

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Fire Department Budget

May 4, 2004 – 6:30 p.m.

Conference Room A

City Council Present: Mayor Sirrell, Assistant Mayor Hanson, Councilors Grasso, Ferrini, Marchand, Pantelakos, Hynes, Raynolds (6:38 p.m.), and Whitehouse.

Officials Present: City Manager Bohenko, Dianna Fogarty, Human Resources Director; Judie Belanger, Acting Finance Director; Christopher LeClaire, Fire Chief; Steve Achilles, Assistant Fire Chief; Fire Commissioners Richard Gamester, and Michael Hughes.

Mayor Sirrell called the work session to order at 6:30 p.m.

City Manager Bohenko said that he made an adjustment to the Fire Department budget in order to stay within the 9% increase guideline. Fire Chief LeClaire provided the City Council with a handout indicating where the adjustment was made in the department. He said that there are 61 full time positions that include 56 line personnel. He discussed the service activity for FY04. He advised the City Council that the 9% increase are all fixed costs and reviewed all the lines items within the budget.

Fire Commissioner Hughes asked the City Council to support their budget as submitted.

Human Resources Director Fogarty discussed the new concept of the earned time program that was established in the Fire Department for this fiscal year. City Manager Bohenko said that we have been monitoring sick leave throughout the city and if this program proves successful in the Fire Department, we will consider instituting it citywide.

Mayor Sirrell spoke in support of the budget as submitted. She said that she does not want to see the department come back to the City Council at a later date asking for a supplemental budget unless there is a major incident.

Assistant Mayor Hanson asked Chief LeClaire if we are still within a 6-minute response time for the ambulance service. Chief LeClaire responded affirmatively and said there are times that we are at a 5-minute response time.

The City Council excused the Fire Department and Commissioners from the meeting.

City Manager Bohenko advised the City Council for every one cent that is added to the tax rate that equals a \$30,000 increase in the budget. He informed the City Council that he would be providing the Council with an outline of options available to them in terms of raising revenues.

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Sirrell closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk