



Council of Judges

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday July 28, 2022

11:30 P.M.

Video-Conference

Attendance

Members

Judge Anna Perez, Local Administrative Judge
Judge Linda Chew
Judge Sergio Enriquez
Judge Maria Salas Mendoza
Judge Sam Medrano
Judge Alyssa Perez
Judge Yahara Gutierrez
Judge Diana Navarette
Judge Lyda Ness Garcia
Judge Francisco Dominguez
Judge Patricia Baca
Judge Selena Solis

Staff

Mike Cuccaro
Anita Garza
Annette Lopez
Naomi Parra
Crystal Lozano

Guests

Ed Dion
Donna Teague
Rhiana Canchola
Sandy Gutierrez
Loretta Mata
Barbara Franco
Annalisa Davila
Cathy Quezada
Aaron Grijalva
Rose Hernandez
Catherine Jones
Betsy Keller
Araceli jane
Ana Sanchez
Art Nevarez
Jessica Garza

Judge Anna Perez called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

I. County Auditor Edward Dion

Mr. Dion reported:

- **Item I:** County Auditor and District Judges pay scale. The pay scale remains consistent with the El Paso County pay scale and is adjusted annually with cost-of-living adjustment, if awarded. In fiscal year 2022, the County awarded an 8% cost-of-living adjustment and the County Auditor District Judges pay scale was adjusted accordingly.
- **Item II:** Auditor staffing. Current staffing requirement is 74 individuals: 1 County Auditor and 73 assistant auditors with 3 new positions; 2 new accountants with Grants Compliance Audit and 1 Audit Generalist. Regarding the positions in Grants Compliance Audit, one position will be funded as the following: 66% ARPA and 34% of from general fund. The second Grants audit position will be 100% funded by general fund. One Audit Generalist will be funded with general funds. Such

as with positions in FY 2022, all three positions will remain vacant and unfunded until County Commissioners approve funding for positions. County Administrator, Betsy Keller noted that the County is currently working on funding one Grants Audit position fully with ARPA funds.

- **Item III:** Salary for the County Auditor, auditor staff and court reporters. All positions are being presented at their current salary as of FY 2022. There are 74 staff employees at the County Auditor office, 3 positions which are vacant and unfunded. Authorizes any COLA and/or STEP increase approval from the Commissioners Court, as well budget amendment practices. There are 39 certified court reporters; salary does not include any COLA and/or STEP increases; however, authorizes such increases if Commissioners Court approve increases.
- **Item IV:** County Auditor Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023. The County Auditor proposed budget of \$7,451,043 depicts growth of 8.78%, due to salary and fringe benefits as well as the 8% cost of living adjustment that was awarded in FY2022. The increase also includes moving costs for El Paso County Auditors' office that is scheduled to move to the Downtown Annex building in the first half of FY2023.


On Motion by Judge Alyssa Perez, Seconded by Judge Francisco Dominguez, the District Judges of the Council of Judges approved Item I, the County Auditor's pay scale plan for FY2023 as discussed which is currently consistent with the County's salary step plan, and this plan will be increased to the extent that any cost-of-living or wage adjustment is awarded to the auditor staff, as well as step increases consistent with that approved by the El Paso County Commissioners Court for the majority of other County employees. This plan continues to provide two step certification pay increases to non-management employees, only after certification, if any.

On Motion by Judge Francisco Dominguez, Seconded by Judge Diana Navarrete, the District Judges of the Council of Judges approved Item II, the County Auditors certification of staffing requirements totaling 74 employees to include the County Auditor and 73 assistant auditors. This includes one audit generalist and two grant audit accountants, one to be 100% funded by ARPA funds as clarified by Mrs. Keller, the County Administrator. One grant audit accountant and the audit generalist are to be funded by the general fund, at a later date in FY2023 in collaboration with County and consistent with the process in FY2022.

On Motion by Judge Salas Mendoza, Seconded by Judge Francisco Dominguez, the District Judges of the Council of Judges approved Item III, Approve the salaries of the County Auditor, assistant auditors and all court reporters at their current salaries, and pursuant to approval by the County for other County employees, if any, a COLA and/or Salary Step or wage adjustment to the respective salary plans and any reclassifications, regrades or other actions. Additionally, non-management auditor staff will receive professional certification pay only if and when professional certification is attained.

On Motion by Judge Salas Mendoza, Seconded by Judge Francisco Dominguez, the District Judges of the Council of Judges approved Item IV, Pursuant to Local Government Code, § 84.901, approve the Auditor's proposed budget of \$7,451,043, for fiscal year 2023, as depicted in Exhibit E on the record.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Cupcaro, Executive Director