

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
December 9, 2019
Auditorium

Present: Councilmembers O'Malley, Bullock & George

Also Present: Councilmembers Litten & Anderson, Councilmembers-elect Shachner & Neff, Judge Patrick Carroll, Clerk of Courts Christina McCallum, Finance Director Pae, Assistant Finance Director Schuster, Budget Manager Jessica Eddy, Mayor Summers, Captain Wilkins, Captain Stone, Chief Dunphy, Chief Malley

Call to Order: 6:07

Motion by Councilmember O'Malley, seconded by Councilmember Bullock to approve the minutes of the December 2nd Finance Committee meeting.

All members voted in favor. Motion adopted. Minutes approved.

Lakewood Municipal Court

Judge Carroll announced that the Court's budget has increased .5% from 2019 to 2020. He expressed a commitment to maintaining a conservative budget. The Judge remarked on the Special Projects Fund and explained that the Court's \$400,000 computer upgrade will come out of that fund and not the operating budget.

He spoke about the Court's 2019 initiatives including reforming the bond policy to eliminate cash bonds.

The Judge spoke about the Court's revenues and reminded Council that it is used to defray the operation of the Court. Court costs were increased effective Dec. 1st. However, the costs are still the lowest in the County, which he expressed a commitment to maintaining.

The Judge discussed trends in the Court's caseload including:

- 300% increase in civil cases in 2019
- Continued decrease in traffic and criminal cases since 2014.

Judge Carroll discussed changes at the state level that may increase drug court caseloads in 2020. The Committee discussed the workload and processes involved in drug cases.

Judge Carroll discussed an increase in the fees for assigned counsel (public defenders). Fees have been increased for the first time in 30 years. The Court spent \$48,000 through November 2019 on public defenders. The Judge remarked that he is required to assign counsel for any offense where jail time is a possibility. He noted that he has had to assign counsel related to the new dog ordinance, which comes with a cost to the City.

Judge Carroll discussed an issue that was flagged in a June audit where fingerprinting was not being performed as required. He blamed the Police Department for this oversight. He stated that the problem is state-wide. He discussed steps being taken to strategize solutions, which may include increasing staff and the budget in 2020.

The Committee discussed the nature of specific court funds and their sources.

Councilmember Litten asked the Court for 2019 projections and information. Judge Carroll responded that the Court is expected to be at or under budget.

Judge Carroll asked for approval for the clerk and other staff as in the past.

Councilmember O'Malley thanked Judge Carroll and asked him to remain in contact regarding the potential need for additional funding.

Fire Dept

Chief Dunphy stated that the leadership transition in the Fire Department is going well. He provided an overview of the Department's services and commitment to excellence. He explained that the Department will be adding two new positions in 2020 – an Administrative Captain & Community Paramedic. He and Mayor Summers explained the nature of the positions. Both positions will be funded from the General Fund.

Chief Dunphy explained that the Administrative Captain position will split the Fire Marshall role into two separate positions. All department captains will rotate through the position to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the administrative parts of the job. Having this position will also potentially reduce overtime in the department.

Mayor Summers explained the role of the Community Paramedic. This position will focus on prevention and build relationships with the department's frequent 911 callers. He acknowledged that the position is aspirational and that if the City were in tough financial times, it may consider cutting it.

Based on the figures provided, Councilmember Litten estimated that the Department's budget has increased about \$400,000 above and beyond the addition of the two new positions.

Director Pae explained the different financial mechanisms related to the absorption of the Lakewood Hospital Special Revenue Fund by the General Fund and the impact on the bottom line. In total, there is about a \$200,000 increase in the General Fund due to the absorption. Since 2016, proceeds from the Master Agreement have been used to fill in these gaps.

The Committee further discussed the proposed new staff, the rationale, and potential savings associated with these positions.

Councilmember Bullock pointed out the important work of the department and highlighted that about 50% of the City's spending is spent on public safety, which requires the departments to be cost conscious.

Chief Dunphy offered to meet with the Public Safety Committee throughout 2020 to update them on the positions. Both positions have been funded since June through the Lakewood Hospital Fund.

Chief Malley

Chief Malley reviewed the highlights of the Police Department budget and its separate divisions. He noted that while the patrol officers are fully staffed, except for one position, the department will need to turn its attention to succession planning to plan for retirements within the next 18 months. He also noted challenges in maintaining a fully staffed dispatch division and controlling OT. In 2020 the Department will expand professional development efforts among dispatchers.

He reviewed initiatives to be completed in 2020 including:

- Launching an electronic ticket writing system
- Continued efforts to reduce the jail population
- Jail facility improvements.

The Committee discussed the animal shelter facility. The current IWWIP Plan calls for the new high-rate treatment plant to take over the footprint of the building in 2024. It will be time soon to begin looking ahead for a new facility.

The Committee discussed the crossing guard position. The position has had less turnover since the pay was raised to \$15/hour. The Chief explained the protocol for filling in for absent guards. Crosswalks are never left unattended.

In response to a councilmember's question, Chief Malley discussed the expansion of the narcotic unit a few years ago. He explained the benefits of the expansion.

Chief Malley provided an update on the firing range, which be up and running shortly.

Chief Malley provided an update on the police surveillance cameras. Cameras are currently connected across Detroit & Madison. In 2020 they will be installed on W. 117th St., Berea Rd, & Lakewood Height Boulevard. Twelve locations have been identified but the budget allows for up to 20. The City will us the capital lease program to pay for the cameras. The budget has been updated to allow for \$150,000 investment in 20202. Chief Malley discussed the multiple uses of the cameras. Councilman Litten advocated for cameras to be located near scooter docks, should scooters be embraced. Councilmember Anderson suggested that the City promote the cameras more in order to deter criminals.

Councilmember Bullock advocated for the following initiative:

- using the cameras for traffic monitoring and

- additional traffic calming strategies
- adopting a cleaner fleet of vehicles

The Committee discussed the use of police body cameras, which were implemented three years ago. The vendor contract provides for new cameras every 2.5 years and unlimited storage. Camera footage is stored for 30 days.

The Committee discussed use of force incidents. These incidents have been decreasing since the use of body cameras. Around the same time, officers began de-escalation training and crisis intervention training. All of these initiatives have combined to reduce use of force. Tasers have not been used in two years.

Councilmember O'Malley noted that the Finance Committee could discuss the Mayor's Office budget, Ordinance 45-19 and the Lakewood Hospital Fund at its final hearing on December 16th.

Finance Committee adjourned at 7:51 p.m.