

June 27, 2023
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held a study session with Chairman Daniel Friesen, Commissioner Ron Hirst, Commissioner Randy Parks, Commissioner Don Bogner, and Commissioner John Whitesel, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, County Administrator Randy Partington, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Mr. Friesen opened the study session at 11:05 a.m. The Board needed to cut the budget by \$1.3 million to keep at the RNR rate.

The Health Department was the first to discuss their budget. Health Department Director Karla Nichols spoke about their grants and services provided along with top priorities for her department. She was asked to cut \$60,000 from budget.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to change the proposed 5 percent COLA and 3 percent P4P. The commission moved the pay increase to 4.5 percent with direction given to staff to determine the portion of COLA and Pay-4-Performance.

At 12:35 p.m. the meeting recessed for ten minutes.

At 12:45 p.m. the study session reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Patrick Hoffman, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

Human Resources Director Helen Foster explained her request for an additional person in her department. The Board requested she cut her budget by \$22,500.

Maintenance Director Harlen Depew stated he would not be filling an open position saving between \$28,000 to \$33,000 from his budget.

Information Services Director Mike Mathews had no new hires planned. He spoke about software maintenance and eliminating Granicus saving \$19,000 from Special Equipment Funds budget, doing what they could in house, and also using You Tube for agenda meetings. He mentioned Eagle view software.

Appraiser Michael Plank gave a presentation on Eagle View software for the Appraisers Office stating we currently use an arial service from the state that shows overhead oblique photography on properties. There were other departments that could use the Eagle View giving advantages and savings. He stated the City of Hutchinson was using the software and we could share information that was updated every five years. A \$45,000 cut was tied to whether we kept the oblique photography in the budget.

Sheriff Darrian Campbell had an increase in his budget to maintain economy and operating expenses. Jail expenses remain the most expensive of his budget. A large discussion ensued regarding food costs for a high number of inmates incarcerated. Mr. Friesen spoke about the possibility of releasing non-violent inmates to eliminate costs. Mr. Parks stressed that the Sheriff needs to be fully staffed, he said it was not safe for so much overtime, and they need recruitments. The Board did not ask for any reductions in his budget.

District Attorney Tom Stanton sent an email to all people involved with inmate incarceration to meet discussing how to reduce costs arranging to release inmates earlier. He cut \$6,000 from contractual services to save money and would be destroying old cases stored in Underground Vault & Storage to save money on storage costs. He spoke about coroner Dr. Scott Kipper in Sedgwick County.

Public Works Director Don Brittain volunteered to cut his budget \$200,000 from asphalt material. He said they are two more years (38 miles) away from their 15-year overlay schedule.

County Administrator Randy Partington requested to hire two full time people one at \$85,000 the other \$55,000 both plus benefits. The Board requested he cut \$55,000 from his budget.

Register of Deeds Michelle Updegrave requested to move a part-time no benefit to a part-time with benefits that would increase her full-time equivalent count. The Board denied the request.

Emergency Management Director Adam Weishaar spoke about Fire Districts equipment needs and Capital Funds accounts. The Board did not request any cuts from his budget.

The Board reviewed outside agencies indicating the amount changed to as follows from their requested amount:

Chaplain	\$4,000 stayed the same
Conservation District	\$25,000 changed amount
Economic Development	\$50,000 changed amount
Emergency Medical Service	\$1,892,451 stayed the same
Horizons Mental Health	\$400,000 changed amount
Hutchinson Rec Special Parks	\$0 build back up
Reno County 4H	\$20,000 changed amount
Reno County Drug	\$10,000 stayed the same
Reno County Extension	\$375,000 changed amount
Reno County Farmers Market	\$4,000 stayed the same
Reno County Museum	\$185,000 changed amount
Start Up Hutch	\$75,000 changed amount
TECH	\$400,000 changed amount

The Board assigned a commissioner and the administrator to notify each outside agency of their changes.

At 4:15 p.m. Mr. Friesen adjourned the study session returning to the regular agenda session for the RNR decision.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date