

# CITY OF LYNDEN

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



### Public Safety Committee Meeting - 11/07/2024 Minutes

Police Department - 203 19th Street

4:00 PM November 07, 2024

**Call to Order:** 4:01 pm

#### **Roll Call**

Committee Members Present: Chair Mark Wohlrab, Gary Vis and Lee Beld

Others Present: City Administrator John Williams, Fire Chief Michael Noonan, Assistant Fire Chief Kristie Watson, Police Lieutenant Jeremy Bos and Police Support Services Manager Sharon Clark

#### **Approval of Minutes**

1. September 2024 Minutes – Approved

#### **Items from the Audience**

##### ***Scheduled***

None Scheduled.

##### ***Unscheduled (20 Minutes)***

No unscheduled items.

#### **Committee Items**

##### **Fire Department Items**

3. September and October Reports

Cobblestone Hotel has opened, inspection has been finalized. There was a propane tank inspection at the new gas station on the Guide, there was a disaster drill at the community health care center next to Lynden Manor and there were Blood Pressure Checks at the Lynden Community Center.

EMS responses were up from last month and there were 88 overlapping calls. There were 203 aid calls for the month, down a little from last month. There were 0 fire calls.

Council member Beld inquired about why an engine accompanies an aid car to each call, when the majority of our calls are aid calls. It was explained that when an engine is accompanying aid, and assisting on a call, and another aid call comes in, the engine must return to the station and get the second aid car. It was asked why 2 aid cars don't go to a call and return to the station for the engine. Chief Noonan explained that a fire call has

more threat to real property and life. An aid call is only a threat to a few people and a fire call could affect multiple people.

There were 5 mutual aid calls.

Another scenario for leaving the Fire Department short is if Lynden Fire Department needs to utilize BOTH ambulances to transport patients to the hospital, that will leave the department without ANY staffing, thus relying on our mutual aid partners to respond to Lynden calls.

In the event an ALS unit/Medic unit needs to utilize 3 members of our staff to assist in the rig while they transport a patient to the hospital, that would leave one member of our department available, but unable to cover Lynden calls – still relying on our mutual aid partners to respond to Lynden calls.

The new firetruck is due in December or January. There will need to be training for the new truck and the outfitting of it, so it should be ready to go in February. It is still to be determined as to how the new truck will be staffed.

### **Police Department Items**

#### 4. Public Safety Stats – September and October 2024

There is nothing statistically significant about the monthly totals. For the yearly totals, there will be moderate increases in crimes against person and property, domestic violence, public order maintenance, services calls and traffic complaints. It appears that there will be an increase in calls for the year.

Public Order Maintenance covers suspicious circumstances, trespasses and disorderly conducts.

Overtime hours are down by over half this month. We have scaled back to bare bones, only 2 officers on most of the time.

There are 2 officers in field training right now, Annika is a month in and doing very well. She will probably be field training for 5 months. At the Academy, she was voted the most trustworthy officer. Brady is a week into field training.

### **Added Items**

Body Worn Cameras, the trial period has come to an end. The City came to an impasse with the Union for additional pay when wearing a camera. It was decided that it will be voluntary for an officer to wear one.

It was mentioned by Chair Wohlrab, that it puts the officer(s) and the City at a disadvantage if a camera is not worn. If the issued is pressed and it goes to arbitration, this would cost the City approximately \$20,000 regardless of the outcome. In 2026, there will be an additional cost for the BWC - \$15,000 - \$16,000 per year. An update regarding the BWC will be provided at the next Public Safety Meeting.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles/UTV's etc., after some discussion, it was decided to bring information regarding the specific types and add this as an agenda item to the next Public Safety Meeting.

**Adjournment**      4:50 pm