

Logan County Commissioners Work Session
May 21, 2024

Present: Mike Brownell, Joe McBride, Jerry Sonnenberg, Alan Samber, Dana Foley, Dave Lieber, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Rick Cullip, Diana Korbe and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Sonnenberg moved to approve the minutes of May 14, 2024 as written. Commissioner McBride seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0.

REVISIONS TO WORK SESSION AGENDA – There were no revisions.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS – The Board met with Kristan Lange to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated May 21, 2024. All bills were approved as presented.

CTSI LOSS ANALYSIS REVIEW – Dana Foley, CTSI Loss Control Specialist met with the Board for a loss analysis review. He generally does a five-year review, but he will also show the Board how last year finished and what the trends were last year. CTSI has done a lot of training with the county on one of the loss drivers which are the auto claims. He recently completed several sessions of “Coaching the Experienced Driver” with county employees who signed up for the classes.

Mr. Foley explained how the self-insurance pool works. The Work Comp pool has a healthy surplus of \$27.8 million. CTSI gave over \$3 million back to pool members. For the Casualty and Property Pool or CAPP pool, the surplus was \$14.5 million. CTSI gave back \$500,000 to pool members. When contributions are collected at the beginning of the year, they are deposited into an interest-bearing account. The interest benefits the county because CTSI gave back over \$1 million dollars’ worth of interest from that account.

Of the \$3 million for the Work Comp distribution, Logan County received \$82,588. Logan County also received \$13,656 of the \$500,000 CAPP distribution. From the interest distribution, Logan County received \$36,987 for a grand total of \$133,231. Logan County receives about 9-10% of the county’s total contribution to the pool back.

When looking at the loss factor assigned for CAPP, it is .835. There are three better tiers that we can start working towards, just by reducing some of the CAPP exposure. On the Work Comp side, the loss factor that was assigned was .92 and on the lowest tier. Logan County is on the lowest tier, but there’s still room because there are still claims that are being paid. There are approximately 326 employees, ten volunteers, 37 board members, 53 deputies and a 120-bed jail as well.

In 2023, there were thirteen claims for a total of \$411,090. The trend is auto related, that is one of the reasons why we did the defensive driving classes. We’re hoping that next year will yield

some of the fruit of the classes as we had a pretty good attendance. The Sheriff's Department was included in this number with seven claims for \$183,036. The Sheriff's total is broken out and reported separately. The CAPP pool, in terms of frequency of claims, has a total of 640 claims for \$9,293,613. The types of claims that we were having were 52 claims for vehicle backing for \$181,439. This is why CTSI is really pushing the defensive driving classes. Having a no-backing policy is a great idea, where people are backing into a parking spot, not backing out of a parking spot. There were at least five vehicle backing claims in the last five years.

CWCP 2023 LOGAN COUNTY YEAR END - For 2023, Logan County had a total of 21 claims for a total of \$390,463. This includes the Sheriff's Department. There are a lot more indemnity claims than he typically sees. Mr. Foley wants to make sure that we make sure that we're doing all we can to get the employee to return to work. It doesn't necessarily have to be in the same department. If the employee can do something for the county, that's better than nothing. The way indemnity claims work is, if you have a medical, they're paying the medical bills for the person that got hurt, they're also paying lost wages as well. If you can get the employee back to work in some type of work, they heal faster, and they make more money overall. Eight claims of Logan County's twenty-one claims were indemnity claims. For the whole pool, there were 791 claims totaling \$5,096,052 with the average cost being \$6,443.

CAPP FIVE YEAR ANALYSIS - Mr. Foley recommended looking at the kind and quality of materials when replacing roofs and using more durable materials rated for the exposure that was just experienced. In the last five years, there were a total of 61 claims for \$2,170,090 with the average cost \$35,575. Three wind and hail claims totaled \$847,000. Commissioner Sonnenberg asked if the public transportation claims were NECALG. This includes the RTA/Prairie Express. There were several hail claims on the fleet vehicles. Public Transportation also had several vehicle accidents amounting to \$116,936.

On the five-year average on the CAPP pool, there are similar things to what Logan County has experienced. There are many vehicle related incidents. This is a major focus of the pool. There have been 36 fatalities in the last five years costing \$26,804,057. Ten million dollars of that was one claim. This was a multi-jurisdictional response, an \$18 million claim total overall, involving Clear Creek County, a municipality, and the State Patrol. Mr. Foley has been studying bodycam footage, trying to review the incident to see where the training could be better. There was no peer-to-peer de-escalation introduced into the situation. Policies and procedures need to be developed to train agencies and employees in this area.

The reinsurance companies are now starting to ask about jail audits. Mr. Foley offered to accompany the Board on their annual jail audit. He would like to give the Board a different perspective on the audit. Mr. Foley informed the Board of an incident in another county of a deputy carrying the Sig Sauer P320 9-millimeter when it went off in a deputy's holster. He did some checking and there have been multiple instances where that particular firearm has mis-fired. The concern is if someone was actually drawing down on someone and it went off unintentionally. There is a voluntary trigger upgrade that Sig is offering. Foley wants to make sure the county is aware of the problem whether the deputies carry that one or not, or maybe people's loved ones carry it and to be aware of the potential problem.

CAPP FIVE YEAR ANALYSIS - The top five in frequency and severity are Road and Bridge and law enforcement. They have the highest physical demands in the county and the highest exposure from that standpoint. There have been 32 claims for law enforcement and seventeen for Road and Bridge in the last five years. Road and Bridge had higher costs at \$472,086 and law enforcement was at \$172,064. Commissioner Sonnenberg asked why Road and Bridge claims had fewer claims and higher costs. Mr. Foley answered that Road and Bridge had an employee that hurt himself moving a big log. That claim amount was \$183,458. Slips and falls is Logan County's number two claims driver. Inmate related claims is only number six, which is good considering Logan County has a 120-bed jail. For the WC pool, there was a total of 70 claims totaling \$778,174, the average cost was \$11,017. Slips and falls are the number one driver in both incidences and severity. Inmate-related is number two on incident numbers, but number three overall. That is a big exposure for the Work Comp side. The average claim cost for pool members is \$7,307 where Logan County's average claim is slightly higher at \$11,000 per incident. Some of that could be due mainly to the number of indemnity claims that Logan County has.

The meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:13 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS APRIL 2024 - Commissioner Sonnenberg moved to approve the Commissioners Proceedings for the month of April 2024. Commissioner McBride seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0.

INSPECTION OF COUNTY JAIL – Commissioner McBride moved to go into Executive Session for inspection of the County Jail and discussion of the specialized details of security arrangements within the jails allowed by C.R.S. Section 24-6-402 4)d. Commissioner Sonnenberg seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0.

The meeting reconvened at 10:28 a.m.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER EXECUTIVE SESSION - Commissioner Sonnenberg, voting on the prevailing side, moved to reconsider the motion going into Executive Session. Commissioner McBride seconded. Commissioner Sonnenberg stated that the appropriateness of the discussion with Mr. Foley of CTSI today and the possibility of Mr. Foley being present for this process, proposes postponing the Board's visit to the jail to when we can do it one time and tour the jail with all involved. The Board voted on the motion to reconsider going into Executive Session, and the motion carried, 3-0.

SUNSET MEMORIAL GARDENS STATUES – Commissioner McBride explained that the statues at Sunset Memorial Gardens need to be repaired. Rick Cullip was going to talk to the masons that are working at the Exhibit Center and talk to them about repairing them before Memorial Day. The statues need backer rod and need to be sealed as some marble has fallen off. They are pretty nice statues.

Chairman Brownell mentioned that Judy Knaub, who lives next door to the cemetery, said that there used to be a yard light at the cemetery. She said that people are parking out there at night. Dave Applehans said that there is no longer electricity for a yard light at the cemetery.

Appelhans said he would contact the Sheriff's Office to patrol through there more often. Chairman Brownell suggested a solar yard light with an LED bulb that would not require electricity. The Board discussed several solar lights along the walking trail and another one focused on the entry sign. Commissioner McBride said that the trail has had a lot of use.

Commissioner McBride mentioned that he received a call from Dave Hutt. Mr. Hutt was upset because the guys doing the burials don't care about anything out there. Apparently, they are driving over headstones and seem to not care about the cemetery. Mr. Hutt plans to talk to City of Sterling officials about the problem. Commissioner McBride said if he could go back in time, he would have found a small town to take the cemetery over. Any of the towns could run it if the IGA was canceled with the City of Sterling. The County owns the ground, the City of Sterling is doing the burials there. Commissioner McBride suggested that the Board discuss this with Dave Tennant about his experiences with the City and what he thinks of it because he's got a lot of good thoughts on it too.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.