

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 29, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Interim City Manager, Chief Grimm

Subject: **Response to City Council questions on FY 23/24 Proposed Budget at the 8/15/2023 Budget Workshop**

1. Question from Vice Mayor Lowell about the \$20,000 line item for Nela Bridge in Public Works.
 - a. Answer: This project is funded with ARPA, so the expense amount is not included in the FY 23/24 budget. This is for landscaping and lighting for the bridge to prepare for the Centennial celebration.
2. Question from Commissioner Partin regarding the Fire Protection line and if we know we will receive an increase (Line 001-519-00-3440).
 - a. Answer: Per the Interlocal Agreement with Orange County, our fire protection cost is calculated by applying the proposed FY Urban Fire/MSTU millage rate to our current year's taxable value and multiplied by 92.5%. Therefore, we anticipate this increasing each year as our property values increase. The current Interlocal Agreement went into effect on October 1, 2018, and automatically renewed for ten (10) subsequent fiscal years.
3. Question from Commissioner Partin regarding Solid Waste and if it was a normal increase (Line 001-519-00-4310).
 - a. Answer: With Resolution 23-04, the City approved a 5.4% rate increase for JJ's for FY 23/24, bringing the annual cost per parcel to \$305.40. We added two parcels for FY 23/24, bringing our total count to 2,643. $2,643 \times 305.40 = 807,172.20$. We budgeted \$810,000, as this line also includes amounts paid to Orange County Solid Waste for trips to the landfill.
4. Question from Commissioner Partin regarding the Special Events line (Line 001-519-00-4800).
 - a. Answer: The Special Events Committee prepared a budget totaling \$99,500 for FY 23/24 City events, including two movie nights, Light the Way, Santa Ride, Golf Cart/Bicycle Light Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, and the Centennial Celebration. We budgeted an extra \$500 for misc special events expenses, such as popcorn for Popcorn Friday events, bringing the total budget to \$100,000.
5. Question from Commissioner Partin regarding Crossing Guards, if we increased the amount and whether the school or the City pay for them (Line 001-521-00-1210).
 - a. Answer: The City increased from 5 to 6 crossing guard positions and increased their pay from \$15.00/hour to \$16.25/hour. The City pays for the Crossing Guards, not the school.
6. Question from Commissioner Holihan regarding the \$1m difference between the FY 22/23 budget and the FY 23/24 budget for General [Government] and Public Works.
 - a. Answer: The total budget for FY 23/24 for General Government decreased by about \$1mil from the FY 22/23 Amended Budget due to the emergency expenses for the hurricane that were included in the Amended Budget. The total budget for FY 23/24 for Public Works decreased by about \$1mil from the FY 22/23 budget because the CIP items are being funded with ARPA and thus removed from the budget (Resurfacing & Curbing / Sidewalks).

7. Question from Commissioner Smith regarding the 15% pay raises and how we arrived at that amount.
 - a. Answer: The 15% for Police sworn employees is comparable to other agencies. The City of Apopka provided a summary of other agencies (attached). PD did not receive the COLA increase last year; however, they did receive an increase per the pay plan. We also included a 15% raise for non-sworn – last year, they received 4% COLA - Tampa is giving 18% this year. The Budget Committee recommended splitting the 15% for non-sworn and paying 8% with a one-time 7% salary payment.
8. Question from Commissioner Smith regarding Sidewalk Repairs (Line 001-541-00-6330).
 - a. Answer: The CIP item for Sidewalks was removed from the budget and is being funded with ARPA. (Updated ARPA spreadsheet attached).
9. Question from Commissioner Partin regarding the increase in Insurance (Line 001-519-00-4500).
 - a. Answer: This line is for the City's general liability, property, and worker's compensation insurance. The renewal estimate received was for \$231k. Salary increases and added positions directly increase our general liability and worker's compensation insurance costs. Additionally, our renewal estimate included a 32% rate increase for property insurance.
10. Question from Commissioner Partin regarding Emergency Expenses – Hurricane, if the City approved the amount spent, and if a hold was placed until we knew we would be reimbursed by FEMA (Line 001-519-00-3417).
 - a. Answer: With Resolution 23-03 for FY 22/23 Budget Amendment #1, Council approved the \$1,430,554 budget amount, almost entirely for debris removal. A small portion expensed was for load tickets, food during the hurricanes, and miscellaneous supplies. The "hold" on hurricane expense payments was concerning Hurricane Nicole. At the November 15, 2022, City Council meeting, the consensus was to wait until the end of the week for FEMA determination before proceeding with debris pickup from Hurricane Nicole. FEMA did not approve debris reimbursement for Hurricane Nicole; however, the City did resume debris pickup at a cost of about \$109k. This past week we discovered this was included in the Hurricane Ian claim with FEMA, and we are working to correct it.
11. Question from Commissioner Partin regarding the fund balance for Stormwater (Fund 103).
 - a. Answer: The Stormwater Fund had a negative ending fund balance at the close of FY 21/22 (-\$13,969), we project a negative ending fund balance at the close of FY 22/23 (-\$407,841) and an even greater negative ending fund balance is projected for FY 23/24 (-\$557,565). The expenditures in this fund significantly exceed the stormwater revenue we receive. Although in a different fund, using the remaining bond proceeds towards stormwater projects will slightly alleviate the costs expensed to the Stormwater Fund.
12. Question from Commissioner Carugno regarding the retirement percentage in the Police Department pay plan.
 - a. Answer: The current retirement contribution percentage for Police sworn employees is 18.5%. The new proposed pay plan increases the contribution to 20% in an attempt to be comparable to the State and other agencies' high liability retirement. If approved in the pay plan, the increase will be brought to Council as a resolution.
13. Question from Commissioner Smith regarding how much we are trying to get back from FEMA.
 - a. Answer: We are working with FEMA to receive over \$1mil for debris removal and over \$100k for Stormwater projects (St. Moritz/Cullen Lake Shore/Wind Willow/Overlook).