



Finance Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, February 8, 2021

The Finance Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84464075025> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 844 6407 5025

Item scheduled for discussions:

- #49-21** **Accept \$36,528.60 in grant funds from Mass State 911 Department Training**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and expend a grant in the amount of thirty-six thousand five hundred twenty-eight dollars and sixty cents (\$36,528.60) from the Massachusetts State 911 Department Training Program for the purpose of providing training for the Emergency Telecommunications staff who work in the City's Dispatch/Communications Center.
- #50-21** **Accept \$39,976 from the Executive Office of Public Safety's Municipal Road Safety**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and expend a reimbursable grant in the amount of thirty-nine thousand nine hundred and seventy-six dollars (\$39,976) from the Executive Office of Public Safety's Municipal Road Safety Program for the purpose of overtime expenditures for Traffic Safety Enforcement and for the purchase of new radar equipment.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

- #53-21** **Appropriate \$139,254 for the purchase of a used ladder truck**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of one hundred thirty-nine thousand two hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$139,254) from Acct # 7608E210-585030 to a Capital Account for the purpose of purchasing a used ladder truck that will be used as a spare.
Public Safety & Transportation Approved 6-0 on 02/03/21

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

#40-21 Reappointment of Allan Cohen to the Board of Assessors
HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing ALLAN S. COHEN, 12 Philmore Road, Newton, as a member of the Board of Assessors for a term to expire on February 1, 2024. (60 Days: 03/20/21)

#395-20 Request for updates on budget and possible reimbursements at Newton Public Schools
The President of the Council, on behalf of the City Council, requesting updates to the Finance Committee from the Chief Financial Officer regarding budget expenditures and possible reimbursements related to school reopening at each meeting this fall.
Finance Held 6-0 on 01/25/21

Chair's Note: *Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux will provide an update on the expenditure of funds for COVID-19 as related to item #239-20.*

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Walker Grossman, Chair



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

49-21
49-21
Telephone
(617) 796-1100
Telefax
(617) 796-1113
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(617) 796-1089
E-mail
rfuller@newtonma.gov

January 25, 2021

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

RECEIVED
2021 JAN 25 PM 3:43
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to accept, appropriate and expend a reimbursable grant in the amount of \$36,528.60 from the Massachusetts State 911 Department Training Program for the purpose of providing training for the Emergency Telecommunications staff who work in the City's Dispatch/Communications Center.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY
STATE 911 DEPARTMENT
 151 Campanelli Drive, Suite A ~ Middleborough, MA 02346
 Tel: 508-828-2911 ~ TTY: 508-947-1455
www.mass.gov/e911



CHARLES D. BAKER
 Governor

THOMAS A. TURCO, III
 Secretary

KARYN E. POLITO
 Lieutenant Governor

FRANK POZNIAK
 Executive Director

January 21, 2021

Interim Chief Howard L. Mintz
 Newton Police Department
 1321 Washington Street
 Newton, MA 02465

Dear Chief Mintz:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State 911 Department would like to thank you for participating in the **FY2021 State 911 Department Training Grant Program**.

For your files, attached please find a copy of the executed contract and the final approved Personnel Cost Worksheet for your grant. Please note your contract start date is **January 21, 2021** and will run through June 30, 2021. Please keep in mind that there shall be no reimbursement for costs incurred prior to the effective date of the contract and all goods and services **MUST** be received on or before June 30, 2021.

Reimbursement requests should be submitted to the Department within **thirty (30) days** of the date on which the cost is incurred. We have made the request for payment forms available on our website www.mass.gov/e911. For any questions related to this process, please contact Michelle Hallahan at 508-821-7216. Please note that funding of reimbursement requests received more than one (1) month after the close of the fiscal year under which costs were incurred cannot be guaranteed.

If, in the future, you would like to make any changes to the authorized signatory, the contract manager, add personnel, or to request approval for trainings, please e-mail those proposed changes to 911DeptGrants@mass.gov. Grantees are strongly encouraged to submit final, year-end budget modification requests on or before March 26, 2021.

Sincerely,

Frank P. Pozniak
 Executive Director

cc: FY2021 Training Grant File



City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

January 25, 2021

CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA, 02459

JAN 25 PM 4:56

RECEIVED

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to accept, appropriate and expend a reimbursable grant in the amount of \$39,976 from the Executive Office of Public Safety's Municipal Road Safety Program.

Per Interim Chief Mintz's request, these \$33,367 will be used for overtime expenditures for Traffic Safety Enforcement and the remaining funds will be used to purchase new radar equipment.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety & Security

Office of Grants & Research

Ten Park Plaza, Suite 3720-A

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Tel: 617-725-3301

Fax: 617-725-0260

www.mass.gov/ogr

Charles D. Baker
 Governor

Karyn E. Polito
 Lieutenant Governor

Thomas A. Turco, III
 Secretary

Kevin J. Stanton
 Executive Director

November 24, 2020

Interim Chief Mintz
 Newton Police Department
 1321 Washington Street
 Newton, MA 02465

Dear Interim Chief Mintz:

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's **Office of Grants and Research (OGR)** is pleased to announce that the **Newton Police Department** has been awarded **\$39,976** in funding to support the Municipal Road Safety program. Funding was made possible by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is available through September 15, 2021.

Additional correspondence, including all the necessary documents required to make this award official are included in your authorizing award email along with details on how your award amount will be distributed among the elements requested in your application.

Please note your official start date will be the date that your returned contract is signed and dated by OGR. Costs incurred prior to the date of the contract being fully executed will not be eligible for reimbursement.

If you have any questions regarding your contract, please do not hesitate to contact Richard Valeri, Program Coordinator at richard.valeri@mass.gov or by telephone at (617)-725-3267.

My staff and I look forward to working with you and your department on this important public safety initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Stanton".

Kevin J. Stanton
 Executive Director



City of Newton Police Department



TELEPHONE
(617) 796-2101
FAX # (617) 796-3679

Office of the Chief of Police
HEADQUARTERS
1321 WASHINGTON STREET
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02465

HOWARD L. MINTZ
CHIEF OF POLICE
INTERIM

January 19, 2021

Hon. Mayor Ruthanne Fuller
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459-1449

Re: Request to Accept and Expend Funds from EOPPS for Municipal Road Safety Program

I respectfully request to accept and expend funds in the amount of \$39,976.00 from the Executive Office of Public Safety's Municipal Road Safety Program. The funding includes \$33,367.00 in Personnel costs for Traffic Safety Enforcement and \$6,609.00 in equipment costs which will be used to purchase new radar equipment.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Howard L. Mintz
Interim Chief of Police

FIRST ACCREDITED CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS





City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

January 25, 2021

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

RECEIVED
2021 JAN 25 PM 3:43
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of \$139,254 from Acct # 7608E210-585030 to a Capital Account for the purpose of purchasing a used ladder truck that we will use as a spare.

As you will see from Chief Lucchetti's letter, our other spares are no longer operational, and we cannot continue to "borrow" spares from other communities. Fortunately, we were able to outfit our most recent ladder truck, and have funds remaining from the original appropriation.

We will be happy to discuss this item at the Council's respective committees. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



Gino Lucchetti
Chief

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

January 5, 2021

Maureen Lemieux
Chief Financial Officer
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Maureen,

The Fire Department respectfully requests permission to utilize funding remaining from the appropriation allotted for the purchase of Ladder Truck #2. After purchasing and outfitting with equipment there is a balance of \$139,254.11 remaining in account 7608E210-585030.

We would like to purchase with the remaining funds a used spare ladder truck. Our 2 spare trucks, Tower Ladder 5 (2007) and Ladder 4 (1995) are no longer in service due to mechanical issues which are too costly to repair and have safety issues. We have been borrowing ladder trucks (when available) from Boston Fire and Waltham Fire. This is not in the best interest of the Newton Fire Department when we are in need of repair or regular service.

Thank you for your consideration to this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gino Lucchetti".

Gino Lucchetti
Chief of Department



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

40-21

Telephone
(617) 796-1100
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(617) 796-1113
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(617) 796-1089
Email
rfuller@newtonma.gov

January 12, 2021

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

To the Honorable City Councilors:

I am pleased to reappoint Allan S. Cohen of 12 Philmore Road, Newton as a member of the Board of Assessors. His term of office shall expire on February 1, 2023 and his appointment is subject to your confirmation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmly,


Ruthanne Fuller

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459

2021 JAN 12 PM 4:11

Allan S. Cohen
12 Philmore Road
Newton, MA 02458



December 30, 2020

Honorable Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Mayor Fuller:

My appointment as the Commercial Assessor on the Board of Assessors comes up for renewal in February 2021. Your appointments span three years, and it's remarkable to me that my current appointment is nearing completion. I respectfully request that you name me to the Board for another three-year term.

During the current term, I successfully negotiated over 150 valuation appeals of commercial and investment properties brought by property owners or their tax reps. Each appeal was met with respect for the applicant and resolved with little or no adjustment and relatively very low tax dollars returned by the City. Notably, I successfully negotiated National Grid/Boston Gas Company's pending litigation, saving the City as much as \$350,000 in tax dollars. The gas company sought a new methodology for depreciation which lowered their assessment several millions of dollars per year for the past four years. I settled the entire bundle of appeals for \$26,400, without immense legal fees and statutory interest, and negotiated a new assessment this year for the gas company at \$112,309,900.

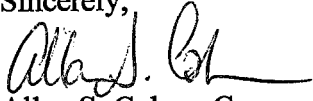
In the past three years, no commercial property appeals cost the City anything more than a nominal reduction in assessment. This is due in large part to my extensive experience as an assessor and appraiser for the City. I hold designations from the Commonwealth's Board of Professional Licensure, Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers, and Massachusetts Board of Real Estate Appraisers. The latter professional organization inducted me into their Hall of Fame in 2019, an honor I share with a small handful of appraisers, real estate educators, and industry leaders. I am one of only two honorees who hold appraiser and assessor credentials.

Newton's Assessing Department is seen by the State's Department of Revenue, Board of Local Assessments (BLA) – the overseers of all municipal assessing departments, as highly skilled and effective. The annual information we provide is promptly reviewed and accepted, enabling our department to help the City meet its goals each year.

I look forward to continuing to serve the City of Newton for another three years. I respectfully seek your support and re-appointment. Please contact me if you need further information.

Best wishes to you and the City in the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allan S. Cohen".

Allan S. Cohen, Commercial Assessor

Cc: David Olson, City Clerk