

Town Of Longmeadow, MA  
Capital Planning Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 4, 2003

The capital planning committee met on November 4, 2003 to review the capital requests from the Police and Fire departments. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were:

Mr. Richard Uss                      Mr. Steven Gelling                      Mr. Roger Cloutman  
Mr. Mark Gold                      Mr. William Ellenberger (Appropriations Committee)

Police:

Request P-1: Mobile Radios: \$14,000  
Request P-2: Portable Radios: \$40,00

Police Chief Marchese addressed his two requests for radios. Over the past few years the department has been upgrading the mobile radios by purchasing one or more per year from operating funds. The upgrade is needed because of an FCC directive that will reduce the number of frequencies available for public safety organizations. Chief Marchese explained that the Western Mass Law Enforcement Council (WMLAC) has received funds to implement a regional radio network system. He explained that all the town departments (Police, Fire, DPW, School) can "piggy-back" on the WMLAC system and thereby have radio communication access to regional as well as in-town organizations. The radios that the police department has been purchasing over the past few years (about half of the 40 portable radios) are compatible with this system. The department's 15 portable radios and the two base stations would need to be updated to complete WMLAC tie-ins. Chief Marchese estimates that it would cost \$300,000 to tie in all town departments to the WMLAC system.

Fire Department:

Request F-1: Replace Engine #4: \$145,000 (Note this is an amended from the original proposal)

Fire Chief Madison followed up on the Police Chief's comments on radios noting that replacement for the fire department radios are planned for FY '06. He endorsed the replacement of town-wide emergency radio system to assure compatibility with the WMLAC facilities. Chief Madison next addressed the status of last years appropriations. The Jaws of life was selected by a committee of fire fighters. Hurst manufacturing best met the specifications set by the department, and by piggybacking on a larger group purchase by the NYC fire department, the purchase price was within the budgeted price.

The replacement for Engine #1 is scheduled for delivery at the end of March, 2004. To maximize the trade-in value of the old Engine #1, this apparatus has already been turned into the vendor. The Chief noted that the replacement SCBA tanks that were expected to be part of this year's capital request (based on last year's plan for FY'05) were purchased from monies received by the department through a federal grant. Firefighters also raised \$11,700 to replace department helmets.

Chief Madison presented to the committee his highest department need, the replacement of Engine #4. Replacement of this 26 year old unit was also requested last year. The Chief originally hoped to propose the replacement of the engine chassis as a lower cost alternative in order to bridge the fire engine replacement plan established last year by the Capital Planning Committee. At that time, the committee put forth a plan to purchase a new

engine every 7th year, with the expected 28 year life of each engine. During his research the Chief identified that the cost of chassis replacement would be only \$18,000 less than the cost of a new "basic pumper". Chief Madison presented evidence as to the unreliable nature of Engine #4 and the department's need for four operating engines.

The committee completed discussions with the Fire Chief reviewing the status and use of the ambulance fund. The chief explained that there is an Ambulance Fund oversight committee and all recommendations for expenditures from that fund must be approved by the Board of Selectmen. In the past years funds have been used to purchase a portable EKG machine, cardiac defibrators and to support the fire department budget.

Other issues:

The committee discussed with Mr. Engelberger the issue of town-wide vehicle purchases. A concern about the repeat request by the School Department for a truck with a power lift gate was discussed in the context of the Appropriations Committee's opposition to vehicle purchases and the plan to create a town-wide "motor pool". No conclusions were reached, but Mr. Engelberger will discuss our concerns with the Appropriations Committee.

The chairman will ask the Town accountant if the Stabilization funds that were not appropriated at last year's town meeting (Pick-up truck with lift) are available this year.

Note:

The Chair contacted Mr. Carl Sturgis of Storrs Library. He stated that repairs to the library roof were proceeding on budget, and although a November 8th completion is scheduled, he suspects it may run beyond that date. He will get capital project reporting forms from the town hall and submit them in November.

The next meeting is schedule for Tuesday, November 11th in the Police Building Community Meeting Room. Reviews will be with the town accountant, collector, and administrator.

Regards,

Mark Gold  
Chairman, Capital Planning