

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024 1:30 P.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Running-Marquardt, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Zumbach (via phone). Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted. Also present: Dawn Jindrich, Finance Dir.; Sara Bearrows, Budget Dir.; Steve Estenson, Risk Mgr.; Jon Gallagher, Soil Conservation.

Chairperson Running-Marquardt called the meeting to order to review the proposed fiscal year 2026 budgets for Risk Management; Soil Conservation; Court Administration and Juvenile Justice.

Risk Management – Bearrows stated that the budget exceeds the guidelines by \$5,000 due to an increase in medical physicals for new hires.

Estenson highlighted his budget and KPI with injury rates. He presented a vehicle request for a truck due to aging and repair costs that are rapidly increasing for their current vehicle.

Supervisor Rogers stated that the Board works with Estenson pretty frequently in person and in closed sessions and the changes he has advocated for workplace safety has netted the county some savings. Rogers is impressed with Estenson's stress on injury prevention, workplace safety and other responsibilities. He appreciates Estenson's approach to this position and keeping the Board informed.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt thanked Estenson for all his work and echoes what Supervisor Rogers stated. The downward trend of worker's comp claims means more people have given their lives for service in Linn County and go home to their families safer and a large part of that is their quality of life. His office bridges the gap between training and safety, and she appreciates that.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Risk Management preliminary FY26 appropriations in the amount of \$438,566 and revenues of \$437,866.

Soil Conservation – Jindrich stated that the budget meets guidelines. She reviewed the grant funded and non-grant expenditures.

Gallagher presented his budget and KPI's.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she appreciates Gallagher's thinking outside the box along with all the state and federal level officials he works with. She knows he is a leader in this area of collaboration and the ease he has working with others.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Soil Conservation preliminary FY26 appropriations in the amount of \$291,840 and revenues of \$143,514.

Court Administration – Bearrows stated that the budget is over guidelines by \$30,000 due to increasing costs and appeals. An amendment will most likely have to be done as well due to sending multiple years of appeals at one time.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Court Administration preliminary FY26 appropriations in the amount of \$68,500.

Juvenile Justice – Bearrows stated that per Iowa Code Section 232.141, Linn County is responsible for a portion of the juvenile court costs incurred by an attorney appointed to serve as counsel to any party or to serve as guardian ad litem for any child. These costs may include reasonable compensation for the attorney or guardian ad litem as well as the expense for foreign language interpreters, costs of depositions and transcripts, fees and mileage of witnesses, and the expenses of officers serving notices and subpoenas incurred by the court-appointed attorney.

Motion by Running-Marquardt, seconded by Rogers to approve Juvenile Justice preliminary FY26 appropriations in the amount of \$214,442.

Public Comment: Ben Rogers, speaking as Supervisor, stated that today he received notice, as he sits on the East Central Regional Governance Board for Mental Health and Disabilities Board (ECR), that the state bought out the mental health system and they are transitioning to an Administrative Service Organization (ASO) model. The ECR was not selected as the ASO and the entire state is under contract with the Iowa Primary Care Associates. Rogers and other non-profit service providers are trying to digest this information. He does not know what this will mean for services like the Mental Health Access Center or their non-profit friends. The ECR Board was shocked as this was not anticipated. It will be interesting to see with the redesign of the Public Health System if they mirror something similar. This is new information and the only thing Rogers can say with certainty is that on July 1, 2025, Iowa Primary Care Associates will be the administrative service organization and the East Central Regional will cease to exist on June 30, 2025. Rogers added that he is grateful for the email Running-Marquardt sent out for the Secondary Roads employee that tragically passed away. Last year Linn County had several employees pass away and he knows that this Board and previous Boards have ensured that they notify employees in a timely basis. He's appreciative of the Department Head who notified them as well as Human Resources who will put together that information on behalf of the Board.

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Adjournment at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Amanda Hoy, Deputy Auditor

APPROVED BY:

KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors