

Capital Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2017

Called to order: 7:05pm

Attendees: Ed Forsberg, Josette Burke, Donna Donnellan, Elizabeth Gaffey, Tim Hempton, Sam Obar and Al Todesco

Also Present: Thomas Gregory, Assistant Town Administrator

Fire Department:

Deputy Fire Chief Paul Barry started the presentation and Chief Tim Bailey joined the meeting at 7:10 pm

Fire department is looking to replace ambulance 1 which is an ALS ambulance. They will cycle down this one as they have in the past and upgrade the ALS monitor. There is now an unfunded mandate to have an IV pump now in the ambulances. This pump increases the price by \$8,000. So the original price of \$304,750 which is listed in our book has now been changed to \$312,750. The funding will come from the Ambulance receipt reserve account.

Discussion:

This will keep us with 3 ambulances. We have an ALS, BLS and a spare. The ALS 2009 van front ambulance is the one they are looking to replace. The department needs 3 ambulances do to the preventive maintenance and if the ambulances go down due to an accident. Trade value is not usually a consideration. They do trade them in but the trade in value is not factored into the price of \$312,750. Not sure what the trade-in value will be but it is usually \$10,000. The motor vehicle coordinator agreed with the cycling out of this vehicle. Current balance of the ambulance receipt reserve fund is 1.3 million.

Shift Commanders (Captains) vehicle: The fire department is looking to replace the 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe. This vehicle runs 24 hours a day. This vehicle will go to the captain.

Discussion:

Has the department considered the comparison of the Tahoe vs. Explorer? The Captain has and carries more equipment than the Chief or the Deputy Chief. The Tahoe is a \$5,000 savings from the explorer. The vehicles are bought off the state bid list. The replacement cycle for this

vehicle is 6-7 years since 1996. There is currently no spare vehicle for the captain. The trade in value \$1,500. The motor vehicle coordinator agrees with the cycling of this vehicle. The funding of this vehicle will be through free cash. These vehicles always come through Capital Budget.

Police Department:

Deputy Police Chief Chris Mackenzie was in to present for the police department.

Looking to add an unmarked car to the police fleet.

Discussion:

Do the detectives use marked vehicles? Marked vehicles cannot be used for surveillance. The detectives use their unmarked vehicles as their offices. 2 detectives shared a vehicle. They worked a split shift one in the day shift and the other the 2nd shift. So, that made it work. The court prosecutor uses his own vehicle. The SRO splits the use of a marked cruiser and his own vehicle. The juvenile officer uses his own vehicle. There are 6 detectives using 4 cars.

Polaris E Bikes:

We currently have 6 mountain bikes that were obtained through a donation. These are just regular bikes. Through the survey for community input the residents had asked for more bike and foot patrol. The E bikes can travel up to a speed of 25 mph and this can assist the officer when riding uphill. The officers carry a lot of equipment on their belts. This extra weight and exertion of uphill peddling can cause exhaustion of the officer.

Discussion:

Are the bikes plugged in? The bikes are battery charged. They are also recharged when you pedal the bike backwards and use of the brake. The bicycles are used for parades, road races, Adams Farm and any other events that they could be used for. Looking to purchase 4 bikes at \$6300 each.

Accident Reconstruction:

This computer can accurately test for vehicle speed and distance during accident reconstruction. This is currently done through a drag factor. They take a tire that is cut and fill it with cement and drag the tire. The friction of the tire to the roadway determines how much speed, and the pull of the car. It tells you the road conditions at the time of the accident. This sled is not accepted in court anymore.

Discussion:

Equipment can be mounted in the actual crash vehicle. Warranty information will be considered. This can receive data from the "black box" in the vehicle. Committee is looking for an estimated of time to replace them every time they are used. Deputy Police Chief Mackenzie

to furnish information on this and the calibration. The equipment is calibrated when it comes in and can be self-calibrated every time you use it. Committee looking for yearly maintenance fee.

Upgrade hand held radars:

Lidar hand held radars will differentiate speeding cars when two maybe riding side by side of each other. Looking to purchase them for the 3 motorcycle officers. Would like to replace 2 old radars with 3 new Lidar units. There is a 5-year warranty on them for \$500. The cost of each radar is \$7500.

Discussion:

Committee asking about the 5-year warranty. This is the same company that we purchased the last radars from. The motorcycle officers will use them in cars as well. The Lidar distance is much greater and this is good for picking out which vehicle is speeding if the cars are in a group. There is an automatic 3-year guarantee.

Firearms:

These last 7-11 years. The current firearms are 8 years old. We have gone from the 9mm to a Smith and Wesson 45 caliber. The FBI has done studies on the strength of the 9-mm ammunition to be used. \$2000 for spring kits for the current firearms. This would be 50 total pieces and the man hours to do the work is expensive.

Discussion:

Trade in and current cost is just an estimate depending on the vendor. Will go to a 9 mm or 40mm. No more 45 mm. They will test them on the range and see which one is the best. This process will take 6 months. You can't phase the firearms in they have to be for all so that the magazines can be shared if need be.

Emergency Management:

Roger Turner presented the items:

Equipment Storage Garage:

Shelter supplies, cots, blankets and pillows are in trailers as are kennels for the animals. Chapter 639 of MGL is the law that now has shelters needing to handle household pets and service animals. 2 years ago, the trailers were stored outside, they need to be in a garage space. They will need many trailers for medical reserve, shelter trailers, communication trailer and kennel trailer. Soon to be getting one more trailer through a grant.

Discussion:

None

Radios:

Radios were changed from analog to digital. The frequencies were changed as well. The analog is very outdated. All agencies use different frequencies and equipment. We need secure communications. Digital equipment was purchased by the previous administration. \$5000 to build up radio systems. Need to purchase a flexible program of radio's.

Discussion:

Cost is \$400 each. Would like 10 radio's, not including accessories which would be \$500 for each radio to take care of those needs. Communication would be with the Police, Fire, DPW and the schools.

No one has come in for shelter through the storms thus far. MEMA plans to do a training in Walpole.

Regional Sheltering

Run by the Red Cross and Medical Reserve Corp.

- This type of sheltering handles 400 people
- Showers need to be available
- Person with household pets

Types of shelters:

Daytime sheltering for:

- Elderly
- Transients
- People with children

Communication trailer for emergency communications towable by an SUV

Generator:

Blackburn Hall would be opened up for sheltering. Can't open this up legally without a generator.

Discussion:

Fire and Police have their own generators. Is it possible to share or put Fire and Blackburn together for use of 1 big one to generate power for both buildings?

Communications site work:

Communications housed on High Plain Street may need to be moved to South Walpole to free up more room at the High Plain Street site. A direct hit by lightning would take out everything.

School Department:

Ann Arpin presented the Technology request.

The technology request is for \$450,000 to fund the next three years. The funding would be to upgrade the needs of the various technology labs in the schools and the and various devices including projectors, chrome books, and mobile equipment.

Discussion:

\$450,000 will be a 3-year program paid up front. Lengthy discussion took place on the understanding of the Chrome Books and technology equipment.

Replacement phone systems:

Mike Frescia spoke about this system. This is year 3 of the 4 year phasing of the replacement of the phones.

- Phase one: Elm St, JMS and voicemail
- Phase two: WHS and PA system
- Phase three: Boyden and Fisher

The request is for \$50,000. There will be no copper lines they use cabling. They are using voiceover which is a non-hosted solution. There is a virtual server and we maintain it. It uses a T-1 line and if there became a problem it would automatically roll back to the copper line. The PA systems need to be connected. You can be reached from anywhere in the building. It is reliable and has a 4-digit dial, remote access to voicemail, maintenance is inexpensive and is hard wired.

Discussion:

No dead spots. The cost is \$65,000 to do OPR, BMS and the Central office – Town Hall

Auditory FM system:

This is wireless. There are 17 district wide students that are hearing disabled and this would go to their hearing needs in noisy situations. This would be an upgrade to the older system they have in place. This FM system works with some hearing aids while others are designed for those with normal hearing. These devices would be in the student's classes already and work wirelessly to assist the students.

Discussion:

These are custom situations. These are not tweakable to other students. 17 total students. Headsets are in the classes the student travels to. Mandated for students with this need. Coordinating program review will be auditing to see if we are following the assistive technology proposal. Consultants do assessment and can adjust the equipment.

Vans:

Charter vs Budget to purchase vehicles. The department currently has 16 vehicles. Van #9 is the Food van and is the only one purchased brand new. School department would like the freedom to purchase them if it is within their budget instead of waiting for Capital Budget Committee. If a van goes down or they lose one in the fleet it will cost the School department \$100-\$125 a day to transport students while waiting for Capital Budget to meet and appropriate the funds.

Discussion:

Capital Budget committee is asking that if you are purchasing a vehicle than you need to notify them. Schools use the vans for other purposes as well including sporting activities. They are exempt from 30A and they use many vendors. The savings on purchasing vans has allowed them to hire a person to process 2200 bus passes , van issues and taking phone calls for any issues involving the transportation.

Motion to adjourn at 9:40 by Josette Burke and seconded by Al Todescso

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Gaffey

Capital Budget Committee