

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE

Budget & Finance

Tuesday, June 30, 2010 – 12:00 p.m.

1st Fl. Council Conference Room

Continued from June 22, 2010

Present: Chair, Steven Curcuru; Vice Chair, Paul McGeary; Councilor Jacqueline Hardy

Absent: None

Also Present: Councilor Greg Verga; Jim Duggan; Kenny Costa; Jim Duggan; Jeff Towne; Fire Chief Dench

The Budget & Finance Committee reconvened to continue their June 17, 2010 meeting at 12:03 p.m.

11. Other Business

Mr. Towne explained in the FY10 budget the Mayor had \$45,000.00 for the Public Safety Audit recommendations implementation awaiting the recommendations of the Chiefs. This transfer is to purchase radios for the Fire Department as recommended by the Public Safety Audit (Recommendation 8.6). These funds were “parked” in this account for Public Safety Audit Implementation (Dept. 900/Council Reserve Account). This was a specific recommendation that all departmental employees have hand-held radios, and this is a continuation of the audit recommendations and this exhausts the 45,000.00.

Councilor Hardy asked if this was to replace fire equipment

Mr. Towne responded it was for portable radios.

Mr. Duggan stated this goes back to Chief McKay and then Deputy Chief Dench of what the union’s priority were on particular issues. They discussed a new influx of new radios of 30-40 over two or three years and were supported within the audit. The Chief, recognizing the money was left, and prioritized it.

Councilor Curcuru asked why it took to the last day of the fiscal year.

Mr. Duggan stated it was working through the budget process.

Mr. Towne added they took care of a lot of non-cost items.

Chief Dench stated when he looked at his budget he never saw that money. So it did get pushed aside.

Mr. Towne brought it up to him. He thought it was carry-over money.

Councilor Hardy stated then the discussion was for 30-40 hand-held radios. How many would this make.

Chief Dench stated 31.

Councilor Hardy asked if this would be an annual purchase.

Mr. Duggan stated there is a life-expectancy to the radios.

Chief Dench stated some five for those firefighters based at the central station; some ten years for those used in the outlying stations. The ultimate goal is to have one radio assigned to each firefighter. When people come in for multiple alarm fires, for example in the case of the Lorraine fire, they had 30 men who came in who had no radios going into burning building without the ability to communicate.

Mr. Duggan stated the goal is to be on one frequency for all emergency services (Police, Fire, and Coast Guard). They don’t have that ability with the Coast Guard. Upgrading all this equipment to the new portables and new bands gives them that ability in the future.

Councilor Curcuru stated they put money aside for the recommendations for the audit.

Mr. Duggan stated it wasn’t specific adding that he meets with the Chiefs every month and some issues won’t be addressed because they’re out of reach financially.

Councilor Curcuru asked if they are pulling the audit apart and attacking some of these audit issues.

Mr. Duggan stated anything that is procedural, operational, they can tackle. As they have to invest hard money, they’ll go down that road.

Councilor Curcuru stated he didn’t want to waste the audit.

Mr. Duggan reminded the Committee they invested in two vehicles as well. They will continue to invest.

Chief Dench stated as they go forward they'll submit capital investments; there are four deputy chiefs working on each area of their expertise and working them out to implement them; updating manuals, personnel issues, training issues, equipment issues. There are many things that have to be negotiated with the union. He's hopeful they'll be able to bring those forward in a positive way with the union.

Councilor McGeary asked if they can communicate with these radios to the radios used by the police.

Chief Dench stated these radios are capable but that is not available to them just yet.

Councilor Hardy stated for the record that since this is not a salary issue with the Fire Department she would be voting on this transfer motion. She agreed with Chief Dench that these critical pieces of safety equipment should be looked at every year.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor McGeary, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the transfer (10-SBT-57) \$22,500.00 from Gen Fd-Sal/Wages Perm Positions, Unifund Account #101000.10.900.51100.0000.00.000.00.051 to Fire Dept., Replace Fire Equipment, Unifund Account #101000.10.220.58780.0000.00.000.00.058 specifically for the purchase of radios recommended in the Public Safety Audit (Recommendation 8.6).

Mr. Towne explained this transfer is to correct two previously voted on motions by the City Council (10-SBT-43 and 10-SBT-47) that had incorrect accounts used and by this one transfer will correct both problems as related to the Snow and Ice deficit. This is a one time transfer making a correcting entry. He and Mr. Costa agreed that this was the most efficient way of handling the error.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor McGeary, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the transfer (10-SBT-58) \$88,236.93 from DPW Snow/Ice Removal, OT Snow & Ice, Unifund Account #101000.10.423.51310.0000.00.000.00.051 to DPW Snow/Ice Removal, Snow/Ice-Contract, Unifund Account #101000.10.423.52970.0000.00.000.00.052.

Mr. Towne reported that they exceeded their beach revenues for the year. For the spring season in total they broke their previous record. The tax title monies have come in. The revenues look really good this year. Last year property tax revenue was \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00 less. They'll have a \$600,000.00 swing the other way. That will drop to the bottom line. Expenditures are below budget. It is a good sign they're going in the right direction.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the June 30, 2010 meeting (which had been continued from June 17, 2010 to June 22, 2010) at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees**