

April 27, 2009

LONG RANGE PLANNING/MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Long Range Planning/Machinery & Equipment Committee met Monday, April 27, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Meeting Room, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Moore, Blaty, Harrison, Stephenson

Others Present: Comptroller Richard McComas, Director of Public Safety Greg Hines, Department of Emergency Management Coordinator Marshall Watson

Media: Tabatha Hunter - Daily Record: Anna Fry - Morning News

Call to Order

JP Harrison called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Rural Ambulance Service

JP Harrison reported that information was provided by JP Blaty on the agreement for emergency medical services and on the letter that was received sometime ago with regard to the rural ambulance service for the Springdale unincorporated areas in Benton County. He stated that he has learned that the Springdale City Council has voted to raise emergency medical service rates for the unincorporated areas in Benton County that are served by the Springdale ambulance service.

DEM Coordinator Marshall Watson reported that because Benton County did not issue a formal response to a request received from the City of Springdale on October 17, 2008, the Springdale City Council chose to evoke a \$400 surcharge for the unincorporated areas in Benton County. He stated that service is still being furnished, but they have received no official notification.

Comptroller Richard McComas stated that he could not find any contract or agreement that had been signed for the rural ambulance service.

JP Stephenson made motion to close this case at this time, seconded JP Moore.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Road Equipment Lease

Director of Public Safety Greg Hines reported that the country has a fleet of twenty one graders, one that was purchased in 1999 and will be replaced next year, a 2008 Volvo, and nineteen Caterpillar graders, (two of which were purchased in 2002, six which were purchased in 2003, and eleven which were purchased in 2006). He stated that all of the fleet had been purchased by County General and Road Department funds or short term loans and that the guaranteed buy back option had been exercised on the eleven

purchased in 2006, but at this time the County has not been interested in exercising the buy back options on the six that were purchased in 2003.

Discussion was held on the current replacement costs and replacement options for the graders in the equipment inventory. JP Stephenson stated that the county needed to look at other options to keep the graders up to date and to maintain the best quality. JP Moore stated that one of the reasons we exercised the buy back options was that in the past we had let our equipment go until it had no trade-in value, so that by the time it had to be replaced, the County had to come up with a tremendous amount of money.

Greg Hines stated that the buy back option will cost approximately \$1.1 million, adding that the cost to purchase a new grader in 2006 was \$192,000, and today's price for the same grader would be \$225,000. He said that Caterpillar charges \$197,000 to rebuild a grader. He said that we are in a lot better position to provide maintenance for what we have now than we were a few years ago, and that the three year buy back option will cost \$155,000 per grader, the four year option is \$135,000 and the five year option would be \$120,000, and all are guaranteed at this time.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.