



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

POLICE DEPARTMENT **BUDGET REPORT**

Thursday, May 2, 2019

Present: Councilor Auchincloss (Acting Chair), Markiewicz, Downs, Cote, Lipof, Noel and Grossman

Absent: Councilor Ciccone (Chair)

Also Present: Councilor Schwartz

City Staff: Acting Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department; Chief David MacDonald and Lt. George McMains, Newton Police Department; Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer and Ryan Gauthier, Financial Analyst

Referred to Finance and Appropriate Committees

#542-18(2)

Submittal of the FY 2020 Municipal/School Operating Budget

HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY20 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$430,284,381 passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY20-FY24 Capital Improvement Program (#542-18 & 542-18(2)).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 04/16/19; LAST DATE TO PASS THE BUDGET 05/31/19

Referred to Finance and Appropriate Committees

#542-18

Submittal of the FY 2020 to FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan

HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the Fiscal Years 2020 to 2024 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter.

Referred to Finance and Appropriate Committees

#542-18(3)

Submittal of the FY 2020 – FY 2024 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan

HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2020 – FY 2024 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan.

Action:

Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0, STRAW VOTE.

Note: Chief MacDonald and Lt. McMains joined the Committee for discussion on these items and discussed their FY20 Budget Summary and opening remarks.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL & STAFFING:

The Police Department is broken into the following eight sub-divisions:

1. Patrol Bureau
2. Detective Bureau
3. Traffic Bureau
4. Community Services
5. Information Technology
6. Dispatch Center/Communications
7. Support Services
8. Special Operations

The Police Department employs 192 full time employees and 54 part time employees.

Chief MacDonald stated that Lt. McMains, Internal Affairs Officer will become the Executive Officer before summer ends. He then stated that two motorcycle officers for the night shift have been trained and two more officers are lined up to go to school. Two officers have received the drug recognition expert training. Two swat officers have been added to the North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) team and this number will be capped at two. Marked traffic cruisers will now carry rifles in locked trunks in their trunks.

The department hopes to be reaccredited in two years.

Chief MacDonald provided Police statistics for 2017 and 2018. Since 2010, Crime statistics have decreased and have leveled off since 2015.

| | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Calls for service | 53,498 | 32,734 |
| Directed patrols | 35,820 | 19,536 |
| Arrests | 299 | 272 |
| Citations written | 14,421 | 12,805 |
| Vehicle crashes | not provided | 1,429 |

POLICE DEPARTMENT FY19 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chief MacDonald explained in detail the Police Department accomplishments.

1. Patrol, Community Relations and Police Service Delivery – In 2018, the department responded to or initiated 53,379 calls for service. In addition, 19,536 directed patrols in crime prevention and traffic. In February, the department modified the nine-car plan to more efficient services as one of the Patrol Divisions vehicle was too large and response times were longer than desired. The department instituted “Saturation Patrols,” when staffing allows,

groups of officers have been assigned to various locations, mostly village centers, to enforce traffic regulations and to increase enforcement of vehicles not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks. At the end of December, in combination with the Traffic and the Crime Analysis Units, the department began a renewed focus on high accident locations. Officers are being assigned to high accident locations to see if proactive traffic enforcement can reduce accidents and modify the behaviors of motorists, or whether the department should look at these locations as having design flaws, and work with Engineering on solutions.

2. Traffic Bureau – During the year, the department purchased two new speed monitoring message board trailers, increasing the fleet to five trailers. These trailers are used for speed enforcement and traffic data collection and analysis as well as for community notifications on a variety of issues, including special event notifications. The use of the data collection and analysis function assisted in better deployment and enforcement decisions including those related to speed complaint streets.

3. Dispatch/Communications - In December, Text to 911 had a soft roll out with no issues. Along with the rollout, a new standard operating procedure for the handling of Text to 911 was written. Applications for the State 911 training grant for 2018-2019 as well as the State 911 support and incentive grant were completed. During 2018, the department logged 53,379 entries into the computer aided dispatch (CAD) system. Of those calls, 14,067 were directed patrols. The department has begun writing a training manual for new hires. This will be the first one and a goal is to add consistency to the field training process. The department did not reach 10% quality assurance review of dispatch calls which has been a longtime goal.

4. Detective Bureau - The Detective Bureau as well as representatives from the Patrol Bureau and South Metro Drug Task Force (SMDTF) conducted three hotel stings in unison with the FBI task force for the purpose of infiltrating underage prostitution rings. No underage prostitutes were discovered but several arrests and interventions occurred which led to convictions and open investigations within the FBI.

5. Special Operation, safer buildings and streets – Instructors were trained in active shooter hostile event response (ASHER). The department held training sessions with the police officers, firefighters, and Cataldo Ambulance. The training consisted of classroom and then walk-through scenarios at the former Aquinas Jr. College. The department also conducted four days of extensive drills and exercises with the Fire Department and Cataldo Ambulance at Newton South High School. Participants included 52 police officers, 112 firefighters, 38 student officers, 5 Cataldo personnel, 2 members of the City Solicitors office, 3 from Newton Wellesley Hospital, 3 from Lasell College, 5 from Newton Public Schools, 3 firefighters from Wellesley, 2 police officers from Wellesley, a reporter and camera person from Fox 25 News. Total participation was 237 personnel. In-Service classes included firearms qualification, CPR, First Aid, ASHER, defensive tactics, domestic violence, sexual assault, legal update, procedural justice, stress (stigma and survival), violent extremism, integrating communications, assessment and tactics, police interactions with persons with mental illnesses. Overall, officers attended 82 training

classes/sessions as well as 40 hours of in-service training. There were 263 police officers in the training. Drills included 12 active drills, 7 school lockdown drills, and 22 safety assessments.

6. Information Technology – A new dispatch voice recorder was installed, and all of the older calls were imported. The building control computer was rebuilt and put on a server for nightly backup. The QED software was upgraded to a new server. New cruiser computers were installed with internet access. The department purchased a new attendance application. This program has been installed with daily backups. The data is being entered, including all employees and their schedule. Chief MacDonald stated that he is confident that once the Superiors contract is settled, this program will be helpful to every bureau and commander of the department. The department ordered new portable radios. These radios have been programmed and include the surrounding cities police frequencies so that all will be able to not only receive but talk.

7. Support Services – All department general orders and standard operating procedures were reviewed and revised to conform to accreditation standards, Massachusetts General Laws, City Ordinances and department policy. The Accreditation Team continued to improve the department's use of the Power DMS system. All department personnel needing access to the system were trained or updated in its use and given the proper access. Twice this year, the Support Services Bureau participated in the Drug Enforcement Administration drug-take-back day at headquarters. Approximately 783 pounds of prescription medications were turned in. The department partnered with Wegman's and Walgreen's to provide two additional sites to dispose of prescription medications. Medications collected were sent to the State Police facility for destruction. The property and evidence working group met to provide training on the handling of Fentanyl evidence. The group consists of Middlesex County Police Departments, Middlesex District Attorney's office and the State Police lab. During this fiscal year, the Support Services Bureau was audited on three separate occasions. There was a semi-annual audit, an unannounced audit and an annual audit. All audits were successfully completed. The Support Services Bureau continued its audit of the property and evidence section of the bureau. The staff properly disposed of 435 items of property or evidence. During the past year, the State Inspectors came to headquarters and inspected both the juvenile and adult cells. All problems found by inspectors were addressed and corrected and all passed inspection. During the past year, Captain Berube worked with Chief MacDonald on an office reorganization plan. The project was completed in July of 2018 and consisted of moving the Detective Bureau to the Police Annex. In turn, the Traffic Bureau went to headquarters. This project resulted in greater efficiency for the department and greater access to services for the public.

Chief MacDonald stated that the following projects did not come to fruition in FY19. The special operations van has been delayed. Chief MacDonald is confident that it will be built out and operational in the fall. The camera system is also delayed due to the Superiors contract. Headquarters parking lot remains unfenced.

POLICE DEPARTMENT FY20 GOALS

Chief MacDonald explained in detail the Police Department goals.

Outcome 1 - Continue to build relationships with the community. Chief MacDonald stated that he is hopeful the citizens police academy will get off the ground this fall.

Outcome 2 - Hold office hours at City Hall, the departments first sub-station. Chief MacDonald stated that there has been a longtime desire to have a sub-station in the south side of the City. The sub-station will be open to residents twice per week and one evening per week which will be staffed by police personnel. He is hopeful this office will open soon.

Outcome 3 - Expand training to create better trained officers who can react professionally and efficiently. This is necessary to continue to better train officers in racial, traffic and health issues. The department training is funded through the City and through the \$2.00 per vehicle rental surcharge imposed on vehicle renters. It is critically important to have one drug recognition expert in the City to be trained.

Outcome 4 - Reduce traffic crashes throughout the city.

Outcome 5 - Improve the quality of life for victims of sexual servitude/human trafficking. Officers visit each hotel, once per year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following are significant line item changes to expenses in the budget.

Police Administrative Support - \$5,855. decrease.

Police Building Maintenance - \$3,050. increase.

Police Vehicle Maintenance - \$6,983. decrease.

Police Support Services - \$23,731. increase.

Special Operations - \$3,500. Increase.

CIP

Chief MacDonald stated that the CIP includes the following project for FY20:

Priority #64 Police Building - Programmatic upgrades at Police Headquarters \$40,000.

GRANT, GIFT & REVOLVING FUNDS

Chief MacDonald touched on the grants, gifts and revolving funds. He stated that in FY20 he has requested the following:

1. Sale of Surplus Police Equipment Revolving Grant \$35,000. This account was created to sell surplus vehicles and purchase weapons.
2. Cops & Kids Program Gifts \$2,000. This grant provides gift cards to the volunteers of the children.
3. State Municipal Police Staffing Grant \$35,000. This grant assists in off setting the overtime account.
4. State SETB Dispatch Grant \$20,000. This grant allows covering overtime expenses of special events.
5. State E-911 Dispatch Grant \$200,000. This grant funds civilian coordinators training for 16 hours per week.
6. State Pedestrian Safety Grant \$20,000. This grant allows the department to conduct crosswalk stings.
7. State Traffic Safety Grant \$20,000. Click-it or ticket grant. This traffic safety grant assists with pedestrian, bike safety and crosswalk walk stings.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS and ANSWERS:

- What are the union issues affecting implementation of some projects? Chief MacDonald answered that while in negotiations with collective bargaining, issues arise having potential to affect the project.
- Please provide an example of the Restorative Justice? Chief MacDonald answered that three years ago, the department became members of the communities of Restorative Justice when the criminal Justice Bill was signed into law by Governor Baker. The Restorative Justice became a viable option which was codified into Law. Chief MacDonald stated that this allows another tool in the traditional court system. The City has not had as many cases stored into Restorative Justice as he would have liked. He then stated that he is surprised with a City this size that not many cases have been stored. There have been only three to four cases. However, he would like this to become part of the culture making people aware that it is a viable tool. A Police Sgt. has taken on the screening of reports, making recommendations and gives the case to the case officers.

- Is the Restorative Justice program similar to the diversion program? Chief MacDonald answered yes, this is for any person, not just juveniles and is not necessary for first time offenders. The victim and perpetrator/s need to be agreeable to have the dispute settled by the Restorative Justice process.
- Has the department seen an increase in elder abuse, issues with elders living alone or has the department seen a change in the compensation of issues? Chief MacDonald answered no; he checks in with Community Services Elder Affair Office who has informed him that the number of cases has been consistent for the past several years.
- How many social workers does the department employ? Chief MacDonald answered one-full time social worker who has been a tremendous benefit to the department. The social worker is able to provide quick evaluations and directives to necessary resources.
- Please provide statistics on the opioid epidemic? Chief MacDonald stated that the department now see fentanyl cases, not heroin. He then provided the following data on the number of overdoses and deaths in the City.

| | <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Overdoses | | 51 | 54 | 48 | data not available |
| Deaths | 17 | 4 | 1 | 1 | data not available |

- The past several budget discussions, this Committee discussed adding taser guns to the department force. Has has the department considered the use of taser guns? Chief MacDonald answered that former Chief Mintz completed a taser gun study. Chief MacDonald has discussed the use of tasers guns with the Executive Department and has requested information from the taser gun company. Citizen and police safety are necessary. Perhaps the use of taser guns may come to fruition.
- What is the cost of a speed message trailer and does the department desire more than five? Chief MacDonald answered \$18,000.00. Storing trailers is difficult, a larger storage space is necessary.
- Why have the electrical charges decreased approximately \$2,000.00 at headquarters? Chief Financial Officer Lemieux answered that the solar panel installations around the City has helped decrease electricity costs.
- What is the number of parking control officers and are they fully staffed? Chief MacDonald answered that the number of parking control officers is correct at ten.
- Do you anticipate the number of personnel changing due to the number of increasing rental units? Councilor Lipof stated that every two years he, Councilor Ciccone, police officers and the Executive Department review the number of staffing and department needs.

- Please explain the vacancy report on crossing guards, what is the proper number of crossing guards and how is the appropriate location determined? Chief MacDonald answered that the safety officer and Regina Moody, School Transportation Director annually review cross guard locations. They discuss and determine if a location is no longer required or if a location should be added. The analysis changes as neighborhoods change. There are not enough crossing guards, 44 at this time. It is a challenge to maintain crossing guards. The parking control officers are also crossing guards. The department is brainstorming with the Human Resources Department on how to recruit crossing guards. Some benefits have been removed making the incentive for the crossing guard to leave too. Chief Financial Officer Lemieux added that there are 52 funded crossing guard positions. Chief MacDonald and Chief Financial Officer stated that the Police Department is open to suggestions on how to recruit and maintain crossing guards. Chief MacDonald stated that if each school has one staff, parent volunteer or PTO member cover the post closest to the main door this issue would be covered.
- How is the analysis conducted? Chief MacDonald and Chief Financial Officer Lemieux did not have this information available.
- What are crossing guard benefits and salary? Chief Financial Officer Lemieux answered that decades ago the crossing guard were receiving health benefits, this is no longer the case. There are 3 crossing guards who were grandfathered in and receive health benefits. The way the contract is written crossing guard salaries vary according the number of years served. For example, 1 to 5 years, 5-10 years and 10 plus years; their salary varies. When the contract is negotiated and a crossing guard only calls in sick 3 times per year, they receive a year end 'bonus' in order for the Police Department to leave their officers on the road and not act as crossing guards.
- How are blue zones enforced? Chief MacDonald stated that the officer tries to find the vehicle owner, if not the vehicle is towed. Blue zone is a larger problem, people behavior has to change and some do not react to authority. The department receives little support from the schools.
- A suggestion was made to perhaps increase the number of parking control officers who may help with crossing guard locations.
- When the new marijuana facilities open will they be monitored and patrolled since the City is requiring some facilities to have police details for traffic? Is there an idea on the amount of extra work this requires and does the department need additional resources? Chief MacDonald answered that Garden Remedies will need 3 patrol officers to control parking, etc. since a parking lot is not available on site. The Cypress Tree facility will require patrol since they are very close to Route 9. He then stated that he is initially concerned until adjustments are made and other facilities open. Chief MacDonald then suggested the City Council also review traffic and parking when reviewing permits.

Committee members stated that seeing department Twitter messages, officers on the road and the Kids Cadet Program are all fabulous.

Committee members commended and thanked Chief MacDonald and Lt. McMains for their continued excellence. They then thanked the Police Department for their excellent continued work.

Councilor Downs moved approval on a straw vote to accept the Police Department Budget, CIP and grants totaling \$22,804,753, a 1.75% increase over FY18 budget. Committee members agreed 7-0.

At approximately 9:25pm, Councilor Lipof made a motion to adjourn. Council members agreed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob D. Auchincloss, Acting Chair