 6, 2011
Administrative Center – Room 3220
2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Burke, Joe Bilskemper, Ray Ebert, Tammy Gamroth, Maureen Freedland, Karin Johnson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Bridget Flood

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Steve Helgeson, Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Bev Heebesch, Jeff Wolf, Jan Contreras, Jay Loeffler, Keith Butler, Bryan Jostad, Dave Steinhoff, Steve Dubberstein, Doris Daggett

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2011

MOTION by Freedland/Bilskemper to approve the Committee Minutes of November 8, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Flood excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT

None reported.

APPROVE SQUAD CAR BIDS

The following bids were received for five marked squad cars:

Brenengen Ford, Sparta	\$121,722.50
Ewald Ford, Oconomowoc	\$121,942.50

Jeff Wolf reported that the expense is budgeted for 2012. He recommended the low bid of \$121,722.50 from Brenengen Ford. **MOTION** by Bilskemper/Johnson to approve the purchase of five squad cars from Brenengen Ford in Sparta. **Motion carried unanimously.** Flood excused.

RESOLUTION RE: INCREASE HOURS OF STAFF UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) GRANT FOR THE DRUG TASK FORCE

The Resolution provides for transfer of approximately \$90,000 in grant money from 2010 ARRA funding to the West Central MEG task force to use for personnel including overtime and drug investigators. Jeff Wolf said that the task force, consisting of Trempealeau, Jackson, Vernon, Monroe, and La Crosse Counties, received a three-year grant that included 1.5 positions, but they did not fill the halftime position until July, 2011. There are therefore unused funds, and they have approval to use those funds to increase the halftime position to fulltime. The halftime position is an intelligence coordinator. When funding ends in December, 2012, neither position will continue, and there is training in process now to be able to reassign the job duties. There is a possibility of a future grant, but no guarantee.

MOTION by Freedland/Ebert to approve the Resolution Re: Increase Hours of Staff under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Grant for the Drug Task Force. **Motion carried unanimously.** Flood excused.

APPROVE PURCHASE ORDER FOR SIMULCAST UPGRADE

Jay Loeffler reported that the second phase of the upgrade to narrow band communications, as mandated by the FCC, is to make the channel a simulcast system. The current system allows transmittal from one tower at a time; the upgrade will allow simulcast from four

towers, which provides maximum geographical coverage. Loeffler reported that the County Highway Department could also use the system if they upgrade their equipment. The simulcast system is available from Motorola at a cost of \$111,034.00. The expense was approved in the 2012 budget, and will not increase the levy. There was discussion about the five-year lifespan of most electronic equipment, and the sole source purchase criteria.

MOTION Bilskemper/Johnson to approve the purchase order for a simulcast upgrade.
Motion carried unanimously. Flood excused.

UPDATE ON TRANSITION FROM JAIL TO COMMUNITY GRANT

Chair Burke referred the item to the January 10, 2012, meeting to await the conference report.

DISCUSS ASSEMBLY BILL 286

The proposed Assembly bill would permit employers to refuse to employ or to terminate an employee who has been convicted of a felony who has not been pardoned for that felony. It would further preempt municipal governments from barring employment discrimination based on an arrest or conviction record. Chair Burke spoke about the bill counteracting efforts to find employment for those who have been convicted of a crime. The bill is not currently moving forward in the legislative process, but will probably go forward in the next session. The Criminal Justice Management Council has decided to write a letter, and Chair Burke encouraged conversations with any legislative committee members. The report was informational only.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None requested.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: JANUARY 10, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bilskemper/Gamroth to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Approved, January 10, 2012, Margaret Norden, Recorder