



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Thursday, May 2, 2019

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

Absent: Councilor Ciccone (Chair)

City Staff: Acting Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department and Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#151-19 Appropriation of \$300,000 for FY19 overtime expenditures in the Fire Department
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of funding Fiscal Year 2019 overtime expenditure in the Fire Department.

Action: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0

Note: Acting Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department and Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Acting Chief Lucchetti stated the department had a \$925,000 budget. This appropriation is due to the challenges with the personnel. There are seven long-term injured firefighters and two firefighters have been out for almost two years on injury. Four positions have just been filled. Eight fire fighters will be retiring this year at the mandatory retirement age of 65 years old. The department may be down a total of thirteen fire fighters in the next year, immensely affecting the overtime account. It is necessary to fill these positions but there is a lot of formality and routine required making it difficult to address the overtime budget. Getting slots in the training academies is the departments biggest challenge.

Committee members comments and questions:

It was stated that Newton is fortunate to fund the overtime account. There are some cities that 'close' because funding is not available. Acting Chief Lucchetti stated that he is very fortunate receiving support from the Executive Department and the City Council.

Do the personnel challenges in the next year or so affect or threaten the class 1 rating? Acting Chief Lucchetti answered no; because minimum manning standards are necessary making the overtime account accelerate. Although the department is down fourteen fire fighters these positions are always filled using overtime money due the manning requirement.

Without further discussion, Councilor Grossman made a motion to approve the Fire Department overtime account appropriation. Committee members agreed 7-0.

At approximately 9:25 p.m., Councilor Lipof made a motion to adjourn. Committee members agreed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob D. Auchincloss, Acting Chair



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

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April 8, 2019

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of \$300,000 from June 30, 2018 Certified Free Cash to Acct # 0121001-513001 for the purpose of funding FY2019 overtime expenditures in the Fire Department.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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Newton City Clerk
2019 APR - 8 PM 4: 15
David A. Olson, CND
Newton, MA 02459