

Thursday, April 6, 2023 – 5:00 P.M.
John R. "Jack" Durrance Auditorium
County Administration Building
Southeast First Street
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners met for the Special Meeting.

PRESENT: Chair Anna Prizzia; Vice Chair Mary Alford, Commissioner Charles S. Chestnut IV, Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler and Commissioner Ken Cornell

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Michele Lieberman, County Attorney Sylvia Torres, and Deputy Clerk Casey Miller

Chair Prizzia Called the meeting to order at 5pm

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Alford moved approval of the agenda

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

Commissioner Cornell, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, Chair Prizzia, County Manager Lieberman and Sheriff Watson presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Items for Discussion

1. Alachua County Jail Telephone System 23-0499

Recommended Action: Consider Options 1-4

Fiscal Consideration: Option 1 \$580k loss per year as a budget shortfall must be determined not including any one time capital cost for telephone systems or additional staff.

Option 2 \$375k loss per year as a budget shortfall must be determined not including any one time capital cost for telephone systems or additional staff.

Option 3 \$75k loss per year as a budget shortfall must be determined.

Option 4 \$1,675,000 loss per year as a budget shortfall must be determined.

Significant capital costs for telephone systems or additional staff.

Strategic Guide: All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Services

Deputy County Manager Carl Smart gave a brief overview of what will be presented before the Board and presented what options are available to provide free phone calls to inmates

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Vice Chair Alford, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, Commissioner Wheeler, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, Commissioner Wheeler, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Cornell, Kevin Smith IT Director, Commissioner Cornell, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, Commissioner Cornell, Tom Hoffman from Securus, Securus Advisory Account Manager Paul Cappiello, Commissioner Cornell, Securus Advisory Account Manager Paul Cappiello, Chair Prizzia, County Attorney Torres, Chair Prizzia, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, Chair Prizzia, Securus Advisory Account Manager Paul Cappiello, Chair Prizzia, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Cornell, County Manager Lieberman, IT Director Kevin Smith, Chair Prizzia, and Commissioner Cornell all presented comments.

Sheriff Watson gave a brief statement of what the Sheriff office will present to the Board and introduced his staff that will do the presentations.

Commissioner Cornell exit room at 5:43pm

Commissioner Cornell returns to room at 5:45pm

Manager Jenkins the program director gave a presentation of the all the programs currently offered at the jail to inmates.

In-House Programs offered are:

- Book Club	- Alcoholics Anonymous & NA
- Anger Management	- ESE/Adult & Juvenile Education Program (GED)
- Domestic Violence	- Celebrate Recovery
- Inmate Transition Program	- Library
- Life Skills	- Living Your Best Life
- Parenting Class	- Read-To-Me
- Substance Abuse Intervention	- Veteran Justice Outreach Program
- Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP)	- YOGA

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External Program offered are:

- Alachua County School Board (Adult Ed)	- Alachua County Social Services
- Career Source	- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) & Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
- Catholic Charities	- Gainesville Community Ministry
- Created Gainesville INC	- Helping Hands
- Grace Marketplace	- Holy Trinity – Downtown Ministries
- Library Partnership	- Veterans Honor Center
- Safe Link Wireless	- Salvation Army
- Torchlighters	- Santa Fe Trios Education Program

Major Dorian Keith Director of the jail gave a presentation on inmate phones and reviewed the Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) which must be upheld to ensure the constitutional Rights of those incarcerated.

FMJS requires a certain amount of space in Housing units.

FMJS required space

Chapter 16 of FMJS 2023 – Physical Plant states the following:

The following housing standards apply to all facilities:

Specified unit of Floor Space:

- Single cells shall contain a minimum of 63 square feet of floor space
- Multiple occupancy cells shall contain a minimum of 40 square feet of floor space per inmate in the sleeping area
- Dormitory Housing Units shall contain a minimum of 75 square feet of floor space per inmate, including both sleeping and dayroom areas.
- Dayrooms shall contain a minimum of 35 square feet per inmate for all cell areas, except Disciplinary and Administrative Confinement.

County presented - Option 1 – Seven free 15 - minute calls per week for each inmate (1 free call per day)

- Based on an average of 80 inmates per Housing Unit
- 80×15 minutes = 1200 minutes
- 1200 minutes $\times 7$ = 8,400 minutes additional per week = 140 hours

This option is feasible with the addition of (to accommodate the entire facility) 9 FTE's, 6 Phone Quads and 9 single phones.

This would require modifications to infrastructure

County presented - Option 2 – Five free 15 - minute calls per inmate per week with a maximum of one call per day

- Based on an average of 80 inmates per Housing Unit
- (15×5) 75 free minutes per inmate, per week
- 80×75 = 6,000 (100 hours of additional phone usage per week) minutes per Housing Unit

This option is feasible with the addition of (to accommodate the entire facility) 7 FTE's, 6 Phone Quads and 6 single phones. This is less of a risk compared to Option 1 because you have two days of normal phone usage or you have the ability to spread the (5) calls over a 7 day period

Modifications to infrastructure would be required

County presented - Option 3 – Two free 15- minute calls per inmate per week with a maximum of one per day

- Based on an average of 80 inmates per Housing Unit
- 80×15 minutes = 1200 minutes
- 1200 minutes $\times 2$ = 2400 minutes = 40 hours

This option is feasible with the addition of (to accommodate the entire facility)(5) FTE's, 3 Phone Quads and 4 single phones.

Modification to Infrastructure would be required

County presented - Option 4 – Unlimited free calls per inmate per week

- Requires a significant increase in staffing and infrastructure modifications. We would have to base the number of FTE's and the number of additional phones by comparing to the other options and reviewing the amount of actual usage. Then it would be a trial and modify as time progresses.

ASO Major Keith stated that in order to achieve the goal of unlimited free phone calls for all inmates the following would need to happen:

- To achieve the goal –
- A minimum of (2) Quads would need to be added to the larger Housing Units.
- A minimum of (2) Single Wall Phones would need to be added to the smaller Housing Units.
- Due to the lack of space, Construction would have to occur to add additional floor space for the addition of phones.

Commissioner Cornell, Vice Chair Alford, Lance Yeager (ASO), Vice Chair Alford, ASO Major Dorian Keith, Vice Chair Alford, ASO Major Dorian Keith, Chair Prizzia, Sheriff Watson, Chair Prizzia, Sheriff Watson, Chair Prizzia, ASO Major Dorian Keith, Sheriff Watson, Vice Chair Alford, ASO Major Dorian Keith, Vice Chair Alford, Commissioner Cornell, Lance Yeager (ASO), Sheriff Watson, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Chestnut, Sheriff Watson, and Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

Major Lance Yeager with ASO department of support services gave a presentation reviewing telephone calls and video visits for inmates.

Vice Chair Alford, Major Lance Yeager (ASO), Securus Advisory Account Manager Paul Cappiello, Vice Chair Alford, Major Lance Yeager (ASO), Sheriff Watson, Vice Chair Alford, Chair Prizzia, Sheriff Watson, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, and Vice Chair Alford all presented comments.

Commissioner Alford moved the following:

1. Direct the County Manager work with the Sheriff to provide Option 2 all inmates 5 free 15 minute phone call per day for a 90 day trial and make the necessary contractual amendments for the trial within 60 days. (Option 2 as a trial with a Goal of Option 4)
2. Direct the County Manager or her designee to renegotiate the service rate from a permanent charge to a per line charge with Securus Technologies. If Securus does not agree with that negotiation then offer the contract to the lowest service option to provide a flat per month active per line fee.
3. As equipment is available to increase the amount of time given per inmate with a goal of unlimited calls.
4. Continue to explore the use of tablets including the free tablets available by Federal Grant.
5. That the Board takes the necessary funds required from the Reserves.

2nd Commissioner Chestnut

Commissioner Wheeler, Chair Prizzia, County Manager Lieberman, Vice Chair Alford, County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Chestnut, County Manager Lieberman, Sheriff Watson, County Manager Lieberman, Chair Prizzia, Sheriff Watson, Chair Prizzia, Vice Chair Alford, and Commissioner Cornell all presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved the substitute motion to approve Option 2 and to direct staff to transfer operational control of the phone contract to the Sheriff and begin implementing this direction as soon as possible but no later than October 1, 2023. Also request the Sheriff explore the use of tablets and bring back recommendations prior to the start of the next fiscal year which is October 1, 2023.

2nd Commissioner Wheeler

Chair Prizzia, Sheriff Watson, and Chair Prizzia presented comments.

Public Comment

Chair recognized Chanae Jackson, Bobby Murmur, Sterling, Brin Taylor, a citizen, Kaitlyn, Gram Bernstein, James Ingle, Owens Parker, Alex Hood, Susan, Emily Westernhome, Lee Scott, Thomas, Caitlynn Rawls, Nina Z, Margaret, RJ, Dr. Sally Thorpe, Wendy Wood, Gabriel Vasquez, Max Tipping, Ian, a citizen, Danielle, Jaime, Kimber, Mike Powell, Michael, Jancie Vinson, a citizen, Tim Bryant, Rodney Long, Helen Warren, Sheila Payne, Tyler Forrest, and Ashten who all presented comments.

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Vice Chair Alford exits the room at 8:11pm

Vice Chair Alford returns to the room at 8:15pm

Chair Prizzia passed the gavel to Vice Chair Alford in order to make a motion.

Commissioner Cornell withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Prizzia moved the following substitute motion:

1. To eliminate the subsidy of the County portion of the phone calls immediately/as soon as possible. (This will result in the cost per call being reduced by 9 cents cheaper.)
2. Work with the Sheriff to negotiate a plan to implement free phone calls by October 1, 2023. (A no cost option. This means without enhancing the infrastructure for the system.)
3. Exercise the option to terminate the contract with Securus and work with the Sheriff to write a Request for Proposals (RFP) as soon as possible for phones to be free at the Jail.
4. Staff to make necessary amendments with Securus to implement this plan. The funding source will be the Sheriff Carry Forward Funds or vacancy funds.

2nd Commissioner Cornell

Commissioner Cornell, Securus Advisory Account Manager Paul Cappiello Securus, Commissioner Cornell, Sheriff Watson, Commissioner Wheeler, Sheriff Watson, Chair Prizzia, County Attorney Torres, Sheriff Watson, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, County Attorney Torres, Commissioner Cornell, Sheriff Watson, and Chair Prizzia, Chair Wheeler, Commissioner Cornell, Sheriff Watson, and Vice Chair Alford all presented comments.

The Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Chestnut voting “Nay”.

Commissioner Chestnut, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Chestnut, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

Vice Chair Alford passed the gavel back to Chair Prizzia.

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2. Alachua County Jail Inmate Fees 23-0502

Recommended Action: Consider modification of certain inmate fees

Fiscal Consideration: Fiscal considerations will be based upon any modifications

Strategic Guide: All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Services

Deputy county manager Carl Smart gave a presentation on the above item on behalf of staff reviewing inmate fees, inmate welfare funds and BOCC options.

Chair Prizzia, Vice Chair Alford, Chair Prizzia, Ron, County Manager Lieberman, and Sheriff Watson presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved the following:

1. To direct staff to work with the Sheriff to work on eliminating any fees not required by State Statute and bring back recommendations as soon as possible. Any fees required by the State be minimized.
2. Direct staff to work with the Sheriff to bring back recommendations on improving inmates' basic needs and welfare.

Vice Chair Alford presented comments.

2nd Vice Chair Alford

Deputy County Manager Carl Smart continued the presentation.

County Manager Lieberman, Commissioner Wheeler, Deputy County Manager Carl Smart, Commissioner Wheeler, and Chair Prizzia all presented comments.

Daniel Judd Chief of Staff for ASO did a presentation on fees, commissary contract, inmate welfare fund and Inmate trust fund.

Vice Chair Alford, Chair Prizzia, ASO Captain, Commissioner Cornell, ASO Chief of Staff Daniel Judd, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, Chair Prizzia, Commissioner Cornell, Vice Chair Alford, Chair Prizzia, ASO Administrative Supervisor

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Chris Wattley, Chair Prizzia, Vice Chair Alford, and County Manager Lieberman all presented comments.

Public Comment

Chanae Jackson, Kevin Scott, Danielle, Kimber, and Max Tipping all presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell, County Manager Lieberman, Mr. Aikens, Commissioner Cornell, Sheriff Watson, Commissioner Cornell, County Manager Lieberman, Sheriff Watson, Chair Prizzia, Vice Chair Alford, Commissioner Chestnut, and County Manager Lieberman all presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Closing Comments

Public Comment

Chair Prizzia recognized Rodney Long, Chanae Jackson, Sterling, and Danielle who all presented comments.

Chair Prizzia, and Sheriff Watson presented comments.

Commission Comment

Commissioner Cornell wanted to thank the community for attending the meeting. Commissioner also congratulated Chief of Staff Judd on her retirement and thanked the Sheriff Staff for being present.

Vice Chair Alford thanked everyone for being present and being respectful to each other.

Commissioner Wheeler thanked everyone for attending the meeting

Commissioner Chestnut thanked the County Staff and ASO staff for all of their work. Also Commissioner thanked the citizens for attending the meeting.

Chair Prizzia stated it has been a great meeting, thank you to the Sheriff for attending with an open mind and ideas. Also Chair would like to thank all citizens for being present.

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Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 PM