



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

POLICE DEPARTMENT **BUDGET REPORT**

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Yates, Cote, Blazar, Norton and Lipof

Absent: Councilors Fuller and Harney

Also Present: Councilors Albright, Lappin, Sangiolo, Crossley and Auchincloss

City Staff: Chief David MacDonald, Executive Officer Lt. John Daly and Executive Administrator Lisa Pearson, Newton Police Department

Referred to Finance and Appropriate Committees

#359-16 **Submittal of the FY 2018 to FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the Fiscal Years 2018 to 2022 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/11/16 @ 11:28 AM]

Referred To Finance and Appropriate Committees

#359-16(2) **Submittal of the FY 2018 Municipal/School Operating Budget**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY18 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$395,313,737 passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY18-FY22 Capital Improvement Program (#359-16). [04/10/17 @ 2:42 PM]
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 04/18/17; LAST DATE TO PASS THE BUDGET 06/02/17

Referred To Finance and Appropriate Committees

#359-16(4) **Submittal of the FY 2018 – FY 2022 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2018 – FY 2022 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan. [04/10/17 @ 2:42 PM]

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation Approved 6-0, STRAW VOTE**

Note: Chief MacDonald and Lt. Daly joined the Committee for discussion on these items and discussed their FY18 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

POLICE DEPARTMENT FY17 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chief MacDonald explained in detail the Police Department accomplishments.

1. Patrol/Community Relations and Police Service Delivery – Increased community outreach and increased Police Bureau collaboration. Implemented a revised ‘park and walk’ program. The Police Department continues to refine timely and proper deployment of the social worker with Community Services Bureau. The deployment of 4th Platoon personnel with detectives on organized retail theft continues on a case-by-case basis. Chief MacDonald stated that he would like to increase the personnel from four to five in the 4th Platoon with detectives to work in the squares.

Park and Walk Statistics

From August 8, 2015 to March 29, 2016 - 98 park and walks were completed.

From August 8, 2016 to March 29, 2017 - 822 park and walks were completed.

The park and walk program continues to work fine and most recently, surveys were conducted to businesses in the City asking if the park and walk programs are beneficial. The result proved that merchants and residents praise the park and walk programs and suggest that they continue.

2. Traffic – Safe Roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Developed and deployed a citywide control plan. The Police Department continues to monitor and assess the Zervas Elementary School parking plan quarterly and the Police Department continues to monitor village parking plans monthly.

3. Crime Services – Accomplished a greater knowledge base and skill set. Participated in specialized investigative training by attending social media and internet based crimes investigative training. The target was to train four officers; two officers have been trained.

4. Crime Services – Reduced underage alcohol use. Increased deployment of undercover officers to conduct underage alcohol enforcement activities.

5. Increased Community Bureau presence in schools and the community. Increased the number of personnel dedicated to Senior Ranking Officer/Youth Officer function. Transferred the Youth Officer from the Detective Bureau to Community Services. Added an additional supervisor (Sgt.) to the bureau to increase visibility and coordination. Increased community awareness of rights regarding domestic violence. The Police Department intends to educate the elders regarding scams directed at their community by holding alert trainings at the Senior Center, JCC and Newton Housing.

6. Dispatch – Increased efficiency of dispatch and communications and quality assurance as it pertains to emergency medical dispatch protocols. A second senior dispatch supervisor was hired.

7. Special Operations – Increased knowledge and approach to security and guidance. Relevant and timely training included active shooter training, tabletop exercises with other city departments, supervisor specific in-service training, security and threat assessment reviews for city and other entities. The Police Department is researching a new vendor to be more cost effective in the uniform distribution system. The Police Department continues their efforts at refining more cost effective vehicle replacement program and a way to enhance fuel efficiency. The Police Department researched and applied for grants and obtained Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) re-accreditation status. Chief MacDonald stated that training is imperative.

8. Information Technology – Improved IT efficiency for service delivery. Provided the best tools for day-to-day operations. Updated dispatch radio communications system. The Police Department is in discussion with the unions to research performance appraisal options and to implement a new performance appraisal system. The Police Department expanded utilization of crime analysis function and developed real time analytics for management metrics. The department also improved access to information systems by mobile users. The Police Department continues to analyze crime analysis directed to specific objective results.

POLICE DEPARTMENT FY18 GOALS

Chief MacDonald and Lt. Daly explained in detail the Police Department goals.

1. Patrol, community relations and police service delivery – Utilize alternatives to traditional law enforcement and refer cases to Restorative Justice.

2. Traffic Bureau – Safer roadways and greater efficiency by streamlining permit applications process and increase enforcement of specialized violations. The department intends to perform a greater detection of impaired drivers and to train traffic officers as Drug Recognition experts. The department intends to streamline permit application issuance process and implement online application/payment system for all parking permits and all special event permits. The department also has a goal to increase enforcement of specialized violations.

3. Crime Services – Proactive enforcement initiatives. Secure grant for alcohol enforcement, human trafficking /prostitution mitigation and research potential threats to local interests on social media. Utilize collaboration with patrol on enforcement stings, collaborate with our Investigator on FBI and Tobacco and Firearms on hotel stings and continue specialized training and daily reviews.

4. Community Services Bureau Outreach – Active recruitment of all demographics, internet and social media awareness and targeted solutions in neighborhoods. Establish Newton Police Department recruitment team, proactive recruitment appearances and develop student presentations and community outreach/crime prevention specialist.

5. Special Operation, safer buildings and streets – Collaborate with city entities and tactical improvements. Continue security threat assessments, active shooter drills and tabletop exercises. Update firing range, continuous firearms training and de-escalate training with decisions.

6. Dispatch utilization of upgraded technologies and programs – Get new radio system online and increase dispatch communications efficiency. Install consoles and radio system. Outsource quality assurance review for emergency medical dispatching. Obtain 10-20% quality assurance review. Chief MacDonald stated that the Fire and Police Departments are communicating on a daily basis to work on bringing the communications apparatus up to date and anticipates the installation of the consoles to begin on May 22, 2017. The last few years, has been difficult for the Police Department to achieve the accepted level of review due to a high turnover rate in the Dispatch Center because of this Chief MacDonald has authorized \$7,000 for consulting fees to complete quality assurance and training in the Dispatch Center.

7. Information Technology – Improve technological efficiency, ensure dependable field operations and build safety and security. Replace cruiser laptops which are at life expectancy, develop accrual account for future replacements, replace radiovan/mobile operations center. Go online with new camera system at headquarters and install a camera system at 25 Chestnut Street.

8. Support Services – Increase efficiencies. Comply with the new Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) annual review program for accreditation retention. To assist in provision of goods and services throughout the department. Ensure understanding and timelines with full time employee addition. Implement online portal for ease of ordering uniforms. Four wheel drive all- terrain vehicles for special events and lost persons.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

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

Police Administrative Support - \$278,214 decrease.

Police Traffic Safety - \$124,725 increase.

Police Patrol Services - \$394,552 increase.

Police Investigations - \$37,885 increase.

Police Community Services - \$153,557 increase.

Police Building Maintenance - \$8,203 increase.

Police Vehicle Maintenance - \$30,173 increase.

Police Information Technology - \$4,879 decrease.

Police Communications - \$25,553 decrease.

Police Support Services - \$19,539 decrease.

Police Special Operations - \$4,696 decrease

Police Recruitment - \$10,025 increase.

Police Private Details - \$18,392 decrease.

CIP

Chief MacDonald stated that he is grateful that the CIP includes the following scheduled project for FY18:

Priority #40 Feasibility Study - Combined Police Facility. Feasibility study to evaluate combining Police Operations into one combined facility \$258,750.

GRANT, GIFT & REVOLVING FUNDS

Chief MacDonald touched on the grants, gifts and revolving funds. He stated that in FY18 he has requested the following:

1. Sale of Surplus Police Equipment Revolving Grant \$57,000. This account was created to sell surplus vehicles and purchase weapons. It is most beneficial to auction the department's SUV's rather than the Ford LTD's due to their resale value.
2. Cops & Kids Program Gifts \$10,000. This grant funds children camps each year.
3. Federal Underage Alcohol Enforcement Grant \$4,900. This grant was unfortunately reduced. The grant allows the Police Department to perform establishment 'alcohol stings' on underage drinking.
4. Federal Byrne Jail Diversion Grant \$100,000. This grant expires in October 2017. The Executive Department has included \$56,250 in payroll for the jail diversion clinician (social worker) who has been on the Police Department for approximately two years. The clinician has proved to be an asset to the Police Department and the department is grateful the City realized the necessity of the value of this full time employee. The clinician is involved with drug court, determines mental health calls and recognizes other issues.
5. State Municipal Police Staffing Grant \$38,000. This grant has been decreasing over the years. Funding is issued for special events including the Boston Marathon.
6. State SETB Dispatch Grant \$60,000. This grant allows covering overtime expenses of special events.
7. State E-911 Dispatch Grant \$230,000. This grant funds the two-coordinator salaries.
8. State Pedestrian Safety Grant \$38,000.
9. State Traffic Safety Grant \$16,000. Click-it or ticket grant.
10. Mass Office of Victim Assistance \$9,000. This grant allows additional officers to work with students on alcohol education. The grant has proved to be successful, although Chief MacDonald stated that unfortunately he does not foresee the City receiving the grant in the future.

Chief MacDonald stated that the Newton Police and Fire Departments have worked with the Newton Wellesley Hospital to coordinate tabletop drill exercises on an 'active shooter' to identify areas that need additional training. The Police Department also worked with Boston College and Lasell College on some additional drills.

Chief MacDonald explained the necessity of a good training facility. He said that he has conversed with the Public Building Department as they seek to construct a new combined Parks & Recreation and Police Departments facility at the Elliot Street DPW yard. It is necessary to have a Police-Sub Station on the south side of the City in order to accommodate the police personnel and residents. There was initial discussion to have a temporary police building at station #7, which has not come to fruition. The ideal training facility would have up-to date technology and electronics with comfort and parking in mind. In the past, the Police Department has trained at local colleges.

Chief MacDonald explained the necessity especially since the tragedy of 911 the security of the current police station. Many employees have brought their concerns to Chief MacDonald regarding their safety. He stated that drivers, commuters and walkers ignore Police property posted signs and travel by police equipment and personal vehicles.

Chief MacDonald was excited to announce that police staffing has gone from 133 to 149 personnel in April 2017. The Police Department anticipates several retirements this year. He would like to have the police staffing study reviewed. He then said that the Police Department has made great strides in community policing.

The Police Department is working with Pine Manor College and Lasell College on internship programs. Most recently, a police recruitment team has been established to seek candidates.

The Police Department studied the feasibility of leaving the Civil Service to determine if in fact the smaller agencies in the State that have left civil service have been able to hire for need more quickly than Civil Service candidates. The department later determined that less people take the Civil Service Exam. The department will aggressively outreach to seek candidates.

Chief MacDonald spoke briefly on the Police Department use of Narcan for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. He said that the amount of overdoses in the City and in Boston appear to be leveling. The police officers witness the abusers adapting to the drug Fentanyl rather than Heroin. In the future, he believes that Narcan will be obsolete because it does not work on synthetic drugs.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, REQUESTS and SUGGESTIONS:

Please explain Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). Chief MacDonald stated that years ago, the Police Department was placed in a different homeland security region. He has spoken with Chief Proia, the Executive Office, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Congressman Kennedy's office. The Police and Fire Departments have spoken and submitted letters describing the 10 miles of Charles River, the 5.6 miles for the Boston Marathon, the City is on an evacuation route and that Newton Wellesley Hospital is a participant for medical purposes. It is logical for the City of Newton to be a part of UASI because when the department petitions Northeast Homeland Security Regional Agency (NERAC) for a piece of equipment or something

to assist with homeland security concerns UASI generally releases funding based on regional needs. Unfortunately, the City has not received UASI funding. A request was made to please provide a copy of the letter addressed to UASI. As requested, Chief MacDonald agreed to provide a copy of the letter to the City Council.

Is there a limit to the amount of hours an officer may work in a day? Chief MacDonald stated that officers may work 18 hours maximum in a 24-hour day. Fortunately, the officers do not even come close to working the 18 hours maximum.

Does the Police Department continue to install car seats? Chief MacDonald answered yes; several employees of the Traffic Bureau are trained in the proper installation of car seats.

Is the Police Department considering the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles? Chief MacDonald stated that an emergency vehicle does not need to comply. The SUV's are more fuel-efficient than the Ford LTD's saving the department on fuel expenses.

Is the Police Department in the process of gathering information for an ideal Police Department facility, timeline and location? Chief MacDonald stated that the Executive Department has expressed support in discussing the future needs of the Police Department facility. The Police Department and Annex are out dated, the facilities are not efficient, there is not enough parking, etc. etc. and the buildings are not centrally located within the City. The ideal facility will include a training facility. The property that abuts Elliot Street DPW yard if renovated properly would be a 'perfect' space for a new combined facility with parking.

How many people are in the Police Academy? Chief MacDonald answered that zero candidates are in the academy at this time. The recent graduates are in field training who brought the complement of the police staffing to 149. When staff is retiring, it is easier to anticipate how many candidates will enter into the academy. Most recently, the academy allows the department to reserve seats without knowing the person's name attending. Due to anticipated retirements, Chief MacDonald intends to send two candidates to the academy later this year.

Chief MacDonald was encouraged to maintain the personnel to 149 in order to allow the officers to continue community policing.

A suggestion was made that this Committee review the police staffing study with Chief MacDonald.

It was said, that perhaps a master plan is necessary for the Police Department and other City facilities.

It is necessary to provide proper lighting and fencing at the Police Department. Did the CIP include lighting or fencing to provide employee safety? Chief MacDonald answered no. He then explained the necessity especially since the tragedy of 911 the security of the current police station. Many employees have brought their concerns to Chief MacDonald regarding their

safety. Drivers, commuters and walkers ignore Police property posted signs and travel by police equipment and personal vehicles. Therefore, a suggestion was made to create a RESOLUTION requesting a discussion with the Executive Department for employee safety measures, including fencing, lighting and security cameras in the Police Department's parking lot in the CIP. Chief MacDonald stated that there are cameras in the back of the building. Fencing or secure gates perhaps would prohibit emergency egress. Planning would be essential.

Chief MacDonald was encouraged to continue the park and walk program.

Committee members commended and thanked Chief MacDonald and the Police Department for their excellent continued work.

Councilor Yates moved approval on a straw vote to accept the Police Department Budget, CIP and grants totaling \$22,235,462, a 1.86% increase over FY17 budget. Committee members agreed 6-0.

At approximately 9:30 pm, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair