



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Present: Councilors Downs (Chair), Markiewicz, Lipof, Malakie, Grossman, Bowman, Oliver and Lucas

Also Present: Councilors Albright, Krintzman, Laredo, Norton, Ryan, Baker, Kalis, Greenberg, Wright, Crossley, Noel, Leary and Humphrey

City Staff: Interim Chief Howard Mintz, Executive Officer Lt. George McMains, Newton Police Department; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer; Mayor Ruthanne Fuller; Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer; Nadia Khan, Acting City Clerk; Jack Cowell, Financial Director and Samuel Nighman, Executive Aide to the Mayor

Others Present: NewTV

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#194-21 **Transfer \$172,400 to the IT Department, Micro/Network Services, Computer Equipment**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred seventy-two thousand four hundred dollars (\$172,400) from Acct# 0110498-579000 FY21 Budget Reserve to Acct# 0111154-585111 Information Technology Department, Micro/Network Services, Computer Equipment for the purpose of upgrading all desktop computers at the Police Department that are no longer supported by Microsoft, as well as other technology improvements throughout City Departments.

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0**

Note: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer introduced the item to the Committee.

Ms. Lemieux stated that there are 114 desktop computers in the Police Department that still use Windows 7. It is necessary to upgrade these computers. The administration did not want to add this item into the budget, because longtime expenditures are not put into the budget. An appropriation is best.

Currently, \$172,400 remains in the budget reserve account. The docket item words were chosen because when people return to work in City departments headsets and cameras may be required. It is most appropriate to have money in the IT account to make these types of purchases. Once the Police Department computer price is final, the administration will be able to make additional purchases with this appropriation.

Lt. McMains stated that there are many computers in the department that are operating using Windows 7. It would be beneficial to have computer upgrades, but Microsoft no longer supports Windows 7. Interim Chief Mintz noted that computers are needed for the dispatcher, satellite receiver, video of cell block area and the front lobby.

Committee members questions and answers:

Questions and Answers:

Has the department experienced browser limitations with outdated computers? Lt. McMains answered that they have not run into the problem yet, but Internet Explorer no longer updates.

Without further discussion, Councilor Markiewicz made a motion to approve this transfer of funds. Committee members agreed 8-0.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#196-21

Appropriate \$300,000 to establish a non-lapsing Police Department Account

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) from the June 30, 2020 Certified Free Cash to establish a non-lapsing Police Department Best Practices/Training Account.

Action:

Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0

Note:

Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer introduced the item to the Committee.

Ms. Lemieux stated that this is an integral part of what the City plans to do next year. The City did not know the different types of training that may be needed for sworn officers and civilian members of NPD. As the City launches this initiative, the administration thought the best way to move forward was with this non-lapsing project account. A project account means this \$300,000 will be set aside for training only. Non-lapsing means if by next June 30, the \$300,000 is not spent that money rolls over into the next year, the funds do not disappear at the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Fuller stated that NPD officers train almost daily. Officers, dispatchers and civilians receive anti-basis and crisis intervention and active bystander training and use a simulator to do training. This past year, the department reflected on how to do better training moving forward and desired funding be available for training in the future. The non-lapsing account allows Chief Carmichael time to shape the training and find the time for personnel to avail themselves of it.

Interim Chief Mintz stated that new training has been identified for the department. A suggestion was made that training include dealing with potential violent suspects because of mental health or criminal motivation and how to change dangerous situations to be safe and helpful to the subject. Operation ABLE trains officers to intervene if fellow officer is not acting appropriately. The Mayor, Director of Social Services, Chief Carmichael and the Intervention Team will also increase mental health training for all officers.

Committee members and Councilors comments, questions and answers.

Comments:

Training is very important for the officers and will assist with community policing.

It will be difficult to determine an appropriate amount of funding to train the officers.

Questions/Answers:

How will the effectiveness of the training be measured? Mayor Fuller answered that Chief Carmichael will answer this question in the coming months.

What are other examples of non-lapsing accounts? In the future will non-lapsing accounts become normal accounts? Ms. Lemieux answered that this non-lapsing account will be in next years' budget, but not beyond that. Other non-lapsing accounts include special appropriations and project accounts.

Has training been identified that you desire and have not been doing? Mayor Fuller answered that Operation ABLE will be new to the department.

Will you be open to receiving input on training options? Mayor Fuller answered yes, the City will welcome ideas on training.

Will some training be on dealing with diverse populations, especially with LGBTQ+ community? What trainings will be ongoing?

Mayor Fuller answered that the Newton Police Task Force suggested the department have the One Mind training. Trainings will include implicit and explicit bias, race, ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ+ and people with disabilities. All officers receive training, this docket request item is to increase and broaden police training.

Some officers feel some officers have more training than others. Can the City ensure that training is provided to all officers equally?

Without further discussion, Councilor Grossman made a motion to approve this appropriation. Committee members agreed 8-0.

At approximately 10:00 p.m., the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andreae Downs, Chair