

1 **Minutes of the**
2 **Public Safety Committee Budget Review Meeting**

3 Bountiful City Public Safety Building

4 April 8, 2019 (4:00 p.m.)
5

6 Present:

7	Committee Members:	Kendalyn Harris (Chair)
8		Richard Higginson
9		Kate Bradshaw
10	City Manager:	Gary Hill
11	Assistant City Manager:	Galen Rasmussen
12	Police Department Staff:	Tom Ross, Ed Biehler, Dave Edwards, Troy Killian, 13 Eric Barker, Layne Oberg, Kimberly Buck, 14 Kathy Lovoi
15	South Davis Fire Staff:	Jeff Bassett, Dave Powers, Jessica Hardy

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17 Official Notice of this meeting had been given by posting a written notice of same and an agenda at
18 the City Hall and providing copies to the following newspapers of general circulation: Davis County
19 Clipper, Standard Examiner, and on the Utah Public Notice Website.
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21 Committee chair Kendalyn Harris called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m., welcomed those in
22 attendance and asked for each person to introduce themselves.

23 **PRESENTATION OF SOUTH DAVIS METRO FIRE BUDGET**

24 Gary Hill made a brief introduction on the Fire agency including a mention that their fiscal year is now
25 the same as the City's which aids in accurate budgeting. Gary also noted that the Fire agency is
26 funded by a combination of member entity assessments and a small property tax levy. Time was then
27 turned over to Chief Jeff Bassett to present the detailed budget and to respond to questions.

28 Chief Bassett reviewed the process followed for budget development highlighting their many
29 contractual arrangements for services. The Fiscal Year 2020 budget contains no increases in staffing
30 levels but does include some key capital projects which include acquisition of the former tennis courts
31 behind the Mueller Park Station for expansion of parking for the station; purchase of a new ladder
32 truck with a 110 foot reach and 1,400 pound weight rating on the platform. This equipment replaces
33 a 27 year old ladder truck; and completion of the Centerville Station (scheduled for October 2019).

34 Also included in the budget is an allocation for the replacement of two ambulances (one at Bountiful
35 Main Station and one for Centerville). There will also be monies set aside in the budget for purchase
36 of a new "Type 3" fire truck capable of fighting fires in the Wild Land Interface area. This vehicle will
37 have a one year acquisition timeline.

1 Mention was made of the effects of healthcare costs and Tier 1 retirement costs. The quotes received
2 for health insurance reflect a 10% increase over the current year rates. Funding for Tier 1 retirement
3 benefits received a great deal of scrutiny at the State level with a \$15,000,000 fiscal impact statewide
4 to restore support to local agencies in funding of Tier 1 benefits. Committee member Bradshaw
5 provided insights from her experiences during the recent Legislative session.

6 Gary Hill noted that the budget allocation for Bountiful of \$2,100,000 is a \$50,653 increase over the
7 current year and is designed to cover Bountiful City's share of the Tier 1 obligation. The original
8 obligation (prior to legislation) that Bountiful City was expected to cover was \$107,000. It was noted
9 that any future increases in budgetary needs would need to come from property tax increases instead
10 of member entity assessments.

11 Committee member Richard Higginson made a motion to accept the tentative budget of South Davis
12 Fire as presented, and Committee member Kate Bradshaw seconded the motion. Voting was
13 unanimous with Committee members Harris, Higginson and Bradshaw voting "aye".

14 **PRESENTATION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

15 Chief Tom Ross reviewed the budget process followed by the Police Department which includes an
16 active employee advisory board to evaluate all budget requests. This advisory board meeting typically
17 takes place in December of each year and the membership of the advisory board changes over time.
18 From these advisory committees, Police management assembles the department budget request.

19 The Fiscal Year 2019 property tax increase was reviewed and appreciation expressed for the
20 assistance that funding provided in getting the department staffed fully in officer positions. The
21 approved staffing level is now set at 38. Last year, the department was down in numbers by as many
22 as four sworn officers at times.

23 A review of department goals was made by Chief Ross with special highlights on the importance of
24 customer relations and special projects such as the Davis County Opioid pilot program; community
25 emergency preparedness and department accreditation.

26 Budget line items of note included the increases in personnel services driven by a planned 2% cost of
27 living allowance; merit increases for 52% of the department. The budgeted expenditures for
28 operations and maintenance include increases as a result of changing of computer software which
29 works more reliably than the previous software.

30 A question was raised by Committee chair Kendalyn Harris about the City's agreement with Davis
31 County for Animal Control. Chief Ross and Gary Hill provided an overview of the issues with balancing
32 of funding between the County and the cities for operations and capital needs at the animal shelter.
33 The Fiscal Year 2020 budget includes a 14% increase over the current year which is based on the call

1 volume of the City and shelter capital needs. Questions from committee members centered around
2 ways to reduce unnecessary calls and to better track the distribution of calls between domestic and
3 wild animals so as to direct the County on where to place priority and reduce costs. Chief Ross noted
4 that the County has stated they will not be directed by the local cities on where to respond to calls
5 and they reserve the right to set workloads to meet the perceived need. A need for greater citizen
6 education on the issues was also cited as a possibility to help reduce costs.

7 Gary Hill noted that the Animal Control increase, while seemingly high, is actually in line with the call
8 volume. There is some concern present among cities that the County may choose to leave the Animal
9 Control business and advocate for a separate special district for this purpose. In the view of cities, this
10 action would result in higher costs versus the current County led service model.

11 Committee member Higginson asked for a status on the program dealing with Feral Cats. A current
12 status is not known. Committee member Bradshaw asked about how frequently the County requests
13 increases in animal licensing fees. The frequency is not often and the last increase date was likely
14 more than five years ago.

15 Capital requests in the budget were reviewed along with the long-term capital plan. The Fiscal Year
16 2020 budget includes \$200,000 for six vehicle replacements; \$287,000 for replacement of an aging
17 E911 telephone system to allow better interoperability and other needed functions; and \$250,000 for
18 replacement of 22 year old transmitter equipment.

19 Operating statistics were reviewed from a handout distributed in the meeting comparing 2018 with
20 2017 and also listing statistics from 2015 and 2016 in some categories. Chief Ross noted that
21 Bountiful City Police Department's arrest, crime, and other operating statistics have improved since
22 the 2007 to 2008 period when the City was among the highest in the County. There tends to be a
23 correlation between large commercial development and commercial centers and the amount of
24 certain crimes. Bountiful City has been able to improve statistics even with its current commercial
25 base and those of neighboring communities.

26 A question was asked in regards to whether certain crimes are clustered in areas. Chief Ross and
27 other officers present noted that there can be clustering of crimes within particular areas in limited
28 instances but this is not a general rule.

29 Comments were made by the committee members on the successes of the school resource officer
30 program in the local public schools. The advance experience of children and youth with law
31 enforcement in the schools has resulted in many positive outcomes that have made schools safer for
32 students and teachers. Virtually every officer present in the meeting has served as a resource officer.

33 A mention was made of the loss of E911 funding expected from the change in the distribution formula
34 and recent legislation at the state level. The expected loss to Bountiful is \$70,000 in Fiscal Year 2020.

1 A question was asked about how the neighborhood BBQ events are managed and funded. Chief Ross
2 noted that neighborhood groups provide funding for the food and related costs and the Police
3 Department members simply attend and speak (which results in a small amount of overtime costs).

4 Committee member Bradshaw made a motion to accept the tentative budget of the Police
5 Department as presented, and Committee member Higginson seconded the motion. Voting was
6 unanimous with Committee members Harris, Higginson and Bradshaw voting "aye".

7 The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. on a motion made by Committee member Higginson and
8 seconded by Committee member Bradshaw. Voting was unanimous with Committee members Harris,
9 Higginson and Bradshaw voting "aye".