

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO  
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022**

**DRAFT**

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The Safety Committee met on January 3, 2022 at the Wiley Building, 2181 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio.

Present: Councilman Justin Gould, Chair  
Vice Mayor Michele Weiss  
Councilman Chris Cooney  
Councilman Brian King  
Councilman John Rach

Also Present: Fire Chief Robert Perko  
Police Chief Dustin Rogers  
Assistant Law Director/Prosecutor Mike Cicero  
(Law Director Luke McConville out ill)

**Agenda Items**

**1. Conversation Regarding Chagrin Valley Dispatch communication**

Chairman Gould noted that the guest speaker scheduled for this evening was unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict. It was agreed to place this item on next month's agenda.

**2. Continued Review of the One Ohio Opioid Settlement Award Requirements**

Mr. Gould referred to a grant document previously distributed to the Committee which spells out the requirements of the opioid grant. Mr. Gould discussed a publication promoting county resources through Metro Health. He questioned if the City should publish a pamphlet to send out to the community advertising available resources. He asked the Law Department for an opinion whether this type of advertisement would be consistent use of the One-Ohio Opioid money. Mr. Cicero stated that the Law Department has reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and noted that there are numerous categories where money can be used, and the proposed use of having a pamphlet such as the Metro Health publication falls within the guidelines. Mr. Cicero stated that some of the categories included in the One-Ohio Opioid Award include first responders and others regarding treatment options. There were no questions for the Fire and Police Chiefs regarding this issue.

**Motion by Mr. Gould, second by Mr. King, to recommend to Council the acceptance of the One-Ohio Money Settlement awarded to the City of University Heights. All voted "aye".** Regarding the pamphlet, Mr. Gould noted that it would be up to the administration how same would be distributed whether via a publication or otherwise.

**3. Motion to Recommend that Council Accept Award of ARPA First Responders Grant**

Fire Chief Perko stated that this money is from the Governor's office. He discussed a grant that had been awarded in 2013 and that funding was for first responders as well as treatment for stress due to

COVID. Chief Perko stated that a federal grant was applied for in 2013 to kickstart a comprehensive wellness program within the fire department, stating that when those funds diminished, certain components of the comprehensive program were lost. The opportunity was taken to apply for \$204,600 to invigorate the existing program. He noted that there are no matching funds required for this grant, and that the performance is for two years plus one month. Chief Perko noted that 62 other agencies applied for the grant, but University Heights was awarded same

**Motion by Mrs. Sax, second by Mr. Cooney to recommended to Council that the award be accepted for ARPA First Responders Grant. On roll call, all voted “aye”.**

**4. Review of \$38, 550 Expenditure for Firefighter Turnout Gear, and Motion to Recommend Council Approve the Same**

Chief Perko stated this expense was in the five-year capital improvement plan submitted two years ago. He explained that for fiscal year 2022, there were significant supply chain and vendor issues related due to COVID. He noted that the gear purchased in 2021 did not arrive until late spring of this year and there were issues with it, having to send it back to get sizing and changed features corrected. Luckily, the vendor used has agreed to hold earlier prices and the equipment needed will cost \$38,550, rather than \$50,000 if ordered from another source. Chief Perko was commended on negotiating with the vendor on behalf of residents. Chief Perko noted that the vendor uses the competitive bidding process. He stated that small sets are being more frequently ordered rather than one large order. There are five sets expected for next year.

**Motion by Mr. Gould, second by Mr. King, to recommend that Council approve the \$38,550 expenditure for firefighter turnout gear. All voted “aye”.**

**5. Review of \$18,388 Expenditure for Firefighter CPR Machine, and Motion to Recommend Council Approve Same**

Chief Perko explained the benefits of the CPR machine including the fact that it secures tumors in cardiac arrest. The machine allows the initiation of CPR chest compressions and maintains it while firefighters are often trying to exit difficult paths. He explained that the department has two of these devices now, one for each ambulance. The units break down from wear and tear. The price for these devices has gone up significantly and are scheduled to have another increase of \$2,000 in 2023. The device would be placed on the ladder truck since that truck also responds to medical emergencies, and with this device enhanced, efficient care can be provided.

Mrs. Weiss clarified with Chief Perko that the line item for this machine would be reduced by \$18,003; he answered yes. Mr. Cooney asked if there was a life span expected for the equipment and if there is annual maintenance. Chief Perko stated that ten years is expected, and there is annual maintenance required. Mrs. Weiss stated that the professional service line will be increased regarding the maintenance.

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**Motion by Mr. Gould, second by Mrs. Sax, to recommend that Council approve the expenditure of \$18,388 for the firefighters' CPR machine. On roll call. All voted "aye".**

**6. Review of \$18,645.42 Expenditure for Police CAD and RMS System for 2023**

Police Chief Rogers stated that these current systems have been in place since 2000. He noted that CAD stands for Computer Aided Dispatch, and RMS stands for Record Management Systems. Chief Rogers explained the importance of updating this equipment to assist in avoiding hackers, access to accurate motor vehicle records, etc.

**Motion by Mr. King, second by Mrs. Sax, to recommend to Council the Approval of the Expenditure of \$18,645.45 for Police CAD and RMS System for 2023. The motion passed unanimously.**

**7. Review of Cuyahoga County Automated License plate reader Grant Program**

Chief Rogers acknowledged that the City has not yet been awarded this grant. Mr. Gould stated that he wanted the committee to understand the program, how it is deployed in other jurisdictions and the potential locations and uses in University Heights.

Chief Rogers detailed points about the program and stated that the license plate reader (LPR) is considered a homeland security tool for criminal threats to the public and it provides access to databases throughout the region. An example was provided wherein a suspect had falsely indicated a location but the system could track exactly where the individual really was. Locations of where LPRs would be installed in University Heights, the expenses covered, the installation and the fact that it is not just a piece of equipment were discussed. It was suggested that retail establishments install outside cameras as well as apartments. Assistant Law Director Cicero described how the system works in other municipalities he is aware of and stated that this would be a great tool in apprehending offenders.

Mr. Gould thanked Chief Rogers for the presentation and encouraged him to come back to the committee as things move along.

Motion by Mrs. Blankfeld, second by Mr. Gould, to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, all voted "aye".

Submitted by,

Jeune Drayton, Asst. Clerk  
of Council

Justin Gould, Councilman/Chair  
Safety Committee