

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2024**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing 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
Christine Roberts, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Lara Loewenheim, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Mark Dannels, Sheriff
Tammi-Jo Wilkins, SEACOM Director
Monica Miranda, Finance Director
Juan Frisby, Budget Manager
Chuck Potucek, City of Sierra Vista Manager
Jennifer Dillaha, City of Sierra Vista Budget Manager

Chairman English called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

Members of the public may also [attend this meeting](#) via Microsoft Teams computer or mobile app, or via phone by calling 602-609-7513 or 888-680-6714, Conference ID 189 729 908#. If you have trouble accessing this meeting remotely, call 520-432-9200 for direction.

Work Sessions are a time for County staff to inform and discuss agenda items with the Board of Supervisors and public comments will not be taken.

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, specifically: Southeastern Arizona (SEACOM) and Public Safety.

Chuck Potucek, City of Sierra Vista City Manager introduced Jennifer Dillaha, City Budget Officer. They provide support to the SEACOM Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board.

Richard Karwaczka, County Administrator introduced Ms. Tammi-Jo Wilkins, SEACOM Director. He noted that under her leadership, SEACOM is moving in a positive direction.

Tammy-Jo Wilkins presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Board throughout. Ms. Wilkins stated there's been notable progress

in call volumes, with 911 calls slightly lower than admin calls. She stated the upgrade to the NexGen 911 system has introduced new capabilities like smart transcription and citizen input, allowing real-time communication during emergencies, which could be especially valuable in scenarios like incidents at large stores. She noted there are plans to include public education campaigns to inform people of the new technology. She stated there are partnerships with schools and efforts to enhance emergency protocols which demonstrate the ongoing commitment to improving public safety services.

Ms. Wilkins requested funding for additional consoles to accommodate potential growth and the inclusion of Fort Huachuca, highlighting the importance of increased staffing due to rising call volumes. She stated the SEACOM funding model, which includes contributions from partners and subscribers, has seen additions like Bisbee and Willcox. Ms. Wilkins stated the budget breakdown reflects increased allocations for additional staff, including dispatchers, call takers, and a second records clerk, essential for supporting operational efficiency and ensuring seamless communication during busy periods.

Ms. Dillaha stated the personnel budget was increased to accommodate a 2% step increase for both full-time and part-time employees, along with a slight bump in overtime allocations. Additionally, she stated the supplies budget saw an increase to support the addition of four new consoles, necessary for the growing subscriber base and the integration of Fort Huachuca, and to account for new hires.

Ms. Wilkins stated a new tool called Rapid Deploy is part of the NextGen system which effectively monitors call volume to optimize staffing schedules.

Mr. Potucek expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss SEACOM's performance and the quality of service it provides. He stated in the budget, the City of Sierra Vista managed to absorb some increases using a fund balance, which came from past savings due to staffing vacancies. Mr. Potucek proposed a \$50,000 increase in contributions from both the City and the County, reflecting the advanced and sophisticated nature of the system.

Sheriff Dannels extended gratitude to Ms. Wilkins and her team for creating a highly professional and motivated center. He stated from January 1st to April 22nd alone, the Sheriff's Office handled over 12,150 calls, with police close behind at over 12,200 calls. He noted the figures highlight the significant volume of calls processed through the center. He stated a recent grant totaling \$8.2 million, will enhance technology infrastructure and provide essential resources to law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies across Cochise County.

Mr. Karwaczka stated Mr. Potucek will present the budget request to the City Council for their approval to ensure that the billing process aligns with the County total budget.

Chairman English adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

Ann English, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sharon Gilman, Interim Clerk of the Board

