

**RUSSELL COUNTY FISCAL COURT
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY DECEMBER 9, 2024
10:00 AM**

The Russell County Fiscal Court held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Those in attendance were County Judge Executive Randy Marcum, Magistrates Terry Waddell, Mickey Garner, Zach Wilson, Steve Richardson, Larry Skaggs, County Attorney Kevin Shearer and County Treasurer Kim Blanchet.

WELCOME, PLEDGE & OPENING PRAYER: Judge Marcum welcomed those present and asked Brother Kenny Kimbler to pray followed by the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES: Judge Marcum presented the minutes from the called November 4, 2024, meeting. Magistrate Skaggs made a motion to approve the minutes with Magistrate Garner seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

PAY BILLS: Judge Marcum submitted a list of regular bills to be approved along with a list of bills that came in late. Magistrate Waddell made a motion to pay the bills with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

DETENTION CENTER REPORT: Jailer Dunbar read the jail report as follows: Nurse Visits \$79.07; Prescription Co-Pay \$247.23; HB 452 (2 checks) \$952.64; HB 556 (2 checks) \$7,698.00; State Inmate Housing \$35,021.94; Social Security Payment \$400.00; Booking Fees \$1,978.56; Fee Claim \$632.60; Vending Commission \$30.14; Phone Commission \$1,707.65; Reimbursement \$626.93; Per Diem \$1,881.51; Interest \$35.26; Transfer from general \$420,000.00; Transfer from general \$3,738.58 for a total income of \$474,077.47. The expenses were \$438,870.85. The difference between actual receipts (less the \$420,000.00 transfer from general) to expenses is (\$384,793.38). The average inmates for the month is 93. There were 3 hours of overtime. As of today, there are 37 state inmates, 9 from Clinton County; 1 from Green County and 47 from Russell County for a total of 94 inmates. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the detention center report with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. Magistrate Richardson asked Jailer Dunbar how things were going on trying to get the state inmate population down. Jailer Dunbar replied that the inmate count he had was what was budgeted. There was some discussion about the amount of money that the general fund was subsidizing to the jail fund and the magistrates wanted to see where this could be downsized. Judge Marcum wanted to let the court know that Grants Writer Susan Melton was able to get a grant for training for the detention center which had been awarded to the county and was in the amount of \$10,000.00.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Polston provided the Sheriff's report for the month of November. He stated there were 393 calls for 911 service; 56 arrests; 5 Domestic; 29 Traffic Stops; 21 1045's; 5 1046's; 22 Motorist Assist; 17 Alarm Calls; 11 Animal Complaints; 29 Requests for Deputy; 2 Shots Fired; 24 Suspicious Persons; 13 Welfare Checks; 0 Trespassing; 159 other; 3 mental health transports; 3 Juvenile Summons; 6 Subpoenas; 2 Eviction Notice; 25 Civil Summons; 0 EPO; 1 Criminal Summons; 37 court papers served; 91 Prisoner Transports; 3083 court security transport miles; 54 vehicle inspections and 6 CCDW permits. Sheriff Polston stated there was \$1,777,325.20 in taxes. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the report with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Sheriff Polston stated that everyone was aware of Deputy Phipps losing his life in the line of duty. He stated Josh's aunt Shannon Evans was present in the courtroom and he felt, along with Ms. Evans, Donnie & Pam Phipps, it would be fitting to have some type of memorial to honor his time in service. Ms. Evans spoke on behalf of her beloved nephew and asked the court for something befitting of his valor and service to the county. Numerous fiscal court members agreed this was necessary. It was decided the court would look into this and make sure it was something that could be done within the realm of its jurisdiction.

Sheriff Polson presented his 2025 budget to the fiscal court. His budget was for a total of \$1,379,000.00. Total Disbursements was \$1,374,500.00 leaving \$4,500.00 in excess fees to be turned over to the fiscal court. Magistrate Waddell made a motion to accept the budget as presented with Magistrate Garner seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. Sheriff Polston then presented the maximum salaries for deputies for 2025. The total for salaries was \$725,000.00 which was the same as it was for the current year. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept

the maximum salaries for 2025 with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. Lastly Sheriff Polston presented his advancement with bond. The amount he was asking the state for advancement was \$375,000.00. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the advancement request with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed

TREASURER'S MONTHLY SETTLEMENT REPORT & PRE-APPROVED MONTHLY AE TRANSFERS:

Judge Marcum stated the treasurer's monthly settlement & quarterly reports and pre-approved AE transfers were in the packet and asked the court if anyone had any questions regarding those reports. There were no comments or questions. Magistrate Richardson made a motion to accept the reports & AE transfers with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

TRANSFER \$176,707.65 FROM GENERAL TO JAIL: Judge Marcum stated we needed to transfer \$176,707.65 from the General fund to the jail fund. Magistrate Waddell made a motion to do the transfer with Magistrate Skaggs seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE AWARD: Judge Marcum stated Mr. Ron Steve from the National Weather Service was in attendance. Mr. Steve came before the court and stated he had been working with Emergency Management Director Bray who had been working diligently to get the county prepared for severe weather issues. He asked Mr. Bray and Judge Marcum to come forward and presented them with a plaque as well as a sign to be displayed on the front of the courthouse that acknowledged Russell County as being "Storm Ready". Judge Marcum stated this was something that had been discussed at recent trainings and was being pushed by KACo. The court congratulated Emergency Management Director Bray for his achievement.

PAY PULASKI COUNTY \$13,375.00 FOR REGIONAL SHELTER: Judge Marcum stated we contract with Pulaski County for our regional dog shelter. We pay them \$13,375.00 every six months and it's time to pay them again. He stated this is a budgeted item but needs fiscal court approval to pay the bill. Magistrate Richardson made a motion to pay Pulaski County with Magistrate Skaggs seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

DOG FEES FOR OWNER SURRENDERS: Judge Marcum stated we were having an issue with folks surrendering dogs to the county dog warden and it was costing the county a considerable amount of money. He stated dog warden, Skylar Luttrell had gathered information from some surrounding counties about how they handle these situations and what kind of costs were charged. There was considerable discussion on this topic as well as how the dog warden was still responsible for picking up dogs within both the city limits of Jamestown as well as Russell Springs, which also comes at a cost to the county. The court asked county attorney Shearer to take a look at the current ordinance and see about amending it to allow for charges to be imposed for any dog surrender. County Attorney Shearer stated he would put something together by the next meeting.

OPEN BIDS FOR TOTAL PATCHER TANK: Judge Marcum stated we had only received one bid for the total patcher and it was from Equipment Marketing Company. The bid was \$84,932.00. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the bid and pay for the total patcher with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

TRANSFER \$177,431.74 FROM ARPA TO PAYROLL FOR DECEMBER PAYROLL: Judge Marcum stated we needed to transfer \$177,431.74 from the ARPA fund to payroll to cover some of December 2024 payroll. Magistrate Garner made a motion to do the transfer with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

TRANSFER \$140,936.27 FROM SLFRP TO PAROLL FOR PARTIAL OCTOBER & NOVEMBER PAYROLL: Judge Marcum stated we needed to transfer \$140,936.27 from the SLFRP (Tribal Fund Money) to Payroll to cover partial months of payroll for October 2024 & November 2024. Magistrate Richardson made a motion to do the transfer with Magistrate Wilson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

OBLIGATION OF REMAINING ARPA FUNDS \$708,727.35 CONTRACTED FOR ROAD

INFRASTRUCTURE: Judge Marcum stated at a past court meeting it was voted to obligate 80% of the remaining ARPA funds for road infrastructure. He went on to state he had spoken with Roy Beard of Gaddie Shamrock and he

would be obtaining from Gaddie Shamrock a contract to obligate the remaining \$709,727.35 ARPA funds for the road infrastructure. Magistrate Garner made a motion to obligate the funds and sign the contract when received and reviewed by counsel. Magistrate Richardson seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Judge Marcum stated we follow the states holiday schedule however the state still had not updated their website. Magistrate Richardson made the motion to accept the state holiday schedule with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

RC CLERK – 2025 BUDGET & SALARY SCHEDULE: Judge Marcum stated the Clerk's 2025 budget & salary schedule was in the packet for review. Treasurer Blanchet state the salary schedule for 2025 was the same as the current schedule which was for \$300,000.00. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the salary schedule for 2025 with Magistrate Waddell seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. Next Treasurer Blanchet read the 2025 budget which was a total budget of \$5,000,000.00. Disbursements were \$4,860,000.00 which left \$140,000.00 in excess fees to be turned over to the fiscal court. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the 2025 budget with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

AMBULANCE BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Judge Marcum stated he wanted to take the Ambulance Board from a 3 member board to a 5 member board. He recommended appointing Jeremy Coffey and Jerry Milton to the board effective immediately Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the judge's recommendation with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

TAKE IN D. BLAKEY ROAD INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM: Magistrate Garner stated Mrs. Campbell was here to speak in regards to this. Mrs. Campbell came before the court and presented the platt of her property and urged the county to oppose taking in this road. She went on to stated this was a neighborhood dispute. County Attorney Shearer stated he had looked at the platt provided to him by the PVA and agreed this was more of a civil suit. Magistrate Garner stated he did not want to take the road in because there was too much controversy over the situation.

OTHER BUSINESS: Judge Marcum stated Magistrate Garner was currently on the Health Department board but had submitted his letter of resignation due to his wife being promoted to a position which would create a conflict of interest. Judge Marcum made the recommendation to replace Magistrate Garner with Magistrate Waddell. Magistrate Garner made a motion to accept the judge's recommendation with Magistrate Richardson seconding. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Judge Marcum stated he had asked County Attorney Shearer to come up with a list of duties for an individual to be hired utilizing the Opioid Funds. He went on to state he had been in several trainings and this was one of the best ways to utilize spending these funds. This individual would be the liaison for Casey's Law, assist the Circuit & District Courts with referrals & placements into IOP & inpatient. They would be the liaison to Family Court, be the county drug court liaison and assist in new SB90 Mental Health Court along with other duties. The court asked County Attorney Shearer if he felt it was a good option, to which he replied he felt it would. Magistrate Garner made a motion to move forward with creating the position and coming up with a job description. Magistrate Waddell seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Judge Marcum stated alcohol fees collected for the month of October sales were \$5,081.51..

ADJOURN: With nothing further to discuss Magistrate Richardson made a motion to adjourn with Magistrate Wilson seconding. All was in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



Randy Marcum
County Judge Executive



Kim Blanchet
County Treasurer & Fiscal Court Clerk