

**MINUTES OF SAFETY COMMITTEES MEETING
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO
November 6, 2023
DRAFT**

Councilwoman Therese Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present : Councilwoman Threse Marshall, Chair
 Councilman Christoopher Cooney
 Councilman Brian King
 Councilwoman Sherri Sax
 Vice Mayor Michele Weiss
 Councilwoman Win Weizer
 Councilman John Rach (Alternate)

Also Present: Fire Chief Robert Perko
 Police Chief Dustin Rogers

Ms. Marshall stated that the agenda would be changed by addressing the police vehicles discussion first followed by a discussion regarding the fire department vehicles.

Motion by Mrs. Sax, second by Mr. Cooney, to change the agenda as Ms. Marshall suggested. On roll call, all voted “aye”.

Discussion Regarding the Replacement of 4 Police Vehicles on State Contract

Police Chief Rogers explained that the fleet managers have been advised from the state that ordering of 2023 vehicles would likely be a short window this month, November 2023. Such low inventory for police-related interceptors or Ford Explorers has not been experienced in the industry previously. The items being proposed for replacement would have been proposed in 2024 as part of the budget process, but because of the circumstances it is necessary to move up the proposal. Chief Rogers referred to his memos in the packet and one from the fleet manager detailing a status report that details the conditions of all the vehicles in the fleet. Three of the vehicles are marked units in the field and the uniform bureau; the fourth vehicle is unmarked. Chief Rogers noted that because of the short time span, they have been unable to get quotes from the state or state contract holder. Prices from April 2023 were reviewed when vehicles were purchased; certain components of the expenses and the cost per vehicle is approximately \$66,733 and the vehicles that are due for replacemnt would be approximately \$266,932 as noted on page two of his memo. The amounts do not include any credit for trading in vehicles, which is estimated to be about \$4,000 per vehicle, up to \$16,000 credit if traded in during this year’s budget.

It was noted that there is still approximately \$30,000 in the police capital expenditure fund for vehicles and equipment which could be used along with the potential trades; that would cover most of the cost of one of the vehicles. Chief Rogers noted that the vehicles that are being requested for replacement are:

- #7229 - 2016 Ford Explorer
- #7230 - 2016 Ford Explorer
- #7231 - 2015 Ford Taurus
- #7280 - 2015 Ford Taurus

Mrs. Weiss recalled that in the 2023 budget, two new vehicles were purchased and asked Chief Rogers about same. Chief Rogers clarified that vehicles number 7238 and 7255 were purchased in the spring of 2023 and

one of them is in the field and the other is being outfitted. He stated that for the proposed four vehicles, a purchase order is needed, and that the order bank could be open for as little as two days or four weeks; it is just not known because it depends on the ordering volume done by the state. It was mentioned that the funds would have to be encumbered and a deposit is not needed.

It was noted that because of backlogs of inventory and supply chain issues, the request is being made. Chief Rogers noted that the vehicles purchased earlier in the year happened to be pre-built that were already on a lot. He noted that it will be at least a minimum eight to ten months from procuring the vehicles and getting them outfitted with needed equipment to become operational.

Mr. Rach questioned whether or not a budget amendment would be needed to create the purchase order. It was pointed out that the order needs to be placed now and funds have to be appropriated. Chief Rogers stated he spoke with Finance Director Kennedy and he would be working on that process. The cash amount won't transfer until the City acquires the vehicle.

Mr. Cooney discussed the amounts needed, and Chief Rogers stated that the amounts are estimates only and he is waiting for actual quotes. The estimated amount needed is \$234,000.

Mr. King asked what the \$30,000 remaining in the budget was for. Chief Rogers stated that there are different capital items, that he doesn't have his typical five-year projection available that he usually provides, but there are probably twenty different capital items that can be charged to the capital expenditure fund for various types of items. He added that currently all capital items needed have been purchased or are being funded via different line items in the budget.

Councilwoman Weizer suggested that the amount should list at \$235,000 in order to ensure there is enough allotted.

Motion by Mrs. Weiss, second by Mr. Cooney, to refer this matter to Council. On roll call, all voted "aye".

Discussion Regarding the Purchase of an LP15 Cardiac Monitor

Fire Chief Perko noted that there have been previous discussions regarding the cardiac monitor including the last Council meeting. He explained that this device is for advanced cardiac life care; it conducts fibrillation and would enable the department to have a reserve unit to be kept in the firehouse in the event of equipment breaking down on one of the other ambulances, there would always be a machine. Chief Perko noted that there is \$46,400 in the capital equipment account and the unit will cost \$42,266.15.

Mrs. Sax stated that this item has been discussed at length and she is satisfied.

Purchase of a New Ambulance

Chief Perko stated that the five-year capital plan includes replacement schedules for all apparatus in the fleet. He recommends that unit number 1142, a 2014 Horton with approximately 70,000 miles, be replaced in 2024. Due to supply chain issues and increased costs, it is recommended to give consideration to encumbering money this year.

It was mentioned that after the ambulance purchasing committee researched the process of obtaining a new vehicle, it was discovered that lead times if ordered now, the delivery would not be until 2027 with a cost of

\$300 to 500 thousand for the vehicle only; it would not include the necessary additions needed to improve the ride for patients and the necessary contraptions to fit the operational requirements. Chief Perko described the various demo vehicles that could be obtained and the cost of same pointing out that delivery would not be until 2025.

Reference was made to a memo in the packets today with all the breakdown. A quote for the ambulance conversion is \$258,539. The vehicle is a 2025 Ford F 550 gas engine 4 X 4 chassis. The whole unit is within the state bid pricing program that comes in under state term pricing. Details of the ambulance parts were described.

The total cost of the ambulance itself is \$330,385; with all of the equipment the cost is \$422,596; \$350,000 for the ambulance alone. Chief Perko stated that they were able to secure \$275,000 for this year's budget. He stated that the budget would have to be amended by \$147,596. He pointed out that similar to the police vehicle process, the money would need to be encumbered this year.

Mrs. Weiss thanked both Chiefs for being proactive, and acknowledged that supply chain issues are difficult. She recalled that the last ambulance purchased was around \$300,000. Chief Perko stated that it was closer to \$200,000 but did not come equipped and it was a smaller chassis. That had to be amended at the last minute due to a change in administration. He noted that the ambulance was a 2017 chassis. Mrs. Weiss clarified that because of the price increases, the budget would have to be amended by \$147,000. Chief Perko agreed and noted that this is a good deal considering what the cost could have been if purchasing a brand new one.

Mr. Rach clarified for the record that Council included an ambulance for this year's budget, but the administration did not want to include. Mr. Rach stated that \$275,000 was included in the budget. He asked about the differences between the new model and the one previously purchased in 2017 besides the size of the chassis. Chief Perko stated that the vehicles are similar and the 2017 is not the one to be replaced, but the one most recently purchased. He explained the differences, noting that the one being proposed has a bigger frame, suspension components, braking systems, etc. Chief Perko stated that the maintenance records have been examined and a lot of what has already been put into the 2017 ambulance includes suspension and braking components.

Mr. Cooney addressed the different types of suspension and asked about maintenance for the vehicle, wondering if there were trained personnel in the area to conduct same. Chief Perko stated that there are.

Discussion of the Purchase of New Utility Vehicle

Chief Perko stated that this item is also in the capital improvement plan. This is a 2007 Ford F250 utility pickup truck. Investments have been made to refurbish the multi-use vehicle, and the truck has served well over five years. It has been utilized as a catch-all vehicle used for snow plowing the City Hall and Building Department parking lots, responding to emergency technical issue incidents; hydrant flushing, shuttling training equipment, picking up supplies, and when command vehicles are out of service, the vehicle serves as backup – including regional response. Chief Perko described the item needed in the vehicle. It was noted that Council approved \$55,000 in the capital purchase fund last year. The total cost of the vehicle is \$74,287 equipped, which would result in an \$18,287 budget amendment for this item.

Motion by Mr. Cooney, second by Mrs. Weiss, to refer the purchase of the vehicles described by Chief Perko to Council for approval. On roll call, all voted "aye".

Discussion regarding City Street Parking Issues and Complaints

Chairperson Marshall noted that residents on Washington Boulevard have sent emails regarding the parking on their street. Other Council members have also received numerous complaints. She asked Chief Rogers to explain what the Police Department has been done regarding the issue.

Chief Rogers referred to statistics compiled at the end of October reviewing a six-week period. He noted that from August 13 through September 27, 266 parking citations were issued on Belvoir, Washington and the surrounding streets adjacent to John Carroll University (JCU). He stated that this is a 70% increase from the same period last year. It was noted that JCU has rented lots and has shuttles to provide transportation back and forth to the university. Chief Rogers invited JCU's police chief and another representative to this meeting, but neither were able to attend. He hoped that the representatives can attend December's meeting to discuss the issue.

Mrs. Sharon Hoffman was present and stated that she lives across the street from JCU's baseball field and explained the inconvenience the excessive parking is. Another resident who lives on Carroll Boulevard also described the terrible predicament the parking causes.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of having offenders' vehicles towed since the citations are being ignored. It was suggested that the Law Director and Assistant Prosecutor could assist to enable the police department to enforce same. Perhaps additional legislation is needed. It was pointed out that JCU pays no taxes, but residents do and something should be done to alleviate the problem.

Ms. Marshall stated that she will speak with the law director to see if an earlier committee meeting can be held. She thanked Chief Rogers for the work he is doing with JCU; and it was agreed to have their representatives at the next meeting.

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

Jeune Drayton, Assistant
Clerk of Council

Threse Marshall, Chair
Safety Committee