Sheriff Hardwick asked about the Legal Fees they had requested. Commissioner Adams said that they could not use the money for a lobbyist. Sheriff Hardwick and Dave both said that was not the case. They wanted to use the money to hire a lawyer for a test case to recover civil fees. The Sheriff's office has been assigned by the courts to do civil sales and he wants to make sure everything is done according to law and to protect himself and the county from a lawsuit in the future. They had a farm sell for over 1 million dollars this year. They filed all the paperwork they think is necessary but they don't understand the requirements of deeds and other issues. This lawyer would be to help with these kinds of situations. They would also like to use the money to hire someone to help write a law to recoup some of the costs associated with CCW, such as fingerprinting. Commissioner Thompson said he was good with the money for legal. Sheriff Hardwick said that the expenses are increasing, such as the ID cards that were originally given to them by the State but they will have to start purchasing their own along with other supplies. The costs are going to get higher than the fee collected. As is the fee is $100 and by the time they pay the FBI charge and the background search there is only $35 left that they have to cover the supplies and processing costs. They need to have a law to fix the situation.

Commissioner Thompson expressed his concern about rumors he has heard that there is a bigger terrorist threat in this community than what he had thought and he will do whatever it takes to make sure that the Sheriff Hardwick has what he needs to protect the community, if that means more money so be it.

Sheriff Hardwick said he needs to purchase five more rifles but didn't have a budget line for it. Ms. Miller said there was a Uniforms/Weapons line that he could use. Mr. Hurt said that they had asked for $6500 on that line but it was all uniforms. With some of the turnover of deputies and corrections they would need the full $6500 for uniforms. They used other lines to supplement it in 2015. The weapons would cost around $4000 so the line really needs to be $10,000. Commissioner Thompson said that he would support this. They were again reminded to use the correct lines so that they know how to budget the following year and could take into account one time purchases.

Mr. Thompson reminded the Commission that they got money back every year, approximately $175,000 in 2015.

This money is the budget balance left after expenditures. This amount is not a cash balance.

Mr. Pickens asked Sheriff Hardwick about the weapons they had collected from the Juvenile Justice Center. Sheriff Hardwick said that they were not trying to hide anything or do anything backhanded. Pat Williams; Court Services Administrator had contacted him and asked if they would be able to use them or put them toward new weapon purchases for the Sheriff's department.

Mr. Pickens said he understood that but Mr. Williams probably didn't realize that the weapons were General Revenue property and that they can't be transferred to another fund like that. Sheriff Hardwick didn't understand the problem, there was no money to be exchanged, and they were going to use them as trade-ins on new weapons, which would cover the cost of the rifles he was wanting to purchase. Mr. Pickens tried to explain that there is a difference between General Revenue and the Sheriff's General revenue and that statutes dictated how they had to dispose of property.

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ATTEST: Sandra Collop Stanley Pickens

County Clerk Presiding Commissioner