



City Council Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 25, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers City Hall

Council in attendance: Mayor Jo Brown, Councilor Scott Clarenbach, Councilor Bob Desrochers, Councilor Jay Chandler, Councilor Karen Testerman, Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor April Bunker, Councilor Olivia Zink, Councilor George Dzujna.

Absent: Councilor Paul Trudel

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, Police Chief David Goldstein, Police Lieutenant Dan Poirier, and members of the public.

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Starkweather.

City Manager Milner began by providing the Council with information on the Christmas Wreath Fundraiser.

Agenda Item I.

Police Presentation

Police Chief David Goldstein stated that there were a few items to present to the Council. The first being the aging dispatch equipment which supports Franklin and five other communities. Goldstein explained how communications is of the highest importance and is required in any emergency situation.

City Manager Milner explained the cost of the dispatch upgrade FY2022 Proposed Cost Analysis (attached below). These costs were figured as of March of 2021. There could be an increase due to the offshore issues or simply a delay in supplies. She stated she will review the current estimate to make sure it is still a good figure.

Police Dispatch Upgrade FY2022 Proposed Cost Analysis		
Line#	Description	Amount
1	Cost of project	\$975,000
2	Capital Reserve Funds:	
2a	One time money from St of NH set aside for dispatch project	-\$229,696
2b	Money placed in capital projects by Council at end of FY2021	-\$224,410
3	Amount of Project to be Financed	\$520,894
4	Annual Payment Assuming 1.95% interest rate, 7 year term	\$80,234
5	How to pay for the Annual Payment:	
5a	Street Light Note Paid off FY22	(30,000.00)
5b	Old System Annual Service Contract	(12,000.00)
5c	Radio Lines Annual Savings (add'l phone line connections needed by the current system)	(4,800.00)
5d	Fiber Note Paid off FY23	(34,000.00)
6	Annual Note Payment Difference to Be Found In or (Returned to) GF Budget	-\$566

Milner asked the Council for consensus from them to allow her to borrow for the line of credit to make the interest payments. The project would begin in FY2023.

The Council asked questions and provided their comments.

Councilor Desrochers requested that we begin raising the fees for the other five communities that are utilizing our dispatch center and that it shouldn't be on the backs of Franklin residents.

City Manager Milner stated that the formula will need to be updated to also include a capital account going forward.

Chief Goldstein stated that his department will be meeting with the town of Hill to discuss taking on their dispatch calls and that will budget for this scenario which would mean financial support for Franklin. It could help us add one or two police officers to the Franklin police department. Goldstein stated that It is very early in these discussion with Hill and nothing has been agreed or confirmed at this time. It brings some helpful thought to how it could help provide funds to this project and a future capital account contribution.

Motion – Councilor Desrochers moved that the current formula be reevaluated to include the analysis of the current fees charged to the five communities: Andover, Bristol, Danbury, Hill, and Alexandria. Seconded by Councilor Starkweather.

City Manager Milner explained that this motion is for consensus to move forward to reevaluate and rework the formula. At a future date, it will come before the Council as a Resolution which then a request for a public hearing on the formula update will happen.

All in favor of the Motion. Motion PASSED.

There was discussion about making a motion to schedule a public hearing for the November Council meeting however it would not be possible because the Council does not have a resolution in front of them this evening to read the Resolution # and title out loud.

Agenda Item II.

Other

Chief Goldstein expressed concern over the impound lot which is critical for preserving evidence of an accident or crime. He stated that it is frequently broken into and that it would cost approximately \$15k to install a gate over the Humvee overhang.

Goldstein couldn't stress more how important it is to protect evidence. It is critical and required by law.

Chief Goldstein also discussed the cost of body cameras. The City would need at least \$200K and costs keep rising. He stated that his officers do a phenomenal job and doesn't feel we need them however it is important for transparency within our current society. Grants in this area are minimal at best.

Another concern that Chief Goldstein expressed is that our department needs funds for more police officers. He stated we are not just working toward exhaustion; we are working toward extinction. He reviewed the sad statistics that result from the stresses of the job.

Chief Goldstein provided the following handouts to the Council:

FBI LEOKA: Thousands More Officers Were Assaulted in 2020 than in 2019

October 20, 2021 • by POL Staff •

According to statistics reported to the FBI, 60,105 law enforcement officers were assaulted while performing their duties in 2020. These assaults were reported to the FBI by 9,895 law enforcement agencies. Based on these reports, there were 4,071 more officers assaulted in 2020 than the 56,034 assaults reported in 2019.

The data was released Wednesday in the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) portion of the FBI's Law Enforcement Data Explorer.

Injuries and Weapons

- Of the 60,105 officers who were assaulted in 2020, 18,568 (30.9%) sustained injuries.
- 44,421 officers were assaulted with personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, or feet); 25.8% of these officers were injured.
- 2,744 officers were assaulted with firearms; 6.1% of these officers were injured.
- 1,180 officers were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments; 9.7% of these officers were injured.
- The remaining 11,760 officers were assaulted with other types of dangerous weapons; 16.8% of these officers were injured.

Circumstances

Of all officers who were assaulted in 2020, agencies reported officers were involved in these circumstances at the scenes of the assaults:

- Responding to disturbance calls such as family quarrels or bar fights (29.6%)
- Attempting other arrests (16.1%)
- Handling, transporting, or maintaining custody of prisoners (12.6%)
- Investigating suspicious persons or circumstances (8.8%)
- Traffic pursuits or stops (8.4%)
- Civil disorder, such as mass disobedience or riots (4.1%)
- Handling persons with mental illness (3.9%)
- Burglaries in progress or pursuing burglary suspects (1.3%)
- Ambush situations (0.8%)
- Robberies in progress or pursuing robbery suspects (0.8%)
- All other types of circumstances (13.6%)

2020 assault data tables and companion documents are exclusively located on the FBI's Law Enforcement Data Explorer (a subset of the Crime Data Explorer).

Data and statistics concerning officers feloniously killed, officers accidentally killed, and federal officers killed and/or assaulted in 2020 were previously released to the Law Enforcement Data Explorer in May 2021. With today's release of assault data, all 2020 LEOKA data are now available.

Councilor Zink asked if it was possible to share some of the statistical data that used to be shared on a monthly basis. Goldstein replied that it may be possible to share it on a quarterly basis and the reason is that the administration staff have all been feeling the strain of the job as well as some employee turnover.

Chief Goldstein further explained the need for the body cameras are mainly due to the liability and the current qualified immunity bill being discussed in Concord. If this were to happen, the City would have to buy everyone in the police department an insurance policy. If that could not happen, then those who can retire or close to retirement, will retire and find another job. Then no one will want to work for the police department.

There was no further discussion.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Starkweather and seconded by Councilor Desrochers.

All in favor. Motion PASSED.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Lanzillo