

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 3, 2016**  
**5:15 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jay Dunn  
Kevin Greenfield  
Patty Cox  
John Jackson  
Tim Dudley  
Greg Mattingley

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Linda Little

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Josh Tanner, S of A  
Lisa Wallace, Auditor's Office  
Carol Reed, Auditor  
Cherie Meyer, Treasurer  
Jim Taylor, Court Services / Probation  
Lt. Jim Root, EMA  
Lt. Jon Butts, Sheriff's Dept  
Sheriff Tom Schneider  
Mike Baggett, State's Attorney's Office  
Joe Moretti, Highway Dept  
Sheri Wallace, HR  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunn, at the Macon County Office Building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve minutes of prior meeting, September 20, 2016 (Budget Hearing #5), seconded by Mr. Mattingley and the motion carried 6-0.

**CLAIMS**

Motion to approve the report of the Finance claims as presented made by Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Mattingley and motion carried 6-0.

**REPORTS –**

*Audit Sub Committee –no report*

*Auditor –*

**Macon County Board Resolution Approving Increase in Appropriations in the FY16 Insurance Fund and Self-Insurance Fund Budgets**

Ms. Reed explained that generally what is needed is appropriated for the year, but this particular year, there have been some high claims in workers comp and a few claim losses with automobiles, etc... that we are self-insured for. The self-insurance fund is running a little short, but there is plenty in the fund balance of the insurance fund to make an additional transfer there. A transfer of \$78,000 to help pay outstanding claims is requested. Chair Dunn asked if it was a transfer from one fund to the other. Ms. Reed confirmed.

Motion to forward the resolution on to the full board with recommendation to approve was made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Jackson and the motion carried 6-0.

***Board of Review –***

Mr. Tanner reported that the board is working through their caseload. There were about 265 cases and they are running almost current. So, as fast as they are coming in, they're putting them back out. There is nothing major. Most are residential properties. Chair Dunn asked what the time limit is. Mr. Tanner said October 12 is deadline and generally most of the commercial properties come in the last week. He said they've not seen anything yet and he has not heard anything from the local appraisers either. Chair Dunn asked if that number was extremely low. Mr. Tanner confirmed. He said that at the current 265 and the norm is to get about 100 or so in the last week. 500 is what they had the last couple of years, but historically it runs closer to 1000.

***Supervisor of Assessments –***

Mr. Tanner distributed the Wind Energy Device Valuation publication from the Department of Revenue. It explains how wind energy devices are assessed. They are different from anything else and it is based on their generating capacity. He also handed out an estimate showing that with each turbine being 2 megawatts, the calculation is shown, but the gist of it is that per turbine, the general fund for the county would receive about \$701 in property tax. It does not seem like a lot. County wide, if all turbines were put in in one year, which they will not be, the potential would be about \$97,500 in actual tax dollars. That doesn't seem like a lot, but it is because the county's general fund tax rate is only a quarter of a percent. The entire tax burden is closer to 7% which includes the schools, townships, etc... That number is \$2.7 million worth of taxes. Our portion seems small, but our tax rate is not very large compared to most of the other taxing bodies. As far as the County goes, we receive the benefit of all of the assessed value for the entire county, so it takes a really big number to move the dial for us, whereas a township, especially Austin or Illini, whose tax bases are very small, this is a huge increase for them. The School district's rate is closer to 4%, so they will receive a lot more per year than we are too. Chair Dunn said that he has spoken with Chairman Greenfield about this, but it is his desire to build up the Rainy Day Fund any chance we can. We have had to borrow from it numerous times this year to meet payroll and then we had to go to the Judgement Fund to make payroll, so at some point he said he would probably introduce a resolution to put this money into the Rainy Day Fund. It will be a while before it starts coming in, and it is not a super lot of money, but at least it is something going in to build that fund up or try to maintain it. He said he would like to get enough money in there so the Auditor does not have to borrow from the Judgement Fund to meet payroll. He said they talk about the fund balance in the county, but a lot of it is restricted. It is not cash. Even though it sounds good, the only way to collect it is to shut down the county, pay all the bills and collect the money owed us. Then we would have \$5 million. Otherwise it is money that is extremely hard to get to. We float about a million and a half to \$2 million a month just on money the state or somebody owes us.

***GIS – No report***

***Treasurer –***

**Macon County Board Resolution to Execute Deeds to Convey Property on which Taxes were Delinquent**

Motion to approve placing the resolution on the consent calendar of the agenda for the October 13, 2016 Macon County Board meeting made by Ms. Cox seconded by Mr. Mattingley, and the motion carried 6-0.

**CITIZEN REMARKS – PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** –

**Court Services / Probation**

**Macon County Board Resolution Amending the Probation's FY16 Budget**

Mr. Taylor explained the request is to amend the detention line in the amount of \$56,176.51. Currently, there is \$14,349.66 in that line and there will be another quarterly invoice coming in on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The contract is for 5 beds with Peoria County. Over the last year, there have been 5 youth in for over a year. Four are in for murder and one for attempted murder. The average daily detention rate has been 8.6 youth per day. Currently, there are 11 in custody right now.

Motion to approve forwarding to the full board with recommendation to approve made by Mr. Mattingley, seconded by Ms. Cox, and the motion carried 6-0.

**Transportation**

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving and Amended Funding Agreement on the 2015 HSIP Sign Upgrade Program***

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Greenfield and the motion carried 6-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Appropriating Funds to Sangamo Construction for Emergency Repairs to Reas Bridge Road over Lake Decatur***

Mr. Moretti explained that the repairs have been completed.

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Jackson and the motion carried 6-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Engineering Design Work for the Repair of Lost Bridge Road Bridge over Lake Decatur***

Mr. Dudley made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Ms. Cox and the motion carried 6-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Additional Funds for Land Acquisition and Right of Way Work for the CH41 Wyckles Road White Topping Project***

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 6-0.

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving Additional Funds for Environmental Design Work on the Reas Bridge Road Bridge Replacement Project***

Ms. Cox made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the full board for consideration with the recommendation for approval, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 6-0.

Chair Dunn asked about the emergency road repairs and whether the weight limit was back up now. Mr. Moretti explained that the State had come out while the contractor was working and looked at the beams closer. They found another beam. So, another design to stiffen up two more beams and then the weight restriction will come back up. It is not completely lifted.

**BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

***Circuit Clerk –***

Ms. Reed explained that Ms. Durbin could not be present at the meeting, so she would be presenting for her.

The only changes to the budget have to do with jury fees. At the Justice Committee meeting, there was notification that the jury fees would be put back to what they originally were. This has been amended. The jury fees line now is \$55,000. It was \$144,000. The agency fund pays it out, so both have been adjusted to \$55,000.

Mr. Greenfield made a motion to approve forwarding the amended proposed budget on to Display, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 6-0.

***Auditor –***

Ms. Reed explained that she had been asked to reduce 4% which has been done.

The salaries have a 3% increase for all positions except the Auditor.

The only other increase in any other line is \$500 for EDP which is a guess at the new licensing fees for the new software.

All the rest of the changes were decreases.

Line 7240, Professional Services, was taken out, but is now included in the general accounts in the Audit line. The Audit Line will stay the same because there is still enough in that line from what was budgeted before to cover this. The reason for this is that it is actually an evaluation which is done for the Other Post Retirement Benefits and that is included in the audit. So, this is really more of an audit expense. So that \$4,000 was shifted there.

Also contributing to the cut, was the inclusion of a higher portion of the salaries in Fund 11, the Insurance line. There are two people and one is the Insurance Administrator and her time is split. It was 76% to insurance and 24% to other. This has now been upped to 80% coming out of the insurance line. She does spend most of her time on insurance. The other position is the

Workers Comp Administrator. There has been a lot of activity in workers comp this year and 30% is now going to be charged to the insurance fund for that position. Doing those things allowed the cut.

The HR portion of the budget is where most of the expense reduction took place. The manager training line was \$4,000 and has been reduced to \$1,500. That \$1,500 plus the contractual services stills gives over \$2,200 to conduct manager training sessions. A lot of in-house stuff is done, but when outside help is needed, this line should be adequate to do that.

The total reduction is \$16,059 which is 4%.

Mr. Dudley made a motion to approve the proposal and pass it on to the Display Budget, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the motion carried 6-0.

### ***Sheriff's Department / Jail / Court Security –***

Sheriff Schneider began,

Honorable members of the Finance Committee I would like to address all of you and the county board members before we present our budget. Before I began my term as your Sheriff, Sheriff Jerry Dawson told me that he didn't envy what I would have to go through in the future regarding funding our office. He couldn't have been any more accurate and his words didn't follow on hollow ears. From my initial budget, to this day, I have been cutting my budget, forgoing the purchase of squad cars and ultimately laying off personnel. We have survived these financial cuts many years by securing grants and the Law Enforcement Safety Tax.

Two years ago I was confronted with a contract termination with the city regarding our records division. This contract termination led to the layoff of 5 employees' in our record division. I understand the private sector has layoffs and in some cases it is necessary for the survival and success of those business owners. I treat the Sheriff's Office no differently, but I also understand that a layoff is much more than a number. Layoffs are people, they are my friends, they're our family and most importantly they are our responsibility.

We are now confronted with another financial crisis in our county and it potentially has devastating consequences. For the FY2017 budget proposal I was asked to cut over \$650,000 of expenditures initially. This reduction in expenditures didn't include contractual obligations, so that figure then rose to approximately \$750,000. It didn't stop there, the county has identified an additional shortfall and is asking that the cuts exceed \$1,000,000.

What is the result of cutting \$1,000,000 from our budget; 2 correctional officers positions eliminated, 3 correctional sergeant positions eliminated, and 7 patrol deputy positions eliminated. Eliminating 7 patrol deputy positions also leads to the elimination of our school resource officer position, Federal Marshal Fugitive Apprehension Detective, Drug Interdiction Detective and Narcotics Detective.

As you can see from the example above these cuts are real and they are costly to the overall public safety of our county. I also know that you have shown the Macon County Residents that you are fiscally responsible by reducing the tax levy for three years.

The budget that is being presented today includes all the cuts previously mentioned. I am hopeful that the Macon County Residents will support the Law Enforcement Safety Tax proposal, which will fully restore our Sheriff's Office to its present day operation.

Lt. Butts presented the budget as follows:

Revenues: The projected revenue has been reduced by recommendation of the Auditor in the 001-060 by \$705,000.

Expenditures:

5001- Sheriff Line - \$91,122.83

5002 – Public Safety Officer - \$11,016

- MIS Officer - \$57,061.90

- Records Clerk Supervisor / Coordinator - \$34,236.79

- Lieutenant's Pay - \$581,349.66

- Command Officers, Sergeants, & Lieutenants – 2% contractual agreement

5310 - Sergeants - \$679,938.36

- Deputies – reduction of forces – 7 deputies - \$1,939,786.70 (a reduction of \$306,387.78) They currently have 2 years on their contract. Mr. Greenfield asked if those deputies are the patrol deputies that are on the road. Lt. Butts said they have had 2 deputies leave within the last 6 weeks; one took early retirement and one went to Lee County. Those deputies are not being replaced. There was a PTI selection for them. That class was cancelled. There was one deputy that was going to be replaced, but is not now being replaced. There are four deputies out of the patrol division. They are step 2 & 3 deputies. Mr. Greenfield asked, if 7 deputies had to be cut, what percentage is that. Lt. Butts said there are 36 sworn deputies not counting command. Three are grant funded; the At Risk Services Deputy, the DUI Officer, and the Drug Interdiction Officer. Eight of those deputies are residential contracted deputies with the Villages of Blue Mound, Macon, Argenta & Forsyth which leaves 25 deputies that come out of the general fund. Out of the 25, six would be reduced from that staff which is about 25% of the patrol deputies.

5345 - Two part time Process Servers @ \$22,800. These are Richland students that work part time, 20 hours a week and do a fabulous job of going out and serving the Civil Process papers.

5470 - Confidential Secretary - \$45,915.75

5480 - Records Clerk - \$133,102.44. That is a reduction of \$14,000. There are 5 full time records clerks. At one time there were 13. One employee has been kept to work the warrants division since it is so work heavy in the warrants that are received from the Clerk and the Courts. There is one records clerk employee that works part time with no

benefits. This reduction is for her without her benefits. Until the first part of this year, she worked full time.

- Accounting Clerk - \$24,240.99
- Extra Help - \$2,000
- Court room Appearance - \$8,000
- Clothing Allowance - \$9,000
- 5707 - Overtime - \$40,000 (left the same)
- Forensic Lead – a new position. This is a retired gentleman from the Federal government who could realistically make \$150,000 working somewhere else. He is a Decatur resident originally. He has lived in Washington D.C. and various other parts of the country and recently moved back to Decatur. He is working with the officers on fingerprinting and forensics. Lt. Butts said they are very fortunate to have that gentleman working with them.

Mr. Greenfield suggested that Lt. Butts not go through each line, but to highlight the changes.

Removed:

001-060

7200 Communications Center Study - \$67,000

Youth Advocate – had been receiving \$6,000 a year. That is a program in Decatur that helps with at-risk youth. If a deputy gets a juvenile beyond control or runaway, etc... they are brought to the LEC and the advocate responds and helps mediate the situation.

7600 – Community Outreach - \$1,000 appropriated via a grant from the HGB Foundation that the Sheriff's department has been able to give back to 501c3 organizations within the community to help them out in ways such as feeding senior citizens, helping other projects & organizations in our community, etc... This is a reduction of \$99,000. Mr. Greenfield asked why this had to be cut. Sheriff Schneider explained that he was asked to cut and that was an expenditure he cut.

8080- OP Supply – Lt. Root will be working in the next month or two on body camera project. All that money is appropriated and that will not be needed next year, so that expenditure has been cut also.

The FY16 budget for 001-060 had expenditures of \$4,840,880.82. The FY17 proposal has expenditures of \$4,201,771.42 which is a reduction of \$639,109.40.

Chair Dunn asked to go back to the Op Supply / body camera line and asked if that was money that was in there in anticipation of buying body cameras. Lt. Butts confirmed that it was for technology, body cameras, server for the video that will have to be stored. That was given through the grant, but has not been spent yet. Lt. Root has been doing a lot of testing and it seems to be coming down to being able to pick one in the next 60 days and then every officer will have one. Chair Dunn asked, if by cutting this budget, body cameras would still be

purchased or not. Lt. Butts said yes. Lt. Root commented that the hope is to purchase prior to the end of November. It has been a two year project. The state changed the law, so some of the requirements by the State of Illinois has changed. New technology had to be advanced to meet their requirements. A few that have this new technology have been tested, but some of those have not been what the department needs. A final test is being done right now and hopefully, within the next 60 days, a purchase can be made provided that the cameras to be purchased are already on a bidding process for the state. Otherwise, an RFP will have to be done and it will extend the timeframe. Chair Dunn said he had read where some cities are doing away with body cameras because they cannot afford the storage. Lt. Root said those are states that require up to 180 days of storage. The State of Illinois mandates that it has to be deleted after 90 days. That eliminates the storage problem, except for the ones that are identified as a “must be kept”. Chair Dunn asked about the cost year after year for storage. Lt. Root said the storage has already been purchased. The only additional cost would be for the licensing fee which is around \$8,000 a year. It is a 24 terabyte server which is estimated will last for at least 5 years.

Mr. Dudley asked to go back to line 7600 and asked for further details on what all is included in that line. Sheriff Schneider explained that if they see someone struggling to get funding for a project, for example one they just did, where veterans are going up in an airplane in a couple of weeks. This is a 501c3 making it something that could be contributed. They are getting \$1,000 to help allow so many veterans go up in the air in the WWII plane. He said they can contribute up to \$5,000 and they’ve done things for the Boys’ Club and multiple different organizations. This is an area where an impact can be made pretty quickly. Lt. Butts said that the Friends of Argenta feed their senior citizens each Wednesday and money goes to help sustain that program. The money goes to 501c3 organizations that help our residents in a time of need. Sheriff Schneider said that something pretty neat that is done out of that too is that if a traveler is broke down on the road and have nowhere to stay, or if there is a domestic violence victim they can be put up in an area hotel and that is paid for through that grant. He went on to say that they would work on other things down the road, the bottom line is to cut expenditures for the time being.

#### 001-061 Jail

Revenue – reduced expectations of \$229,388 for booking fees, sheriff training, federal prisoners  
Lt. Butts commented that we are very fortunate in Macon County to have the number of federal prisoners we have on a daily basis.

5310 – Correctional Officers Sergeants – 3 positions, but 2 actual. Those officers will be eliminated. There is a Correctional Office Sergeant on days and one working 3rds. The 2<sup>nd</sup> shift opening has not been filled, but this budget would eliminate those 3 positions totally. There are Deputy Sergeants that have been assigned to the Corrections Division that will receive daily operations with the help of Corporals. Chairman Greenfield asked what kind of strain that will put on the jail. Lt. Butts said the two active positions have 50 years of experience together. There is a lot of knowledge and they are relied upon heavily. They are good at what they do. They supervise, work trods when needed, they work escort, they work intake, they know the jail from top to bottom. They are in charge when the Deputy Sergeants are there. They handle administrative hearings on 3<sup>rd</sup> shift. There is a lot of knowledge. Sheriff Schneider commented that as far as liability, more supervision is a good thing. It is a layer of insulation when it comes

to making sure the Correctional Officers, although they try to do the best job they can, identifying areas of concern, bringing it to attention, so it can be addressed appropriately.

5330 – Correctional Officers that are not Corporals – reduced by two staff. Minimal staffing is needed which allows for 60 positions that are assigned to all three shifts.

5706 – Holiday pay – reduction of \$11,545.02 due to the reduction in staff

Total savings in that bucket of \$193,694.78

7195 – reduced by \$20,000, down to \$15,000. This is training officers receive, such as in Springfield where officers can go to get updates.

7340 - Medical – reduced by \$10,000

Prisoner Transport – reduced by \$5,000 for a reduction overall of \$35,000

Chair Dunn asked what 7340 was. Lt. Butts explained that it is the contract with DMH along with extra medical if there is an inmate that becomes ill in the jail and has to be taken to the hospital, is transported, has an extended stay at the hospital, somebody has to go for a checkup. We are billed for that because they are in our custody. We get the Medicaid rate. That line is for DMH and the medical expenses above and beyond their contractual obligations. Chair Dunn said that in FY16, there was \$360,000 in the budget, but we only spent \$260,000 in FY15. Right now, only \$216,000 has been spent with two months left. Sheriff Schneider said there is a contractual increase involved and it is known for a fact, for example last month there was a guy that went through rehab and ended up costing over \$1,000 in a week's time. So, the Medicaid rate is excellent, but if you get a person that has a major medical, it can take up \$10,000 to \$15,000 without a problem. Chair Dunn commented that there is just extra money in there just in case. Sheriff Schneider confirmed saying that the contractual obligation is \$22,000 to \$25,000 per month with a slight increase this year. Lt. Butts said there are a couple more payments to DMH to be made out of this year's budget. Mr. Jackson asked what says we have to pay that. Lt. Butts said it is part of the agreement. The contract is for medical procedures in the jail. These are for outside the jail, those going to the hospital for treatment for an issue that cannot be treated in the jail. A Correctional Officer has to stay with them, the medical bill has to be paid. That all goes on the recommendation of the doctors and nurses. Mr. Baggett explained that whatever medical condition an inmate may have while he is in our custody, we are on the hook for it. The defendant has a right to medical care and since he is in our custody, we control every aspect of the person's life, so by virtue of necessity, it is our problem. Sheriff Schneider said that if it is a pre-existing condition, it will be assessed, and if there is an alternative to incarceration, it will be considered. The ankle bracelet has been used in the past, but pre-existing or not, if they are in our custody, we have to be responsible and we are responsible for the bill. Chair Dunn asked what happens if they have insurance. Sheriff Schneider says they end up with the bill no matter what. All medical is taken care of for the federal prisoners through the feds. Mr. Baggett said there is a mechanism under state law that we do have a claim against an inmate, post-incarceration for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred while the person was an inmate. It would require litigation. Most inmates will be judgement proof, so it would cost a

substantial amount of money for us to attempt to collect what may ultimately not be there. It is an avenue that can be pursued, but from a cost effectiveness standpoint, it is not worth going after.

FY16 total expenditures was \$4,655,747.80 and the proposed is \$4,397,053.02 which is a reduction of \$258,694.78 which out of the 001-060 & the 001-061 accounts, a total reduction out of the general fund of \$897,804.

LEST – 02

5706 - A reduction in the Holiday pay

6010 – Hospitalization reduction

Both of these are due to reduction in force. This is a reduction of \$17,865.56 in holiday for deputies and a reduction of \$88,236 in hospitalization for a total reduction from \$2,413,118.04 in FY16 to \$2,320,016.48 proposed in FY17 for a total reduction of \$93,101.56.

When the \$93,101.56 is added to the \$897,804, it comes to a reduction from the General Fund & LEST of \$1,007,550.

LEST 02-070

Revenue – Chair Dunn asked about anticipation of an increase in revenue from raising the fees. Ms. Reed explained that they are going to fall short this year, so that is a raise.

There are currently 11 Court Security Inspectors. One Court Security Officer just retired about 12 days ago.

5695 - A \$6,000 reduction in extra help

A \$15,322.42 increase is being proposed in LEST which would be less with the current staffing of 11, but the Sheriff intends to replace the retired Court Security Officer because of the staffing issues and obligations to the courts and the County Office Building.

The DUI Officer, revenue of \$91,788.48 to correspond with total expenditures for his pay and benefits. That is money in / money out. It is the same with the Drug Interdiction Officer. It is grant funded.

The training academy is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and is doing very well. It is run by retired DPD Officer Steve Jostes. There is some revenue from the dog training. It is \$3,000 for an 8 week training.

At Risk Services, money in / money out, is a fairly new position with a deputy assigned to it where people that need with addiction and in-patient treatment. They work with Gateway in Springfield and some other agencies where they can get help. They work closely with Probation with monitoring and some drug screens also.

Single Purpose K9 is strictly for vehicles and K9's. They are part of the Patrol Division and come out of the general. They are being assigned to each shift. That was a donation for the vehicles and all the equipment for the squad cars.

Lt. Butts said he was coming up short by about \$200,000 with LEST and appreciated the Auditor's help, but it was because of the EMA budget. There is a total reduction in the overall budget of \$1,007,550.

Chairman Greenfield summarized, saying we are looking at 7 deputies, 3 Correctional Sergeants and 2 Correctional Officers. Lt. Butts confirmed, saying he had spoken with the media earlier in the day and the patrol division is the #1 function as far as law enforcement is concerned. Those other special positions had to be reduced in order to put them back into the patrol division and to be able to honor the contractual residential obligations with the villages that we work very well with. This is for patrol, taking out the School Resource Officer, the US Marshall, Drug Interdiction.

Mr. Mattingley asked about the LEST and if the increase in sales tax is approved, what would it do to the proposed budget. Lt. Butts said it would restore the department to where it needs to be. 100%

Chairman Greenfield verified that that is only a quarter of a percent. Lt. Butts confirmed, saying that if someone were to spend \$100, instead of paying a quarter, it would go to 50 cents. That would truly help the office overall and none of this would be affected.

Chairman Greenfield said that obviously we are in a tough spot and none of the committee members want to see these cuts made, but on the other hand, we cannot spend what we don't have. He said he would like to possibly hold this budget over until we see what November brings. Hopefully, we won't be put in this position to have to make these cuts. We can let Macon County citizens make that decision.

Chair Dunn said he thought they had to give the Auditor a budget to display, but it can always be changed after the Display Budget. He said it still looks like they are about \$375,000 short of having a balanced budget in the LEST. That is 3 more deputies and would get them down to nothing. We wouldn't even need any squad cars because there wouldn't be anyone to ride in them. He suggested passing it on to display and hopefully the people of Macon County will step up and vote for this increase. He distributed a sheet showing where some of the other counties are on the LEST tax. A lot of them are at 50 cents, one at \$1.50, several at \$1. Mr. Dudley said there wasn't anyone lower than us. Chair Dunn commented that the City has been doing a lot of advertising on the Decatur Limitless and the crime rate and he said he sure did not want to see any deputies or corrections officers laid off. There are enough issues just having the ones we have. We could use more. Hopefully, the public will step up. Lt. Butts said that anything the committee could do would be appreciated. The citizens of Macon County are great people and he hoped that the job they try to do day in and day out is done 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to make a difference in the community. It is amazing that a quarter percent can make so much difference. Sheriff Schneider commented that it has been a team effort between the County Board and all the office holders and the Sheriff's Office regarding the many cuts we have faced over the last decade. The Board has been prudent, but the lowering of the tax levy has put us in a position where the revenues that are coming in are not to the level we need to be able to fund the essential operations of the different offices. He thanked the committee members for the

opportunity to give their side of how it affects the department and what it will do. He encouraged the committee members to continue supporting them in the future.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to pass the proposed budget on to display, seconded by Mr. Mattingley, the motion carried 6-0. Chair Dunn said he agrees with the Sheriff and Chairman Greenfield that it is amazing how much the Sheriff's people volunteer their free time to step up for animal control issues, cancer issues, all kinds of things. About once a week you read something where the Sheriff's office has people out there on their own time donating time and probably money to help the different organizations. He said the Board had tried to help the county out by cutting the levy three years at a million dollars plus each year and now it is at the point where we need their help. Hopefully, we can get this passed.

EMA – Chair Dunn asked if this budget had changed any. Lt. Root said not at all. It was tabled until it could be seen whether the cuts were going to be made out of the LEST.

Mr. Dudley made a motion to approve passing the budget on to Display, seconded by Ms. Cox, and the motion carried 6-0.

**CLOSED SESSION** - None

**NEXT MEETINGS** –

Wednesday, October 5 – Special Meeting to Prepare for Display Budget

Monday, October 31 - Regular Finance Committee Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Dudley, seconded by Ms. Cox, the motion carried 6-0, and meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, Macon County Board Office