

**DETENTION CENTER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 21st, 2022**

The Detention Center Commission met this date at 3:30 P.M. in the Union Parish Police Jury meeting room, Union Parish Courthouse Annex, Farmerville, Louisiana. Present were: Nathan Pilgreen (Union Parish Police Jury), Brenda Abercrombie (Union Parish Police Jury), Dusty Gates (Union Parish Sheriff), John Belton (District Attorney) and Chief Bim Coulberson (Farmerville Chief of Police). Absent: None. Also present: Warden Adams.

Sheriff Gates called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Belton led the group in prayer. Roll call was taken. Sheriff Gates asked if anyone in the audience would like to register for public comment to speak.

Motion made by Chief Coulberson, seconded by Mr. Belton and declared adopted by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as written.

Motion made by John Belton, seconded by Chief Coulberson to adopt the minutes of the Tuesday, May 31st, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between ARKLA Work Force Solutions, LLC and the Union Parish Detention Center. Willie T. Sensley, JR and Johnny Dollar presented a proposal to supply DOC work release eligible inmates to the Union Parish Detention Center. The proposal is identical to the one already in place with Louisiana Employment Opportunity, LLC.

The Union Parish Detention Center is currently approved to house 100 work release inmates. As of today, there are only thirty-five (35) work release inmates being housed at the Detention Center. Mr. Sensley stated that if the cooperative endeavor agreement were approved then they would provide as many work release inmates as DOC would allow.

Mr. Dollar stated that once the contract is signed then DOC would be notified and the process would begin for finding work release inmates. Mr. Dollar further stated that it could take a few weeks to get the inmates. Mr. Dollar also stated that not only can the inmates be put to work in Union Parish, but they can also go to work in other parishes.

The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the work release program started in 2015 and generated \$273,613.77. The work release program has steadily increased since the beginning. The Union Parish Detention Center Commission entered into an agreement with Louisiana Employment Opportunity, LLC in February of 2016. The work release income from 2016 forward is as follows:

- 2016 \$486,650.09
- 2017 \$917,631.30
- 2018 \$1,155,508.46
- 2019 \$1,351,379.33
- 2020 \$1,273,359.66
- 2021 \$1,383,78.41
- 2022 \$718,297.42 – as of June 17th, 2022

The Secretary/Treasurer further stated that the work release program has been the saving grace for the financial stability at the Detention Center. The police jury has made the following transfers throughout the years:

- 2015 \$900,000
- 2016 \$1,000,000
- 2017 \$950,000
- 2018 \$400,000
- 2019 \$400,000

The Secretary/Treasurer stated that after 2019 no transfers were needed due to the work release program and the CARES reimbursement. The Detention Center went from a deficit of \$1,134,940.48 to a surplus of \$837,653.21. The Transitional Work Release Program is vital to the financial stability of the Detention Center.

Sheriff Gates stated that this is all about Union Parish and what can be done to help Union Parish.

Motion Mrs. Abercrombie, seconded by Chief Coulbertson to enter into an agreement between ARKLA Work Force Solutions, LLC and Union Parish Detention Center Commission.

After the motion was made a discussion was held. Mr. Belton inquired about the following:

- **What about those inmates who are classified as LEO's, but can't work at Foster Farms?**
- **Is the ARKLA contract intended to replace the LEO contract?**
- **At what point would the ARKLA contract kick in?**
- **Is there a set amount of beds for LEO and then ARKLA?**
- **Who decides if they are LEO beds or ARKLA beds?**
- **What is the legality on dual contracts?**

Mr. Belton stated that out of an abundance of caution the issue of dual contracts should be discussed with counsel. Mr. Dollar addressed the Commission and stated that there is nothing in either contract that would indicate an exclusive clause. Mr. Belton stated that he respects Mr. Dollar and Mr. Sensley. Mr. Belton further stated that the questions he has raised are not against anyone in particular. He is only concerned with what is best for the Union Parish. He is trying

to make sure that a lawsuit is not filed against the commission. Mr. Belton stated that he would withdraw his request if necessary.

Motion Mr. Pilgreen to table this matter until counsel can review both contracts to determine if dual contracts can be issued. No second was made. Mrs. Abercrombie asked if this matter could be voted on pending attorney review of the dual contracts. Mrs. Abercrombie further stated that if there was an issue with the contract then the agreement would not be executed.

Mr. Belton asked to clarify that his request for attorney review was withdrawn. Mr. Belton further stated that with his withdrawal that put the commission back to Mrs. Abercrombie's motion and then Mr. Pilgreen's motion to table. Mr. Belton stated that the current motion is Mr. Pilgreen's motion to table until a discussion can be held with the attorney. No second was made and the motion failed.

The Secretary/Treasurer will send both work release contracts (ARKLA and LEO) to the Gold Weems law firm. The Commission will meet again on July 5th, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the commission, Sheriff Gates declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Chief Coulbertson, seconded by Mrs. Abercrombie, on this 21st day of June, 2022.

**Sheriff Dusty Gates, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary/Treasurer**