Davis County Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2023

The Budget Committee of Davis County met on November 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in room 306 of the Davis County Administration Building, 61 South Main Street, Farmington, UT. Notice of this meeting was given under the requirements of Utah Code Annotated §52-4-202.

Disclaimer: The meeting was an open dialogue. Agenda items appear in bold and are only briefly summarized. The reader may refer to the audio recording and the attachments for further content clarification. Timestamps have been noted in the minutes to aid in locating discussion points in the audio record. The audio recording is available based on the County's current retention schedule.

Note: The Budget Committee met to continue discussing the 2024 budget requests. This meeting facilitated the need to work through the budget process more transparently. These Committee discussions help narrow the decisions for budget cuts and approvals during budget consideration. They should not be assumed to be final until the final budget is approved through formal action by the Commission.
The meeting commenced at 1:04 p.m.

Opening Roll Call

Committee members present were Curtis Koch, Auditor; Angie Nelson, Chief Deputy Auditor; Commissioner Randy B. Elliott; Commissioner Lorene Miner Kamalu; Commissioner Bob J Stevenson; Chris Bone, Human Resources Director; and Mark Langston, Information Systems Director. Shairise Bills, Deputy Auditor, recorded the minutes of the meeting. There was no public attendance.

Approval of Budget Meeting Minutes for 10/2/23, 10/3/23, 10/4/23, 10/5/23, and 10/6/23

The Committee voted to approve:

MEMBER	MOTIONED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Commissioner Elliott		X	X			
Commissioner Kamalu	X		X			
Commissioner Stevenson			X			
Curtis Koch			X			
Angie Nelson			X			
Mark Langston			X			
Chris Bone			X			

2024 Annual Budget Discussion

The three Commissioners individually met with the Auditor, IS Director, and HR Director to make budget cuts to the departments under their portfolios. They reconvened as a Budget Committee to discuss those cuts made to their respective departments. When the Auditor filed the tentative budget with the Commission as required by the State, the budget was sitting at $12.3 million for all the budget requests.

After the cuts were made, it now sits at $8,053,000. Curtis gave a high-level overview of the changes that were made. It mainly consisted of cutting vehicles and several positions. They took $96,000 from Capital Reserves and added it back into Search and Rescue for equipment to start their rotation. The $990,000 Crime Lab Remodel is still in the budget, with a $1 million transfer from Capital Reserves to cover it. Curtis said the 1 ½ percent COLA is still in there but must be decided, and more discussion needs to happen with Fleet, interest earnings, and personnel positions during today's meeting before he can finalize some budget numbers.

Interest Earnings (*Minute 11:26)*

Curtis showed the average ledger balance in the County's checking account. The County earns zero in that account. He explained the interest projections for 2024 across all funds. *(See Attachment A.)*

Fleet (*Minute 19:08)*

Curtis said the book value of vehicle assets is about $2.8 million. He said the County would need to put in about $4 million in vehicles for Fund 64 (which will own the vehicles). He explained how he envisioned the Fleet program working by charging departments to use those vehicles (how they will be allocated) and when and how often vehicles are rotated and surplused. Several scenarios were discussed at length. Commissioner Stevenson volunteered to work with Jon [Thornely], the Fleet Manager, to figure out the details of the Fleet Management program to get it up and going. Commissioner Kamalu said it made sense to possibly use State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) one-time monies and Capital Reserves to help fund the new Fleet Capital. The Commissioners agreed to hold approving vehicle requests until the Fleet Management is figured out. *(See Attachments B1-B7.)*

COLA (*Minute 1:09:23)*

The COLA is currently in the budget at 1.5% at a cost of [$857,000]. Every ½ of a percent costs $280,000. Commissioner Stevenson wants to start the COLA increase in July at 4% instead of 2% in January. Mark said starting the COLA in July may not be well-received, but it is an interesting concept. Chris spoke about possible timing issues of delaying the COLA but did think it may be a good idea to postpone the pick-up until July to see if the legislature makes any changes. Commissioner Stevenson said the County should stop paying for employee pick-up due to how much it already pays into retirement. Curtis asked again what the final consensus is on the COLA and merit, and Commissioner Kamalu likes the 1.5% COLA and the steadiness of the merit at 3.5%, as it has been, but could be convinced to go to 2% on the COLA. Commissioner Elliott likes consistency and the 1.5%- 2% on the COLA. Commission Stevenson likes the 4% but will go along with what the other Commissioners want. They agreed on a 2% COLA and 3.5% on the merit. The 2% COLA will also apply to the elected officials, and a separate one needs to be done for the County Attorney based on the new ordinance.

Opioid (*Minute 1:47:41)*

Curtis asked what the Commissioners wanted to do with the Opioid [Settlement Payments]. They agreed to use one-third of the total annual payment for combatting homelessness, one-third for prevention (for the jail and Davis Behavioral Health), and one-third toward reimbursement of the General Fund for current mitigation for the Justice System impact. It would require a transfer of $1.1 million from Fund 11 [the Opioid Settlement Payments Fund] into Fund 10 [the General Fund] to offset the cost of attorneys, jail, etc. *(See Attachment C.)*

Fund 25- Sheriffs in the Unincorporated (*Minute 2:04:30)*

Curtis said the Sheriff gave him three options to address the Sheriff's law enforcement in the unincorporated county. They were as follows:

1. Based on calls -$16,158 annually.
2. Go off of the DOJ staffing numbers, which recommends two deputies for every 1000 citizens. The county has 3,500 citizens, equaling seven deputies- $163,000 annually.
3. Using the population contract price formula and feeding it into what the County did with West Point City, Fruit Heights, and South Weber would net $82,425 annually, but that only covers the cost of half a deputy sheriff's salary for all unincorporated.

Curtis proposed a fourth option:

To have law enforcement 24/7, 365 in the unincorporated areas would be five deputies- $815,000 annually.

The Commissioners agreed with Curtis's proposal.

CLOSED SESSION

The Committee voted at 3:15 p.m. to move into a closed session for reasons permitted under Utah Code Annotated (UCA) 52-4-205(1)(a) for discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. An affidavit was signed in place of recording the closed session.

MEMBER	MOTIONED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Commissioner Elliott	X		X			
Commissioner Kamalu		X	X			
Commissioner Stevenson			X			
Curtis Koch			X			
Mark Langston			X			
Chris Bone			X			

The Committee reconvened the open meeting at 3:56 p.m., and Curtis updated the group on information he found regarding the land purchase to expand the Justice Complex, where the Events Center sits. Curtis put to rest that the land was not purchased with Tourism funds. In some old Commission minutes, he found that the land would be used for the expansion and temporarily for the fairgrounds. He said the Commissioner can do what they want with that information.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

All documents associated with this meeting are listed as the following attachments:

A	Interest Projections 2024 & YE 2023
B1-B7	2024 Capital Requests -Fleet
C	Davis County Opioid Settlement Payment Estimates

Minutes prepared by:

Shairise Bills
Deputy Auditor

Minutes approved on: 11/13/2023

/s/ Curtis Koch
Curtis Koch
Auditor— Budget Officer