

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Kimberly L. Murphy
County Administrator

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MEMBERS

Terry Collins, Dustin Krasny, David Aungst

MEETING LOCATION

Chambers
301 N. Main St,
Adrian, MI 49221

Minutes: Thursday, November 6, 2025

I. Call to Order

Present: Commissioners: Terry Collins, Dustin Krasny, David Aungst, James Van Doren, Jim Daly

Also Present: Administrator Kim Murphy, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, Prosecutor Allison Arnold, Under Sheriff Jeff Ewald, Captain Jacob Pifer, Captain Randy Casey, Regional Morgue Facility Manager Sarah Palmani, Medical Examiner Dr. Maino, MSC Director Rod Weaver, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jennifer Ambrose, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Community Engagement Specialist Quinn Wilt, Public Defender John Glaser

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Comm. Collins.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: October 9, 2025

Motion by Aungst, to approve the minutes of October 9, 2025, seconded by Krasny. Motion carried.

III. Finance Reports

A. Finance Report

Deputy Administrator Elliott reviewed the criminal justice finance report; no discussion.

IV. Sheriff

A. Sheriff's Report

Undersheriff Jeff Ewald provided an overview of the monthly report. Ewald shared that they are continuing to see an increase in serious/fatal vehicle accidents and they encourage extra caution. No further discussion.

B. **Request:** 2026 Axon Contract

Captain Pifer was present to review the request for the 2026 Axon contract. Axon is the current vendor for the Sheriff's body cams, tasers, vehicle cameras, digital recordings and digital storage. Over the next 5 years, the current contracts for these items are set to expire and expected to increase in cost. The current digital storage is limited and does not allow enough space for the required evidence storage period of 7 years, and the department has surpassed its allotted storage.

The proposed Axon contract includes unlimited evidence storage, eliminating other storage device needs.

All current Axon contracts would be rolled into this 1 contract that has a period of 10 years. Captain Pifer described the various items included in this contract: tasers, body cams, language translator, auto body cam activation, front/rear vehicle cameras, interview room camera recordings, analytic reports, controlled user access, link for text messaging evidence downloads, digital redaction capability for FOIA requests, unlimited third-party storage for external digital evidence, off-site camera activation in case of emergency, list of community cameras (if households choose to participate), automatic bodycam activation when an officers gun is pulled, provides access to AI technology for police reports & auto-transcription, and access to virtual training platform for continuing education.

The request is to recommend entering into a 10-year contract with Axon, for \$400,000 annually, to Personnel/Ways & Means.

Captain Pifer stated this was included in the Commissioner-approved 2026 Budget and there is a 10-year savings of approximately \$463,000 from Axon.

Motion by Aungst to recommend a 10-year Axon contract to Personnel/Ways & Means, seconded by Collins. Opposed (1): Krasny, Yay (2):Aungst, Collins. Motion carried.

Discussion opened up. With the start of the new contract, all current equipment will be replaced.

It was asked what other companies offer these services. Pifer shared that no other company offers all of these services; other companies do offer body-CAM services, but they have learned they are not as user-friendly as Axon.

The bundle would include around 50 body cams, which includes 6 users at the jail, traffic, and canine unit; there may be around 2 extra body cams.

It was asked what the current amount for services is; Pifer stated it is approximately \$160,000 per year. However, that is expected to increase after current contracts expire.

Captain Pifer discussed that if they step down from the current bundle, it would exclude about 40% of the options available in this proposed bundled contract. Pifer estimated it would give a savings of about \$360 per officer, annually. Captain Pifer confirmed this was included in the 2026 County budget under service contracts. Included in the contract is the replacement or refresh of all equipment every 2–3 years, for the duration of the contract.

Deputy Elliott reported the 2025 budget included \$200,000 for the current contract. The original request for the increased \$200,000 came through for the Capital Improvement Plan for 2026. However, during the planning of the 2026 budget, it was decided to move the \$200,000 CIP appropriation towards the Service Contract account for this contract, as it created clearer accounting.

Discussion continued regarding the effects of the overall 2026 budget, with the additional \$200,000 for this Axon Contract; Administrator Murphy

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discussed the benefits Axon may have on other departments such as the Prosecutor, Public Defender, Medical Examiner, and mitigate liability.

Pifer stated that there would not be time this year to negotiate a revised 2026 contract with Axon.

Commissioner's further discussed keeping in mind that technology is ever- evolving and may look very different in 10 years.

A question was proposed regarding a cancellation clause; Captain Pifer currently does not have that information but will find out and report back.

C. Request: Byrne JAG Grant

Captain Casey implemented a Jail Program Coordinator last year and has made great strides. The coordinator has been able to assist inmates with obtaining birth certificates, and they have partnered with the LISD to offer an education program, all at no additional expense. Captain Casey and his team applied for a grant to be utilized for additional services at the Jail. Grant funded services would be used to help identify inmates with SUD or mental health and enroll them in responsive services at the Jail. With this grant, they hope to contract with local therapists and offer peer support for inmates, along with follow-up care post-release. Grant funds will also assist with technology, clothing, care packs, and transportation for care. No requirements to match dollars and the grant does not automatically renew.

Motion by Aungst, seconded by Krasny to recommend accepting the Byrne JAG grant and authorize Captain Casey to execute, to Personnel/Ways & Means. Motion carried.

Discussion opened up regarding transportation; Casey reported that it may include bus tokens, transportation for peer support, and/or possible officer-assisted transportation.

Further discussion was had regarding the overhead expenses at the Jail. Captain Casey reported that the number of arrests has remained constant over the years. However, they do not remain in the jail for as long. In addition, the Jail has three floors and, for safety/security reasons, requires 2 staff members per floor at all times.

V. Prosecuting Attorney

A. Prosecutor's Report

Prosecutor Allison Arnold reviewed the monthly report, and reported that they were able to now accurately reflect victim services on their report.

Arnold discussed her experience with the Axon body cams and how well it works when reviewing cases at the prosecutors' office. Overall, they see the benefits of Axon compared to other body cam systems that do not work as well.

VI. Public Defender

A. Public Defender Report

Chief Defender Glaser's monthly report was included in the packet; no discussion.

VII. Emergency Management

A. Emergency Management Report

Director Tanis was unable to attend and the department's monthly report was included in the packet; no further discussion.

VIII. Medical Examiner

A. Medical Examiner Office's Report

Dr. Maino shared the Medical Examiners office has investigated 224 deaths, as of the end of September. 22% of the deaths were investigated in September. The Examiners' year-end report was provided to the Committee. With the nature of the medical examiners' responsibilities, they are responsible for determining the cause of death. Specific criteria is set for type of reportable deaths to the ME and types that require an autopsy; Dr. Maino will provide a copy to the committee. Reportable deaths do not automatically mean an autopsy will be performed, and may be declined. If declined, the case is not a jurisdiction of the ME and becomes the jurisdiction of the PCP, to complete the death certificate. This leads to the letter that will be sent to all PCPs, which requests them to sign the death certificate.

B. Draft Letter

The letter was created to send to physicians when the medical examiner decides not sign the death certificate and Dr. Maino shared that this was created according to the laws in the State of Michigan.

IX. Courts

No report.

X. Maurice Spear Campus

MSC Director Rod Weaver shared highlights. Phase 2 of the MSC renovations is ongoing and going well.

Recently, some of the students helped at the MIS state cross-country meet.

Weaver shared that the MSC Board recently approved the purchase of 20 new radios for the staff, which saved the County thousands of dollars. They are very thankful for the purchase.

A scholarship program is underway by a generous \$10,000 donor, who had first-hand experience at MSC. The donor has stated that if he had not received the intervention from MSC when he was a minor, he would have gone down a different path in life.

The Committee commended all the work and efforts of Weaver and staff at Maurice Spear Campus.

XI. Updates & Other Business

No discussion.

XII. Public Comment

No comment.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Aungst, to adjourn at 11:07am, seconded by Krasny. Motion carried.