

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

July 7, 2025

Members: Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Chair
Mike Brillhart, Vice Chair
Meika Penta, Brian Ashton, Joe Siegferth

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the June 16, 2025 Finance Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-38

Temp. Ord. B-39

Temp. Ord. B-40

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-38

An ordinance providing for supplemental appropriations for operational expenditures of the City of Cuyahoga Falls in the General Fund, Civil Service Commission, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, presented Temporary Ordinance B-38 to Council. Article VI, Sections 7 and 8 of the City Charter provide that City Council may revise, amend, and supplement budgetary appropriations during the fiscal year, and may authorize the transfer of unencumbered appropriations within various accounts. An additional \$50,000.00 will be appropriated to the General Fund, Civil Service Commission, Line Item Other Operations.

Mr. Hoffman stated that they are here asking for \$50,000 in additional appropriations for the Civil Service Department in the City budget. The budget is produced and put together in September or October of the year and, at that time, they try their best to match up the number of exams anticipated for the following year, but sometimes those do not always go as planned. This year, they have a number of additional exams, especially ones that carry additional costs as promotional exams for the Police and Fire Department; therefore, they are requesting additional appropriations to cover the cost of those exams this year.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that the exams that were occurring and the reason for the additional funding are: Firefighter/Paramedic, entrance exam; Fire Lieutenant, promotional; Apprentice Substation-Meterman, entrance; Apprentice Lineman, entrance; Police Captain, promotional; Police Sergeant, promotional; Police Lieutenant, promotional, and Operations Supervisor, entrance exam.

Mr. Tom Sullivan, 447 Tallmadge Road, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, asked the amount of the increase. Mr. Hoffman stated that they are asking for \$50,000 in additional appropriations.

Finance and Appropriations Committee
July 7, 2025 – Page 2

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-38 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Penta. Motion passed (5-0).

Temp. Ord. B-39

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc. for the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment for use by the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Martin presented Temporary Ordinance B-39 to Council. The Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Inc., for the purchase of fifty-eight (58) SCBAs and related equipment for use by the Fire Department. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the Capital Projects Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-39 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Penta. Motion passed (5-0).

Temp. Ord. B-40

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Breathing Air Systems, Inc. for the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment for use by the Fire Department, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Martin presented Temporary Ordinance B-40 to Council. The Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, will be authorized to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Breathing Air Systems, Inc., for the purchase and replacement of SCBA Air Compressors, SCBA Fill Stations, Cascade Cylinders, and related equipment for use by the Fire Department. The Director of Finance will be authorized to make payment for same from the Capital Projects Fund, Line Item Capital Outlay.

Chief Martin stated that these two ordinances are huge steps forward for the Fire Department and thanked everyone for their support. SCBA are air packs, backpacks with air bottles. They are replacing all of those units, plus spare bottles, plus bail-out kits that standardize their members so when they get in trouble in a house, they will be able to bail out. Fill stations are located in stations tied to compressors that fill those bottles. They currently have a SCBA fill station at Station 1 and Station 5. After a fire, crews have to find their way to one of those two stations to top their bottle off. Stations 1, 2, 3 and 5 will have fill stations and Station 4, the Training Center, will have a fill station so all crews will be able to fill their air bottles. They are going from 30-minute to 45-minute bottles. With new technology and better bottles, those 45-minute bottles are not much larger and almost the same weight.

Finance and Appropriations Committee
July 7, 2025 – Page 3

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes stated that when she asked about the similarities of the legislation, the one ordinance was actually from last year. There were a variety of reasons they could not be purchased last year. The cost for those are \$619,290 and there is \$650,000 budgeted for that. The cost for the fill stations is \$199,857 and \$300,000 was budgeted, so they are well under that. Currently, there are fill stations at Station 1 and Station 5. They are going to get replacements for those two, plus fill stations for Station 2 and Station 3 and then Station 4 once the new one is built. Chief Martin stated that they are purchasing four fill stations. They have to upgrade Station 5, replace Station 1 and then add to Stations 2 and 3. The Station 4 compressor is in the price of that project separately. Atlantic bid previously for the SCBA. Breathing Air does compressor work only. They do not do the other, so there are two companies involved.

Mr. Balthis asked the expected timeline once these are ordered that these will be fully operational and implemented. Chief Martin stated that they have to do those in concert with each other. They do not have compressors to fill 45-minute bottles. Breathing Air can have them within 45 to 60 days. The SCBA was about five months. They are going to try to time it out. It is going to take a while to inventory and get to speed. When those are all up to service and ready to go, then they will get the fill stations. By the end of the year, they should all be in service.

Mr. Balthis asked if the 30-minute bottles are at the end of their useful life or being sold or transferred to other parties. Chief Martin stated that they still have some years left on those. They are being proactive. They are going to utilize some of the those air packs at the Training Center and sell whatever they do not use.

Mr. Brillhart moved to bring out Temp. Ord. B-40 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Penta. Motion passed (5-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.