

Finance Committee Meeting 5.20.25

Jeff LeMay called a Finance Committee Meeting
on Monday May 20, 2025 at 2:00 pm

RE: Fire & EMS Department Budget

Attendees: Committee member Jeff LeMay, Committee member John Gaskey

Council Member Lauren Ingebritson

Village Administrator/Chief of Police Jerry Hayhow

Chief Fiscal Officer/Clerk of Council Katie Lyons

Fire Chief George Heffner

EMS Assistant Chief John Gatch and Erica Moore

Meeting called to order 2:00pm

Mr. LeMay called a finance committee meeting on Monday May 20, 2025, to discuss the current and future Fire and EMS Department Budgets.

2025 Budget: to be increased by ~\$17K-\$18K with monies coming from other funds. This is not an increase in the 2025 budget. It is a re-allocation of 2025 budgeted funds from one cost center to another. George and Jerry to work on the need, timing and fund sources.

2026 Budget:

- **EMS** - agreement on their proposed 2026 budget. + \$11K for Contractual Services vs. 2025.
- **Fire** - The 2026 baseline budget is the 2025 budget of \$65K + the increase proposed above (for the 2025 budget) totaling somewhere between \$82K-\$85K. We agreed to the proposed 2026 Fire budget which underwent 3 downward revisions. The net overall increase proposed was + ~\$65K vs. the revised 2025 base budget. The total 2026 Fire budget should then be between \$147K and \$150K. Of note, it is my opinion that this Fire budget increase was likely long overdue. Meaning, the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 budgets should have been meaningfully higher than actual to account for what we now see as needed maintenance and testing required to ensure safety. Future annual budget process capability (skills, knowledge, training, commitment) needs to improve so that we have better visibility and can plan accordingly.

Overall:

- **Risk Mitigation Pending Levy Approval** - Our base assumption is that the 2025 levy and ballot issue is approved by voters. Given the risk here, I would recommend that any of our proposed new or increased spending be pushed to May/2026. Doing so will allow us to confirm passage of the levy AND receipt of the first half of revenue under the new levy. For the same reason, I would not sign a P.O. or financial commitment for the new or increased spending in 2025 that obligates us to spend the same during the period Jan. 2026 - Apr. 2026. Let's get the levy passed and receive the increased monies first.
- **Months cash On Hand Outlook** - Good governance recommends that we maintain at least 6 months of cash on hand. Because of the two major capital outlays projected for 2026 and 2027 (EMS vehicle and Elm Water Line) and the increased Fire spending, our months cash balance on hand will not increase meaningfully during 2026 and into 2027. Net, it is important that we continue to stretch every taxpayer provided dollar as far as possible as done in the last 10 + years.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35PM