



**Public Safety Committee of Council Agenda
February 18, 2025 - 5:30 PM
602 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio 45050**

1. Public Safety Committee Minutes of October 22, 2024
2. Police Department Five-Year Strategic Budget and Capital Budget Plan
3. Impending Budget Supplemental Requests
4. Strategic Initiatives
5. Succession Planning and Professional Development in the Police Department
6. Discussion, questions, and requests for future meetings.
7. Adjournment



**Public Safety Committee of Council
October 22, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio**

The Public Safety Committee of Council met at 5:08 p.m. on October 22, 2024. The meeting was held in the Council Library at 233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio.

Present were: Keith Funk, Mayor; Kelly Clark, Council Member; Larry Lester, City Manager; David Leverage, Fire Chief; Jake Burton, Director of Finance; and Angela S. Wasson, Clerk of Council.

Chief Leverage explained he requested this meeting to discuss replacing the existing Quint, which would be 21 or 22 years old by the time a new one is received if ordered now. He distributed the Capital Improvement Replacement Plan to reflect what his department has now and what they are looking at in the future. The prices of the Quint have increased dramatically, and it is roughly between \$1.6 million to \$1.9 million. A more accurate figure is \$2.2 million to \$2.3 million for a Quint. With financing and other incentives, it is at \$1.8 million now.

Chief Leverage is asking to have this purchase signed off now with financing to begin in 2026.

Mayor Funk asked if there is an anticipated increase in cost. Chief Leverage advised that increases have been occurring every two months. Directing his question to Mr. Burton, Mayor Funk asked about the financing portion of this purchase. Mr. Burton explained that staff is building a five-year comprehensive plan, and fire has always had this equipment replacement schedule. We have never had a five-year overall plan, and he would like to not just look at this purchase but look at how it will factor in with everything for the City. For example, does the \$200,000 per year payment impact something else that we would like to do.

Chief Leverage pointed out that every 10 years they replace a medic and every 20 to 25 years they replace an engine or ladder truck, which includes looking at the maintenance costs and the needs at that time.

Mayor Funk commented as we start to incorporate it into the entire fold of the City, yes we have high maintenance costs on this unit, but maybe that unit needs to be the loss leader so that we can invest capital into some other department. He isn't sure if that is the right thing to do here. Mayor Funk likes the replacement plan; however, if there is any concern from administration that this could detract from other projects, we could probably handle some added maintenance costs.

Mr. Burton would like to have the comprehensive plan that everyone understands what we are doing and the impact it has. This plan will be prepared for 2025.



Mayor Funk believed it is not just the cost, it is the opportunity and how can we as a committee make a recommendation without knowing if it will have an impact or detract from something else, we want to do. It sounds like we have not fully vetted that.

Mr. Burton does not know the direct impact, but it will take away from something.

Chief Leverage advised this new Quint would be able to navigate cul-de-sacs without any problems.

Mayor Funk mentioned that some may question the size of the ladder truck because we do not have any high rises; however, the benefit is that it is reaching the residents from the road. Chief Leverage confirmed Mayor Funk's understanding and noted that this will be beneficial should Monroe have three- or four-story units in the future. Looking forward the build-out on this truck is four years and we won't know what the housing stock will look like in the City at that time.

Mr. Burton stated that we can afford the payment. He just would like everyone to know what it could possibly be taking away from something else. The comprehensive plan will encompass the entire City and be presented to Council within the next couple of months.

Mr. Lester advised that with the cost savings and the ability to defer because of the build time, the recommendation would be to proceed, and we will factor this into the five-year budget. Chief Leverage has worked very hard on the revenue to help pay for this.

Chief Leverage reported that he and Mr. Burton had a meeting with the finance representative, and he put together two proposals. One with payments starting in 2025 and one with deferred payments until 2026. It is more to defer the payments. Mr. Burton pointed out that deferring until 2026 it will essentially encompass the cost increase, and he would recommend, if Council agrees, to begin the payments in 2025. Chief Leverage noted there is no penalty to pay off after three years.

In response to Mayor Funk's question, Chief Leverage advised that Freedom Financial is who Pierce uses. Mr. Burton added that we could issue debt for the truck or shop around to see if we could get a lesser interest rate. Mayor Funk pointed out that one percent on \$2 million is significant and he is not opposed he just wants to get the best deal.

Chief Leverage advised that with the recent Medicare agreement Council adopted his department will receive between \$200,000 to \$300,000 in revenue, which is more than enough to cover the payments. This is supposed to go into effect in April of 2026, and be retroactive to January of 2025.

Chief Leverage further advised that they would sell the old Quint and medic unit to help with the cost of the new truck.



Mr. Burton indicated that he would reach out to Pierce and Freedom Financial and others to see if we can bring down the cost. Mr. Burton asked what the Committee thought about the term. Everyone recommended a 15-year term.

The Committee recommended to proceed with the purchase now.

The Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela S. Wasson, MMC
Clerk of Council