



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

Councilors at Large

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Sally H. Cragin
Amy L. Green
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Anthony M. Zarrella**

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Anthony M. Zarrella**

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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 Zarrella on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 6:01 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Anthony Zarrella, Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz (remote), and Elizabeth Walsh.

Committee Members absent: Councilor Marcus DiNatale.

Others Present: Police Chief Martineau, Police Armorer Benjamin Kalinowski.

180-24 **ORDER:** the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of E911 Support and Incentive Grant funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security in the approximate amount of TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR DOLLARS (\$219,594) for the purpose of supporting the salaries of the city's dispatch call takers.

Discussion: Chief Martineau stated that the department relies heavily on this recurring grant to augment dispatch salaries, and to provide some training. He further noted that increased call volume and the hiring of a full-time crisis clinician has yielded an increase in grant funding over prior years.

Action: (4-0) Be Adopted

181-24 ORDER: there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$48,000) same to be charged against the FY2025 TAX LEVY and credited to POLICE – EQUIPMENT & REPAIR – Firearm Replacement.

Discussion: Chief Martineau explained that the full cost of firearms replacement is closer to \$100,000, and that the balance will be paid from forfeiture funds. He also noted that the firearms were last replaced in 2014. In response to councilors' inquiries, he stated that there is no national or industry standard for the timing of replacement; each officer fires a minimum of 600-800 training rounds per year; and excessive maintenance affects the ongoing reliability of the firearms. Officer Kalinowski spoke to the annual inspection of each firearm, the constant wear and tear, and the frequent replacement of parts as a concern. Councilors agreed that replacement will give officers and citizens the best protection possible, and avoid the reliance on a potentially defective weapon.

Action: (4-0) Be Adopted

179-24 ORDER: the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration in the approximate amount of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$259,825) for Phase I to Reconstruct the Main Apron - Design and Obtain Permits.

Discussion: The City Auditor clarified that the local portion of the project had previously been approved by the City Council, in order to qualify for the grant; and that this Order is to approve expenditure of the grant proceeds.

Action: (4-0) Be Adopted

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk