

**PUBLIC SAFETY & LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
FRAZIER, WILBER, STAMMEL, FARWELL, OBERACKER  
September 13, 2019**

**Also Present: Board Chair Bliss and Deputy Treasurer Andrew Crisman**

**Absent: Representative Oberacker**

**PUBLIC DEFENDER- ATTORNEY MICHAEL TROSSET**

Attorney Trosset updated the Committee regarding the following, including but not limited to:

- Mr. Trosset is pursuing funding through the Upstate Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction grant
- the Public Defender's Office hired a paralegal, scheduled to begin at the end of the month
- October 1, 2019: Centralized Arraignment Program (CAP) begins in Otsego County, NYS reimbursement will be available for on-call attorney stipends
- Mr. Trosset is working on the proposed 2020 budget and will be in contact with the Treasurer's Office and the Committee with any questions

**CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)- DENISE OLIVER**

Denise Oliver, Coordinator of the Child Advocacy Center, requested approval to purchase the training Parenting with Posttraumatic Stress: Breaking the Cycle of Generational Trauma with Dawn Daum on October 18, 2019 in the amount of \$1,250. This is in conjunction with the Otsego County Child Abuse and Neglect Committee (OCCAN). Representative Stammel moved to approve the training fee. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,465. Absent: 1,021- Wilber, Oberacker. Motion carried.

Denise Oliver requested approval for five staff members to attend the New York State Children's Alliance 2019 Leadership Conference on October 21-22, 2019 in Saratoga Springs, NY, including lodging, meals, and mileage in an amount not to exceed \$2,485. Representative Farwell moved to approve the conference expenses. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,465. Absent: 1,021- Wilber, Oberacker. Motion carried.

Denise Oliver requested approval to pay mileage expenses for four staff members to attend the It Takes a Village conference on November 7-8, 2019 in Binghamton, NY, in the amount of \$520. Representative Stammel moved to approve the mileage expenses. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,465. Absent: 1,021- Wilber, Oberacker. Motion carried.

Representative Wilber entered during the above discussion.

Denise Oliver requested approval to purchase mental health services from Sura Page, LCSW, in the amount of \$1,440 (\$60 per hour for two hours per month) for referrals of children and families served by the CAC. Representative Farwell moved to approve the purchase of services. Seconded, Wilber. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Denise Oliver requested approval to purchase one year of computer maintenance from Continuum in the amount of \$3,580.26. Representative Farwell moved to approve the computer maintenance cost. Seconded, Wilber. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Denise Oliver requested approval to purchase two interview chairs in the amount of \$580 plus shipping. Representative Wilber moved to approve the purchase. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Denise Oliver requested approval to purchase a microphone, an amplifier, headphones, and installation costs from Continuum for forensic interviews in an amount not to exceed \$660. Representative Wilber moved to approve the purchase. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

#### **COUNTY CLERK- DEPUTY CLERK JENNIFER BASILE**

Deputy County Clerk Jennifer Basile updated the Committee regarding changes to the proposed 2020 County Clerk budget. Ms. Basile said the only additions to the budget are to the Personal Service line as previously discussed, regarding a staff member change from Clerk to Supervisor.

#### **SHERIFF- SHERIFF DEVLIN, UNDERSHERIFF CAMERON ALLISON, COMMISSIONER EVE BOUBOULIS (DSS), AND ATTORNEY ELLEN COCCOMA (COUNTY ATTORNEY)**

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to fill a vacant, funded Corrections Nurse position. Representative Farwell moved to approve filling the position. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to start the Corrections Nurse position at Step 2 compensation level. Representative Farwell moved to hire the Corrections Nurse at Step 2. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to fill a vacant, funded Gun Safety Officer position. Representative Wilber moved to fill the position. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested an amendment to the approval request to purchase a STOP-DWI Program trailer in the amount of \$7,500 increasing the purchase amount to \$8,400. Representative Wilber moved to amend the purchase approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested the Public Safety & Legal Affairs Committee sponsor a resolution to appoint the following individuals or designees to the Traffic Safety Board for a three year term:

Highway Superintendent or Designated Representative  
Otsego County Highway  
Linden Avenue  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Designated Representative  
AAA Tri-County Motor Club  
195 Oneida Street  
Oneonta, NY 13820

Designated Representative  
NY State Police Troop C  
199 Oneida Street  
Oneonta, NY 13820

IT Director or Designated Representative  
IT Department  
197 Main Street  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Chief of Police or Designated Representative  
22 Main Street  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Otsego County Sheriff or Designated Representative  
172 County Highway 33W  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

City of Oneonta Fire Chief or Designated Representative  
79 Main Street  
Oneonta, NY 13326

Public Health Director or Designated Representative  
Department of Public Health  
140 County Highway 33W, Ste 3  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Otsego County Emergency Services Coordinator or Designated Representative  
140 County Highway 33W, Ste 5  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Designated Representative  
Otsego County Sheriff Office  
STOP-DWI Program  
172 County Highway 33W  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Designated Representative  
Bassett Medical Center  
1 Atwell Road  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Representative Wilber moved to appoint the above listed individuals or designees to the Traffic Safety Board for a three year term. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to purchase an ID system from Linstar, not to exceed \$20,000, with 50% reimbursed through Homeland Security funding. This will update the current system and the current system will go to Emergency Services for Fire Department IDs. Representative Wilber moved to approve the purchase. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested approval to purchase five pre-screening alcohol devices in the amount of \$1,795. Representative Farwell moved to approve the purchase. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin requested an update from the Committee regarding hazard pay for part-time sergeants. Representative Wilber said that although he is supportive of paying hazard pay to the part-time sergeants, additional research

is required because there is a question regarding union and/or non-union status effecting the payments.

Sheriff Devlin requested the following budget transfer:

Transfer from:	Sheriff Equipment	3110-2000-A	\$6,778.68
Transfer to:	Jail Equipment	3150-2000-A	\$6,778.68

Representative Wilber moved to approve the budget transfer. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin updated the Committee regarding additional costs associated with boarding inmates while renovations on the Jail are being completed. Sheriff Devlin said the department will need an additional \$135,000 to cover the costs of boarding inmates through the end of the year. Sheriff Devlin and the Committee discussed possible sources of funding, including but not limited to \$36,000 in Homeland Security funding and/or using Contingent funds for the remainder of the costs. Representative Wilber moved to support funding the costs of boarding inmates in the amount of \$99,000 from Contingent. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Sheriff Devlin and the Committee discussed the proposed 2020 budget. Sheriff Devlin highlighted the following from the proposed budget, including but not limited to: Sheriff Devlin requested an additional \$8,000 be added to the Training budget as recommended by the Jail Physician for training for nurses, Bassett Medical Center costs will likely increase for more services at the Jail, and Personnel costs will likely need to be increased to accommodate criminal justice reform effective in 2020.

Sheriff Devlin and the Committee continued the discussion about Personnel. Sheriff Devlin requested additional Personnel in the 2020 budget, citing previously requested staffing needs as confirmed by a 2015 study conducted by the NYS Office of Public Safety, and additional requirements as required by NYS law to take effect in January of 2020. Representative Wilber moved to add three Corrections Officer positions and three Sheriff's Deputy positions to the 2020 budget. Seconded, Farwell. The Committee said this Personnel increase will have to be discussed by the Budget Committee. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,513. Noes: 439- Frazier. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eve Bouboulis entered the meeting.

Board Chair Bliss briefly exited and returned with Attorney Coccoma, who entered the meeting.

The Committee, Sheriff Devlin, and Attorney Coccoma discussed changing the vendor that performs pre-employment psychological evaluations and the Sheriff agreed. The Committee also discussed compensation options for candidates who are undergoing psychological evaluations prior to hire. The Committee discussed reasonable compensation options. Representative Wilber moved to approve payment in the amount of \$200 to deputy or officer candidates who travel to Albany to undergo psychological evaluation prior to hire in compensation for their time, mileage, tolls, and parking. Seconded, Stammel. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,952. Absent: 534- Oberacker. Motion carried.

Attorney Coccoma exited the meeting.

Sheriff Devlin briefly updated the Committee on renovations at the Jail.

Commissioner Bouboulis distributed drafts of security officer plan options. Commissioner Bouboulis, Sheriff Devlin, and the Committee discussed the following, including but not limited to: security needs for County-owned properties, titles and the number of positions, training for security officers, the project timeline, and cost allocation plan options that may help with reimbursements to the County for security costs. The Committee requested Commissioner Bouboulis share this information with Building Services at the Public Works Committee next week.

Board Chair Bliss, Representative Stammel, Sheriff Devlin, Undersheriff Allison, and Commissioner Bouboulis exited the meeting.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES/ E911- ART KLINGLER, VICTOR JONES, ROB O'BRIEN, ONEONTA FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF PATRICK PIDGEON, AND ASSISTANT FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF JIM MALONEY**

Oneonta Fire Department Chief Patrick Pidgeon and Assistant Chief Jim Maloney addressed the Committee regarding the City of Oneonta-wide and County-wide challenge of the personnel shortage in the field of emergency medical services (EMS). The Fire Chiefs and the Committee discussed the following as related to both the City of Oneonta and Otsego County, including but not limited to the following:

- staff levels are low, both professionally but especially on volunteer squads
- call volumes are high
- volunteer EMS providers need to maintain their certifications which is time consuming, and may be too much commitment for people with jobs and family responsibilities

- communities are having difficulty paying for emergency equipment, especially for example vehicles like ambulances and fly cars which are costly
- medical centers like Fox Hospital have shifted the services they provide and many patients prefer Bassett Hospital, which can create distance concerns for example time and mileage
- assisted living facilities create a concentration of populations that need EMS services frequently, and with small EMS squads, this can create a concern for responding to co-occurring incidents
- if each town/village creates their own department, it could result in unnecessary duplications of cost
- with strained EMS services, it can be difficult for squads to provide mutual aid to neighboring towns and villages

Chief Pidgeon distributed copies of a chart listing the number of County agencies, ambulances, providers, and the providers' level of EMS certification. Representative Farwell suggested looking at other Counties in the state to see how they address these issues, for example Essex County. Chief Pidgeon suggested pursuing a NYS Certificate of Need to help with grant funding.

Deputy Treasurer Andrew Crisman exited the meeting.

The Committee thanked the Chiefs for their time and expertise, and discussed next steps.

Chief Pidgeon and Assistant Chief Maloney exited the meeting.

Art Klingler, Coordinator of Emergency Services, and Victor Jones, Assistant Coordinator, updated the Committee regarding the Fire Training Center. Mr. Klingler is still pursuing RFP modifications and may have found an alternate option with a metal building.

Art Klinger and Victor Jones exited the meeting.

## **E911- ROB O'BRIEN**

Rob O'Brien, Director of E911, received two responses from the reissued tower management RFP and will update the Public Works Committee on the RFP as well.

Rob O'Brien reported the P25 encryption equipment has arrived and the department is still waiting on additional information from NYS.

Rob O'Brien requested approval to fill two funded, vacant Dispatch positions. Representative Wilber moved to fill the positions. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,429. Absent: 1,026- Stammel, Oberacker. Motion carried.

Rob O'Brien and the Committee discussed adding Personnel in the proposed 2020 budget.

Rob O'Brien exited the meeting.

**CAC- DENISE OLIVER**

Denise Oliver requested approval of the following budget transfers:

From: National Children's Alliance Grant	0000-4380-A	\$3,994
To: Lodging, Meals, Tolls, Etc.	3700-4010-A	\$3,994
From: National Children's Alliance Grant	0000-4380-A	\$13,311.96
To: Personal Service	3700-1000-A	\$13,311.96
From: National Children's Alliance	0000-4380-A	\$1,350
To: Materials & Supplies	3700-4500-A	\$1,350

Representative Farwell moved to approve the three budget transfers. Seconded, Wilber. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,429. Absent: 1,026- Stammel, Oberacker. Motion carried.

**PROBATION- DAN NAUGHTON**

Representative Farwell updated the Committee that she will be attending the upcoming NYSAC Conference and asked Dan Naughton to relay any questions he has about upcoming criminal justice reform and/or Raise the Age legislation and she will try to find more information at the Conference.

Dan Naughton said he plans to add Personnel to the proposed 2020 budget and he will look for sources of reimbursement for the positions he adds.

Dan Naughton requested approval of the following budget transfer:

Transfer from:	Postage & UPS	3140-4400-A	\$500
Transfer to:	Training	3140-4050-A	\$500

This is for OCCAN training for 2-3 staff members.



Representative Farwell moved to approve the budget transfer. Seconded, Wilber. Total: 2,486. Ayes: 1,429. Absent: 1,026- Stammel, Oberacker. Motion carried.

## **CODES- TONY GENTILE**

Tony Gentile distributed copies of a Revenues vs. Expenditures chart, 2019 Codes Budget Updates and Projections, 2020 Codes Budget Projections, Code Department permit numbers year-to-date, estimated projections through the end of 2019, and a copy of the proposed 2020 budget.

Tony Gentile and the Committee discussed the proposed 2020 budget. Mr. Gentile said the 2019 Codes deficit is projected to go down. Mr. Gentile also said that one full-time position will likely decrease to part-time in 2020.

There being no further business to discuss, the Committee set the next meeting date for Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 1:00pm at the County Office Building, and adjourned.