



CITY COUNCIL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, November 18, 2024 at 5:00 PM

1 Benjamin Franklin Way Franklin, Ohio 45005

www.FranklinOhio.org

CLERK'S JOURNAL

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Centers called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chair Brent Centers

Michael Aldridge

Matt Wilcher

Staff: Mr. Westendorf, Chief Stitzel, Chief Colon, Ms. Steed, Ms. Dunn

3. APPROVE THE CLERK'S JOURNAL AND ACCEPT THE TAPES AS THE OFFICIAL MINUTES

A. November 4, 2024

Motion made by Wilcher, Seconded by Aldridge.

Voting Yea: Chair Centers, Aldridge, Wilcher

Motion passed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Taser Replacement Program

Chief Colon said that Axon has updated hardware on the body worn cameras. The City is getting updated equipment at no cost as part of our lease agreement.

In 2019 the Division acquired Taser 7 CQ from Axon. As tasers need to be replaced, the Division will move to the same contract with Axon as the BWC to ensure updates are included as needed. The estimated cost is \$14,000 annually.

B. 2025 AFG Application

Chief Stitzel proposed applying for funding for three Life Pack 35's. The cost is \$275,000. The local share under this grant would be \$13,750. Legislation will be taken to Council on December 2 for consideration.

C. Fire Levy Discussion

Mr. Westendorf reviewed information about past levies and summarized what was discussed at the previous Safety Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed millage and how much each millage option would generate. There was also discussion regarding the type of levy; permanent capital or operation or term limited. Capital needs

include Fire & EMS apparatus. Operational needs include offsetting SAFER funds post 2026 and significant staffing shortages that are being seen industry wide, increasing wage competitiveness across the region.

The Mayor proposed hosting Town Hall meetings to get a feeling from the public on the need and options. He asked the Chief for his preference. The Chief prefers a permanent levy to address personnel in addition to capital. If there is a large increase in residential development a replacement levy could be done to account for additional properties being served by the Division.

Staff will work to coordinate a Town Hall meeting and will present two options for public input.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Aldridge, Seconded by Wilcher.

Voting Yea: Chair Centers, Aldridge, Wilcher

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm

Mayor Brent Centers, Chair