

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2021 beginning at 6:25 P.M.

CD PRESENT: Chair Callahan, Cerra, Oswald, Jessie, Mitchell

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Stewart, Tollett, Baird, Jessie, Davis

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Service Dir Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Asst Dir Calvert, Engineer Schneider, WWPC Superintendent Korzan, CD Manager Almobayyed, Water Dist Supt Rothgery, Sanitation Supt Eye, Fire Chief Pronesti, Councilperson Keys and Simmons

1. Approval of the Regular Finance Meeting Minutes ~ SEPTEMBER 13th, 2021. Mr. Baird moved, seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve the 'said' Meeting Minutes.

2. The matter of the purchase of Scott X3 Pro SCBA cylinders and Fill Station for EFD.

REFERRED BY: Safety Service Director Brubaker

Director Brubaker gave a brief outlay of this matter. He said when Chief Pronesti took over as Chief, he met with the Fire Department leadership and asked for an evaluation and analyze equipment outside of their fire apparatus. The Department received a new fire truck about a month ago and will be taking possession of another new one in November. One of the things that came out of that meeting was the age and repair issues for the SCBA Units which are the tanks that go on the back of the firefighters as they are fighting a fire. There are multiple versions of these units and are over 20 years old and have been pieced together for a number of years. It was recently approved by Council for the Safety Service Dept. to dispose of the older SCBA units that have been put away and no longer being used. And these units could also be disposed of and or sold. The recommendation is to purchase all new sets of SCBA's as well as the Fill Station for these units.

Chief Pronesti began by explaining what this equipment is. He said a SCBA to a Firefighter is like a gun a gun is to a Policeman. With smoke and carcinogens during fires, these SCBA's are our lifeline. The current breathing apparatuses are incompatible with today's standards. When a firefighter is in a burning building and they are breathing, the SCBA will activate telling that firefighter how much air they have left, which alerts the firefighter how much time they have to get out. That standard has been changed because of line of duty deaths, where it would alarm at where they had less air in their cylinders and so National Standards were increased to where it will alert them to get out a little sooner. Some SCBA's do that and some don't. They can't mix and match, unfortunately we have to purchase these in one giant piece. The Fill Station that is currently being used would not be able to fill, when they go to a fire, it's not oxygen they're breathing, it's clean air that is filtered and put into these tanks. The current Fill Station is about 20 years old and it would not be able to fill these units so we will have to get a Fill Station to go along with these new SCBA's. In the end we will have 42 packs with over 100 cylinders. When our guys go to a fire, there are 14 men on duty and each goes thru 2 or 3 cylinders before the fire is put out. We have to be able to supply cylinders on scene, we can't go back and forth to the Fill Station. That is the reason why need 100 cylinders.

Chair Stewart asked what they will do with the old ones that they are currently using?

Chief Pronesti said when Council approved to dispose of the old cylinders, they were old cylinders that they received in 2002 that are currently just being stored. What he's asking to be replaced at this time are the ones that are currently on the apparatuses. They will be able to get money for these. He was told that we may be able to get \$125,000 for these. He said he will negotiate this with these companies, there is a market for these. It's better to get money, rather than sitting around.

Mr. Tollett asked if it's like a CO2 cylinder when they pressurize them?

Chief Pronesti said it's 5500 lbs per square inch that we would put in a cylinder. So every time they put air in, it goes in at 5500 psi and there are regulators that reduce it and then a second one that reduces it when it gets to the firefighter's face piece.

Mrs. Keys asked what SCBA stands for?

Chief Pronesti said it stands for 'Self Contained Breathing Apparatus'.

Mrs. Mitchell asked what is the life-span for these?

Chief said they get hydrostatically tested every 3 to 5 years. Hopefully there won't be any standard changes where there's a National Standard. So, they should be good for 10 to 15 years. But here's another caveat, a good smart chief will go to the Director and request 5 this year and another 5 in another year or two, on a regular basis.

Once they have this big purchase they won't have to request this large of an amount again and then can replace in smaller quantities as needed.

Mr. Baird asked if we will lease these or purchase them?

Dir Pileski said that the lease fell through, so they will need to be purchased outright. He recommends that we purchase them out of the American Rescue Plan [ARP] dollars. The ARP Find In the Revenue Replacement Category.

Law Dir Deery said, that based upon the terms of the lease the City would not be able to enter into that agreement based on some of the terms that the bank was requiring us to agree to. Therefore her department was advising against leasing and due to the fact there is money available, her department agrees that purchasing would be the best route to take.

Dir Brubaker said the idea was to lease these using Issue 6 funds and the Law Director's office made the decision to purchase. Though he said they weren't happy with the amount of \$150,000 - \$200,000 taken out of Issue 6 dollars, but, since we have the ARP Funds we won't have to use Issue 6 funds for this. (Emergency clause is requested).

Mr. Baird moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to purchase the 'said' equipment for the Elyria Fire Department, emergency clause requested.

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of the purchase of tow [2] Labrie rear loading garbage trucks.

Referred By: Safety Service Director Brubaker

Director Brubaker said that Council approved the purchase of a side-loading sanitation truck earlier in the year using Issue 6 dollars and the City should be receiving that truck later this year. Sanitation Manager, Rodney Eye ran into a problem with some of the trucks. We have 3 rear-loading trucks and we have been putting money into repairs. These are older vehicles and need to be replaced. So, we would purchase 2 rear-loading trucks to replace 2 older ones. One of the problems when we had all 3 rear-loading trucks, occasionally one would go down for a few days and we would use a side-loading truck with personnel to do bulk pick-up and then we have to use flatbed trucks to do the bulk pick-up until we get the rear-loaders back on the road. We looked into renting a rear-loader and we were number 40 on the list to rent it.

Rodney Eye, Sanitation Dept. Manager said about 3 weeks ago where 2 trucks were down and we were only using one truck, which was a challenge for personnel. They used the side-loader the best they could and what they couldn't get with the side-loader they used the flat-bed and hauled to the one rear-loader. They are getting to a situation where the rear-loader that they have are getting old. The 3 rear-loaders are from 2013, 2015 and 2019. It's a constant battle. They are estimating repair and maintenance for all the sanitation trucks for this year will add up to be about \$550,000 in repairs. The cost to rent a rear-loader truck for one month is \$7,100, but on top of the cost, there are no rear-loader trucks available to rent, we were number 40 on a waiting list. These are challenges we're facing.

Mr. Tollett asked what the time frame is for getting the trucks after we order them?

Mr. Eye said it's a year, but can take even longer.

Mr. Baird moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to purchase the 'said' equipment for the Sanitation Department, emergency clause requested.
MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of Purchasing or Leasing a 2021 Tru-Vac Paradigm hydro-excavating truck from Jack Doheny Company.

Referred By: Water Dist. Manager Rothgery

[This matter was approved by Utilities Committee on September 22nd]

Director Brubaker supports this 100% and how it will benefit our water distribution program throughout the city and Water Distribution Manager Dave Rothgery will speak to the committee on this matter.

Mr. Rothgery said the unit that they are looking at is a hydro excavating unit and it is a HXX Paradigm Vacuum Excavator and what it does is it excavates with water and vacuum as opposed to the traditional way of digging with tractors and shovels. With the ever growing utilities, everywhere you dig there is a potential of damage to other utility infrastructure. This is a new and affordable way to search for underground utilities. The damage these days causes a lot of loss in revenues. The measurements are now in the hundreds of thousands of dollars if you hit fiberoptic or electric line or such. Moving into this new class of equipment is where we should be in 2021. We've had small units like this since 2013 and they've proven to be very successful. So now is the time to jump to a full truck size unit.

Chair Stewart said that anything that can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of this and it shows we should move forward on this beneficial equipment.

Mr. Tollett said we should move on this and ask Dir Pileski how we would fund this.

Mr. Rothgery said the cost of this equipment is \$267,000 and the money has been appropriated in the 2021 budget.

Dir Pileski said they would be paying cash for this out of the water fund.

Mr. Baird moved and Mr. Tollett seconded to recommend an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to purchase the 'said' equipment for the Water Distribution Department, emergency clause requested.

MOTION MADE COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of amendments to the 2021 Permanent Appropriations Ordinance No. 2021-50. (Standing Referral)

REFERRED BY: Finance Director's Pileski and Farrell, Dir Pileski went over these changes;

1.) General Fund ~ Clerk of Courts - increase of \$66,368 Salary & Wages and increase of \$10,918 Benefits & Pension for Comp time pay-outs.

There's an ordinance on the books that the City follows every year to pay out for comp-time balance at the first pay in October of each year to non-exempt employees. Over the course of years the Clerk of Courts has asked that his employees hold onto their comp-time rather than pay it out at the end of the year. But it's gotten to the point where some of the balances are getting pretty high so he is requesting that we clear that comp-time off the books and it will require \$66,368 in Salary & Wages and \$10,918 in Benefits & Pension. So, it's a matter of paying the comp-time now or paying it when they retire or leave employment which would be at a higher rate. Mr. Pileski said he would think twice before allowing these comp-time hours to be carried over to avoid this type of situation.

2.) American Rescue Plan ~ Econ Impact - Essential Svc Program increase of \$500,000 Council approved this Essential Svcs Program earlier in the year.

This Essential Services Program was approved earlier in the year for the amount of \$500,000.

A department will be created and it will be called PH~Public Health/Negative Impact Economic Impact which is one of the categories under the ARP Act.

3.) American Rescue Plan ~ Econ Impact - Small Business Program increase of \$500,000. This is for Public Health/Negative Impact Small Business Program which was passed earlier in the year and the funds of \$500,000 are included in these appropriations.

4.) American Rescue Plan ~ Government Service - Muni Court increase of \$90,000 This matter was requested by Judge Bennett to complete his computerization of court proceedings. This money would be appropriated under the Revenue Replacement Category Government Services~Muni Court which will be a new department that is being created and that will be an appropriation change of \$90,000.

5.) American Rescue Plan ~ Government Service - Fire Dept. increase of \$1,050,000 This is for the SCBA units which were just discussed. And Council passed an ordinance in May 2021 authorizing to purchase a Fire Truck which was already in the process of built. At that time it was stated that we would determine what fund the monies would come from. Now we have to encumber the money because we're going to take ownership of the truck in a month. Mr. Pileski is recommending that those funds be taken out of revenue replacement General Services ~ Fire, so the cost for both is \$500,000 for the SCBA's and \$550,000 for the truck, so that is where we get that total of \$1,050,000.

6.) American Rescue Plan ~ Government Service - Sanitation Dept. increase of \$532,000. This matter was also just discussed, it for the [2] two rear-loading garbage trucks. Mr. Pileski said that Council authorized his department to borrow \$330,000 [a short-term note] to order a side-loader garbage truck which will be arriving by the end of the year. That one will be re-paid out of the Sanitation Fund over a five-year period. They ordered a 2nd side-loader and they chose to take that out of the Issue 6 Fund because the Sanitation Fund is still struggling. Those both have been ordered. Mr. Pileski is recommending that these next two be taken from a new department that needs to be created. It will be Revenue Replacement Category under General Service for the Sanitation Department and appropriate \$532,000 for the purchase of these two Rear-loaders from the ARP monies. With these 3 additions to the Revenue Replacement Government Services still leaves us with \$3.9 million in that category, which is not yet appropriated. The amount which was calculated for revenue replacement was about \$5.5 million.

7.) WWPC ~ Capital Outlay - increase of \$280,400 This is to add \$280,000 to the WWPC Capital Outlay. We currently lease some vector trucks and the final payment is a balloon payment which is made by the vendor, however, we still have to flow it thru our books so it shows up as a donation and expenditure and he eliminates the liability by eliminating the expenditure, it doesn't involve cash, but it still has to be appropriated. **Mr. Baird moved and Mrs. Davis seconded to recommend an ordinance to authorize the 'said' appropriation changes.**

MOTION MADE

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Mrs. Davis moved and second by Mr. Tollett to adjourn this evening's Finance Meeting at 6:50 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Rosado, Council Clerk Secretary

(Committee Meeting was attended by Secretary Rosado ~ Meeting Minutes were transcribed by Secretary Rosado)