



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

FIRE DEPARTMENT **BUDGET REPORT**

Thursday, May 5, 2016

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

Absent: Councilors Fuller, Norton and Lipof

Also Present: Councilor Baker

City Staff: Chief David MacDonald, Newton Police Department; Chief Bruce Proia and Assistant Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #288-15(2)** **Submittal of the FY 2017 Municipal/School Operating Budget**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY17 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$378,969,244 passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY17-FY21 Capital Improvement Program (#288-15). [04/11/16 @ 11:31]
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 04/19/16; LAST DATE TO PASS THE BUDGET 06/03/16.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #288-15** **Submittal of the FY17 Capital Improvement Plan**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2017-FY 2021 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/01/15 @ 1:53 PM]

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #288-15(4)** **Submittal of the FY 2017 – FY 2021 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2017 – FY 2021 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan. [04/11/16 @ 11:31 AM]

ACTION: **Approved 5-0, STRAW VOTE**

NOTE: Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti joined the Committee for discussion on these items and discussed their FY17 Budget Summary and opening remarks.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL & STAFFING: (Personnel: 191 full-time)

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT FY16 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti explained in detail the department accomplishments.

1. Communication/Prevention Bureau - Transitioned radio circuits from Verizon copper to City owned fiber. The department replaced two additional fire alarm circuits. The department established a school radio system connecting the system to the Dispatch Center and the Emergency Operation Center. The wire division two vacancies have been fulfilled and one member has been promoted within the department.
2. Technical Rescue - Last year, seventy-two personnel completed technical training for all seven areas of technical rescue. The department purchased confined space equipment including rigging specifically used for man hole rescues, ventilation equipment, two gas meters, hand tools, special saws and thermal cameras.
3. Fire Prevention –Increased electronic data to make available online. Community Plus software program will be implemented for inspections.
4. Fire Suppression Division - Improve professionalism of department by meeting National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The department purchased a training tower which will be built behind Station #7. The department purchased self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment, including each member receiving a new face piece with GPS technology to allow tracking of personnel inside a building. This year, twenty-two SCBA sets were purchased and distributed including necessary safety gear.
5. Special Hazards –Improved professionalism of the department by meeting NFPA Standards. Certified all new firefighters to the Firefighter 1 and 2 standard. Completed fire ground tactics and strategies, standard operating procedures and training including solar panel training. It is necessary, that the department obtain permit information to make necessary solar inspections.

6. Emergency Management - Executed quarterly city-wide drills. Created a city-wide management team holding monthly emergency management meetings. Chief Proia stated that the Newton Police and Fire Departments are working with the Newton Wellesley Hospital to coordinate a table top drill on an 'active shooter' to identify areas that need additional training.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FY17 GOALS

Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti explained in detail the department goals.

1. Effective Communications Infrastructure – Improve interoperability between all City departments. Continue to build upon the Opti-Comm program. Implement a bi-directional amplifier at the Newton South High School. Update old infrastructure and equipment. Continue the transition of all remaining copper lines for radios to fiber network. The department has recently hired a full-time technological worker to work on the radio communications. Complete the Manet Road communications building project that includes a repeater system for the Department of Public Works and School Department.

2. Class 1 Fire Department - The end of April 2016, the Fire Department and City achieved a "Class 1" designation from the Insurance Service Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification Program, effective August 1, 2016. The ISO rates over 47,500 Fire Districts nationwide. Newton now becomes just the 4th community in Massachusetts and one of only approximately 200 nationally to achieve this designation. This should lower insurance costs for residents and businesses throughout the City. Commercial and many residential insurance carriers use the ISO system as a basis for their rate structure.

3. Fire Prevention – Expand use of technology to streamline operations. All forms, reports and plans will be created on Community Plus software. It is the intent in the future, to have all documents old and new on Community Plus software.

4. Fire Suppression – Certify all prevention officers as Fire Inspector 1 and Fire Investigator 1.

Chief Proia anticipates hiring four additional fire fighters, one captain and one lieutenant to become effective January 2017.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti noted the following significant line item changes to expenses in the budget:

Fire Training - \$62,022 increase.

Fire Training Protective Gear - \$50,000 increase.

CIP

Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti stated the CIP includes the following projects for FY17:

Chief Proia is anticipating a heavy duty rescue truck be delivered in October 2016 and Station #3 is scheduled to relocate on June 1, 2016.

1. Completion of Fire Station #3/Head Quarters.
2. Purchased and replaced Fire Department SCUBA (self-contained breathing apparatus gear).
3. Replacement of 1996 Bucket Truck. Anticipated delivered date of July 2016.
4. Replacement of 1989 Pumper Truck, exceeding National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 15-year life expectancy. Anticipated delivery date of July 2016.
5. Replace a 2004 Pumper Truck.
6. Pricing to perform and complete a study to determine simulcast radio broadcasts at a cost of approximately \$300,000 to address complaints and issues.

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 FY17:

1. Sale of Surplus Fire Equipment Revolving \$1,000. This account was created to sell surplus vehicles such as the bucket truck and a van.
2. NW Hospital MDU Trailer Gift \$2,000. This is an annual grant to update and maintain the equipment for the decontamination tent. This trailer is currently stationed on Watertown Street.
3. Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant \$530,000. This grant is for a vehicle training class, equipment, apparatus and the opportunity for the Fire Department to rehire firefighters who have been laid-off. The City would be responsible for \$100,000 of this money.
4. Federal Homeland Security Emergency Operating Center Grant \$22,000. This is an annual grant; it is received annually to buy equipment and furniture for the Emergency Operations Center.
5. State Regional HAZMAT Response Grant Program \$35,000. This grant reimburses HAZMAT firefighters for overtime pay. Two department members are on the HAZMAT team.

6.State MDU Deployment Grant \$2,000. This is an annual grant. Chief Proia stated that he is uncertain if the department will be receiving this grant this fiscal year.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS:

Please explain the inspections process for the installation of solar panels when permits are issued. Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti answered that once the Fire Department is aware of a permit being issued for solar panels the information is automated on the website including appropriate permit requirements and forms. Community Plus allows the inspectors and fire personnel the ability to communicate.

Is Ever Source Energy responding to emergencies in a timely manner? Chief Proia stated that a grade-1 concern mandates their immediate attention. A grade-2 concern requires they address the issues within 6 months. He is hopeful that the Department of Public Works and Ever Source will coordinate their road projects.

How often is departmental training scheduled? Chief Proia answered that training is on-going within the department.

In closing, Chief Proia was honored to announce the promotion this week of Acting Assistant Chief Lucchetti to Assistant Chief.

Chief Proia then then stated that it is an honor for the City and Fire Department to be achieved as a **Class 1 Fire Department**.

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

Councilor Yates moved approval on a straw vote to accept the Fire Department Budget, CIP and grants, totaling \$21,054,868. Committee members agreed 5-0.

At approximately 10:30 pm, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair