

**WORTHINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING, OCTOBER 7, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers by Mayor Mike Kuhle with the following members present: Larry Janssen; Alan Oberloh; Chad Cummings; Amy Ernst; Mike Harmon.

Staff present: Steve Robinson, City Administrator; Jason Brisson, Assistant City Administrator/Director of Economic Development; Todd Wietzema, Public Works Director; Mindy Eggers, City Clerk.

Others present: Ryan McGaughey, The Globe; Pat Shorter, Trent DeGroot, Jason Larsen, Brian Spittle, Wade Roesner, Worthington Fire Department; Cheniqua Johnson, Honorary Council Member.

AERIAL FIRE TRUCK

Steve Robinson, City Administrator, stated at the September 16th Special Council meeting, the Worthington Fire Department's 100-foot aerial fire truck has been determined to be unsafe for continued use due to mechanical difficulties with the ladder mechanism.

He explained at the request of Council, lease and purchase options have been explored further to provide additional opportunities for consideration. To date, we have not uncovered any viable leasing opportunities. However, staff has explored financing options that may be considered that would benefit the City's fund balances and cash reserves in the Department's Equipment Replacement Schedule (ERS). As of right now the City has \$223,409 in reserves scheduled for replacement of the existing aerial truck and another \$35,965 in the ERS for Major Truck Equipment.

Information was provided on the potential replacement aerial platform truck and a quote for several multi-year financing options. Mr. Robinson explained the 10-year financing option for a new truck priced at \$1,237,500 with an interest rate of 2.39% with annual payments of \$140,592.71. The quoted price would likely be reduced by approximately \$22,500 for an inspection trip by department members which was included in the purchase price. This truck would be available to purchase through Sourcewell, a cooperative buying group.

The first annual payment could be made from cash reserves and the second annual payment from the remaining reserves and tax levy. Future payments likely would come from tax levies. The future levy impact is projected to be approximately 2.75%.

Jason Larsen, Chief Fire Department, stated that after research on used versus new trucks the department feels purchasing new is the way to go considering it should last 40 years and you do not know what you are getting with used.

Mayor Kuhle stated that the tax levy will be taking a hit for the next ten years to pay for the new

truck and would not allow the ERS budget to be replenished as it should be.

Mr. Larsen stated that the Fire Department is willing to do fundraising for the equipment on the truck. Council Member Cummings said he finds it a hard sell to try and fundraise after taxpayers will be hit with the addition to the tax levy. Mr. Robinson stated that the alternative financing would have no impact on the levy. He said while there would be no impact to the tax levy there would be no funds available to go back in the reserves.

Council Member Oberloh handed out information on used fire trucks that he had researched. He stated there seems to be used trucks available and suggested that option be explored. He said his fear is selling the department short if other equipment needs to be replaced and there are no funds available because we strapped the department with a new truck purchase. Mr. Cummings agreed that puts replacing any other equipment out for many years.

Pat Shorter stated that the current truck has had the motor overhauled and some other repairs done so we know what we have so would it hurt to explore the option of fixing the current truck? It was estimated that it would cost \$80,000, the unfortunate part is that it has to go to Pennsylvania to be fixed. Mr. Oberloh said that another option could be to fix it and keep funding our reserves and if the repairs would be more than \$80,000 the department could walk away from it.

Mr. Robinson stated that staff would like a recommendation from Council on a price range they feel comfortable with and asked the members of the Fire Department in attendance what they feel is a reasonable budget for a used aerial truck. Wade Roesner, stated he has done a lot of research and would say a budget of \$600,000-750,000 would be reasonable to get what the department is looking for and department members agreed.

Mr. Robinson said the department will need the option to have the ability to check out a truck quickly if one becomes available.

Council Member Cummings recommended that the department look at all used aerial trucks between \$550,000 - \$750,000 trying to stay on the lower end of the budget. Council members were all in agreement of the proposed recommendation. Mr. Robinson stated that staff will look at funding options that will not have any impact on the tax levy.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion was made by Council Member Cummings, seconded by Council Member Ernst and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Mindy L. Eggers, MCMC
City Clerk