

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**December 3, 2018**  
**Auditorium**

**Present:** Councilmembers O'Malley, Bullock, George

**Also Present:** Councilmembers Rader, George, Litten, & O'Leary, Finance Director Pae, Assistant Finance Director Schuster, Budget Manager Jessica Eddy, Mayor Summers, Judge Carroll, Clerk of Courts Christina McCallum, Police Chief Malley, Fire Chief Gilman, Dunphy, Law Director Butler

**Call to Order:** 5:35 p.m.

**Lakewood Municipal Court**

Judge Carroll discussed the installation of the new security equipment in the lobby of City Hall. It was paid for with a \$40,000 grant from the Ohio Supreme Court. Additional staffing and maintenance of the equipment will be incorporated into the 2019 budget.

The following additional budget trends were noted:

- The Court will be depleting the majority of its special projects fund in 2019 to use toward a comprehensive upgrade of computer hardware and software.
- The Court's revenues have fallen after five consecutive years of decreases in traffic tickets and criminal cases.
- The Court has taken steps to reduce its costs such as folding its work service program into the County program and holding some of its programming at LPL.
- The Court is anticipating overhauling its bond schedule in 2019.

Judge Carroll spoke about Ballot Issue 1 which was defeated in November. He stated that if Issue 1 were to pass that many drug cases currently handled as felonies would be diverted to Municipal Court, significantly increasing the caseload. He stated that there are efforts in Columbus to have the legislature revive this issue next session.

Judge Carroll advised Council that the 2018 changes to the dog ordinance have resulted in increased costs to the Court. The Judge is required to appoint a public defender to any indigent defendant who is facing the possibility of jail time. He has had to do this three times related to dogs running at large.

Judge Carroll briefly reported his perspective on the opioid epidemic as seen through the drug cases that come before him.

He noted that the Court is asking for approval of its budget which includes a 3% increase from 2018.

*Discussion:* In response to Council remarks, Judge Carroll stated that expenditures are exceeding revenues. He noted that the work of preventing crime and administering justice does not always neatly translate into dollars and cents.

Judge Carroll provided additional detail on the City Hall security upgrades stating that an x-ray machine and metal detector have been installed and personnel have been added. Personnel were initially paid out of the special projects fund. In 2019 they will be paid out of the operating budget which accounts for the 3% increase. He reported that the new security is going well and that weapons and drugs have been confiscated from people attempting to enter City Hall. All personnel operating the machines are retired police officers with special training.

Mayor Summers agreed that the new security has gone very well and complimented Judge Carroll on what he has achieved.

In response to Council remarks, Judge Carroll clarified that appointment of counsel/public defender comes out of the Court's professional services line item and that that line item was increased for 2019.

In response to Council remarks, Judge Carroll explained that the Municipal Court is an arm of the State. He acknowledged discussions in the past at the State level of not filling Judge-ships when Judges retire but not consolidation of Courts. He discussed other shifts in the Court system.

Judge Carroll requested that salary increases for the Clerk of Court and the Probation Officer to be incorporated into the budget rather than by separate ordinance. This request has been accommodated every year.

### **Lakewood Police Department**

Chief Malley discussed trends in the Police Department's 2019 budget, which he noted is personnel heavy. He flagged the Department's two capital projects:

- Renovation of the women's locker room
- Detective Bureau workstation upgrade

Chief Malley updated Council on retirements in the department. The Department will be understaffed by 4 officers in January and is in the process of filling these positions.

*Discussion:* Chief Malley discussed plans for the Department to construct a new firing range. Bids came in today and they were much higher than anticipated.

Chief Malley discussed the Department's plans to add street level surveillance cameras in 2019 along Madison Ave. Currently cameras are all connected along Detroit and the plan is to do the same for Madison.

The Committee discussed the police and fire pension funds which are funded by property tax millage. Director Pae reported that while the police pension fund is in the black for 2019 that it remains at risk of being depleted. The Fire pension fund is stable. Chief Malley added that having a more senior/experienced Department puts more stress on the pension fund.

In response to a Councilmember question, Chief Malley remarked on the difficulty of getting candidates to apply to safety force positions nationwide. In addition, he reported that the hiring

process takes about 6 months and that Lakewood is in the bottom third of the pay scale for the County for entry-level officers. Later, he added that while attraction of candidates is challenging that retention has been good.

In response to a Councilmember inquiry, Chief Malley reported out on the use of body cameras. He stated that everything is going smoothly and they are incorporated into the IT budget.

The Committee discussed the jail, its budget and meal vendor.

The Committee asked questions about police vehicles. Councilmember Bullock advocated for greater attention to the possibility of fuel efficient vehicles and noted the cost of fuel. Chief Malley expressed open-mindedness to finding ways to make police vehicles more efficient but noted that there are not a lot of options. He explained the need for the department to have one standard vehicle make and model.

Councilmember George asked if it would be appropriate to modify the department's pay scale so that it is not in the bottom-third of the County. Mayor Summers acknowledged that improvements may need to be made and that it will be a consideration during negotiations for the next contract.

In response to a Councilmember question, Chief Malley discussed the amount and types of continuing education training that officers receive.

Chief Malley provided an update on the latest advancement allowing residents to text 9-1-1.

In response to a Councilmember question, Chief Malley expressed willingness to allow the police station as a location for residents to meet to complete a purchase made online. The Chief stated that there is a low incidence of snatch and grab crimes.

### **Lakewood Fire Department**

Chief Gilman discussed the personnel considerations in the Fire Department budget. He stated that the other major expenses in the budget are for training and transition.

Chief Gilman announced that he will be retiring by October 2019. He discussed the process for recruiting and training new firefighter/paramedics and explained their education and training requirements.

*Discussion:* In response to Councilmember questions, Chief Gilman remarked on the impact of the closure of Lakewood Hospital on the Fire Department. He reported that the Department is doing more transports out of the City to Fairview as a response. He stated that many of these are unnecessary but that patients have the mistaken view that they cannot get treated at the Lakewood Emergency Department.

Chief Gilman reported out on the mobile stroke unit.

In response to a Councilmember question, Chief Gilman discussed the increase in the communications budget. He explained the type of technology that firefighters are using on the trucks and in the field and the benefits of this.

Chief Gilman explained the different department trainings that are paid for out of the professional services line item.

Chief Gilman discussed his projections of the department's workforce trends over the next five years. He stated that it is a young department. The department does not have a problem attracting candidates. He stated that the department's salaries are appropriate. He explained the staffing structure of the department as compared with others and noted that this is an additional benefit of working for Lakewood over other departments.

Finance Committee adjourned at 6:58 p.m.