

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
September 5, 2018

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on Tuesday September 4, 2018 with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath, Chair
Bill Cost Jr
Jonathan Lang
Jeremy Blake
Ryan Bubb

We wish to report:

1. **Resolution No. 18- 73** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to enter into a lease purchase agreement for the lease-purchase of one ladder truck for use by the Division of Fire was considered.

Service Director Rhodes- we are looking at another fire ladder truck for the Division of Fire and I am asking for permission to enter into a lease/purchase agreement. We have looked at capital improvements and we feel comfortable taking this in and we are working very close with the Fire Department on dollars that they haven't spent year to date so you might see another appropriation and disappropriation at a later date this is just the beginning asking for permission to enter into a lease/purchase agreement. I think that they have identified a truck that they like and a few members of Council had the opportunity to come down and take a look at it on Friday and we appreciate that.

Mr. Rath- so the truck we are talking about was the demo truck that was at the station last Friday?

Director Rhodes- yes

Mr. Rath- I was under the impression that one was about \$850,000.00?

Director Rhodes- in that area, it is a little higher than that.

Mr. Blake- thank you Director Rhodes for working on this but I am interested in hearing from the Chief and the ability of the truck and how it will meet the needs of the staff.

Chief Connor- the ladder truck that we currently operate is 12 years old, it has almost 140,000 miles on it in Fire Department terms that truck would probably not even be a reserve apparatus. In order to keep our insurance services organizations ratings low in the City of Newark we have to have a unit ladder staffed every day. That manages the insurance premiums to our residents of the City of Newark. The

more that we do at the Fire Department keeps those insurance ratings low. The ladder truck that we are currently looking to replace just this year to date we have spent \$19,000.00 of maintenance on it. It has been out of service over 40 days this year, that is double that of last year. It is quickly becoming a problem to keep it in service which obviously in my mind becomes a potential safety issue. It is a very important part of our response, anytime you have a report of a fire a ladder truck is on the assignment card so if that truck is out of service we have to ask our mutual aid partners in the City of Heath or Granville to send us a ladder truck. As far as our daily operations it will be staffed with 3 people every day. We do have paramedics that ride that apparatus as well and it serves as a non-transport paramedic vehicle as well. It will be just like the old ladder has been for these last 12 years. The ladder we have now is 75 feet the new ladder will be 107 feet so in some of those home areas like Londondale Parkway where you have homes that set back off the street it will allow us to get to a bedroom window better than the current ladder. This ladder is also a rear mounted ladder which gives the opportunity to use it a little more freely as far as what we can use it for.

Mr. Bubb- what will happen with the current ladder we have now? Will it go as a backup?

Chief Connor- that is to be determined right now, the trade in value on it is \$25,000.00 is what they are telling us which it would be easier for us to keep it as a backup, we'd fix the things that need to be fixed and then it would be parked until that current ladder we would buy would be in for an oil change or maintenance. We have several reserve apparatus right now so we are going to take the best of the reserve apparatus. We just put a \$10,000.00 motor in a backup engine that is 12-14 years old. I don't know is my official answer, I would like to keep that truck as a backup engine and ladder but I don't know if it is serviceable enough to do that.

Mr. Rath- where are your backup units stored?

Chief Connor- throughout the city wherever we have a space to put them. We built the fire station downtown with drive thru bays in order to allow the firefighters to drive the trucks into the station instead of backing them but we are finding ourselves storing back up apparatus and additional equipment behind equipment. We have stacked equipment in at the Cherry Valley and West Main stations; we have down here a reserve engine that is parked behind our battalion vehicle and two medic units running out of the side of the building. We are cramp for space at the moment and we will get rid of an apparatus if we don't have anywhere to put it.

Mr. Rath- you said that the trade in value of that ladder truck is \$25,000.00, I am assuming that fire trucks are not unlike cars where if I have a vehicle I could trade in for \$25,000.00 I might be able to sell it out right for \$45,000.00 or \$50,000.00.

Chief Connor- that is where we are at we're not going to trade it in for \$25,000.00 I think that we could probably get a little more money out of that.

Mr. Blake- the current ladder truck is 12 years and it is stationed downtown here?

Chief Connor- It is not, it is at the north end station on Hollander Street.

Mr. Blake- and what is the year of the potential new one?

Chief Connor- it is brand new, 2018.

Mr. Blake- do you know where they are going to go with that one?

Chief Connor- it is slated to go to the north end fire station right now.

Motion by Mr. Lang to send to full Council, second by Mr. Bubb

Mr. Blake- how does this assist with your overall picture?

Chief Connor- it is going to help us dramatically, we have needed this ladder replaced and we have been putting a band aid on it for a number of years. Buying a new apparatus that we use every day that is a potential lifesaving apparatus is something that is very important to the community. In a perfect world you have vehicle replacement plans where every some many years you replace that apparatus we just don't have the ability to do that. These are million dollar apparatuses, engines are \$500,000-\$600,000.00 apparatuses, paramedic units are \$225,000.00, hear monitors are \$30,000.00 as you can see things add up very quickly. With the budget that we have here in the City of Newark we are sometimes playing catch up and are more reactive than proactive in this matter. We have worked very carefully with Director Rhodes and this administration to try to get the money that we need to purchase the ladder.

Mr. Blake- is this going to be coming from a mix of capital improvement dollars or EMS dollars where is this \$850,000.00 or so coming from?

Director Rhodes- it is going to come from two areas, first we are working with the Chief to see what remaining funds he would return to the General Fund at the end of this year so you will probably see a disappropriation coming up once we land on those funds then the monthly, yearly payment will be paid out of the city's capital improvements.

Mr. Blake- the overall timeline for this is a few months then, we probably won't see this until early 2019?

Director Rhodes- we are probably looking at 10 weeks with the legislative process we have. They will hold the truck for us.

Mr. Lang- what is the timeframe we are looking to pay this off?

Director Rhodes- 7 years.

Mr. Lang- when did we purchase Rescue 1?

Chief Connor- two years ago.

Mr. Lang- when was the last time we bought a ladder truck?

Chief Connor- over ten years easily.

Director Rhodes- what we have been able to do with capital improvements over the past 6 years by letting some things payoff that were previously committed before this Council before this administration we have been able to put the priorities on our EMS vehicles which are on the rotation and we are trying to get the fire trucks on the rotation with the help pf Barbara Gilkes and some grant dollars that we got we are trying to get our snow plows on a rotation. These are the bigger ticket items and with your help we have taken in a total of 4 snow plows, we have taken in over 10 police vehicles. We have the squads on a rotation basis, it could be a little quicker but they are being rotated and now we are trying

to get the fire trucks in that budget also.

Mr. Cost- the word demo is there a substantial price difference between a demo and a custom order truck?

Chief Connor- a demo is something that the manufacturer puts together; it is an assembly line ladder truck. A lot of cities and townships will spec a truck to each compartments individually designed for that department. We don't choose to do that Newark. A demo truck is something that they build to go out and show people their product generally in the past we have had the best luck with those apparatuses, they have less maintenance problems. This truck only has 3500 miles on it just from being driven around to different cities for show. It is exactly what we need for what we are looking to do. When you buy a demo you save \$50,000.00-\$100,000.00.

Mr. Fraizer- what is the useful life of this fire truck and the rescue that we bought two years ago?

Chief Connor- our municipal fire department is probably one of the busiest fire department per capita in this region so we are not going to get the years and hours out of these trucks that say a township department that is not doing the call volume. We will probably do a little over 12,000 calls this year. To answer your question ladder 2 that we are replacing is 12 years old it probably should have been replaced when it was about 8 years. We are 4 years into putting maintenance money into it constantly so I would say realistically 8-10 years on an engine or a ladder truck in the city of Newark and then when we get into the situation that we are now where we are talking to Council emergency purchase something for us or try to expedite that.

Dave McElfresh, 153 N 39th St, President of Local 109- we are very appreciative of the administration coming forward with this truck it is a well needed piece of apparatus. I did want to make sure that the public and Council is aware this is replacing the existing apparatus with the continued talk of an additional station this is not additional apparatus, we are struggling to replace what we have so we still have that on our plate looking forward.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. **Resolution No. 18-74** authorizing the Director of Public Service to prepare and submit applications to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvements Program and to execute contracts as required was required.

Director Rhodes- this has to do with the 4th Street project and we are looking for permission to participate in an application to the Ohio Public Works for 4th Street project.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mr. Cost

Mayor Hall- we apply to this every year to State Capital Improvement dollars. They are used for various projects throughout the city. We won't get confirmation for quite a

while and it will probably be next year's use of the money. We have done this 9 years in a row.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Rath- are we going to see a paving list coming out anytime in the near future?

Director Rhodes- yes that should be going out soon.

Mr. Rath- any parameters on how soon?

Director Rhodes- I don't want to say in a week when it could be two.

Jeff Rath, Chair