



Des Peres Public Safety Department
12325 Manchester Road
Des Peres, MO. 63131
January 25, 2022

The meeting of the Board of Public Safety Commission was held at 6:00 p.m. on the 25th day of January, 2022 in the Aldermanic Chambers for the transaction of such business that may come before the Commission.

Present: Commissioner ChairLarry Beermann
 CommissionerRobert Ashcraft
 Commissioner.....Matt McGrath
 Commissioner.....Caitie Zimmerman
 Alderman.....Sean Concagh
 Chief.....Eric Hall
 Captain.....Dale Fiala
 Captain.....Vicki Severs
 Support Lieutenant.....John Appelbaum
 Administrative Assistant.....Mónica Llorián

Also Present: City Administrator.....Doug Harms

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Chair Beermann opened the meeting. Administrative Asst. Llorián commenced with the roll call. The entire commission was present.

HEAR CITIZENS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

None

ALDERMANIC REPORT

Alderman Concagh stated the Board of Aldermen are in discussion over the renovations of city hall.

BUDGET

Chief Hall stated that at this point the department finished 2021 under budget at 3.71%. He stated that in the categories of first aid, vehicle maintenance and communication went over budget for 2021 and those categories budgets have been increased for 2022. Chief Hall stated that overtime was over budget due to paramedic staffing issues.

Chief Hall provided the commission with a summary of unplanned overtime costs that the department absorbed in 2021 that was categorized as not day to day expenses such as sick leave and required training.

Commissioner McGrath asked if the department has had any issues with obtaining supplies and materials due to COVID related delays and shortages. Chief Hall stated that initially supplies were an issue and lately we have seen some difficulty locating N95 masks over last year. Chief Hall added that the new ambulance has been delayed in manufacturing and that he is concerned about a delay on the three (3) new police cars for 2022. In addition one of the department's ammunitions orders has not been delivered and was originally ordered in March of 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

February Meeting Date

Chief Hall informed the commission that the February 21st, 2022 meeting falls on a holiday. He asked if the commission would like to move February's meeting to Tuesday February 22nd, 2022 instead.

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to move Monday February 21st meeting to Tuesday February 22nd, 2022. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

K-9 Presentation

Chief Hall presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed Firearm Detections K-9 Unit the department requests to acquire from Vapor Wake in Anniston, Alabama. He identified the following key factors.

- Purpose – take safety at the mall serious, increase the public's perception and confidence in the center, and enhance Public Safety relations within the community and to Des Peres a safe place to raise a family, visit, and shop.
- Presented statistic of firearm related incidents at West County Center (WCC) as well other incidents at malls across the country.
- Aimed to reduce the potential of future gun related incidents at WCC.
- The department's interventions since the July 2021 shooting incident.
- The specific dog is trained to detect odors from firearms in the air such as gunpowder, gunpowder residue, ammunition, oils and explosives.
- The specific dog is passive response dog; not an attack or bomb sniffing dog.

- The tentative one-time capital cost would be approximately \$43,000 which includes purchase of dog & training, transportation compartment for dog, upgrade vehicle ventilation system and kennel for officers home. Other tentative one-time operational training costs of \$8,500 with a estimated total initial cost of \$51,500.
- Yearly care and maintenance of the dog is estimated between \$5,000 and \$7,500.
- Possible donations from residents and local businesses.
- The department would also be requesting to maintain one (1) extra officer in the future which would be our officer returning from military leave.
- If approved, the process would be select a dog and training on site for 4-6 weeks and the assigned officer would then attend for an additional 4-6 weeks for training on-site with the dog.

Alderman Concagh asked if the dog would come to city-sponsored events. Chief Hall stated the dog would be a great public relations tool and show the community our commitment to overall safety in the city and West County Center. Chief Hall did add that one question he has been asked is would the presence of the firearm detection dog at the center be considered a negative to visitors feeling uneasy for the overall need of the firearm detection K-9.

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to recommend the department move forward with the concept of a firearms detection K-9 Unit from Vapor Wake in Anniston, Alabama. Commissioner Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously

Part-time Paramedic Program

Chief Hall presented the commission a proposed a memo including a summary of the current paramedic staffing of the department, required training, and potential changes in the near future to include a part time paramedic program. He stated that the department's paramedic staffing is down due to retirements and long term on-duty injuries. He stated that in order for the department to maintain Advance Life Support Emergency Medical Services (EMS) the department must be staffed with two (2) licensed paramedics on duty at all times. The need for two paramedics on duty is to have the level of care for serious emergency medical incidents and have a second paramedic in the event of additional emergency medical calls. Chief Hall stated to maintain those standards the department instituted a program offering voluntary overtime to paramedic during peak hours to maintain the two (2) paramedics on duty.

Chief Hall stated that this is an expensive program as the average overtime rate is \$63.00 per hour. In his memo, Chief Hall outlined for the commission the possibility of hiring part-time fully trained paramedics to supplement staffing. The department currently has four (4) employees in paramedic school and more interested in attending in the near future. The purpose of the part-time program is designed to be short term up until our employees graduate from paramedic school and our numbers stabilize.

Chief Hall stated that the department would like to hire on a short-term basis six (6) part-time paramedic to be used on a scheduled or on-call basis as the department building back to the minimum of nine (9) licensed paramedics (who are not supervisors).

OLD BUSINESS

Hiring Process Update

Capt. Severs stated that that the department has changed the tactics on recruiting. She stated that a lot is coming from word of mouth from current officers and that several candidates have shown interest in the department.

Lt. Appelbaum stated that the department is creating an eligibility list of possible candidates with twenty (20) possible part-time paramedic candidates and between 12-15 possible public safety officers. The advertisement runs for the next two weeks.

City Administrator Harms added that the hiring process is about a 3-4 month selection process. In addition, firefighter-paramedics are plentiful in St. Louis County but to send a Paramedic to the police academy, who is not trained as a police officer, is a nearly a 14 month process. Mr. Harms added that the steps to hire employees are extensive between the written examinations, interviews, background investigation, medical examination, and psychological examination.

DISCUSSION

Department Update

Capt. Severs stated that she is adding more notes to the daily desk reports and that the department has had some issues with the current Kirkwood's CAD system. She concluded that Kirkwood does plan to purchase a new CAD system through Motorola/REJIS and will hopefully improve the reporting details.

Chief Hall stated that this week there were three (3) vehicles stolen in driveways as residents have left them warming up with either the keys or key fobs inside. He stated that the department has increased its patrols during the morning hours to prevent future thefts and also have stopped to talk to residents when they find a car running in attempt to warn them of the risks.

Lt. Appelbaum stated he has a conference call with Taser for training classes on the model of Tasers the department will be purchasing in 2022. In addition, the department is reviewing the training module that Taser offers that is virtual reality based and includes de-escalation scenarios.

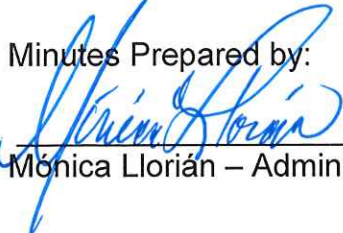
License Plate Reader Cameras

Chief Hall stated that 2 of the 3 license plate readers have been installed at West County Center and the third camera will be installed on the north bound from 270 to the center. Chief Hall added that the license plate reader cameras have been a valuable asset and reference a recent arrest where officers received an alert for a subject wanted to kidnapping and sexual offense from St. Louis City. They were able to locate and arrest the subject and we were later notified by St. Louis City PD that the subject is being investigated for additional crimes, in total up to 10 incidents.

ADJOURNEMENT

Commissioner Ashcraft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by:



Mónica Llorián – Administrative Asst.

January 25, 2022 Public Safety Commission

ATTEST:



Matthew McGrath, Commissioner