

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

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

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Deputy County Administrator/Interim Clerk of the Board
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Deputy 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 10:00 a.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, specifically: County Attorney's Office.

Mr. McIntyre presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. McIntyre discussed staffing issues, particularly in the civil division, despite recent hires, there have been challenges due to turnover. Mr. McIntyre highlighted a rise in felony cases, notably related to border crime, with a significant increase in human smuggling events prompting resource allocation concerns within the office. He noted that there were no major requests for additional staff this year, with the focus primarily on managing increased costs. Mr. McIntyre stated that the Board funded a potential backstop for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant in the past, ensuring the maintenance of victim services even if the grant isn't fully funded and anticipates a similar need this year.

In response to the Board, Mr. McIntyre stated that law enforcement is obligated to make efforts to contact family members of victims involved, and statutory requirements dictate providing victim services and support, including communication about trial proceedings and arrangements for their participation and accommodation, which has increased strain on resources due to the rise in cases related to human smuggling.

Mr. Reeves highlighted the increased cell phone expenses due to more staff needing them and rising costs, along with the challenge of maintaining the budget, especially

regarding library expenses, which have nearly doubled over the years, resulting in the need to pull from other funds to cover the shortfall.

In response to the Board, Mr. McIntyre stated that despite the availability of online resources, legal professionals, including prosecutors, still purchase physical law books due to the need for up-to-date statutes, especially considering potential discrepancies between online versions and the latest editions. He stated efforts are made to minimize costs through arrangements with publishers.

Mr. Reeves addressed the increase in office supply costs, attributing it to the rising prices seen across various sectors, with the budget intended to cover needs across civil, criminal, misdemeanor, and drug units, particularly after the loss of funding from Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) funds. Mr. Reeves stated there was a \$100 per user increase in hosting fees for the case management software, leading to a budget request of \$64,150.

Ms. Roberts stated that training costs have gone up due to an additional attorney and paralegal joining the civil side of the County Attorney's Office.

Ms. Zucco stated that training costs are important because attorneys need their CLE credits and the Karpel Administrator has to stay up to date with their office functions by attending a conference in St. Louis.

In response to the Board, Ms. Zucco stated the number of open active cases is higher than the filings. She stated Early Resolution Court (ERC) resolved a lot of cases.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board