

Bourbon County Senior Citizens, Inc.  
PO Box 882  
Fort Scott, Ks. 66701

May 13, 2022

Bourbon County Commissioners  
c/o Susan Bancroft  
210 S National Ave.  
Fort Scott, Ks. 66701

Dear County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Bourbon County Senior Citizens, I am requesting an increase in the funds that the county currently provides to our organization. Currently, we receive \$45,600 per year from the County. Unfortunately, it appears that the \$10,000 per year we received from United Way is no longer available and that has really hurt our budget this year causing us to dip into what little reserves we had. I would like to request an additional \$10,000 for a total of \$55,600. Consideration of any amount of additional funding would be greatly appreciated.

Bourbon County Senior Citizens oversees three programs that help the elderly and low income citizens in our community:

**Meals on Wheels:** In Fort Scott, we deliver about 50 - 60 hot meals per day (Mon – Fri) plus frozen meals on Friday to get them through the weekend to those who qualify for the Meals on Wheels. Our funding covers Meals on Wheels for the entire county, but our volunteers only deliver to those in Fort Scott. We contract with SEK Area Agency on Aging for the food preparation which is done in Pittsburg and delivered to us in large containers designed to keep the food at the appropriate temperature. Our volunteers then dish the food into individual containers and deliver them out to the community. Volunteer hours average 130 – 150 hours per month. The driver who brings the food up from Pittsburg delivers to other the communities in the county as needed.

**Subsidized Transportation:** We subsidize transportation in a partnership with Old Fort Transportation so that low income citizens have access to transportation within the community. This in turn helps the businesses in our community. We subsidize 450 – 500 rides per month. This reduces the cost of the ride to the rider by about \$2.50 per ride.

**Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP):** This program is with the USDA to provide food to low income individuals and families. We receive deliveries of food quarterly and distribute the food monthly to those that qualify. Each individual or family has to certify their income monthly to be eligible for the distribution. We currently serve 100 – 120 families a month. Examples of food items are rice, beans, peanut butter, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta and pasta sauce, etc. In addition, they often provide vouchers for the Farmer's Market in the summer that can be used to purchase fresh produce.

We appreciate your ongoing support of the Meals on Wheels and subsidized transportation. These programs provide services that are much needed in our community.

Sincerely,

Deborah Needleman  
Treasurer, Bourbon County Senior Citizens, Inc. Board of Directors