



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

FIRE DEPARTMENT **BUDGET REPORT**

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Cote, Downs, Noel, Grossman, Lipof, Auchincloss and Markiewicz

Also Present: Councilors Lappin and Krintzman

City Staff: Chief Bruce Proia, Assistant Chief Gino Lucchetti and Alex Chadis, Director of Technical Services, Newton Fire Department; Chief David MacDonald, Lt. John Daly, Executive Officer and Lisa Pearson, Executive Secretary, Newton Police Department; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer and Ryan Gauthier, Junior Financial Analyst

Referred To Finance and Appropriate Committees

- #250-18** **Submittal of the FY 201 Municipal/School Operating Budget**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY19 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$412,513,389 passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY19-FY23 Capital Improvement Program (#63-18).
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 04/17/18; LAST DATE TO PASS THE BUDGET 06/01/18

Referred to Finance and Appropriate Committees

- #63-18** **Submittal of the FY 2019 to FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the Fiscal Years 2019 to 2023 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter.
(Submitted 10/16/17)

Referred To Finance and Appropriate Committees

- #251-18** **Submittal of the FY 2019 – FY 2023 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2019 – FY 2023 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan.

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0, STRAW VOTE**

Note: Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti joined the Committee for discussion on these items and discussed their FY19 Budget Summary and opening remarks.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL & STAFFING:

The Fire Department personnel is broken into the following six sub-divisions:

1. Emergency Management
2. Fire Suppression
3. Fire Prevention
4. Emergency Medical Services
5. Technical Rescue
6. Communications Division

The Fire Department employs 199 full time employees and zero part time employees including 190 Firefighters.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FY18 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti explained in detail the Fire Department accomplishments.

1. Effective Communications Infrastructure - Converted Fire and Police Departments to a simulcast system. In the process of replacing all Police and Fire radio equipment and use fiber as the pathway. In the process of battery backups at all Police and Fire radio sites and upgrading and replacing station alerting systems. The department upgraded the fire alarm digitizer equipment used for municipal fire alarm systems.

2. Maintain a Class 1 Fire Department rating - Personnel and Apparatus – Added an additional eight firefighters to the force for Rescue 1. Placed in service a second floor to the training facility. Purchased a new engine to replace 2004 pumper truck in order to keep apparatus in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Trained and placed in service a new pumper truck (E-3). In the process of implementing training hours, tracking software and replacing approximately 100 of the self-contained breathing apparatus bottles that have reached shelf life per NFPA standards. The NFPA allows for a twelve-year life expectancy. In the process of replacing bunker gear to meet NFPA standards. Researching the process of certifying more personnel as Tech Rescue technicians and continue with Tech Rescue training.

3. Fire Prevention – Increased use of technology in fire prevention and professionalism. Certified all fire prevention officers to become a Fire inspector 1 or 2 and to fire/arson investigators. There are three basic and one advanced fire prevention officers. The increase collection, availability and use of electronic data and upgrading technical capacity for tracking inspections and working with the Inspectional Services Department to develop a consolidated

database are on hold at this time.

4. Fire Suppression and Training - Improved training capabilities. Expansion of the fiber optic range tester infrastructure and is in the process of additional standard operating procedures for tech rescue and support roles.

5. Wires Division – Improved municipal fire alarm system. Replaced fire alarm cable at Centre, Mill and Sargent Streets. The department is in the process of replacing pedestal boxes used from inventory, replacing fire alarm terminal cabinets in the three main cable run and replacing overhead pole cables in several locations. The department will continue with refurbishing and painting the fireboxes throughout the city.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FY19 GOALS

Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti explained in detail the Fire Department goals.

1. Effective Communications Infrastructure – Convert Fire and Police Departments to a simulcast system.
2. Maintain a Class 1 Fire Department – Personnel and Apparatus, training and equipment and tech rescue.
3. Fire Prevention – Increase use of technology in Fire prevention and professionalism.
4. Fire Suppression and Training – Improve training capabilities.
5. Wires Division – Improve municipal fire alarm systems.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Chief Proia stated that there are not many changes or additions to this years' budget. Over the past seven years, additions have been added to the budget. Chief Proia does not see a need to increase or add accounts to the budget. The department has closed out fifty-eight accounts due to the \$1,000 purchase minimum, which was too high and therefore combined with other accounts.

Two areas of the budget were increased. A line item was created to replace Firefighter gear. The National Fire Prevention and Control Administration (NFPCA) standard for gear is ten years due to carcinogens and decontaminants. A second set of gear is necessary for each Firefighter. The department will replace each set of gear and provide a second set. The department is in the process of outfitting each station with extractors and dryers to wash and dry gear. This line item was increased by \$10,000.

A second line item was created for the Emergency Operations Center for repairs and maintenance in order to fund service contracts.

The overtime account has increased from \$879,000 to the sum of \$1,070,000.

The education (Quinn Bill) account has increased from \$1,200,000 to \$1,400,000.

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

Fire Administration - \$7,141. increase.

Fire Rescue - \$9,185. Increase.

Fire Alarm Services - \$8, 831. decrease.

Fire Station Maintenance - \$7,941. decrease.

Fire Communications - \$16,160 increase.

Fire Training - \$21,331. increase.

Fire Emergency Operations Center - \$15,328 increase.

CIP

Chief Proia stated the CIP includes the following projects for FY19:

Priority #1 Fire Station #2 – Renovate/Replace \$20,500,000.

Priority #11 Emergency Communications – Radio System Infrastructure \$500,000.

Priority #29 Large vehicle/equipment – Replace Fire Department aerial ladder #2 at \$1,200,000.

GRANTS, GIFTS AND REVOLVING FUNDS

Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti touched on a few grants, gifts and revolving funds that have been requested for FY19:

1. Sale of Surplus Fire Equipment Revolving \$100,000. This account was created to sell surplus vehicles. The department will sell ladder #2 when the new ladder truck is received this fall.

2. Newton Wellesley Hospital MDU Trailer Gift \$2,000. This is an annual grant to update and maintain the equipment for the decontamination tent.

3. Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant \$500,000. Chief Proia stated that this year, the department would not receive this grant.
4. Federal Homeland Security Emergency Operating Center Grant \$25,000. This is an annual grant; it is received to buy equipment and furniture for the Emergency Operations Center.
5. Federal Emergency Management Performance Grant \$50,000. Chief Proia stated that this year, the department would not receive this grant.
6. State Regional HAZMAT Response Grant Program \$50,000. This grant covers the overtime of HAZMAT technicians.
7. State MDU Deployment Grant \$5,000. This grant replaces equipment in the decontamination trailer.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS and ANSWERS:

Please explain the difference between a Fire Inspector 1 and Fire Inspector 2. Chief Proia answered that certification is offered by the Firefighters Academy to certify as many Firefighters as either a Fire Inspector 1 or Fire Inspector 2. Fire Inspector 1 is a basic inspector and Fire Inspector 2 is a more advanced certification certifying as inspectors and investigators. He then stated that it is beneficial to Firefighters to go through the fire prevention certification at the academy at no cost. Certifications provide valuable training and assist a Firefighter with their future and promotions.

Did the department temporarily stop working with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) on tracking inspections because the department did not have the proper Munis Software? Assistant Chief Lucchetti stated that the department would begin using the software with Fire prevention making it easier for realtors and builders. This permitting software will benefit the department in reducing the number of work force hours because the information will be available on line. Do you know what company you will work with at Munis Software to be the permitting software part of the permitting option? Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Office answered that the permitting software was placed on hold last year. A permitting software company has not been selected but he is working with Informational Technology and Inspectional Services Departments on reviewing permitting software options.

Do the older traffic signals adapt to the wireless preemptions allowing the intersection to immediately clear for fire apparatus? Chief Proia answered that it depends on the age of the signal box.

When the department orders apparatus, is the narrow width of Newton streets taken into consideration? Chief Proia answered that the apparatus have become bigger due to NFPA standards. If necessary, the apparatus is re-routed. The smaller trucks have a smaller water tank. Assistant Chief Lucchetti answered that the NFPA standards require a certain hose length

and minimum size water tank. The trucks cannot be wider than 10 1/2 feet from mirror to mirror.

How far along is the department in completing the rebuilding of the circuits? Chief Proia answered that rebuilding the circuits is always ongoing. Approximately thirty circuits are rebuilt. Funding is not the obstacle; it is the work force availability.

Have cameras been installed in the second floor training facility? Chief Proia answered no.

Would it be beneficial or cost effective to purchase the three ladder trucks listed in the CIP at the same time? Chief Proia answered that he prefers replacing a truck every other year making the oldest truck 20 years old.

It is impressive to hear that the department is addressing long-term maintenance needs in a systematic way and is focused on education and training.

What are your thoughts on the completed Emergency Operation Center? Chief Proia stated that the new EOC is the best! He is very pleased. Surrounding towns have come to see this new state of the art center.

Committee members commended Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti for their continued excellence. They then thanked the Fire Department for their excellent continued work.

Councilor Auchincloss moved approval on a straw vote to accept the Fire Department Budget, CIP and grants, totaling \$23,321,908, which is a 4.26% increase over FY18 budget. Committee members agreed 8-0.

At approximately 9:50 pm, Councilor Auchincloss made a motion to adjourn. Council members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair