



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Development Center, Room B, 225 N. Webster, Norman, OK 73069
Thursday, February 08, 2024 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, relation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5446, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Linda Price
Committee Member Kenny Orr
Committee Member Kyle Hurley
Committee Member Lea Greenleaf
Committee Member Mark Emerson
Committee Member Russell Rice
Committee Member Ann Gallagher
Committee Member Greg Gilkey

OTHERS

Major Brent Barbour, NPD
Russell Anderson, Comm. Systems Manager
Kim Coffman, Budget Manager
Dannielle Risenhoover, Administrative Tech. IV
Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician
Chris Snider, Citizen
Bill Scanlon, Citizen

Chair Price called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 11, 2024

Member Greenleaf moved to approve the January 11, 2024 Public Safety Oversight Committee minutes which was duly seconded by Member Gallagher. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee Minutes from January 11, 2024.

REPORTS

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Kim Coffman gave the report. Coffman stated that the City has not received a payment from Norman Public Schools (NPS) for their cost share of the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The Public Safety Sales Tax Fund is approximately 5% below the budgeted revenue target. Coffman attributes this to not receiving the NPS reimbursement and sales tax lagging. Coffman said, "I did send an invoice to their (NPS's) CFO on January 18 for the first and second quarters. Anthony (Francisco) wanted me to send an invoice for the full \$766,000 because that was the figure that had science behind it. The estimate we gave them for the current year was \$664,000 and when we closed the fiscal year, the SRO costs wound up being \$774,000. They (NPS) saved a little bit of money then, but because of that, our costs this year were estimated at \$766,361." The \$766,361 that the School District is being billed for this fiscal year is only half of the SRO program's estimated cost. It is estimated that the SRO program will cost about \$1,532,721 this fiscal year with salaries, overtime, training, tech costs, maintenance and supplies for their vehicles, and overhead. This estimate does not include the expenses from the four additional SROs that were recently added.

Expenditures are still conservative. The Public Safety Sales Tax Fund is about 3% behind the budgeted target. There were three payrolls in January.

The Fiscal Year 2025 budget request deadline was January 31. The Mayor requested that 14 additional SROs be requested out of the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund. The request accounts for one SRO Lieutenant, 13 SROs, equipment, uniforms, and 14 vehicles. This has an initial cost of around \$3 million. The salaries for these 14 positions are currently estimated at \$1.35 million/annually. Coffman stated, "I think we'll probably need maybe a subsidy of two or \$300,000 without these SRO officers being approved. If they are approved, even though they'll be paid for from the PSST Fund, the General Fund will probably be paying the bulk of those officers through a subsidy."

Emergency Management has requested 16 radios estimated at \$121,000 for new job functions at the Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC) and \$24,000 in radio equipment for the ECOC to provide multiple frequencies that expand radio signals to different organizations and mutual aid partners. There is also a base budget increase request of \$3,600 from the Communications Department for uniforms.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. MONTHLY UPDATES

a) FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

There were no Fire Department updates.

b) POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Major Brent Barbour gave the report. Barbour stated that the chili cook-off fund raiser was a success. All left over chili was donated to local homeless facilities.

The current police academy has 9 cadets. There are 11 officers in field training. Field training should be completed in early April. "We have a significant amount of applicants for our August academy," Barbour said. "We're hoping for that, 10 to 15, magical number in our August academy. We don't have a lot of vacancies anticipated. We usually lose ten a year. I would bet, being pretty realistic, we're closer to about five."

An updated contract from the Fraternal Order of Police was signed last week. "Usually this is a recruiting tool, but I will tell you that this is a retention tool," Barbour said. "It had a cost of living and step increase like normal, but what it did is add in the longevity that we haven't had - which matches up to Oklahoma City and Moore; so, that brings our pay more in line with Oklahoma City. It leaves Edmond and Moore still on an island of their own, but it really makes us much more competitive especially for those who are looking at leaving. Our retirement is based on our last 30 months of service. It helps give people a reason to stay."

Barbour stated that a capitol budget request is anticipated so minimal construction changes can be made to the old Municipal Court and Dispatch spaces. The goal is for NPD to utilize these spaces based on the Public Safety Study recommendations.

The Norman Citizens Police Academy applications are due at the end of February.

The county wide public safety banquet that is usually sponsored through Crime Stoppers will not take place this year due to funding issues.

New police body cameras were purchased this year. Almost all officers have a specific camera assigned to them with camera battery life no longer appearing to be an issue. There is a FY 25 budget request for 50 additional body cameras. These will be accessible to officers who aren't in the field all the time and for new officers hired by the department.

c) DISPATCH UPDATES

Russell Anderson gave the report. The mobile command post continues to be upgraded. The contractor is currently configuring the unit's network.

Dispatch has four employees in their academy, two individuals going through background checks and two positions vacant. Artificial intelligence software has been purchased for use in the academy. This software simulates 911 calls for training purposes.

Dispatch has programmed five more radios to provide interoperability between the City of Norman and the Cleveland County Sherriff's Office.

The University of Oklahoma has joined the City of Norman's computer-aided design (CAD) system. This merger is set to go live on April 1st.

d) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS CENTER (ECOC) UPDATES

The Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC) has drywall up and furniture decisions are being finalized. There are no significant delays anticipated in the continued construction of the facility.

"A budget request will be coming through for (construction of) the storage facility (at the ECOC)," Barbour said. "The number (bid) right now is \$875,000. We are really optimistic that it will be taken care of."

Discussions have started regarding scheduling a ribbon cutting ceremony for the ECOC.

3. ESTABLISH TOPICS FOR THE MARCH 14, 2024 MEETING

Member Greenleaf stated that he liked Member Hurley's idea, from the last meeting, of the Committee preparing itself for the possibility of a PSST 3 Fund. The Committee consensus was that they wait until the Public Safety Study is completed to address this.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Kim Coffman explained the remediation that has been taking place in the foyer of the Development Center.

Major Barbour clarified that the Cleveland County Sherriff's Office has committed to providing on-site officers at Norman's public elementary schools through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. If Council approves the additional 14 SRO positions requested by the Mayor, Barbour said these positions would have to be phased in, "We don't take new people from the street. We pull from patrol or other areas of the agency, so it would take a few years to ramp up if we can hire them." As far as Kim Coffman is aware, NPS has not been paying the Cleveland County Sherriff's Office for their SRO services this school year.

Member Greenleaf stated that a bill has been proposed in the Oklahoma State Legislature that would approve SRO positions being filled by retired police officers.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Rice made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was duly seconded by Member Hurley. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Price, Chair
Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee