

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Finance Committee Meeting
December 8, 2003

Members: Mr. Gorbach, Chair
Mr. Schmidt
Mr. Barnhart

Mr. Gorbach called the Finance Committee to order at 6:55 p.m. All members of Committee were present

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. No. B-171

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Mr. Gorbach read B-171 (second reading). Mr. Brodzinski reviewed the scheduled portions of the budget. Council has a net change of +6.45% which was due to a cost of living increase and an additional pay period. Mr. Brodzinski left the budget similar to last year. Mrs. Hummel stated she appreciated him leaving \$3,500 of discretionary funds. Council still did not get a map because they ran out of money in 2003. There is also training available for new Council members at Kent State. Mr. Flinn asked how Council was paid. Mr. Brodzinski stated that Ordinance 109-86 pays the President of Council 16% of the Mayor's salary; Council members are paid at 15% of the Mayor's salary, and the Clerk is paid at 80% of a Council members' salary. Mrs. Pyke asked why Council has a budget for postage. Mr. Arrington stated that some mailings go from the Clerk of Council. Mrs. Klinger asked which Council members were budgeted for hospitalization. Ms. Meganhart stated it was Mr. James and Mrs. Hummel.

The Mayor's department has a net change of -11.41% which was due to the 2003 budget including a part-time Administrative Assistant for Police Department operations. There are no capital needs nor changes in staffing.

The Law Director has a net change of +.98%.

The Service Director has a net change of -2.99%. The main reason for the change were two full-time positions being replaced at a lower rate of pay. There are no capital needs requested.

Civil Service has a net change of -27.23%. A decrease in "other operations" accounts for the main portion of this change.

Engineering has a net change of +2.86% due to a cost of living increase and an additional pay period. Everything remains steady and they used the same amounts as last year.

Building has a net change of +10.94% due to an increase in capital outlay. They are requesting two pick-up trucks, one of which to replace a vehicle which was totaled in an accident. Mrs. Klinger asked if the charges from the garage will go down or do they have a standard charge per vehicle. Mr. Brodzinski stated it will be charged the actual charge so it should go down.

Human Resources/Records has a net change of +.79%. There are no changes in staffing and no capital items.

Garage has a net change of +3.50% due to an increase in "other operations" for fuel, parts and outside repairs. Because of those increases, they have no capital requests at this time. Mr. Gorbach asked about the increase in repairs. Mr. Williams stated it was due to the higher cost of labor on outside repairs. Shops are high right now. Mrs. Klinger asked what the request was for software that he is not getting. Mr. Williams stated that were going to try to get bar coding for parts to keep track of the parts and also to get rid of older ones. The estimate for this was between \$4,500 to \$5,000 to start.

Technical Service has a net change of +2.28% due to cost of living and merit increases. Capital needs are (i) an AED Defibrillator which is required to be in the outside buildings. Mr. Sabino indicated the annex doesn't have one at all; (ii) one BIU Checker which is a Business Interface Unit that they use to troubleshoot; and (iii) two Laptop Computers that are needed by the techs in the field. One current unit is being replaced and another is going to a tech who only has a desktop.

The Police Dept. has a net change of +4.82% due to (i) a cost of living increase and an additional pay period; and (ii) an increase in transfer to the Police Pension Fund. Mr. Brodzinski stated that pension costs are handled within individual departments and that there is a transfer from these departments to cover that. Capital needs are (i) police cruisers, (ii) in-car video camera and additional microphones, and (iii) laser speed measuring device. Chief Conley stated the new police cruisers are in keeping with an earlier plan and are replacement vehicles. He'd like to trade-in the other vehicles. The in-car video camera is an additional one. As far as the microphones, they have found that those tend to get damaged easily in a scuffle. The radar device is in addition to the units they have now. This type is more popular because you can lock onto one vehicle at a time. Mrs. Klinger asked about the victim restitution line item and wondered why the amount was low. Chief Conley stated that is what they use for youth services where a juvenile does something in restitution. It is different from the one set up for the court system.

The Fire Dept. has a net change of +3.40% due to (i) a cost of living increase and an additional pay period; and (ii) an increase in transfer to the Fire Pension Fund. Capital requests are (i) two Lifepak 12 Defibrillators; and (ii) a POSI Test Bench. Chief Snyder stated the Lifepaks are the same models they purchased last year. They currently have eight on the front line and on back-up squads. Mr. Gorbach asked if they would use the old ones as back-up. Chief Snyder stated they would rotate out or trade in the oldest. With regard to the POSI Test Bench, they currently have to pay a company to test their self-contained breathing apparatus to make sure they meet the guidelines. By purchasing this, they should realize a \$3,000 annual savings. Mr. Gorbach asked if the people using it need to be trained. Chief Snyder stated are certified through courses at the State fire academy.

Mrs. Hummel asked how much the 27th pay will cost the City. Mr. Brodzinski stated it would be approximately \$1.7 million. Mrs. Hummel asked if there was any potential rate increase in enterprise funds or anything else we are contemplating. Mr. Brodzinski stated there's one scheduled in the sewer fund and they are looking at sanitation and storm water utility. Mr. Flinn asked if the 27th pay figure included all the numbers that go along with payroll. Mr. Brodzinski stated the only numbers that will change are Medicare and pension costs. Health costs are the first pay of the month so they will not change.

Mrs. Hummel stated she will have the Law Department include the Gann letter in the package that will be going to Council members with Subst. B-137. Mrs. Truby also requested a copy of the letter.

Mr. Gorbach stated the December 16 Finance Committee meeting needs to be changed. They hope to have a new date by tomorrow. He stated that Council members should let him know if there are any dates they cannot attend.

Committee continued to hold B-171.

Finance Committee adjourned at 7:30 p.m.