



Observer Reporting Form

Table with 4 columns: Feature Evaluated, Yes, No, Comments. Rows include: Meeting started on time?, All members present?, Members attentive?, Did members appear to have done their "homework?", Were members courteous to each other and the public?, Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?, Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?, Adequate opportunity for public input?, Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?, Was background information available to the public?, Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs?

The Public Safety Center.

Capital budget of \$2 mil would come from \$.5 mil FHLB grant and \$1.5 mil CBDG funds over the next 5 years (to repay a loan to build the PSC). CBDG funds of \$300K/yr (plus \$5K/yr interest) would be diverted from CAC home weatherization program (\$205K/yr) and TYP Permanent Supportive Housing (\$100K/yr). The Consolidated Plan would have to be amended to allow the change in funding.

Operating expenses of \$1.7 mil/yr would come from savings in the KCSO from not transporting, housing, and medicating persons with mental illness. Currently, 200 of 1000 (20%) inmates are mentally ill and are being incarcerated at a cost of almost \$200/day each (rounded to \$14,500,000/yr current cost?). In addition, grants may be available to help with funding.

Knox County is currently under a Federal court order to reduce jail overcrowding. Additional jail pods may have to be constructed (financed by property tax bond), but the PSC could accomplish two goals: reduce the general jail population and house inmates who are drunk, or are having an episode of mental illness, more appropriately and more economically. Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? The issue of mental illness, as it contributes to homelessness and incarceration, is a concern of the LWV.

Observer: Judy Barnette

Meeting: Knox County Commission Finance Committee Date: April 19, 2010