

**FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 21, 2010**

Call to Order

Councilor and Chair Starkweather called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Franklin Fire Department.

In Attendance

Councilor Starkweather, City Manager Corrow, Finance Director Milner, Fire Chief Smith and Deputy LaChapelle.

Committee Members Absent

Councilor Audet and Councilor Andreozzi

Budget Discussion

Chief Smith commented that concerning the upcoming budget one very important part of the budget is to cover the labor costs better than in the past. Chief Smith provided a detailed booklet covering all aspects of the Fire Department budget with thorough backup information.

Some of the areas that Chief Smith commented on were the Part-Time (On-Call) Firefighter Wages, and that line was increased from \$26,000 to \$32,000. Two drills have been removed but Chief Smith commented if possible he would like to have them put back in the budget. He stated training is very important in order to be able to handle fires and many other types of situations the Fire Department is called upon to handle.

Manager Corrow advised that \$510,000 will have to be cut from the budget. She stated there will be \$258,000 additional revenue for the entire budget and her hope is to maintain wages and benefits and that alone will total more than the \$258,000 additional revenue. Somehow she hopes to meet the cap and maintain the wages and benefits. Chief Smith commented that in the Fire Department budget there is no padding. A truck that is needed is in the budget but he stated he realizes that will have to be cut.

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Chief Smith talked about the inadequate funds available for physicals for the 15 on-call firefighters. Regulations call for any firefighter who wears an air pack must get a physical. The full-time firefighters will be working out physicals through their insurance but the on-call group also needs physicals. Physicals cost \$571.00. Chief Smith advised that the office supply line was increased and Director Milner advised that increase should be shown under Fuel Depot. The Fire Suppression Line was increased to accommodate \$500 per full-time employee for training classes. The Department has 28 air packs and all will need to be replaced by year 2017 at a cost of \$8,000 per pack. Sets of gear are also supposed to be replaced every 4 years at a cost of \$2,400 each. Each year the department tries to replace two to four sets.

The boiler at the Fire Station is 40 years old and one of these years it will probably fail. The stove in the kitchen has been out of service but recently was fixed, they would like to replace it with a gas range as they have the gas at the station but don't have the correct wattage for the electric range. Chief Smith advised that they cut the code enforcement training in half in order to make some training funds available to the firefighters.

The maintenance on the 1984 truck for the Fire Alarm and Dispatch Department has doubled. Municipal Services also uses this truck and has begun to sometimes share in the cost of the fuel. It was suggested that perhaps they should share in the maintenance cost. Medical supplies have increased to approximately \$41.00 per day and the reason for that is the hospital no longer restocks the supplies.

Gas Meters were discussed and one new one is in the budget. The maintenance on the current meters is very expensive. Chief Smith stated he hopes to get with Councilors Audet and Andreozzi to review the budget with them prior to the next Fire Committee Meeting.

Respectfully,

Sue E. May

