



**GOODHUE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**Administration Conference Room**  
**March 21, 2005**  
**8:00 a.m.**

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Present: Jim Bryant, Ted Seifert, Brad Johnson, Amy Hove, Dean Albers, Lyle Lorenson, David Hamilton and Andrea Benck.

C/Bryant called the meeting to order.

1. **Budget Adjustments.** Mr. Johnson reported that on December 30, 2004, the county received \$113,396 in grants from the State of Minnesota. These dollars were for the Soil and Water Conservation Offices for Feedlots, Water Planning and Wetland Conservation. Goodhue County serves as a pass-through for this type of funding. Due to timing of the payment, this money was in the General Fund's "Fund Balance" at year-end 2004. In 2005, Goodhue County sent the Soil and Water Conservation Office those monies. Staff felt that this change would allow the budget to more accurately affect the activity related to Soil and Water Conservation. There will be an additional budget adjustment request to reflect 2005 activity in the 2005 budget.

Mr. Johnson also reported that Goodhue County receives funds on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation Offices. Financial reporting requires the county to show the money as both a revenue and an expenditure. For 2005 staff estimated Soil and Water Conservation grant dollars at around \$110,000. These grant dollars fund feedlots, water planning and wetland conservation. Staff recommended this adjustment because the 2005 budget should reflect this activity.

C/Bryant asked if this would happen every year. Mr. Johnson stated that part of it was the time line, but this was just a pass through so it did not have any effect on the levy.

*The committee recommended approval of a budget adjustment for the Soil and Water Conservation District for \$113,396 for grant money received in December, 2004, and \$110,000 for grant money received in 2005.*

Mr. Johnson also reported that Goodhue County receives grant funds from the DNR on behalf of the Snowmobile clubs in Goodhue County for their maintenance and upkeep of the snowmobile trails. Their grants have averaged \$61,600 per year. Staff recommended the adjustment because the 2005 budget should reflect this activity.

C/Bryant stated that the county had to be the fiscal manager of the money for those agencies.

Ms. Hove stated that this was simply a budget adjustment to reflect the activity.

*The committee recommended approval of the following budget adjustment for grants received from the DNR on behalf of the snowmobile clubs in Goodhue County:*

*01-002-5270 \$61,600*

*01-002-6824 \$61,600*

**2. Vehicle Purchase.** A 2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee was purchased through the sheriff's office to be used by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). It was to replace the 1990 Dodge Caravan that was currently assigned to OEM. This vehicle was to have been funded using Capital Equipment funds. It was then decided to use Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) Funds to help reduce the Capital Equipment requests. The Sheriff's Office receives NPP Funds from NMC to assist in funding equipment and training cost related to Nuclear Plant Emergency Response.

Due to the current budget situation, Sheriff Albers' decided to instead use this vehicle in his Patrol Fleet. This would reduce the cost of one squad car that was budgeted in the Capital Equipment Plan. The placing of the vehicle in the Patrol Fleet should meet the intended purpose of the NPP Funds. The vehicle would be assigned to Sgt. John Blue. His current squad was one of the squads schedule to be replaced. St. Blue is a Patrol Sergeant and Ass't Commander of the SWAT Team which was also a good fit for the use of the vehicle.

Staff recommended that the Budget Committee authorize the purchase of this squad for the patrol fleet and the use of NPP Funds to pay for it. The replacement of the existing OEM vehicle would be a decision for future discussion by the Committee.

Mr. Albers stated that there was some additional equipment that needed to be purchased for the vehicle, some of which could be paid from the NPP funds.

Mr. Hamilton stated that prior to this vehicle being purchased; there was a discussion between Administration and the Sheriff's office regarding using the NPP funds to purchase a van, which was estimate to cost \$12,000-\$14,000. However, when the van replacement became a Jeep Grand Cherokee it raised other issues. Mr. Hamilton suggested that any additional money needed for equipment for the vehicle that could not be covered by the NPP funds come from the money that was budgeted for the radio upgrade.

Mr. Johnson asked if the 1990 caravan was still owned by the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Albers stated that they did still have the van. Mr. Lorenson added they did have a back up squad if Mr. Fried needed it.

Mr. Hamilton added that county owned vehicles was an issue that the management team would be discussing. They would be looking into how many vehicles the county owns and if there was the possibility of sharing.

C/Seifert stated that since the county already owned the new jeep, they needed to make the best of it. C/Bryant agreed.

*The committee agreed to move forward with the recommendation to place the Jeep Grand Cherokee in the patrol fleet and use NPP grant dollars to pay for it.*

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C/Seifert talked about the information he requested regarding the profit/loss figures for the jail. He asked that the report include debt service. Mr. Albers stated that he would include building cost.

C/Bryant asked if C/Seifert would be comparing this to other jails. C/Seifert stated that he would like to see the profit/loss points.

Mr. Albers stated that running a jail was not a money maker. He pointed out that the personnel costs are the same if you house 50 or 150 inmates due to the restrictions placed on the county by the Department of Corrections. The only costs that would not be there would be the few extra dollars paid in meals. The question is always if you can shut down a pod to cut back on expenses and he felt the answer was no. The best that you could do was to offset the costs by housing inmates from other counties.

C/Seifert agreed that jails are expensive to run. He pointed out that the DOC has a lot of rules and that was something that should be explained to the board and the public.