

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman; Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

Staff Present: Sharon Gilman, Interim County Administrator
Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Attendees: Monica Miranda, Finance Director
Stacy Fenhaus, Budget Manager
John Boswell, Grants Administrator
Kenneth Bradshaw, Jail Commander

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction regarding the Sheriff's Office Financial Position.

Mr. Boswell presented an overview of Cochise County Sheriff Office (CCSO) grant totals, breaking them down by grantor and showing amounts awarded, expended, requested, and received. He explained that the National Forest Service provides funds to support deputy patrols in forest areas, covering salaries and mileage. Funding from the City of Tucson supports drug trafficking enforcement through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety covers various DUI and speeding enforcement efforts, including equipment like vehicle upfits and breath testers.

In response to the Board, Mr. Boswell explained that although the funding originates from the federal government, it's routed through the City of Tucson, which acts as a pass-through agency for the HIDTA program in Southern Arizona. He stated the program only covers 15% of wage costs, with the remaining 85% funded by Smart and Safe monies, which come from marijuana tax revenue.

The Board and staff reviewed three Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) programs: Edward Byrne, Major Incident Division Task Force, and Project Safe Neighborhoods. Mr. Boswell stated Edward Byrne funds cover overtime and require a 25% match, which is paid using Smart and Safe funds. He stated the Major Incident Task Force received \$240,000 to support multi-jurisdictional investigations like officer-involved shootings, with funds passed through the County to participating cities and the Sheriff's Office. He stated the Project Safe Neighborhoods focuses on ballistics equipment and database sharing, with current funds going toward purchasing a

specialized microscope for casing analysis.

The Board and staff discussed three state-level programs: Search and Rescue, Jail Enhancement Funds, and Prop 207 funds. Mr. Boswell stated Search and Rescue funding from SB1720 helped purchase vehicles, drones, heart rate monitors, and other equipment. He stated the Jail Enhancement Funds, while not a traditional grant, come from fines and are split 75% for jail operations and 25% for training, covering things like facility repairs. He stated the Prop 207 (Smart and Safe) funds are used to cover grant matches, buy ballistic vests, and support academy training costs, with salary calculations including pension contributions factored in.

The Board and staff reviewed Department of Homeland Security funding, including Operation Stonegarden, which supports border-related overtime and equipment. Mr. Boswell noted that while the program has some risk due to potential FEMA restructuring, current grants are active and covering expenses like overtime, pensions, and ballistic gear.

The Board and staff reviewed a Department of Justice grant under public safety partnership and community policing. Mr. Boswell stated the funding supports satellite-equipped communication kits for patrol vehicles operating in remote areas of the county. He stated that these Multi-layer Comms Systems (MLCS) allow radio contact with dispatch even in rugged terrain.

The Board and staff discussed two funding programs from the Attorney General's office: the opioid abatement and victim rights programs. Mr. Bradshaw stated the opioid abatement funding, which is channeled through jail medical, funded the purchase of body scanners for the jails to prevent drug smuggling, with \$560,000 still available. He stated an extension request was made to use the remaining funds to continue funding vacant re-entry specialist positions, aimed at assisting inmates in transitioning back into the community. Mr. Boswell stated the victim rights program, which is a smaller initiative, helps pay for an employee providing mandated services, with detailed tracking through a timekeeping system for accurate allocation of grant funds.

The Board and staff discussed the Legacy Foundation's mental health support program, which is set to be extended until June 30, 2026. Ms. Fenhaus explained that while the departments don't use a cash carry forward system like flood control, the department does have advanced funding for certain programs, which operate under unearned revenue accounting. She stated some funds can generate interest, but whether funds can accrue interest depends on the specific conditions of the grant or funding source.

Cathy Traywick, County Treasurer, explained that whether grant funds can be invested depends on how the grant is written, as each grant has different parameters. She clarified that she invests any available funds within legal limits, using interest earned to offset the county's bank expenses. She emphasized that her investment strategy prioritizes safety and liquidity over higher returns, focusing on government-secured entities like bonds rather than riskier investments. She stated that despite not achieving high stock market returns, she ensures the principal is secure and generates reliable, low-risk earnings for the county.

Mr. Boswell explained that the Department of Administration received a \$1.5 million grant for a school safety program aimed at all schools in Cochise County. He stated the Sheriff's office acted as a pass-through for the grant, passing it on to Dr. Clay, who is overseeing the implementation of the program.

Mr. Boswell provided details about several Department of Public Safety programs,

including the Border Strike Task Force, gang and immigration intelligence, human trafficking enforcement, and local border support. He stated the Border Strike Task Force funded the construction of a joint operations building in Sierra Vista, with the majority of the funds spent on the building purchase and some infrastructure improvements. Remaining funds in a current task force grant are being used for jail-related expenses, like inmate uniforms.

The Board and staff discussed the Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GITTEM) award for a pension liaison officer, which is partially funded by a 75% grant with a 25% match from the county. Mr. Bradshaw stated the officers spend time investigating gangs and intelligence in the jail. Mr. Boswell noted that if the grant funding ends, the officer's salary would be covered by the general fund, and the county would need to adjust its budget accordingly. The Board discussed the process of managing partially grant-funded positions, including how positions are tracked through control numbers and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) designations to ensure the county doesn't exceed its allocated positions or funding.

The Board and staff discussed a reimbursable grant for the GITTEM Southeastern Arizona Border Region Enforcement (SABRE) Unit, which requires a 25% match and involves three sworn officers. Ms. Fenhaus stated the county incurs the upfront costs and uses pooled cash from the general fund to cover these expenses.

Mr. Boswell explained that the anti-human trafficking program received a \$500,000 award, but the grant came with a tight deadline to be spent by the end of 2024. He stated the funds were allocated by Department of Public Safety (DPS) and was used to purchase forensic software and equipment.

The Board and staff discussed Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) grants, Border Security Trust worth \$3.7 million, covers salaries and equipment purchases like vehicles, ballistic vests, and a drone. Mr. Boswell stated other grants included funding for border-related crimes prosecution and incarceration costs. The Board discussed the operational use of the funds, such as for inmate housing and border-related activities, with some funds tied to specific operations like overtime and inmate costs.

The Board and staff discussed the current budget for the sheriff's office and jail, which totals \$54 million for FY25.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board