



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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CIP Committee

Regular Meeting
Minutes

September 2, 2021 – 9:00 AM

Attendance: Paul Vance, Emily Campbell, Paul Gorman, Lyndsay Harkins & Peter Bianchi

Others Present: Adam Ricker, Kim Hallquist, Jay Lyon, Emily Cobb

1. **Call to Order** –

Chair Gorman called the meeting to order at 9:00. Chair Gorman explained that the New London-Springfield Water Precinct was first on the agenda but that they appeared to not be present. As such, Mr. Gorman adjusted the agenda to start with the Fire Department and Fire Chief, Jay Lyon.

Chief Lyon began discussing the CIP requests by explaining the fire apparatus replacement has always been one of the more challenging activities and that the establishment of the capital reserves in the 1980s has helped. Chief Lyon explained that the current increase in material prices have had significant impacts on apparatus, in some cases going up 10% in a six-month period. This has precipitated interest in the option of a lease to buy instead of outright purchase.

Chief Lyon explained that the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus has also gone up in price. The SCBA are slated to be replaced in Fiscal Year 2026 and may need additional annual funding placed into the Capital Reserve account to cover the anticipated \$240,000 in FY 2026.

The Fire Department is adequate for current needs and can accommodate current apparatus. Chief Lyon explained that at some point, there is concern that the existing 11' doors will not be high enough for the apparatus. Chief Lyon recommends that the Town begin setting aside funds to plan for potential needed expansion to accommodate 14' doors. Chief Lyon recommended planning to have \$250,000 saved by 2032. The members of the CIP Committee were concerned that \$250,000 would be far less than what the construction costs in 2032 would be for any potential expansion. Committee members agreed that a more realistic figured to plan for construction would be \$750,000.

Chief Lyon walked the Committee through the vehicle and apparatus replacement schedules:

Utility Truck - \$55,000 to be replaced in 2025

Command SUV - \$55,000. SUV has been ordered and should not need replacement until 2033

Tanker 1- \$265,000 to be replaced 2028.

Engine 2 - \$850,000 to be replaced in 2023, investigating the lease to buy program for the truck.

Ladder 3 - \$1,200,000 to be replaced 2032.

Mr. Bianchi clarified that as a representative of the Building and Facilities Committee he wanted to make clear that the BFC does not consider the needs of a department when it comes to apparatus and equipment replacement.

Mr. Vance asked Chief Lyon if the old trucks can be traded in or if they have value. Chief Lyon explained that the trucks have very little value when they finish their useful life (20 years). Many times the trucks are shipped to other countries to be utilized there, but that the elements of Northern New England take a toll on the frames and components of the truck.

Chair Gorman thanked Chief Lyon for his time and asked the Police Chief, Emily Cobb, to begin her presentation.

Chief Cobb began by walking the Committee through the plan that she has presented. She explained that the unknown situation of the Police Department created a unique situation for the CIP. Chief Cobb explained that the issue of the Police Department was characterized on the project list as “new or renovated police facility” recognizing that the direction has not yet been determined. To attach a number to this project, she used the figures provided by the BFC and studies that have been completed on Buker. The low end of \$3 million comes from the BFC and Buker Study. The \$12 million figure is the high from the 2018 Harriman Study. The recently completed Tilton Police Department was \$4.1 million for the building not including the land acquisition and the Bow Safety Services Building was \$4.3 million in 2017. All of these figures contributed to the range of cost that Chief Cobb used to determine the potential figure, recognizing that until the scope is defined, the cost is difficult to determine.

Chief Cobb explained that she included an item for land acquisition, planning and design to allow for the first phase of any project to be completed, with a range of \$100,000 to \$1 million, understanding that the cost could be very different depending on the option selected.

Chief Cobb explained that the Communications Equipment on Mt Sunapee has been a continual priority and is in the 3rd phase of an upgrade project. The Police Department has applied for a grant for the project and Chief Cobb said she believed the project should

be slated for FY 2023. This project would significantly increase the coverage area for the towns that New London dispatches for.

The Chief moved on to discuss the records management system. The current system is very outdated and runs on a MS DOS system with limitations. It does not allow the Department to adopt new technology such as e-tickets. This includes the Towns that New London dispatches for, they are also not allowed to adopt new technology which can create competition by other regional dispatch centers who have adopted new systems and software. The group discussed with Chief Cobb that the CIP should include the startup costs for the software and equipment but that the annual ongoing expenses would not be part of the CIP. Chief Cobb explained that the system would require additional monitors. This could be difficult to accommodate in the current layout of the dispatch center and will need to be looked at.

The Chief moved on to explain the next item was the body and/or dash cameras. She explained that the cameras are a total of \$50,000 spread over four years. Chief Cobb said that there is a police equipment fund with \$10,000 that could be used to help fund these. The Department does not currently have any cameras. Mr. Vance asked about the storage needs. Chief Cobb explained that it depends on the chosen company whether the storage is on a server or in the cloud and that the RSA determines the time limit that the video must be retained. The Committee and Chief Cobb discussed the advantages of body cams in protecting the liability of the Town.

The Committee discussed the importance of the upcoming community forums to help define the path ahead for the Police Department so that more specific capital planning can begin once a scope is determined.

2. **Future Meeting Dates:** September 3rd at 9:00am at the Public Works Department.

Motion to Adjourn