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## **BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009  
Committee Room #2

**PRESENT:** Aids. Maher, Ewerdt, Donegan, Jay, Walsh, Krol – 6

**EXCUSED:** Ald. Organ (8:01)

**ALSO PRESENT:** J. Archambo, City Admin.; A. Kesner, City Atty.; R. Braier, Finance Dir.;  
W. Kappel, Public Works Dir.; W. Wehrley, City Engr.; D. Redman, Fire Chief

Ald. Maher as Chair called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

### **Authorization to purchase 3 power lift ambulance cots**

The committee reviewed a memo from the Fire Chief regarding authorization to purchase three power lift ambulance cots in the amount of \$30,936. The Chief reported that this item was approved in the capital equipment budget process last fall. He is bringing this to the committee as the amount is over \$25,000. During the budget process last fall the chief was permitted to purchase one power lift cot from 2008 funds to provide a test period.

The Chief reported that the power lift cot is holding up well. The biggest benefit in having these power lift cots is to prevent strains and sprains from lifting patients. The price of these three additional power lift cots came in over budget as the vendor determined they allowed too much of a trade in on the first cot purchase. There are sufficient funds available for the balance of \$936.00 in the State EMS Grant (ACT-102), which is for training supplies and equipment.

Chief Redman reported that Deputy Chief Jim Case spent a lot of time with the vendor negotiating the best price for these cots. The Purchasing Manager reviewed this and felt it was a good deal. Mr. Bembenek signed off on the chief's memo which is in the file.

The committee discussed the cots warranty and the lifetime expectancy. The Chief reported that the life expectancy is unknown; these cots are relatively new on the market. The City of Milwaukee has been using the power lift cots for over a year and they are working well. The cots currently being used are approximately 11 years old, and are probably nearing the end of their life expectancy.

Ald. Ewerdt asked the Chief if the cots are a critical need or a wanted item. Chief Redman responded that he looks at this purchase as risk prevention. If it saves one significant injury it will pay for itself. When asked, the Chief estimated 10 – 12 injures per year specific to lifting patients. This includes back, leg, arms and knee sprains or strains. He said he did not have an injury report with him to give a definitive answer.

Ald. Donegan expressed similar concerns and asked the Chief to be as specific as can be to the cost benefit analysis. He asked if in light of the economic concerns, is the chief sure that there is a good cost benefit rationale to this purchase. He asked the Chief for instances of injuries regarding the lifting of patients. Chief Redman replied that he estimates 12 injuries a year specific to lifting patients. He has no other specific information without looking at the records. The Chief said he doesn't see that a dollar amount can be measured, but these cots would help prevent injuries and save on workers compensation claims and loss work time. He said the return on the investment is risk prevention.

Ald. Ewerdt asked that this item be held so a detailed injury report could be made available.

Mr. Braier noted that there is a recent worker compensation report that has five years of history. He offered to assist the Chief in dissecting the required information.

Moved by Ald. Ewerdt, seconded by Ald. Donegan  
to hold this item and requested detailed  
information on injuries specific to lifting patients -

Ald. Krol noted that there is a special discount offered on the proposal if the cots are purchased before February 28, 2009. He said he would hate to lose this discount if this item is held. He noted that these cots were approved in the budget process and would not vote in favor of holding the item.

Ald. Ewerdt said the economy has changed since the budget was passed and everything has to be scrutinized even more. If an item is not a necessity that can be gauged, it needs a higher level of scrutiny. He felt that the vendor would honor the discount if the deadline passes. He is just asking for additional information.

Ald. Walsh commented that there was a lot of discussion on this item at budget time and will not vote for the motion. He would hate to see a firefighter injured because this was held up in committee.

Ald. Maher said he is not going to support the motion and finds it ironic that budget items already approved by this committee are being questioned. His other concern raises a question about the process and what should the city be doing with some of these expenditures to reduce some liability.

Ald. Donegan said he will support the motion to hold this item. He mentioned that the Chief is proposing that we will avoid costly injury if we make this acquisition, and there is no evidence to support this. Data may or may not be available to support this proposition and feels it would be wise to see this information.

Ald. Maher asked for a roll call vote. Ald. Ewerdt opposed calling the vote. He felt that Ald. Donegan should be able to complete his thoughts first.

Ald. Krol said he would like to see the data at a future time. These power lift cots will enhance safety and was approved in the budget. He said the committee has to trust that the Chief is sincere that this purchase is warranted.

Roll call vote taken to hold the item – Ayes: 3, Noes: 3  
(Krol, Walsh, Maher); Motion fails.

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Krol  
to recommend approval of the request for authorization  
to purchase three power lift ambulance cots in the  
amount of \$30,936. This item was budgeted for \$30,000;  
the difference of \$936.00 will come from ACT-102 EMS  
Grant account – Ayes: 4 Noes: 2 (Donegan, Ewerdt)

**Request to increase rain garden reimbursement for 2009 and for reimbursement to 2008 grantees at new higher rate**

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director requesting approval to increase both the maximum size eligible for rain garden reimbursement as well as the square foot amount for 2009. In 2008, grantees were reimbursed \$4.00 a square foot for gardens up to 400 square feet. He also is requesting approval to reimburse the 2008 grantees the difference between the new rate of \$5.00 a square foot and a garden size up to 500 square feet.

Mr. Kappel said that since funds are available they are trying to increase the number of rain gardens in the city by offering more incentive. A transfer in the amount of \$75,000 is being requested from the stormwater reserve account for the matching grant fund.

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Ewerdt  
to recommend approval of the 2009 rain garden reimbursement  
at \$5.00 a square foot for up to a 500 square foot garden, and  
reimburse the 2008 grantees the same rate as 2009 and new  
maximum garden size -

Mr. Braier advised that the motion would need to include making the funding whole by transferring \$75,000 in funds from the storm water reserve balance.

Ald. Walsh amended the motion to include a fund transfer  
in the amount of \$75,000 which is the grant match for the city  
from the storm water reserve balance, seconded by Ald. Ewerdt -

Ald. Krol asked about the money in the reserve fund and if the 2009 budget addressed this. Mr. Kappel reported that a line item was inadvertently omitted in the budget for the city portion of the grant match. Ald. Krol said he is reluctant to use the reserve funds but will go along with the motion if it is the desire of the committee.

Ald. Donegan asked what if the city didn't fund the \$75,000 to make it whole. He felt the city could better use their \$75,000 grant match portion toward storm water problem solving. Mr. Kappel reported that the grant is a 50 – 50 match, and that the city could choose to pay-out up to \$37,500 only with no effect on the reserve account. He commented that by doing this, the city would not utilize the entire grant amount of \$75,000. Ald. Donegan asked how the city benefits from this expenditure. Mr. Kappel said that there is a reduction in the gallons of storm water that is not going into the system. The rain gardens help to manage the volume, rate and quality of storm water runoff. The more educated the public is about storm water management, they will better understand the higher expenditures the city faces down the road. Mr. Wehrley commented that this goes along with the NR216 storm water permit requirement for the storm water management information and education plan. Education includes lawn management, fertilizer usage, downspout placement and rain barrels. A lot of people are affected by rain water.

Ald. Jay amended the motion to only reimburse the 2008 grantees,  
if requested, \$4.00 a square foot for any garden footage over  
400 but not more than 500 square feet, and increase  
the 2009 reimbursement to \$5.00 a square foot with a maximum  
size of 500 square feet. The amount of the matching grant line item to  
be reduced to \$37,500; seconded by Ald. Maher -

Ald. Walsh commented that he will not support the amended motion to decrease funding. He felt that this rain garden program works, though it is under marketed. He said people are looking for ways to change their behavior in this time of economic mess. He commented that residents would really appreciate receiving an additional benefit from the city.

Ald. Maher said he is a strong advocate for rain gardens but doesn't feel there will be a significant increase in the number of grants requested. He said he is going to vote for the reduction since it will leave money in the reserve fund to be utilized. He is reluctant to see \$150,000 in an account where only \$22,000 was used in the first year.

Vote on the amendment to the motion - Ayes: 5; Noes: 1 (Walsh)

Vote on the motion as amended - Ayes: 6

**Extension of service agreement with White Oak Farm, LLC**

The committee reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director requesting to renew a service agreement for yard waste and leaf processing with White Oak Farm, LLC. A correction to the memo was made that this is for a four year service agreement renewal for leaf and yard waste processing. The goal is to bring all solid waste contracts in line with each other.

Two years ago the composting portion of the contract with Waste Management was taken away from them with their consent. They had subcontracted this work and the vendor was not performing.

White Oak Farm has done a fantastic job of taking care of the brush pile and grinding up yard waste throughout the year. Mr. Kappel recommends that we extend the current contract using a CPI to pay them through 2012. Two one-year extensions are available.

Ald. Maher questioned why this was not going out for bid. Mr. Kappel said the last time they sent out an RFP the only one received back was the vendor who was not performing. There were large piles of brush that continued to sit on the property with the smell permeating the neighborhood. Since switching to White Oak Farm the piles are turned over on time and materials are hauled offsite. The city in turn has the right to 500 tons of compost for residents to use. The processing cost of the program has decreased about 50%.

Ald. Krol asked if White Oak Farm is required to take all of the city’s brush and leaves. Mr. Kappel said they do not have exclusive rights to process all City yard and wood wastes, nor to all wood chips produced by the City. The materials that the vendor hauls off can be done with as they please. Mr. Kappel said that our DNR license permits us to have 20,000 cubic yards of compost and materials onsite at all times. Ald. Krol mentioned that Biomass (organic matter) could be used to heat the public works building.

Moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Jay  
to recommend approval of the four year contract extension  
plus two one-year optional extensions to the agreement with  
White Oak Farm - 6

**Professional services contract for investigations and analysis of sanitary sewershed locations WA4001, WA4002, and WA4035**

The committee reviewed a memo from the City Engineer regarding entering into a professional services agreement with a consultant for sanitary sewer investigations, analysis, and design.

The City Engineer reported that this area, WA4001, WA4002, and WA4035, is the last of the four areas to be televised. This is the area that MMSD (Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District) has determined the city has exceeded the peak flows allowed. A RFP (request for proposal) was sent out to ten vendors, and unfortunately the four RFP’s returned all came in over the remaining budget. Mr. Wehrley is proposing to award this work to the lowest bidder for work to be done with the available budget for this year. The contract could be extended for the completion of the work if funds become available.

Ald. Donegan asked what the consequences are of not funding the entire project. Mr. Wehrley responded that flow monitoring would be at risk. The work that would be completed is smoke testing and televising of the sanitary sewers. A complete assessment will be received from the vendor with this expenditure.

Moved by Ald. Donegan, seconded by Ald. Krol  
to recommend approval entering into an agreement  
with Mead and Hunt, Inc. for services associated with  
sanitary sewer investigations, analysis and design up to

\$248,577.87 –

Ald. Maher asked if Mr. Wehrley is comfortable in only doing this amount of the work. Mr. Wehrley said the best case scenario would be to put more money into the budget for completion, but this does give us a step in the right direction. Ald. Maher said he has heard loud and clear that infrastructure is crucial and is personally reluctant to move forward with this. He commented that although this may move the city in the right direction, is it enough to tell us of potential problems in the system. Mr. Wehrley commented that this is a multi faceted approach. If the smoke testing finds illegal connections, that will provide relief. If collapsed sewers are found, that will provide instant information to utilize for short term relief. If the results are inconclusive flow monitoring may have to be done.

Vote on the motion – Ayes: 6

**\*Claim(s) of Diane Trinko-Johnson, David DeBruin, and George Patterson (agenda items 5, 6 and 7)**

The recommendation from the City Attorney is to deny the claims for Diane Trinko-Johnson, 3150 N. Knoll Blvd.; David DeBruin, 2660 N. 120<sup>th</sup> St.; and George Patterson, 2675 N. Mayfair Rd.

Ald. Walsh inquired about the claim for David DeBruin and Mr. Kesner advised that the driveway drain was installed in the public right of way without permission.

Moved by Ald. Walsh, seconded by Ald. Donegan  
to recommend denial of the claims by Diane Trinko-Johnson,  
David DeBruin, and the claim by George Patterson;  
no final figures were submitted for any of these claims - 6

**Vouchers**

Name	Dept.	Reason and location	Date	Amount
Mark Finken	Police	Crystal Report Training Level 2 - Brookfield	02/02 - 02/03/09	218.00
Jeffrey Griffin	Police	2009 WI School Resource Officer Conference - Madison	02/04 - 02/06/09	413.56
James Case	Fire	Annual WEMSA Conference (Wisconsin EMS Association) - Milwaukee	01/29 - 01/30/09	153.00
Joel Kutz	Police	2009 WI School Resource Officer Conference - Madison	02/04 - 02/06/09	415.29

Moved by Ald. Jay, seconded by Ald. Krol  
that the vouchers be allowed and paid – 6

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
City of Wauwatosa

mks