

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

BUDGET REPORT

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Fuller, Yates, Harney, Johnson, Schwartz and Cote

Absent: Ald. Lipof

Also Present: Ald. Sangiolo

City Staff: Chief Howard Mintz and Lt. David MacDonald, Executive Officer, Newton Police Department; Chief Bruce Proia and Acting Assistant Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department, Robert Symanski, Financial Analyst and Jack Cowell, Capital Project Analyst

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #375-14(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY16 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$361,997,264 passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY16-FY20 Capital Improvement Program (#375-14). [04/15/15 @ 5:08 PM]
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 04/21/15; LAST DATE TO PASS THE BUDGET 06/05/15

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #375-14 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY16-FY20 Capital Improvement Plan pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter. [10/15/14 @ 3:01 PM]

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #375-14(4) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY 2016 – FY 2020 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan. [04/15/15 @ 4:57 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 6-0, Ald. Harney not voting STRAW VOTE

NOTE: Chief Mintz and Lt. David MacDonald, Executive Director joined the Committee for discussion on these items and discussed their FY16 Budget Summary and opening remarks.

Chief Mintz stated that the department is anticipating appointing a committee to revise the Newton Police Department mission statement.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL & STAFFING: (Personnel: 185 part-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' 15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (8)

1. Patrol Bureau -Increased problem-solving and contact with citizens and merchants. The department has implemented the 'park and walk program'. Completed the staffing study report and utilized this report to determine the appropriate number of recruits. The result - increase the number of personnel by hiring three additional officers.
2. Traffic Bureau - Targeted crash factors and complaints with unmarked vehicles and worked with partners to develop a parking/safety planning. The bureau met with transportation and safety partners on a weekly basis and the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) monthly to improve public safety on roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. A goal is to reduce the number of accidents. Last year, vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian accidents increased. The bureau has accomplished reducing the number of parking complaints from residents and businesses.
3. Crime Services Bureau – Enhanced case management and cybercrime investigation. New internet search tools are being utilized.
4. Community Services Bureau - Provided “Question Persuade Refer” (QPR) training to schools and partnered to address community mental health problems.
5. Information Technology – Expanded the Wi-Fi network.
6. Dispatch Bureau- Developed social media and an automated answering alternative that is awaiting installation.
7. Support Services – Enhanced fuel efficiency and vehicle warranties. Added document or paperless accreditation system and achieved a facility needs assessment study.
8. Special Operations- Renovated firing range. The department has purchased patrol rifles and increased specialized training for patrol officers.

POLICE DEPARTMENT FY' 16 GOALS (8)

1. Patrol Bureau- Implement citizen interaction program. It is the intent that officers' conduct their own directed patrols and problem solving techniques. The department recently changed shift structure for efficiency and health.
2. Traffic Bureau – Reduce bicycle and pedestrian accidents through enforcement, educational awareness and weekend enforcement.
3. Crime Services Bureau – Replace interrogation-recording equipment. The department has recently purchased this equipment, pending delivery.

4. Community Services Bureau – Engage ride-along and a referral social worker. A grant application is pending for the social worker position. Increase social media networking.
5. Information Technology – Replace video monitoring system throughout the department. Re-evaluate hand held access to network.
6. Dispatch Bureau – Fully implement social media tools and an automated answering service alternative.
7. Support Services – Implement cost effective and efficient uniform purchasing. Enhance fuel efficiency and vehicle warranties and obtain additional grants.
8. Special Operations – Increase anti-terrorism and crimes in progress drill. The department is hopeful to hire a firearms instructor, three school officers and two additional officers to work weekends. The department would also like to obtain laptop computers.

The department has hired eight officers this year, it is the department's desire to hire an additional six officers and there are two vacancies available in the Dispatch Bureau. The Dispatch Bureau experiences a high turnover rate due to an undesired shift and the desire to move on. This is not uncommon; the lack of funding for training is also an issue. The department anticipates working with a consultant to conduct a training program for the command officers.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Chief Mintz stated there were no significant line changes in the budget. The hiring of eight additional officers and a collective bargaining agreement for compensatory time has saved the department a significant amount of money.

CIP (0)

Chief Mintz and Lt. MacDonald stated that there are no CIP projects scheduled for fiscal year 2016. Chief Mintz is hopeful a new Police Department facility will be placed on the CIP project list in the near future to construct (not repair or renovate) a new facility. A new facility would allow the department to have their own training facility allowing them to host training sessions. Having two department buildings at different locations is difficult and is not efficient.

GRANT, GIFT & REVOLVING FUNDS (11 active and 1 in active)

Chief Mintz touched on a few grants, gifts and revolving funds. He stated that in FY' 16 he has requested the following:

1. Sale of Surplus Police Equipment Revolving \$35,000.
2. Community Resources Gifts \$5,000.
3. Police Dog Unit Gifts \$0. (In active). Chief Mintz stated that he would request remaining funds be used for another purpose.
4. Cops & Kids Program Gifts \$1,000.

5. Federal Underage Alcohol Enforcement Grant \$10,000.
6. Federal Bullet Proof Vest Reimbursement Grant \$13,500.
7. State Bullet Proof Vest Reimbursement Grant \$13,500.
8. State Municipal Police Staffing Grant \$70,000.
9. State Emergency Telecommunications Board Grant (SETB) \$42,500.
10. State E-911 Dispatch Grant \$200,000. Chief Mintz stated that the state is in the process of reviewing this grant, there may be a significant decrease. Two supervisory positions are funded through this grant.
11. State Pedestrian Safety Grant \$5,000.
12. State Traffic Safety Grant \$10,000.

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Please provide a copy of the accreditation report including any issues and facility needs.

Please provide the locations that have a high increase of pedestrian, vehicle and bicyclist accidents. Chief Mintz answered that most pedestrian accidents are occurring within a crosswalk. The numbers of vehicle accidents fluctuate. Chief Mintz did not have vehicle and bicyclist statistics available. The department is conducting enforcement hoping to decrease the number of accidents. Engineering and education remain necessary. The department is working with the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG). Tailgating and texting remain concerning issues.

Does the Police Department collaborate with the Engineering Department, Department of Public Works to determine the most appropriate type of traffic signal? Chief Mintz answered that the Traffic Bureau works with the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG), Traffic Council and others where traffic signals are discussed.

Does the department use or anticipate using night scopes for night shooting? Does the department use Taser guns? Chief Mintz and Lt. MacDonald answered that Police officers do not use night scopes; they are trained in night shooting. Perhaps they may be considered. The Police officers do not use Taser guns. Taser guns are in the process of being reviewed. The Police officers carry mace spray.

Are you concerned with Internet fraud? Lt. MacDonald answered that Internet fraud should always be reported and a police report completed.

What type of psychological or combat training do the officers receive? Chief Mintz answered that the officers are currently receiving nightstick training. Officers receive survival and safety techniques and a mental health class is offered.

Are you concerned with the issue of duplicate street names and should it be a priority? Chief Proia answered that changing street names is very important; the problem will not go away. The Fire Department receives many calls where the emergency vehicles are dispatched to the incorrect street. He supports changing duplicate street names to improve public safety. A Committee member suggested that Chair Ciccone, Chief Mintz and Chief Proia meet with the Executive Department to discuss options on moving forward and to determine if duplicate street names shall change due to safety issues. It is necessary to make a decision either way. A request was made to report to this Committee in September on the discussion.

Please provide statistics on department trends and crime analysis.

Please describe the process of appointing a new Police Chief upon your retirement in November. Chief Mintz answered that by law he must retire by November 30, 2015 due to the 65-year age limit. The Mayor will appoint a Search Committee to interview making their candidate recommendation for Police Chief to him for consideration. Chief Mintz is hopeful a Police Chief would be hired prior to his retirement for mentoring purposes and the ability for that person to attend a Police Chief conference. Chair Ciccone said that the plan is to review internal candidates first, if there is no appropriate candidate then the Committee would continue the interview process with external candidates. The past Search Committee was concerned with department morale if a candidate was selected externally. Some Committee members stated and urge the Police Chief Search Committee consider *both* internal and external candidates. Other Committee members disagreed as they feel the candidate should be internal.

Does the Internal Affairs Officer have the same responsibilities as the past officer and please provide a breakdown of cases per year? Chief Mintz answered yes; he did not have the number of cases available.

Regarding the organizational chart, why does the Animal Control officer fall under the Traffic Bureau and not the Patrol Bureau?

Please elaborate on the accomplishment of the social media tools and an automated answering alternative system. Chief Mintz answered that social media is the responsibility of the Press Information Officer and the Crime Analyst. The department uses Facebook, nixle and twitter. Every person calling has an option to override auto answering. The Dispatch Bureau follows quality control and proper accreditation procedures.

Please provide a list of procedures in order for the department to be accredited.

Pleased to hear that a goal of the Patrol Bureau is to increase community relations and police service delivery. Please expand on the details of the newly implemented 'park and walk program'.

Please describe personnel physical fitness and is officers' fitness acceptable? Chief Mintz answered that the station has a small gym, which the officers are encouraged to use on their time. The department has discussed with the Newton Wellesley Hospital options for medical and

physical fitness issues that did not come to fruition. Once an officer completes the probation period they are not required to pass an annual exam.

A suggestion was made to increase the number of school traffic supervisors. It appears turnover is high and perhaps an increase of pay would deter high turnover. Chief Mintz stated that the salary is agreed upon by collective bargaining. There are fifty-one school traffic supervisors and ten parking control clerks (who act as school traffic supervisors). The department usually does not provide school traffic supervisors after the elementary school age level. A request to have school traffic supervisors at middle schools is not in the budget.

Is the department working close with the Newton school system regarding Internet bullying? Chief Mintz answered yes; and stated that there are two school resource officers and two youth investigators. The department also works with issues on if a student commits a violation or is a victim.

Pleased to hear that the department continues to work on suicide prevention and encourage the department continue working with students and seniors. Chief Mintz said that the department continues working on GPR training and sexting issues.

Please describe the status of laptop computers in the vehicles. Chief Mintz stated all primary and several other vehicles have laptop computers. Officers will continue receiving additional training.

How are the Automatic License Plate Readers working? Chief Mintz answered that they were installed in one traffic vehicle and three parking control vehicles. The department will continue to re-evaluate maintenance contracts and the high expense of the contracts.

Committee members commended and thanked Chief Mintz and the department for his presentation and excellent continued work. They are happy to hear that ten officers have been hired since 2012, rather than the department being continually reduced. It appears that Police officers are happy and engaged with the community.

Ald. Johnson moved approval on a straw vote to accept the Police Department Budget and grants totaling \$20,037,272. Committee members agreed 6-0, Ald. Harney not voting.

At approximately 10:30 pm, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman