



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

POLICE 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 MacDonald joined the Committee for discussion on these items and discussed his FY17 Budget Summary and opening remarks.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL & STAFFING: (Personnel: 192 full-time and 54 part-time)

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 FY'16 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chief MacDonald explained in detail the department accomplishments.

1. Community Services Bureau – Focused on crime and victimization reduction and engaged a ride-along referral social worker. Most recently, a sergeant has been assigned to this bureau. Juvenile services is now under command of this bureau. Chief MacDonald is hopeful that in FY'17 a community outreach worker and a crime prevention specialist will be assigned to this bureau.

2. Detective Bureau - The department has recently filled two vacancies that have been open for approximately one year including a general investigator and opiate crisis investigator.

3. Patrol Bureau - Implemented a citizen interaction program and increased professional development of supervisory personnel. This program ran through September 2015, most recently the department reinstated the program. There are four bikes in the department; most recently the department purchased three additional bikes for officers to ride in village squares. Each bike cost approximately \$1,000. Chief MacDonald anticipates the bike delivery very soon. When the department is above minimum staffing, the officers will ride; weather permitting allowing the officers to engage with the public. The jail diversion clinician program is very successful and is a wonderful asset to the community and the department.

4. Special Operations – Increased anti-terrorism and crimes in progress drill. The department added one firearms instruction a goal from FY'15.

5. Traffic Bureau – Reduced bike and pedestrian accidents through enforcement, educational awareness and weekend enforcement. The department aims at being visible where accidents or crime have occurred.

6. Crime Services Bureau - Replaced interrogation recording equipment. Enhanced cyber and social media crime investigative capabilities.

7. Dispatch Bureau - Fully implemented social media tools and an automated answering service alternative.

8. Support Services – Implemented cost effective and efficient uniform purchasing and distribution. Enhanced fuel efficiency and vehicle warranties and obtained additional grants.

9. Information Technology – In the process of rolling out a new system allowing residents to pay-on-line eliminating hand written documents making the department efficient.

First line patrol cars have been equipped with rifles. Rifles will be introduced into supervisor and traffic vehicles. In-house training has increased and the department is in the process of replacing thirteen -year old issued rifles. It is not recommended to use a fire arm that is over ten-years old. The department has \$34,000 to put toward this swap/purchase.

The department will be working with the town of Weston on additional training and active drills.

The drug take back program is working well. There is an available drop box at the station.

POLICE DEPARTMENT FY'17 GOALS

Chief MacDonald explained in detail the department goals.

1. Patrol/Community Relations- Continue the revised “Park and Walk” program; continue deployment of social worker; increase citizen-police engagement. Chief MacDonald will be meeting with the Clergy within the City promoting citizen police engagement of any public relation concerns.

2. Traffic – Develop and deploy plans for new school buildings and village centers; reduce number of accidents.

3. Crime Services – Expand knowledge and use of social media.

4. Youth Services – Increase deployment of undercover officers to enforce underage drinking laws; increase presence in schools. The department has received a grant to fund the undercover officers. The department has proposed that the department work with the School Department encouraging students to create video hazards of drinking and driving and provides an opportunity to have officers educate the students.

5. Dispatch – Implementation of new technologies and programs; hiring of second Senior Dispatch Supervisor. The Dispatch Bureau follows quality control and proper accreditation procedures.

6. Special Operations – Increase training for emergency scenarios.

7.Information Technology – Upgrade outdated equipment; develop real time analytics for management metrics.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Chief MacDonald noted the following significant line item changes to expenses in the budget:

Police Department expenses - \$12,597 increase.

Police Administrative Support - \$33,304 decrease.

CIP

Chief MacDonald stated that the CIP includes the following scheduled project for FY17:

1.Police Department Dispatch Center \$700,000 for dispatch equipment meeting life expectancy and must be upgraded.

Chief MacDonald is hopeful that a new Police Department facility will be created in the CIP.

GRANT, GIFT & REVOLVING FUNDS

Chief MacDonald touched on a few grants, gifts and revolving funds. He stated that in FY'17 he has requested the following:

1. Sale of Surplus Police Equipment Revolving Grant \$35,000. The department has requested an increase to \$75,000. This account was created to sell surplus vehicles and purchase weapons.

2. Cops & Kids Program Gifts \$10,000. This grant funds children camps.

3. Federal Underage Alcohol Enforcement Grant \$10,000. This grant allows the department to perform establishment 'alcohol stings' on underage drinking or for victim assistance.

4. Federal Byrne Jail Diversion Grant \$120,000. This grant funds the social worker position for fourteen months. The department has been verbally informed that they will receive the grant for a second year. Chief MacDonald stated that he is hopeful a salary will be created to fund this position.

5. State Municipal Police Staffing Grant \$50,000. This grant has been decreasing over the years. Funding is used for special events including the Boston Marathon.

6. State SETB Dispatch Grant \$60,000. This grant has been decreasing over the years. This grant allows to cover overtime expenses of special events.

7. State E-911 Dispatch Grant \$230,000. This grant funds the coordinator salary.

8. State Traffic Safety Grant \$12,000. Click-it or ticket grant.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Committee members encourage the park and walk program to continue.

Is it a Police Union issue to continue the park and walk program? Chief MacDonald answered no; it is a training issue. Officers attend a training school that properly trains and provides the necessary proper equipment. Seven to nine officers are properly trained and properly equipped to ride. In 1995, the department implemented their first park and walk.

Is there a way for the department to identify where 'robot calls' originate? Chief MacDonald answered no; he has met with other Police Department Chiefs and the FBI where they were informed by the FBI that the FBI does not have the capabilities to identify locations.

Has training been provided and completed to officers regarding noise meters, especially at night and on the weekends when Inspectional Services Department is not available to enforce the City Ordinance? Chief MacDonald answered that to his knowledge the department has trained officers on the operation of noise meters. He then said that he will research this request further within the department and the Inspectional Services Department. Chief MacDonald then stated that educating the public will be necessary.

Chief MacDonald 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. The department will also be working with Boston College and Lasell College on some additional drills.

In closing, Chief MacDonald was excited to announce that staffing is increasing to 149 personnel by December 2016. In the very near future, four people will be attending the Police Academy and an additional two to three people in September. Additional staffing allows the department flexibility and continues the park and walk program.

Chief MacDonald then stated that it is an honor for the Police Department to be **Nationally Accredited for the 6th time.**

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

Councilor Yates moved approval on a straw vote to accept the Police Department Budget, CIP and grants totaling \$20,779,630. Committee members agreed 5-0.

At approximately 10:30 pm, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair