



**Office of the City Manager**

312 W. Whitewater Street, P.O. Box 178  
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

[www.whitewater-wi.gov](http://www.whitewater-wi.gov)

Telephone: (262) 473-0104

Fax: (262) 222-5901

MEMORANDUM

To: Common Council  
From: John Weidl, City Manager  
Date: 11/15/2023  
Re: Support for WPD's Strategic Approach to Staffing and Technology Needs

Essentially, I was asked to assess the feasibility of adding one full-time position in the police department in 2024. Financially, the only option without corresponding cuts to another department is transferring money from the City's "rainy day fund" or what is known as undesignated fund balance. While this is possible, it presents a one-year solution only without ongoing revenues to ensure the position past 2024. I also asked Chief to assess what he would do if the governing body were to allocate the same one-time revenues to the police department in 2024. His memo is attached. His dedication to objectively finding a sustainable solution and balancing the needs of numerous stakeholders is both commendable and essential for the well-being of our city.

Therefore, I'm writing to express my support for Chief Dan Meyer's well-researched proposal regarding the Whitewater Police Department's (WPD) staffing and technology needs, including the allocation of an additional \$120,000 from the undesignated fund balance for one-time expenses, including referendum education and technology upgrades. I believe this aligns with the goals of several council members who wish to ensure our protective services is supported while balancing the financial health and long-term goals against immediate satisfaction.

To expand on that and in line with best practices, I believe the most prudent course of action is to follow the Chief's original proposal. If you recall the Chief's recent presentation at a common council meeting, this involves an immediate investment in technology, which will provide short-term support to our police force. While not all activity can be made public, recent drone footage of the apprehension of a felon with stolen firearms demonstrates the immediate impact of our Chief's strategy in real-time.

Concurrently, we should proceed with the Chief's medium-term strategy of conducting a comprehensive staffing analysis, which is funded in the 2024 budget, meaning we can start that process as soon as the budget is approved. This analysis will enable us to understand our department's needs accurately and objectively. After the staffing analysis it is likely we will need to present these findings to our community through a referendum. That process still need to be funded.

In short, adhering to this strategy of bolstering our technology capabilities now, while preparing for a well-informed and funded staffing referendum, seems a more responsible and strategic approach than hiring one additional staff member for a year without a clear long-term funding plan. This approach not only aligns with our Chief's existing strategy and financial best practices but also ensures that we make decisions that are sustainable and in the best interest of our community.

I look forward to discussing this further and working together to support the WPD in these initiatives.

Warm regards, - JSW

John S. Weidl, City Manager