

Capital Improvements Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 4:00 pm
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room

Capital Improvements Committee Members Present: R. Lavallee (Chairman), J. Collamati, M. Hennessy

Capital Improvements Committee Members Absent: J. Kuzmeskas, J. McCarthy

Meeting Commenced: R. Lavallee called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

Minutes from the April 11, 2023, meeting were tabled until the next meeting

Public Hearing: Library Director, Bernadette Rivard, was not present at tonight's meeting due to the Library not having at Capital Requests at this time.

Chief Miller and Deputy Milot from the Fire Department were present to discuss the Capital Requests as follows:

ENGINE 3:

The 2007 Pierce pumper truck, Engine 3, was recently taken out of service. This was due to extensive rust, frame rail separation and mechanical issues. The truck would not pass DOT inspection, which is why it had to be permanently removed from service. There is currently a 2-year wait time for stock pumpers, which the Department is in need of purchasing. In addition, there is a yearly price increase of 20%, which is \$220,000 per year. This is the standard increase across the board from all manufacturers. The cost of a new pumper truck is \$1.1 Million.

Ms. MacKinnon discussed this request with Committee members and let them know that emergency funding was requested but was denied by the State. They are still looking into this type of funding and don't have the funding source determined for this purchase yet, but the truck does need to be ordered as soon as possible due to the current one having to be taken out of service.

ENGINE 5:

There was also discussion about the need to soon replace Engine 5, which is the 1995 E-One pumper truck, also at the estimated price of \$1.1 Million. That truck is still currently in service but has passed the 15-year life expectancy set by the National Fire Protection Association, which sets the criteria for fire apparatus. This truck is 28 years old and will be going for its yearly inspection in October. The Department needs this Engine to pass inspection since they are already down one, with Engine 3. Chief Miller will not know the status of this truck until after inspection is complete but will definitely need to be replaced within the very near future due to the NFPA Standards.

CAR 3:

A request to replace Car 3, which is a 2015 Chevy Tahoe was presented to the Committee. The current vehicle is used daily for inspections and emergency responses. The vehicle has been maintained, however, due to its age and daily use, the vehicle is showing significant signs of body rot, rust, and frame delamination. It has now become strongly recommended to store personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) outside of the passenger compartment or in a sealed, vented compartment. It is the goal of this administration to protect the members of the BFD with the purchase of pickup trucks instead of SUV's, in order to keep the contaminated equipment and

gear separate from the occupants. This request is for the replacement of a 2015 Chevy Tahoe at the cost of \$83,735 for the truck, radios, IT, and command equipment.

CAR 4:

A request to replace Car 4, which is a 2017 Chevy Tahoe was also presented to the Committee. The vehicle is also used for inspections and emergency responses, just like Car 3. Due to the same issues this vehicle is experiencing with the signs of body rot, rust, and frame delamination, it is also being requested to replace with a similar pickup truck, in the amount of \$83,735, with the same radios, IT and command equipment.

Pictures of current vehicle conditions were provided to all Committee members with the descriptions and quotes.

STATION 1 WINDOW REPLACEMENT:

A request in the amount of \$150,000 to replace 32 windows at South Station was presented to the Committee. The current windows were installed in December of 1992. Mostly all of them do not close or seal properly. They are extremely inefficient and cause excessive energy use in both summer and winter months for heating and cooling.

STATION PLANNING / DESIGN CONSULTATION:

This request in the amount of \$300,000, is to start the evaluation process for future expansion, and conditions at the 3 Fire Stations in town. As the community continues to grow, so has the request for fire services from the department, which has resulted in the need for additional staffing. As the department plan shows future growth, there is a need to update/expand the current stations. This request is to hire an outside firm to propose renovations and potential expansion.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend the funding for the 2 Fire Engines and 2 Replacement Vehicles, and \$100,00 towards a feasibility study of Station 1. Seconded by M. Hennessy. Recommended 3/0.

J. Collamati made a motion to amend the previous recommendation, regarding the feasibility study part, and allowing it to cover all 3 Stations instead of just Station 1. Seconded by M. Hennessy. Recommended 3/0.

Public Hearing: Chief Fitzgerald and Lt. Russell from the Police Department were present to discuss the Capital Requests as follows:

ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICES:

Chief Fitzgerald provided Committee members with a presentation he prepared on a Capital Request for electronic control devices. This would be for the purchase and deployment of 30 Axon Taser units, for sworn personnel. The cost of \$129,110 would be for the 30 devices and would also include warranty, liability policy, and all necessary parts/supplies for the 5+ year life span.

\$50,000 in State/Federal Grant funds has been applied for, to offset the cost. The department won't know if the funds will be awarded until October 2023.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend funding for the purchase of the electronic control devices as described above. Motion was seconded by M. Hennessy. Recommended 3/0.

ANNUAL CRUISER REPLACEMENT (2 VEHICLES REQUESTED):

A request for a new unmarked admin vehicle was provided to Committee members. The make & model will be determined based on availability from the vendor due to supply chain and ordering constraints. The current vehicle being used is 6 years old, with over 80,000 miles and it would be reassigned to the Detective fleet for the next 3 to 4 years, which would be replacing the 10-year-old vehicle that is still currently being used. The proposed cost of a replacement vehicle and emergency equipment is \$62,700.

A second unmarked admin vehicle is also being requested, to replace the 7-year-old vehicle with over 77,000 miles. The current vehicle failed its recent safety inspection in July and will be repaired in order to be reassigned to the Detective fleet for the next 1 to 2 years. The same purchase constraints apply to this vehicle, due to the vendor supply chain and ordering constraints. The proposed cost for the replacement vehicle and emergency equipment would also be \$62,700.

M. Hennessy made a motion to recommend the funding for the 2 police admin vehicles as described above. Seconded by J. Collamati. Recommended 3/0.

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

The next Capital Improvements Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 4:00 pm.

M. Hennessy made a motion to adjourn at 6:04 pm. Seconded by J. Collamati. Recommended 3/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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