



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Development Center, Room B, 225 N. Webster, Norman, OK 73069
Thursday, April 13, 2023 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, retaliation, 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 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Chairman Linda Price
Committee member Gregory Gilkey
Committee member Kenny Orr
Committee member Kyle Hurley
Committee member Lea Greenleaf
Committee member Mark Emerson
Committee member Mike Rainer
Committee member Russell Rice

ABSENT:

Committee member Ann Gallagher

OTHERS:

Kim Coffman, Budget Manager
Dannielle Risenhoover, Admin. Tech IV
Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician
Major Brent Barbour, NPD
Major Chad Vincent, NPD
Russell Anderson, Communications Systems Manager
Chief Travis King, NFD
Bill Scanlon, Citizen

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

MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE MARCH 9, 2023, PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES.

Member Rice made a motion to approve the March 9, 2023 Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee minutes which was duly seconded by Member Greenleaf. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee Minutes from March 9, 2023

REPORTS

2. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORTS

Kim Coffman gave the report. Coffman stated that the revenues are less than 1% below the budgeted target amount. Coffman stated that, "We are about 2% over the budget target, City wide, for sales tax. April came in really well; it was about 6.5% above last April, so by next month hopefully Public Safety Sales Tax will catch up." Expenditures are below the budgeted target amount. There were two payrolls in March with no major purchases.

Two major invoices were paid out of the Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC) budget for construction of the ECOC. The invoices paid were to Crossland Construction Company and ADG.

Approximately \$13,000 in capital outlay was paid from the Fire Department's budget. This was for the purchase of radios for a new apparatus, helmets and bunker gear. There was a large parts invoice that was paid out of the Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) division.

The City Manager, in his proposed budget, has approved two new Communications Officer II positions that would be paid from the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund. These positions would come available July 1, 2023. No additional personnel was approved for the police department or fire department in the recently proposed, FYE 24 budget. The Public Safety Sales Tax Fund also received the approval for the following: replacement of three Police Department patrol units; a vehicle lift for EVT; computer monitors and keyboard mouse combinations for School Resource Officers; a traffic emitter test unit and installation for EVT; and a combination rescue tool and telescopic RAM battery bay charger for Fire Suppression.

Items submitted for the record:

Finance and Budget Reports

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. MONTHLY UPDATES - FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Travis King gave the report. He stated that the Norman Fire Department (NFD) is expecting the delivery of two brush pumpers. One is expected by Fall 2023 and the department is hopeful to have the second brush pumper by Spring 2024. King states, "One unfortunate thing that was apparently not approved in this year's budget is the aerial apparatus that I've told you

all about. We got these two pumpers and that was contingent on getting this aerial apparatus.” King also stated, “I had a meeting with finance and the City Manager and I was told we would get that (aerial apparatus), apparently we are not getting that (aerial apparatus) so I am very concerned about that. That will have a negative impact both operationally and in our next Insurance Service Offices (ISO) process. As you recall, this was the apparatus that I briefed you all on. I almost got a contract signed; we had a deal on that before a price increase and was not able to get that through Legal. It’s the last year of the program, it was mandated by the voters - we’re supposed to get some apparatus, but apparently we are not getting approved for this apparatus.”

Kim Coffman stated, “My understanding is that the apparatus that was requested was about \$1 million over the \$6.8 million allotment for the apparatus program; so, the City Manager did not include that in the proposed budget, but he said they would entertain an amendment to go directly to Council if Council wants to approve additional funds to go towards this (aerial apparatus).”

King replied by saying, “What’s unique about that is I’ve talked to Legal about that through the years and those apparatus and those totals were based on 2015 prices, so those have been adjusted every year and the fire chief has the latitude to change what was originally voted on by the voters. I suppose we surpassed the \$6 million mark a long time ago, but again, we really need this apparatus and it’s unfortunate that’s not approved.”

Member Greenleaf made a motion that the Public Safety Oversight Committee send a letter to Council asking Council to explore any and all avenues of funding, including a bond issue if necessary, to include the purchase of a 100 foot aerial apparatus in the City budget because of its need in the community. The motion was duly seconded by Member Emerson. The motion carried unanimously.

4. MONTHLY UPDATES - POLICE AND DISPATCH

Major Brent Barbour gave the update. He notified the committee about the following upcoming events: Public Safety Day/Shred-a-thon is April 22nd as well as the J.D. McCarty outreach event and University of Oklahoma Spring Game. In September, Norman Police Department (NPD) will participate in the annual softball tournament that benefits the Mary Abbott House and October 2nd is Norman’s National Night Out.

Barbour acknowledged the City Manager’s approval for the hiring of two additional dispatchers in the FYE 24 budget. He said, “We (NPD) have been really busy and have some really big “events”. Over and over again we see the dynamics. These positions are super critical to us. It’s not a PSST thing, but we need more (dispatchers). We are routinely running four people down there. Four people doesn’t work, it gets super dangerous and super overwhelming. As we grow, we keep seeing those issues.” Barbour says that hiring requests for dispatchers will keep coming in because that department hasn’t kept up with the growth of Norman.

For FYE 24, NPD requested funds and the development of a 5 person team that could respond to calls that don’t require commissioned officers. This budget request was denied.

The patrol cars that were ordered in July 2021 were recently received and are on the streets. The patrol cars ordered in July 2022 have not been received and their expected date of arrival is unknown at this time.

Barbour states that NPD has made great strides fulfilling non-commissioned staffing positions. One of the things that isn't approved in the FYE 24 budget, that Barbour says will impact police services, is a Redaction Clerk. Barbour says that NPD will adjust their records department to compensate for this unfilled need. The Police Academies are "still looking really strong" and Barbour feels like by April of 2024, staffing should be "mostly caught up".

There have been some significant calls ran by NPD recently. One of them being a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) activated call on Iowa Street. Norman Police Department gained entry to a home and found multiple (mostly stolen and some high powered) rifles, over 1,000 pills of Fentanyl, and multiple pounds of Meth. Barbour voiced congratulations to the NPD operations, tactics, and other teams across the City that put this response together to make it safe. "It was a really, really dynamic, super complex in nature, situation that worked really, really well and ended peacefully. Everything worked as well as it possible could have," Barbour said. One individual has been taken into custody. Barbour expects this incident to become a federal case.

The active shooter call at the University of Oklahoma was also a significant call. From an initial response perspective Barbour stated, "We're estimating 12-18 officers were in the building within 3 to 4 minutes, which is exactly what we want. The initial threat, had there been one, would have been taken care of without any question." It is estimated that within 30 minutes, about 200 officers from across the metro responded to this incident. Barbour stated that, "Nobody was hurt. Nobody was ever in danger. It was not a fire cracker or confetti gun. We had multiple phone calls to us (NPD) and OUPD. All the different departments and agencies are working on their own in-house reviews. We will consolidate all of these together with the University next week and that will span all around the state for response planning, making sure we can do this even better next time." This incident is a federal investigation. Barbour pointed out that there were 3 dispatchers and 1 supervisor answering 911 calls when this call came through. "These employees were all tied up with calls before the incident ever hit the radio," Barbour said, "We are getting more and more incidences where 3 and 4 people down there (in dispatch) does not work. Eventually we are going to have failures that aren't acceptable."

Barbour said that there is a lot of organization and planning going on to make the weekend of April 29th a safe weekend. The population of the City of Norman is expected to double on this weekend due to the following events taking place within approximately a 2 mile radius: Norman Music Festival, Fill the Stadium revival concert, 2 proms, State Church Convention, OU softball game, OU baseball game, Lions' Carnival, and Sooner Saturday.

Russell Anderson gave the Dispatch update. The Dispatch Department is down one employee and has one Communications Officer 1 finishing training, two Communications Officer 2's in training, and two individuals in the Dispatch Academy. There will be a meeting between Cleveland County Sherriff's offices and City of Norman Dispatch, next week, to see about Cleveland County Sherriff's Department joining City of Norman's radio system. Anderson says, "It's (joining radio systems) looking like a go and this will be huge for interoperability." Member Greenleaf highlighted the importance of radio systems providing interoperability. He stated that bringing the approximately \$16.5 million, Harris Radio System to City of Norman was, "a long, long project for PSST and one that I think was well worthwhile." This system provides encryption so scanners can't pick up communication and also give other chosen agencies the ability to interconnect with Norman's radio system.

5. MONTHLY UPDATES - EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS CENTER (ECOC) PROJECT

Major Brent Barbour gave the update. Construction crews for the Emergency Communications Operations Center (ECOC) are currently putting in drains at the ECOC building site. They are expected to start drilling piers and pouring concrete next week. Completion of this project is still slated for July of 2024.

6. ESTABLISH TOPICS FOR THE MAY 11, 2023 MEETING

The topics for the May 11, 2023 meeting will remain the same. No additional topic items were suggested by the committee.

7. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETING LOCATION

Kim Coffman discussed the future meeting location for the Public Safety Oversight (PSST) Committee meetings. Due to the remodeling of City of Norman Municipal Building C, City of Norman staff will soon be occupying the PSST Committee's current meeting space; thus, future PSST meetings will be held at 225 N. Webster Ave., Development Center Room A, Norman, OK.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Rice made a motion to adjourn the March 9, 2023 Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee meeting which was duly seconded by Member Gilkey. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 PM.

Linda Price, Chair
Citizens Public Safety Oversight Committee