

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

David Ross, Board Member
Paul Trampe, Board Member
Larry K. Pritchett, Treasurer
Debbie Williams, Commissioner of Revenue
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber Belako, Schools' Communications Specialist & Grant Writer
Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager
Charles Carey, Sheriff's Office Captain
Rene Daniels, Schools' Director of Communications & Community Engagement
Tracy Edwards, Sheriff's Office Program Assistant
John Lynn, Schools' Director of School Safety
Justin Young, Sheriff's Office Deputy
Peter Zicari - Schools' Director of Technology
Bonnie Jewell, Budget Manager

Grant Award for Sheriff's Office FY 2019 Social Media Policy & Training

Tracy Edwards, Sheriff's Office Program Assistant explained that The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) has subawarded Spotsylvania County \$10,458 in federal grants funds for social media policy development and training. The Sheriff's Office will use these funds to hire a social media liability attorney. Working in collaboration with this attorney, the Sheriff's Office will work to prevent future legal liabilities resulting from inherent nuances of federal and state speech laws, and their impact on the public sector employees' constitutional rights, among other concerns and liabilities.

Ms. Edwards noted that by September 30, 2018, the Sheriff's Office will develop a new Social Media Liability Policy to avoid potential conflict between an employee's duty to the agency and the employee's constitutional right to freedom of expression. Training on the newly adopted policy will also be provided to approximately 300 sworn and non-sworn personnel employed by the Sheriff's Office.

She referenced recent legal cases in Virginia and around the country that have demonstrated the costs to public sector departments which fail to properly execute and train staff on such policies. For instance, in the *Liverman v. City of Petersburg* case, the police department's social media policy was determined to have been too broad and in violation of officers' First Amendment rights. The Petersburg department's social media policy was not written by a specialist in social media or electronic media law, and the locality ultimately settled a \$4.7 million law suit. As the use of social media resources such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram continues to proliferate, the Sheriff's Office wants to ensure that it does not find itself in a similar situation

The grant funds will be used to hire a social media liability attorney, fund costs associated with the attorney's travel, and provide reference materials to Sheriff's Office staff. There is no local match requirement and no requirement to continue funding the program after the grant award expires on September 30, 2018. However, Sheriff's Office staff acknowledges that there will be ongoing training needed as staff turns over.

On a motion by Mr. Ross, seconded by Ms. Williams, and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget amendment and associated appropriation for the acceptance of the grant.

Grant Award for Modification to Existing Grant for Child Safety Seat Checks

Sheriff's Office Deputy Justin Young explained that the County has been awarded \$23,253 in additional grant funding by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for the Child Safety Seat Check Station Coordinator Program administered by the Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Young reported that the Child Safety Seat Check Station Coordinator Program focuses on promoting proper safety seat restraint use for children until they transition to the vehicle safety belt, increasing risk perception and correct usage of child restraints among parents and caregivers through outreach and education, providing proper installation education, and addressing the barriers that prohibit access to safety devices. At VDH's request, the Sheriff's Office is the Regional Coordinator for the Northern Virginia Safety Seat Check Station Coordinator Program. The assigned coverage area includes Frederick, Clarke, Warren, Loudoun, Fairfax, Prince William, Fauquier, Rappahannock, Madison, Orange, Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Culpeper counties, as well as the embedded cities and townships.

The Sheriff's Office proposes to use this additional funding of \$23,253 towards the purchase of a pick-up truck to haul the regional trailer which was approved in the initial award for this program. The estimated cost for the pick-up truck is \$35,270. The Sheriff's Office will absorb the difference of approximately \$12,018 from the funding allocated for replacement vehicles in the FY 2019 Adopted Budget and the budget adjustment included with this item shifts the \$12,018 to the grant project. There is no local match requirement associated with this grant award.

On a motion by Mr. Pritchett, seconded by Mr. Ross, and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget adjustment and associated appropriation for the acceptance of the additional grant funding.

Adjustment to FY 2018 Revenue Budgets to Match to Third-Quarter Projections

Bonnie Jewell, Budget Manager, explained that staff provided the FY 2018 third quarter financial update to the Board and that based on collections through May 2018, staff anticipates that General Fund year end revenue collections will vary from the currently budgeted estimates by approximately \$6.4 million (2.5%). Ms. Jewell noted that all but \$1.0

million of the increased revenue projections for the current year were factored into the FY 2019 Budget figures.

Staff is now requesting approval to adjust the FY 2018 Budget to reflect the updated revenue projections as noted on the Recommended 3rd Quarter Revisions – FY 2018 General Fund Revenues report provided to the Committee.

On a motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Dr. Trampe, and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the budget amendment to adjust the FY 2018 revenue projections.

Other Business:

Grant Application Request for BJA STOP School Violence Threat Assessment and Technology Reporting Program

Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager and Rene Daniels, Schools' Director of Communications & Community Engagement reported on a grant being offered by the Department of Justice to improve efforts to reduce violent crime through the creation of school threat assessment teams and the use of technology to anonymously report suspicious activity regarding school violence. Though the Schools cannot apply directly for this grant, the County can apply and subaward grant funding to the school system.

Ms. D'Alessandro and Mrs. Daniels reported that projects proposed for the grant must establish an anonymous reporting system available via mobile phone, hotline, or website that will enable students, teachers, faculty, and community members to anonymously identify school threats. Where feasible, the system can also be utilized as an incident response and management notification system.

The Sheriff's Office and Schools have coordinated efforts to identify several vendors who can provide a communication platform that will provide: an anonymous tip line; an alert tool for every staff member in the schools; a two-way communication between the schools and first responders; an accountability and unification tracking system; and resources for safety education and training. The grant funding is available for a three year period to support 75% of the costs with the remaining 25% being funded by the Schools.

Budget calculations had not been finalized for this grant at the time of the Finance Committee meeting. However, on a motion by Mr. Pritchett, seconded by Ms. Williams, and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended that this item be presented for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

Adjournment:

Ms. Jewell adjourned the meeting.