

**MINUTES
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

APRIL 3, 2018

Jean Soine called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Other members present were Len Gilmore, Elliot LaBeau, Belinda Ludwig, Finance Specialist; and Renee Eckerly, City Administrator. Also present were Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Tom Fread, Police Officer; and Paul Wegner, Police Chief.

There were no minutes available for approval.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – TRUCK WITH SNOW PLOW AND DUMP BOX

Mergen reported on a 2008 Ford F350 Super Cab from Wisconsin at Yarmon Ford. A used one-owner vehicle (government entity) with 69,880 miles. The truck is valued at \$21,900.00; and plow at \$7,399.00 (installed) for a total of \$29,399.00.

Mergen reviewed others trucks and there costs. A new truck is \$41,444.00 plus a plow and dump box at \$20,000.00. The state bid has been checked. Funds would come from capital improvement from the street, water, and sewer departments. The dealer will fix door dings and the driver's seat. There is no warranty and the vehicle will need new tires. The Committee discussed poly versus a steel plow.

Motion was made by LaBeau to purchase the 2008 Ford F350 Super Cab from Yarmon Ford with plow totaling \$29,399.00 with funds to come from street, park, water, and sewer capital improvement and recommend such to the City Council.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – K-9 DOG

Fread has been researching to add a K-9 to the department as an additional tool and gave a brief presentation. The K-9 would be a narcotic drug dog. The K-9 could also track a lost child or suicidal person, provide officer safety, and criminal apprehension. 97% of the dogs work is done with its nose and 3% is done with its mouth.

Police calls were reviewed where the K-9 could have been used. Some of the calls a K-9 was used, but there was a time delay due to travel time. The most expensive part of a K-9 is the squad. The squad is taken home by the police handler. The K-9 goes on vacation with the handler and the squad would be labeled K-9. Performance Kennel is where the dog would be purchased from. The dog also comes with a warranty. There is a 4 week training course for drugs starting in February 2019 in Buffalo, MN and a 10 week patrol dog course that begins in late March. Each night the K-9 will be worked at least 1 hour during the shift. There is a one day annual certification event in Fargo, ND. The K-9 handler has to maintain a training log.

Vet Care – the Kimball Clinic is cheaper than Paynesville and they provide a discount for service dogs. 24 hour immediate care by CentraCare ambulance (Tom works for) and the dog would be transferred by ambulance to the U of M for medical attention for free.

Grant possibilities include Paynesville Community Foundation, National Police Dog Foundation, Aftermath, and CenterPoint Energy. Fread is also researching other grant opportunities. Other fundraising opportunities may include Kwik Trip, spaghetti dinner, fishing tournament, and Go Fund Me account.

The startup budget would be \$88,443.81 with the biggest cost being the squad car at \$54,000.00. There is a 15% buffer built in for inflation. Yearly operating costs are \$11,150.22 (first year) and \$9,655.22 (years 2 – 9). The department would budget \$3,000.00 per year for a replacement at 10 years. There would be no increase in insurance premium from the League of Minnesota Cities.

The K-9 and squad are not budgeted items. Fread would not be available for 14 weeks due to dog training. Animal insurance at Ark Agency is only if the dog is stolen or lost. There would also be costs associated with Fread attending training.

Time Line:

- To Council on April 19, 2018, if approved, start fundraising. Fread is to figure out how to raise the money for the startup costs and maintenance of the program.
- The dog comes from Eastern Europe and would arrive in January of 2019.
- Start training in February of 2019
- Dog fully trained and working June of 2019

The Committee asked Fread how much money he thought he could raise. Fread said \$45,000.00. Fread will also try to raise the operating costs of \$11,000.00 each year. Wegner wants all costs covered by donations. There is no standardized kennel for outside living for the dog.

Once the dog is retired (after about 9 years) the handler could retain the dog or put it up for adoption. This would make a 9-10 year commitment for Fread and the dog to stay in Paynesville. Stearns County has 2 drug dogs and 2 blood hounds for tracking. Cold Spring just got a drug dog, Sauk Centre has a drug dog, and Avon is looking at getting a dog.

The Police Department can't get the DEA down here to work on drug issues in the community. Forfeiture money can also assist with K-9 costs. The Committee suggested that Wine Club conduct a fundraiser. The Committee asked about use of the dog at the school, that the school pays for right now. The Committee asked if Fread has talked to other agencies about pros and cons. Solved cases have gone up.

The Committee discussed whether this is a good idea or not. No purchase will be made until at least 50% of the money is raised. The project could move forward if Fread can raise 50% and the community has interest in the project (similar to the splash pad). The image of the town by having a K-9 was discussed. The dog is a tool to assist with the drug issue in Paynesville. It was stated that businesses are not going to donate if the City is not going to support it.

Motion was made by Ludwig to approve startup costs with Fread raising a minimum of \$45,000.00 and the \$10,000.00 operating costs each year and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Gilmore and passed 4:1 (Gilmore, yes; Soine, yes; Ludwig, yes; Eckerly, yes; and LaBeau, no).

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Eckerly reported that Fire Chief, Andy Soine submitted a list of equipment that is in need of replacement:

- All air bottles (they expire) and packs - replaced in the next 4 years \$90,000.00
- 1987 Pumper Truck – unit 12 – replaced in the next 5-10 years \$250,000.00
- Pagers – 5 per year at \$500.00 each \$2,500.00 per year
- Polaris Ranger with tracks and trailer \$20,000.00
- Jaws of Life \$25,000.00
- Responder app \$800.00 per year

Eckerly will obtain additional information from the fire chief on the list of needed equipment.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.