

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 9, 2020

Charles City city council met in a budget session on January 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseaman, Phoebe Pittman and Phillip Knighten. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

Public safety director/police chief Hugh Anderson and fire chief Eric Whipple were present to discuss their respective budgets. Anderson is asking the council to consider building a gun range for the police department to train at. The ones they have had in the past, one of them shared with the Floyd County sheriff department, haven't worked out. The closest range for them to use is Osage. If council is favorable of this idea, they could start looking for a donation of land for it. He just wanted to make the council aware of this and keep it in mind. He does have a couple of properties in mind as possibilities. It was also suggested to talk to the county about any properties they may have that we may be able to purchase a portion to use. Council member Freeseaman commented that he would rather see us own the range rather than lease from the county, given the past experience with not being able to use the past two shared ranges we have participated in.

Fire salaries have a 3% increase calculated for FY21. The next larger equipment purchase is 6 to 6 years away. City administrator Diers commented that he has been talking to Pat Callahan, the person who did our last goal setting session, about helping with a capital improvement plan. We will look at trying to do this after budget is done and it will be for all city departments. Chief Whipple commented that any fire truck that is purchased would be shared with St. Charles township. The overhead doors at the fire station are in dire need of replacement, they are leaking a lot of air. He is also looking at a program called Target Solutions to help training, recordkeeping, etc. for the firefighters. This would allow them to do online training while they are on duty and that would save on overtime costs. This program would cost about \$89/fire fighter. The fire station roof is also in need of replacing, an estimate cost for this is \$75000 and combined with the overhead door replacement cost of \$47500, capital improvement line item totals \$122,500 for FY21. Council member Freeseaman suggested putting more of a pitch on the roof when they replace it, it doesn't have much of a pitch now. The fire extinguisher fund budget has not changed. These receipts come from the sale and service of fire extinguishers in the area.

Police budget was reviewed. Anderson would like council to consider implementing a retention bonus after three years of employment with the city for our officers. We have had a lot of turnover lately and he hopes that giving a bonus after three years would help lower that. Council member Pittman asked if a junior police/firefighter program may be beneficial to get our young people more involved and possibly consider a career in public safety. Anderson replied that the city had done an Explorer program about 15 years ago and maybe that could be repeated. Capital purchases for the department for FY21 include a truck to be used as a squad vehicle. These are pursuit rated trucks and would prove more beneficial as they get handed down to other city departments as the police replace vehicles. He has \$35,000 budgeted for this item which is what the state bid is.

The police secretary position is paid 40% from 9-1-1 and 60% from the city since she serves as the secretary for 9-1-1 too. Protective measures line item includes siren repair/replacement. We have one tornado siren located on private property so we would like to move that to city ROW. The generator at city hall is a 1990 model but is still in pretty good shape. Council member Freeseaman commented that we should probably look at replacing that in the near future.

Code enforcement budget reviewed. An increase of 3% is included here for salaries effective July 1 for FY21. We have include carbon monoxide detectors on our inspection list and our code employees have seen improved safety in our rentals due to our inspection program. Our part time animal control officer will be retiring in the next couple of years, so we will need to decide what to do with this position.

Dispatch fund budget reviewed. An increase of 3% for salaries here is about the only change from last year. These expenses are reimbursed to us by the county for dispatching services.

K-9 fund is for Jordy's expenses and donations for him. The cost for the recently built fence for Jordy is here. Safety education fund is funded 100% by donations and is used for kids coloring books, bike rodeo and stickers. Communication fund is funded by county payments totaling \$14000 each year and is being

built up to be used for large expenses for equipment repair/replacement for dispatching. Asset forfeiture fund is funded by vehicles and other items seized thru drug arrests. This is to be used for additional equipment/training for officers, not day to day expenses of running the department. The police purchase reserve account is where the money from one day borrowing comes in and then gets transferred out to purchase vehicles each year. Nuisance reserve fund is used to purchase and demo nuisance properties and is funded through one day borrowing.

There being no more business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, city clerk