



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

Councilors at Large

Marcus L. DiNatale
Sally H. Cragin
Amy L. Green
Elizabeth R. Walsh
Anthony M. Zarrella

President
Anthony M. Zarrella

Vice President
Andrew J. Van Hazinga

Ward Councilors

Ward 1 – Bernard J. Schultz, III
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Andrew J. Couture
Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz

Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Councilor DiNatale on Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 6:07 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Marcus DiNatale, Derrick Cruz, and Elizabeth Walsh.
Committee Members absent: Councilors Paul Beauchemin and Anthony Zarrella.

Others Present: Police Chief Ernest Martineau; Police Captain Matthew LeMay; Police Captain Christopher Garcia; James Bunnell, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Chief Martineau began by recognizing Kristi Fritscher, FPD Crime Analyst & Grant Writer, and commended her efforts for bringing in another almost \$600,000 in grants to the Police Department. The Department is currently managing over \$2 million in grant funds.

195-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of Department of Justice COPS PACT (Promoting Access to Crisis Teams) CIT Grant funds in the approximate amount of THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$371,223) to expand upon the Police Department Crisis Intervention program.

Discussion: Captain LeMay discussed the Crisis Intervention Team response to mental health crisis incidents in the city. Over the next two years, the funds will cover the salary of a co-response clinician to accompany officers, possibly fund a counseling internship position to assist the clinician, and also provide training to officers. Data regarding this program will be provided in the department's annual report.

Action: (3-0) Be Adopted

197-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security in the approximate amount of TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO (\$28,732) for a Municipal Road Safety Program to enhance traffic and pedestrian safety through high-visibility police patrols and occupant protection mobilizations.

Discussion: Captain Lemay explained that this grant will be used for speeding enforcement, and to address impaired driving and pedestrian concerns. Equipment may also be purchased for pedestrian high visibility.

Action: (3-0) Be Adopted

196-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of Department of Justice COPS Recruitment & Retention Grant funds in the approximate amount of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$175,000) for the purpose of implementing a Fitchburg Pathways to Employment Program and to further support the police department's professional development program.

Discussion: Captain Garcia discussed this 2-yr grant that is one of only nine such awards throughout the country. He also recognized Ms. Fritscher's efforts in procuring this grant award. Recruitment and retention of officers, dispatchers, and civilian staff, is a national and local challenge. With this grant the department will initiate a pathways to employment internship program, allowing potential recruits to build the skills needed for a career in public safety. Dispatch recruitment efforts will include a 16-week program directed to Fitchburg State University and Mount Wachusett Community College students. Other outreach will include use of videos/flyers/career fairs. Retention efforts will build upon professional development investments. Councilors commended this forward-looking effort, and the department's efforts in seeking out grants for the city's benefit.

Action: (3-0) Be Adopted

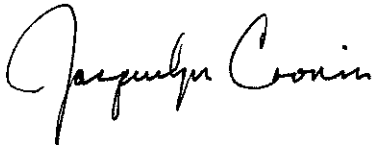
198-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the United Way of North Central Massachusetts, in the approximate amount of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000), awarded to the city Recreation Program from the DESE After School and Out of School Time Program Grant to help cover the cost of weekly STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) activities in collaboration with the Fitchburg Public Library.

Discussion: Director Bunnell stated that this is similar to the United Way summer grant program offered. Because the Recreation Department doesn't have a place to offer such programming, he worked in collaboration with Library Director, Deb Hinkle to offer fun and educational opportunities to keep kids engaged after school. Councilors expressed their appreciation for these engagement efforts.

Action: (3-0) Be Adopted

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacquelyn Cronin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk