OCC approves Sheriff contract

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department will continue to provide public safety dispatching services to all five OCC campuses and the Pontiac center, since the college's board approved a $50,000 contract Monday.

Joseph A. Macri, dean of public services, said the contract is being changed to a flat amount for three years from the previous $13.60 per call, which cost $36,000 in the year ended March 31.

"Calls to public safety have increased monthly," Macri said. "A call can be made by dialing 5555 from any phone on any campus."

Few calls are for physical crimes. Some callers report crimes of opportunity such as theft of unguarded property. The big jump is due to a new state law allowing courts to issue personal protection orders on behalf of women fearing assault from an ex-husband or ex-boyfriend. Public safety officers then provide escort service.

"We have 13 PPOs issued for people at the Pontiac center alone," Macri said.

Board members expressed some sticker shock at the increase in price. Vice chancellor James Warner said the contract is cancelable with 90 days notice.

Macri said OCC contacted several city police departments for bids on the dispatch service before deciding the Sheriff's Department offered the best deal.

Supreme Court seeking volunteers for county foster care review board

The state court administrative office of the Michigan Supreme Court is seeking volunteers to serve on the Oakland County Foster Care Review Board.

The Michigan Legislature established the board in 1984 in an effot to improve children's foster care programs through the state utilitzing citizen review boards.

The five-member board meets one day each month to review a representative sample of cases of children who have been removed from thier homes and placed in foster care due to abuse or neglect.

At these reviews, Foster Care Review Board members interview parents, foster parents, caseworkers, attorneys and other intersted parties who may be involved in planning for the ward.

Advisory recommendations are formulated and mailed to the court, child welfare agency, prosecuting attorney, parents and other intersted parties. The purpose of the review is to insure that all agencies, including the court, have established a plan for the ward and progress is being made toward achieving permanency.

The Foster Care Review Boards are comprised of citizens who reflect a brond cross section of their communities. Minorties and men are especially encouraged to apply.

The program is seeking volunteers who have demonstrated lendership in other settings. Employees of the Department of Social Services, juvenile court or private child placement agencies are prohibited by law to serve on Foster Care Review Board.

Currently, Foster Care Review Boards operate in Clare, Genesee, Ingham, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lenawee, Macomb, Midland, Muskegon, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties.

Each volunter who is selected must attend a two-day orientation training in Lansing on July 25 and 26. This training is a requirement to serve on the board.

Also, board memebers attend yearly training which is held in different locations throughout the state. Expenses for training are reimbursed.

Citizens interested in volunteering for the Oakland County Foster Care Review Board should call 95170 373-4835 for an application.

The deadline for receiving applications is May 15, 1996 and interviews with prospective candidates will take place in May and June 1996.

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