

Public Safety Committee Minutes and Report to Council
10:00 a.m., March 15, 2017

Roll Call: Boyd Henderson
Tim Hoey
Drew Hoel
Alta Long
Craig Hastings
Brian Moody

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- FY2018 Budget. Long reviewed the prepared draft budget for the Police Department and Fire Department. It was noted that the department heads had each reviewed the budget draft with Long and provided input to proposed changes over last year's budget. Long noted that, throughout the draft budget, salary lines have been increased by 2.5% as a "placeholder" until a specific wage and salary proposal is made. She also noted that insurance lines are decreased throughout the budget due to an increase last year for a one-time min/max payment for hail damage to city properties. Specific comments, by department, were as follows:
 - Police Department.
 - Regular salaries were slightly up in the current year due to a couple of instances of short-term disability. The FY2018 salary line is based on the baseline expectation of wages, with the 2.5% increase, rather than on last year's experience.
 - \$10,000 decrease in Capital Outlay due to completion of in-car computer installation. A new squad car is accommodated in the equipment replacement schedule.
 - \$3,000 increase in Communications/Telephone for cellular modems in squad cars.
 - \$15,000 decrease in Vehicle Fuel based on past experience. This line item was increased substantially several years ago due to high gas prices, and no longer needs to be that high.
 - \$8,000 decrease in Small Equipment due to completion of several acquisitions in the current year.
 - Small decreases, based on historical experience, in Office Supplies, Computer Support, Travel/Training/Education, Vehicle Maintenance, Uniforms, and Repairs & Maintenance.
 - Chief Hastings noted his current staffing challenges with one officer on short-term disability. He also noted that a new computer monitor may be necessary for online training requirements. Chief Hastings also discussed that Douglas County is currently considering an upgrade to their radio system that, if implemented, would require new in-car and portable radios for TPD and TFD. He guessed the cost for TPD at as much as \$20,000.

- Fire Department
 - \$1,000 decrease in Vehicle Fuel. This line item was increased several years ago due to high gas prices, but it no longer needs to be this high.
 - Small increase in Miscellaneous based on historical experience.
 - Fire budget is unchanged otherwise.
 - Alderman Henderson noted his desire to begin setting aside reserve funds for facilities replacement. Hoel commented that the City was already reserving as much unused cash as possible, and a substantial portion of that is unallocated. Any future city council may allocate those reserve funds to whatever purpose it chooses. However, the council may earmark those funds at this point if it chooses.
 - Moody pointed out that, if radio replacements are necessitated by a County switchover (as mentioned by Hastings), then there may be grant funding opportunities for both TFD and TPD.
 - Moody indicated that he is working on a proposal that will more accurately allocate paid-on-call rates for officers. Overall budget amount is not expected change, but he is hoping to improve accountability and accuracy in how those are determined.

- Capital Replacement Plan. Long reviewed the plan for the coming year, which continues to fund a capital replacement fund for vehicle replacement, but which does not anticipate any purchases in the coming year. A possible exception to this would be the replacement of one squad car. Hoel also mentioned that a new building inspector, if and when appointed, may require a new vehicle.

- ESDA Department. Long pointed out that the ESDA Department is now incorporated into the Fire Department budget. There was no need to continue to account for those very limited expenses separately.

- Nuisance Properties. Even though budgeted in a separate department, it was noted that Nuisance Property enforcement is currently budgeted to remain at \$25,000 for the coming fiscal year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.