

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Ann English, Chairman; Peggy Judd, Vice-Chairman; Tom Crosby, Supervisor, telephonic

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Brian McIntyre, County Attorney
Lori Zucco, Chief Criminal Deputy County Attorney
Kenny Reeves, Chief of Staff
Monica Miranda, Finance Director
Juan Frisby, Budget Manager

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 specifically: County Attorney's Office.

Mr. McIntyre presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. McIntyre stated that the civil division previously presented an update and today he will present the criminal division update. Mr. McIntyre reviewed the statistics for Border Crimes compared to last year. Mr. McIntyre reported that with the Arizona Department of Military Affairs (DEMA) grant, the County Attorney's Office hired two support staff. Attorneys that worked the grant logged 246 hours in the first two months to help with the felony flight endangerment cases. In response to the Board, Mr. McIntyre stated that these funds cannot fund the attorneys' regular salaries but can fund additional hours worked.

Mr. McIntyre reviewed social media recruiting of individuals for human smuggling and resulting in failure to yield offenses. He reviewed the murder caseload related to border crime such as failure to yield events. There have been 9 fatalities within the last two years because of failure to yield, which resulted in first-degree murder charges. Mr. McIntyre reviewed the increase in homicide (including attempted) cases and outlined the notifications and advocacy services that must be offered to surviving relatives.

Mr. McIntyre stated that 2022 was the largest year ever for felony cases and this year is on track to increase as well. Mr. McIntyre stated that there is one full-time misdemeanor prosecutor, two that split case loads and one full-time felony lawyer that also takes justice court cases. He states that County Attorney's Office staff does not typically file misdemeanor cases; these are filed directly by law enforcement. Mr. McIntyre displayed a slide showing all of the different agencies the County Attorney's Office receives cases from. In response to the Board, Mr. McIntyre stated that the unknown category would be the multi-agency cases.

Mr. McIntyre stated that Fentanyl has taken over as the primary drug. Mr. McIntyre explained why Fentanyl is being pushed in such large quantities. It is cheap and easy to make and when bought in bulk, 15,000 pills can yield \$375,000 on the east coast.

Mr. McIntyre reported that there are 6 full-time felony prosecutors that are prosecuting over 1400 felony cases. In addition to border crimes, they deal with various other crimes that any community has. The Board, Mr. McIntyre and Ms. Zucco discussed the number of attorneys that participate in the DEMA grant. Ms. Zucco discussed the inability to fill open positions due to the low salary offered.

Mr. McIntyre stated the County Attorney's Office is requesting to increase the budget line for witness fees and court costs due to the costs for paying for expert witnesses, flying in civilian witnesses and other costs associated. Mr. McIntyre stated that the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant may be cut as much as 50%, which would result in losing 1.5 of the three victim advocates. He is requesting additional funds to cover this shortfall, which will not be spent if not needed. Mr. McIntyre requested additional funds in the budget for the Prosecutor by Karpel (PBK) administrator and discussed her crucial role to the program. Mr. McIntyre discussed the need for funds for an additional lawyer and one additional support staff and discussed the reasons. In response to the Board, Mr. Reeves stated that the cost for reclassification of the PBK administrator would be \$10,000 initially and \$12,000 with Employee Related Expenses (ERE) each year going forward. He stated that the cost of an additional support staff would be \$50,000 with \$16,700 ERE and an attorney would be \$100,000 with \$27,000 ERE.

The Board and staff discussed some of the unique challenges the County faces.

Supervisor Crosby discussed the importance of preventing illegal entry into the United States to reduce crime statistics.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Mattix, Clerk of the Board

