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News

Moulton buys fire equipment,new truck, hears funding requests

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Published: Thursday, August 23, 2012 9:44 AM CDT

It was all about money – hearing funding requests and opening bids – at the Moulton City Council meeting Monday, Aug. 20.

Marie Hood with the Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama asked the Council for \$6,000 for the coming fiscal year.

She pointed out that the Moulton Lawrence Counseling Center had provided services for local residents. According to a brochure she handed out, the center had seen a total of 441 Moulton residents – 279 adults and 162 children – in the 2011-12.

She said that with the expected budget cuts, the center will have to cut services.

"We are a 501(c)(3) agency," she said. "We provide psychiatric and mental health services in Lawrence, Limestone and Morgan Counties."

Hood said she planned to request funding from the Lawrence County Commission. One of her goals is to build a day treatment facility in Moulton on land behind the post office.

United Way also helps with funding. Last fiscal year, Moulton's contribution was \$3,000.

"We have not started our budget yet," Moulton Mayor Ray Alexander told her. "We will look at it."

The other funding request came from Dennis Sharp with the Lawrence County Drug Task Force. Moulton provided \$4,000 last year and Sharp asked for an increase this year.

"Our ADECA grant is \$75,000 this coming year," Sharp said. "It was \$96,000 last year."

Sharp said the agency now has four agents and a secretary.

"We fight the drug war everyday," he said. "It is meth connected crime, meth makers and pill pushers in Lawrence County."

He said that the task force had seized 120 lbs. of marijuana last year plus live plants.

Alexander said Sharp could count on level funding this year but the town would try to find a little more funding.

Under the heading of bids, Moulton received one bid on the purchase of a new F-550 truck with a dump bed from John Carpenter Ford for \$41,233.33. The council voted to accept the bid and purchase the truck.

At the last council meeting, bids were opened on new equipment for the Moulton Fire Department. Fire Chief Ryan Jolly has looked at the bids and recommended that the Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. (MES) bid be accepted. The total bid on the equipment was \$41,145.00. It includes crash recovery software that helps firemen look at diagrams of vehicles to see how to rescue people who are trapped.

The Moulton Council agreed and accepted the bid. The funds will come from a Homeland Security

grant and other fire department funds.

The other bid discussed was for playground equipment for McKelvy Park. Alexander said he expects the bids to be around \$21,000.00.

In other business, the Council approved a proclamation making the week of Oct. 21 to 27 as Pro Bono Week in Moulton.

The proclamation was presented by local attorney Jerome Thompson on behalf of other attorneys practicing in Lawrence County. It recognizes that 44 percent of local attorneys donate time and talents in free legal services to citizens each year. The proclamation also recognizes that there is still an unmet need for assistance for the disadvantaged in this area.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Ray Alexander and Councilmembers Lee Taylor, Joyce Jeffreys, Brent White and Billy Lovett. Councilman Keith Gilley was absent.

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