

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Friday, April 18, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Frank Antenori, Chairman; Tom Crosby, Vice-Chairman

Absent: Kathleen L. Gomez, Supervisor

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

Attendees: Darrel Crowley, Facilities Director
Stacy Fenhaus, Budget Manager

Chairman Antenori called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Budget Work Session - Discussion of County Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 specifically: Facilities

Darrel Crowley, Facilities Director, presented this item. Mr. Crowley provided an update on Facilities, highlighting its wide range of responsibilities involving buildings, parking lots, air systems, and transfer stations. He shared that over 1,200 work orders had been addressed in just nine months, with only around 130 still open. He stated several challenges were mentioned, including aging infrastructures, water leaks, storm damage and limited contractor availability.

Mr. Crowley explained the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system upgrades, mentioning that integrating controls to allow HVAC staff to remotely monitor and adjust the units across the county. He stated the ability to control temperatures and implement an "unoccupied mode," where temperatures will fluctuate outside of office hours to save energy. He noted that the courthouse has already adopted this system successfully, and while the initial investment is significant, it is expected to pay off in the long run.

In response to the Board, Mr. Crowley stated issues at the jail, mentioning a recent power outage in the kitchen caused by outdated appliances drawing too much power, which tripped the entire system. He also highlighted that the HVAC units in the jail pods were replaced last year after being in use for over 25 years, exceeding their typical 15-year lifespan.

The Board and staff discussed the challenges of maintaining the jail, particularly around the responsibility for maintenance. Mr. Crowley expressed the belief that the

responsibility should fall under facilities, not the sheriff's department, but noted that statutory limitations create difficulties with access to the jail for maintenance staff. Mr. Crowley highlighted the need for further upgrades, such as a \$400,000 investment for the fire alarm system.

The Board discussed the potential future of the old jail building, with concerns about insurance and space planning for any new use, such as storage. The Board considered whether demolishing it would be worth the cost, especially if maintaining it is not financially viable or if it could serve no useful purpose without posing safety or insurance risks.

Mr. Crowley mentioned that his budget for the year is nearly the same as last year's, with some financial tightness expected towards the end of the year, which is normal. He doesn't anticipate major expenditures aside from ongoing projects, such as the HVAC work and updates at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). He also highlighted a long-term list of planned HVAC replacements, with several scheduled for the upcoming years.

Chairman Antenori adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board