



# **Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report**

## **City of Newton** **In City Council**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT** **BUDGET REPORT**

**Thursday, May 10, 2018**

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

Also Present: Councilor 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 7-0, STRAW VOTE, Councilor Cote not voting.

**Note:** Chief MacDonald and Lt. Daly joined the Committee for discussion on these items and discussed their FY19 Budget Summary and opening remarks.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL & STAFFING:

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

1. Traffic Safety
2. Patrol Bureau
3. Community Services Bureau
4. Crime Services
5. Dispatch Center

The Police Department employs 192 full time employees and 54 part time employees. The department is budgeted for 149 Police Officers. At this time, two Police Officers are attending the academy. It is anticipated that these two Police Officers will graduate the academy in the fall. On May 15, a Police Officer will be sworn in; this Police Officer will bring the complement to 148 Police Officers. Chief MacDonald stated that he desires to ensure enough Police Officers to conduct daily foot patrols. He then stated that he desires a full time employee to focus on grants, two full time Police Officers for the Special Operations Bureau and additional crossing guards. To gain greater efficiency, this weekend, the Traffic Bureau will be moving to Washington Street and the Detective Bureau will be moving to Chestnut Street.

Chief MacDonald provided Police statistics for 2016 and 2017. Since 2010, Crime statistics have decreased and have leveled off since 2015.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Calls for service	48,226	53,498
Directed patrols	35,021	35,820
Arrests	303	299
Citations written	12,757	14,421
Domestic calls	266	308

### POLICE DEPARTMENT FY18 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chief MacDonald explained in detail the Police Department accomplishments.

1. Patrol, Community Relations and Police Service Delivery – Utilized alternatives to traditional law enforcement and referred cases to Restorative Justice.
2. Traffic Bureau – Safer roadways and greater efficiency. Greater detection of impaired drivers and increased enforcement of specialized violations. The department performed a greater

detection of impaired drivers and trained traffic officers as Drug Recognition experts. The department is in the process of streamlining permit application issuance process and implementing online application/payment system for all parking permits and all special event permits. The department increased enforcement of specialized violations.

3. Crime Services – Proactive enforcement initiatives. Secured a grant for alcohol enforcement, human trafficking /prostitution mitigation and researched potential threats to local interests on social media. The department is in the process of utilizing collaboration with patrol on enforcement stings, collaborating with our Investigator on FBI and Tobacco and Firearms on hotel stings and specialized training and daily reviews.

4. Community Services Bureau Outreach – Active recruitment of all demographics, internet, social media awareness and targeted solutions in neighborhoods. In the process of establishing a department recruitment team, proactive recruitment appearances and developing student presentations. The department has completed a community outreach/crime prevention specialist

5. Special Operation, safer buildings and streets – Collaborated with city entities and tactical improvements. The department will continue security threat assessments, active shooter drills and tabletop exercises. Updated firing range. The department will continue to train on firearms and will review the procedure of de-escalate training with decisions.

6. Dispatch utilization of upgraded technologies and programs – New radio system online and increased dispatch communications efficiency. Installed consoles and a radio system. The department is in the process of obtaining 10-20% quality assurance review.

7. Information Technology – Improved technological efficiency, ensure dependable field operations and build safety and security. In the process of replacing cruiser computer laptops, which are at life expectancy and developing accrual account for future replacements. This fiscal year, the department has requested a radio van/mobile operations center. The department went online with a new camera system at headquarters and installed a camera system at 25 Chestnut Street.

8. Support Services – Provide for Increased efficiencies. Complied with the new Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) annual review program for accreditation retention. Assisted in provision of goods and services throughout the department. Implemented online portal for ease of ordering uniforms and a four-wheel drive all- terrain vehicle for special events and lost persons.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT FY19 GOALS

Chief MacDonald explained in detail the Police Department goals.

1. Patrol/Community Relations and Police Service Delivery – Utilize alternatives to traditional law enforcement and increase tactic of enforcement and outreach.
2. Traffic Bureau- Safer roadways, greater efficiency – Greater detection of impaired drivers, streamline permit application and issuance process and increase enforcement of specialized violations.
3. Crime Services – Proactive Enforcement Initiatives – Secure grant for alcohol enforcement, human trafficking and prostitution mitigation and research potential threats to local interest on social media.
4. Community Services – Active recruitment of all demographics, internet and social media awareness and target solutions in neighborhoods.
5. Special Operations – safer buildings and streets. Collaborate with City entities, and tactical improvements.
6. Dispatch – Utilization of upgraded technologies and programs. Get new radio system online and dispatch to increase communications efficiency.
7. Information Technology – Improve technological efficiency. Ensure dependable field operations and building safety and security.
8. Support Services – Provide for increased efficiencies. Comply with the new Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) annual review program for accreditation retention and assist in provision of goods and services throughout the department.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

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

Police Administrative Support - \$4,175. decrease.

Police Building Maintenance - \$5,500 decrease.

Police Vehicle Maintenance - \$14, 450. increase.

CIP

Chief MacDonald stated that the CIP includes the following project for FY19:

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

GRANT, GIFT & REVOLVING FUNDS

Chief MacDonald touched on the grants, gifts and revolving funds. He stated that in FY19 he has requested the following:

1. Sale of Surplus Police Equipment Revolving Grant \$100,000. The amount is unknown at this time. This account was created to sell surplus vehicles and purchase weapons.
2. Cops & Kids Program Gifts \$10,000. This grant funds children camps each year including travel and entertainment.
3. Federal Underage Alcohol Enforcement Grant \$10,000. This grant allows the Police Department to perform establishment 'alcohol stings' on underage drinking.
4. Federal Buffer Zone Protections Grant \$15,000. Chief MacDonald stated that this grant no longer exists.
5. Federal Bullet Proof Vest Reimbursement Grant \$35,000. The amount is unknown at this time. This grant allows the department to purchase vests.
6. State Municipal Police Staffing Grant \$50,000. Chief MacDonald stated that due to time constraints in applying for the grant, the grant would not be received this year. This grant has been decreasing over the years. Funding is issued for special events including the Boston Marathon.
7. State SETB Dispatch Grant \$60,000. This grant allows covering overtime expenses of special events.
8. State Emergency Medical Dispatch Grant \$5,000. This grant allows the dispatchers training at the academy.
9. State E-911 Dispatch Grant \$250,000. This grant funds civilian coordinators.
10. State Pedestrian Safety Grant \$7,500. This grant allows the department to conduct crosswalk stings.
11. State Traffic Safety Grant \$16,000. Click-it or ticket grant.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS and ANSWERS:

A councilor said that Marian Ryan, Middlesex District Attorney began a program on training hairdressers to look for signs of domestic violence. Has the Police Department notified hairdressers of the drop-in center? Chief MacDonald answered that he was unaware of this program but would research this.

How does the number of Newton incidents compare with surrounding towns? Chief MacDonald answered that in 2014, 2015 and 2016 the City had issues on overdose deaths. The Regional Drug Task Force identifies the overdose of opioids. Since 2016, overdose deaths in Newton and surrounding communities have plateaued.

Has the department researched automatic transcription technology for calls into the Dispatch Center? Chief MacDonald answered that the industry standard is not there yet. It is necessary for technology to meet the legal requirements of emergency call centers.

It is critically important to have one Drug Recognition Expert in the City. Does the department desire additional Drug Recognition Experts? Chief MacDonald answered yes; he desires two. It is necessary to have a proper candidate and who is willing to attend classes in Arizona.

At this time, how many OUI drug cases are in the city? Chief MacDonald stated that many OUI drug cases are dismissed from court. Generally speaking, the department cannot make a charge unless drugs are combined with an alcohol OUI. It is very complicated because the Courts do not recognize Police Officers as medical experts.

In your goal of Proactive Enforcement Initiatives to secure a grant for alcohol enforcement, does this grant include drugs? Chief MacDonald answered that annually the department receives an alcohol enforcement grant in collaboration with the Patrol Bureau on alcohol enforcement. This grant is about purchasing alcohol and selling to underage individuals.

Will the department proactively enforce marijuana in retail operations? Chief MacDonald stated that this has not been discussed with staff. The department would not be proactive but would conduct observations.

Do the full-time Police Officers at each high school conduct drug busts? Chief MacDonald answered no; it is not their function. There are two full time School Resource Officers (SRO) at each high school. One SRO covers the middle school. Usually, a staff member calls the SRO alerting them, the incident is followed by written reports. Cases are usually resolved administratively within the school. If students deal on campus, information would be passed onto the Drug Unit. Newton Public Schools prefer that no arrests be made on campus therefore; the student would be arrested at their home. If a student is breaking the law, why can't they be arrested on campus? Chief MacDonald answered that he has not spoken recently with Supt. Fleishman regarding campus arrests. It has been sometime since an arrest was made

on campus. The department prefers that the SRO and Administration search a student and if the incident is not a violent situation a criminal complaint application will be made at the Waltham Juvenile Court.

It is impressive to hear the department is conducting accessible parking, school bus lights and crosswalk violation stings. Is training provided to the Traffic Bureau Police Officers on these types of violations? Chief MacDonald answered yes; specialized training is available to Traffic Bureau Police Officers including pedestrian/bicyclist crash reconstruction courses, crash investigation reconstruction, digital photography, school safety and security.

Please explain the online application process to apply for parking permits. Lt. Daly stated that the City would implement the CHS system next week. There is a user fee issue that remains to be resolved, should the city or the applicant be responsible for paying the user fee? Currently the applicant goes to the Traffic Bureau requesting and receiving their permit. It was asked if permits would be mailed? Lt. Daly answered that it is necessary to address the specifics.

Does the City enforce parking on sidewalks? Lt. Daly answered yes; a call should be made to the Dispatch Center immediately. Chair Ciccone explained that fines for parking on a sidewalk is \$15.00 and the overnight parking fine is \$25.00.

Please explain your response to leaf blowers. Chief MacDonald stated that the department has received over seventy calls this year. To date, one citation was issued. He then stated that he feels this is bad public policy. He was advised that a leaf blower item would be redocketed for discussion after Labor Day, which did not come to fruition. It appears that the complaints received are complaint driven by a small group. Landscape companies have been making adjustments and are using 65-decibel machines. The department is working with the Executive Department on notifying and informing homeowners by distributing flyers.

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

Councilor Lipof moved approval on a straw vote to accept the Police Department Budget, CIP and grants totaling \$22,373,307, a 0.62% increase over FY18 budget. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

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**