

HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE COUNTY METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MAY 10, 2023 | 6:00PM | TC COMMUNITY CENTER

BUDGET HEARINGS – NIGHT 5

MINUTES

Members Present: 5/5

Landon Gulley, Chair

Bubba Gregory, Vice Chair

Beverly Atwood

Will Dennis

Jerry Ford

Others Present: Amy Thomas – *Secretary*, Mayor Jack McCall, Comm. Lesley Overman, Comm. Chris Gregory, Comm. David Thomas, Comm. David Nollner, Daniel Harris, Matt Batey, Jay Woodard

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Gulley. A quorum was determined with all 5 members present. Tonight's agenda will address the Water Department, Volunteer Rescue Squad, Emergency Management Agency, Ambulance Services, and the Mayor's Office.

FUND 101 – COUNTY GENERAL

54420 Volunteer Rescue Squad

Daniel Harris presented his requests to the Committee. Harris introduced himself to the Committee and described his background. He decided to volunteer to make a difference in the community and help get the County to where it needs to be to provide services.

Contributions have increased due to the membership growing from 13 to 20. The call volume has also increased over the year. Members are paid December – November. Max membership is 20 due to the bylaws of the group. Members are also paid for trainings as well as meetings. The unused amount can be moved to the equipment line item – this has been a regular transfer over the years. Average amount of calls is 15-22 per month. Rescue goes out on manpower, medical calls, vehicle accidents, etc. Rescue does respond to all medical calls; this would involve all available members. There are members that are also on the Fire Department.

316 – moved to \$15,000

335 – Repairs to the office area. Bathroom has had water leaks and drywall needs to be replaced from the damage; flooring has been destroyed from storm water coming in through the doors. Will work with Public Works to see what can be done to help the drainage around the building. The space also needs better lighting. Exterior wall was blown out by the last severe storm that came through the area. Originally was going to request \$10,000; but marked down to \$5,000 to at least get the bathrooms remodeled. Committee feels the drainage needs to be the priority before doing the repairs to the building. Gulley would like to see a quote into the repairs before moving forward and asks to move the amount to \$1,000.

451 – Uniforms. Moving to purchasing Class B uniforms for the members. More professional look. Shirts \$88 each, \$40 for collared shirt, and \$80 for pants. Could also be for badges \$120 each. This will be for all 20 members. Committee stated this is a volunteer department. Agrees that unified shirts would be warranted, but believes the request for the more expensive attire for a volunteer group is excessive. Move amount to \$2,500

708 – Communication equipment. Several members are also on Fire and do not need a second radio. Does not have any extras for new members or those that leave the fire department. Not able to communicate with surrounding counties due to lack of frequency to reach them. Also asking for computers/tablets to do the run tickets for the group. There is no county owned computer tied to the rescue squad. Asking for 2 computers and 3 tablets. Computers would be used for patient information – secured station, and the other would be for member training and office work. Tablets will be used for recording the run tickets. The run tickets are also used to track call attendance for per diem pay. Had an issue in 2022 with tickets not being properly recorded; therefore, some members did not get paid appropriately. Projected cost of a computer is \$600-1,000. Tablets run about \$1,600 for iPad pros. Tablets would be mounted in the vehicle. Estimated cost of a multiband radio is \$5,200. A single band radio is around \$1,510. Moving the line item to \$7,500

718 – Motor Vehicles. Currently two vehicles are inoperable. The extrication truck is in Lafayette for repairs. The only working vehicle is a 2500 truck that is currently carrying all the equipment for the department. Has a 2022 Tahoe on hold at Wilson Chevrolet / General Motors for roughly \$40,000. This is being priced on the FY22

state contract. Other makes of vehicles are not available for another 2 years. A 2500 truck is not available at this time. The allotted amount to the dealership have already been spoken for by other entities. There is a 2500 Crew Cab V8 available. It would be able to pull the equipment except the swift water trailer. His main concern is that the fleet is down by two vehicles out of the four. If the Tahoe is purchased, it would be purchased on the FY23 budget and delivered on May 16.

Gulley stated his concern on the 1500 model has been discussed in the past and didn't have the needed power for pulling equipment.

The amount of the vehicle purchase is around \$75,000. The additional funding is for the marking and equipping the vehicles for rescue use. Harris also produced TCA codes addressing the required lighting for emergency vehicles. Equipment and lighting must be installed by professionals for it to meet the requirements. Installation estimate is \$13,500 for the Tahoe and \$10,331 for the pick up truck. The \$108,000 amount would cover both vehicles in the purchase and equipping of the two vehicles.

Commissioner Thomas asked about a used vehicle option. There are websites offering used rescue vehicles that are partially equipped. Harris said that he isn't asking for a rescue vehicle, but for a multipurpose vehicle that can be used in different scenarios.

Recommendation from the committee is to look for a good quality used vehicle ¾ ton or larger vehicle to be able to pull the equipment. Vehicle should be in the range of \$45,000 to \$55,000.

Ford recommends that the Tahoe is purchased this year FY23 from \$50,000 ARPA funding and remove funding for FY24.

Striking the \$108,000 completely. Moving \$20,100 from ARPA to FY23 budget to cover the purchase of the Tahoe and lighting. The striping of the vehicle would be expensed from the FY24 budget.

790 – Other Equipment. Will be used for remaining needs of turnout gear – 4 sets. Can remove the funding for computer mounts. Also needs a hydraulic ram for a full set of extrication equipment. General equipment throughout the year such as swift water, rope gear, and others. Move line to \$20,000.

Motion by Atwood to send to Commission with favorable recommendation; seconded by Ford

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

54490 Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

No major concerns for this department.

Motion by TB Gregory to send to Commission with favorable recommendation; seconded by Ford

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

54610 County Coroner / Medical Examiner

Motion by Atwood to send to Commission with favorable recommendation; seconded by Ford

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

FUND 118 – AMBULANCE SERVICES

Chief Batey presented the requests for Ambulance Funds. Currently not fully staffed; short 5 paramedics. Requesting 5 part time positions to cover periods of short staffing. Most of the requested increase overall is in the part time line item. Batey does fill in when short staffed. Does not stay the full 24 hour shift but does assist when he can.

169 – Part time employees. Committee removed this amount and will amend the budget throughout the year as part time help is used. The Committee stresses that Chief Batey can hire on part time or PRN workers and the funding will be addressed throughout the year.

207 – Medical Insurance. Not all employees take insurance. Move to 12 employees at \$84,672

335 – Building remodel needed. Flooring is needed, drywall, awning work. Gulley suggested asking the Sheriff’s workhouse crew to assist with the needed repairs. Leave at 30,000

Motion by Atwood to send to Commission with favorable recommendation; seconded by TB Gregory MOTION CARRIED <i>w/o opposition</i>
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Tomorrow’s meeting will be at the Water Department’s conference.

Motion to adjourn Atwood; Gregory 8:02pm