



Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

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CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Heikkila
Councilmember Ward 1 Brandi Studley
Councilmember Ward 2 Lauren Schueler
Councilmember Ward 3 Kelly Lynn
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 5 Rarchar Tortorello
Councilmember Ward 6 Elizabeth Foreman
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman
Councilmember Ward 8 Matthew Peacock

ABSENT

None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING STATUS OF THE FYE 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM BUDGET AND PREPARATION OF FYE 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM BUDGET.

Ms. Kim Coffman, Budget Manager, said tonight Staff will update Council on the FYE 2023 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget as well as preparation for FYE 2024 through FYE 2028 Budget. He said new projects and mid-year evaluations will be discussed on February 14, 2023, and review of the final proposed plan for FYE 2024 will be presented on May 2, 2023.

Item 1, continued:

Ms. Coffman said the purpose of the CIP is to support services of municipal governments and projects are identified in Long Range Master Plans that are reviewed by citizens and adopted by Council (land use, transportation, parks, water, wastewater, greenways, stormwater, etc.). Priorities are set for short range and long range; short range needs go into a one-year adopted Capital Budget and long range needs go into a Five-Year CIP along with proposed schedules of implementation and available funding sources. The CIP and other budgets are adopted annually, but only the one-year budget allows appropriation of funds so emergencies and high priority unanticipated project needs can be added. She said sources of funding include enterprise revenues, voter approved General Obligation (GO) Bond proceeds; Capital Sales Tax; NORMAN FORWARD Sales Tax (NFST); Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST); University North Park Tax Increment Finance (UNPTIF) Sales Tax; intergovernmental grants; Room Tax; private funds, and others.

A capital project generally costs more than \$100,000; is relatively fixed or permanent in nature; is an asset with an expected life span of more than five years; usually consists of the construction of new, expanded, or improved tangible assets; often takes more than one fiscal year to complete; and contracted services for design, land acquisition, and utility relocations that may be required in advance of construction.

Ms. Coffman explained that Capital outlay is expenses for maintaining or purchasing new or replacing tangible assets, which have an expected life of one to five years, is a one-time occurrence, and an expense that usually occurs within a single fiscal year to include vehicles, furniture, computers, and equipment. She said Capital Outlay paid by the Capital Fund is expended from the General Fund and Westwood Fund with capital sales tax funds transferred to cover costs.

Ms. Coffman highlighted all funds included in the CIP Budget as follows:

Special Purpose Capital Funds

- Public Safety Sales Tax Fund (PSST)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund
- Special Grants Fund
- Room Tax Fund
- Public Transportation and Parking Fund
- Capital Fund (Pay-As-You-Go or PAYGO)
- Capital Fund (General Obligation Bonds)
- NORMAN FORWARD Sales Tax Fund
- Park Land and Development Fund
- University North Park Tax Increment Finance (UNPTIF) District Fund
- Arterial Road Recoupment Fund
- Center City Tax Increment Finance District Fund

Item 1, continued:

Enterprise Funds

- Water Fund
- Water Reclamation Fund
- Sanitation Fund
- Sewer Maintenance Fund
- New Development Excise Tax Fund

Sources of revenue for all funds in FYE 2022 through FYE 2023 include Grants – 6.30%; Community Park Fee – 0.16%; User Fees – 18.54%; Capital Improvement Charge – .91%; Sewer Maintenance Rate – 5.78%; Sewer Excise Tax – 1.07%; Capital Sales Tax – 19.34%; Tax Increment Financing – 2.11%; Public Safety Sales Tax – 3.73%; NORMAN FORWARD Sales Tax – 15.72%; Room Tax - 0.13%; Bonds – 26.21%; and Private – 0.00% for total revenues of \$245,074,881.

Expenditures for all funds in FYE 2022 through FYE 2023 include Capital Outlay – 2.70%; Maintenance of Existing Facilities – 0.38%; Personnel and Services – .84%; Street Maintenance – 3.47%; Transportation – 16.86%; Buildings and Grounds – 18.73%; Parks and Recreation – 29.92%; Water Reclamation – 11.06%; Sanitation – .23%; Stormwater – 1.93%; and Water – 13.87% for total expenditures of \$245,074,881.

Ms. Coffman said the Capital Improvements Fund (CIF) was established in 1976 to account for capital projects funded by capital sales tax receipts, general obligation bond issues, or specific matching funds, i.e., private and reimbursement. He said these projects support services that do not have dedicated special revenues like Enterprise Funds. Those projects relating to Enterprise Funds funded with fees and charges or special revenue sources are accounted for in their respective Enterprise Funds. She said 70% of one percent (0.7%) of sales tax is set aside for capital improvements for the Capital Fund and those approved projects for construction with this funding are accounted for in the CIF.

The capital sales tax guidelines to allocate revenue includes existing facility maintenance – 5%; general contingency – 7%; Capital Outlay – 27%; street maintenance – 25%; and other projects and debt service – 36%.

Ms. Coffman highlighted the status of the Capital Fund as follows:

- Capital Fund PAYGO
 - FYE 23 estimated available for new projects is a negative (\$6,320,045)
 - FYE 24 projected available for new projects is a negative (\$3,188,469)
 - FYE 25 projected available for new projects is a negative (\$1,217,561)

Item 1, continued:

Mr. Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician, highlighted significant projects as follows:

Significant projects closed in FYE 23 include:

- Flood Avenue Sidewalks;
- Imhoff Road Bridge Emergency Repair Project (\$1,945,803.59);
- Creston Way and Schulze Drainage Project;
- Merkle Creek Stabilization Project;
- Porter Avenue and Acres Street Intersection Bond Project (\$4.1 million); and
- City Emergency Communications System (PSST)

Significant projects completed in FYE 23 include:

- Transit/Public Safety Maintenance Facility (\$10.9 million);
- Robinson Street West of I-35 (\$5.3 million); and
- 36th Avenue N.W. Bond Project (Utility Relocation - \$1.5 million)

Significant projects underway in FYE 22/23 include:

- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Compliance and Monitoring Plan Implementation, Year Five - \$300,000;
- Lake Thunderbird TMDL Data Analysis and Plan Update, Years One through Five - \$270,531;
- Lower Imhoff Channel Stabilization , Phase I - \$4,145,832;
- Fire Station 9 – finishing miscellaneous small items/Fire Administration Building renovation – 85% complete;
- Engineering Design Criteria Update and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Review, Phase II - \$265,000;
- Traffic Management Center - \$3,300,000;
- Vehicle Wash Facility - \$2,500,000;
- Downtown Transit Center - \$1,200,000;
- 80 New Bus Stops Long Range Plan - \$160,000;
- James Garner, Phase II, Acres Street to Flood Avenue - \$9,500,000;
- Porter Avenue Streetscape Bond Project - \$5,100,000;
- 12th Avenue N.E. and High Meadows Intersection - \$1,895,693;
- East Alameda Street Bond Project - \$4,500,000; and
- Constitution Street Multi-Modal Path - \$1,145,459

Projects under construction in FYE 23/24 include:

- Municipal Complex Renovations - \$9,971,465;
- Classen Boulevard Sidewalks - \$229,296;
- Gray Street Two-Way Conversion - \$4,816,000; and
- James Garner Avenue, Phase II - \$9,500,000;
- Porter Avenue Streetscape Bond Project - \$5,100,000;
- Downtown Transit Center - \$1,200,000; and
- Jenkins Avenue Bond Project - \$11,000,000

Item 1, continued:

Mr. Huckabaa said the FYE 2021-2026 Street Maintenance Bond Program includes Broce Drive Preventative Maintenance, McCullough Street Urban Reconstruction, and Caddell Lane Urban Concrete.

The East Alameda Street Bond Project is fully funded without federal funds using 2012 Transportation Bond Funds - \$1,085,000; 2016 Street Maintenance Bond Surplus Funds - \$2,452,000; and 2021 Street Maintenance Bond Funds - \$216,480. Construction will begin April 2022 to be completed May 2023.

The 36th Avenue N.W. Project from Tecumseh Road to Indian Hills Road includes widening two miles of roadway to four lanes; new traffic signals at 36th Avenue N.W. and Franklin Road; new traffic signals at 36th Avenue N.W. and Indian Hills Road; stormwater improvements; continuous sidewalks and accessibility; improved access to Ruby Grant Park; and waterline relocation (completed).

The Porter Avenue Streetscape Project is funded by General Obligation (GO) Bonds and federal grants to include decorative lighting; pedestrian and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements; decorative concrete sidewalks; new bus stop; placemaking gateways; and landscaping. Construction will begin in Spring 2023 to be completed in Spring 2024 for total estimated costs of \$5,727,178 (\$2,855,610 federal funding). The project will also provide landscaping at the new Public Transit Center.

The James Garner Avenue Project, Phase II, from Acres Street to Flood Avenue is a NORMAN FORWARD Project with funding from NORMAN FORWARD funds and a federal grant in the amount of \$4,825,733. Improvements include decorative lighting, new bridge over Robinson Street, extension of Legacy Trail, and landscaped median. Construction is scheduled to begin Fall 2022 and completed in Fall 2023 for total estimated costs of \$9,500,000. The project will also provide a modern, multi-lane roundabout at James Garner Avenue and Flood Street, bridge aesthetics, and public art.

The Gray Street Two-Way Conversion Project is funded by GO Bonds and a federal grant and includes converting Gray Street to two-way traffic; pedestrian and ADA improvements; signalized intersection at James Garner Avenue; and railroad crossing enhancements. Construction is scheduled to begin January 2023 and completed in Fall 2023 for total construction costs of \$5,454,701 (\$1,765,853 federal funding).

Item 1, continued:

Projects by ODOT along State Highway 9 include:

- Improvements to 24th Avenue East to 36th Avenue East – four lane divided urban section - completed;
- 36th Avenue east to 72nd Avenue East – project completed;
- Little River Bridge – completed;
- 72nd Avenue East to 108th Avenue East – four lane undivided rural section – begins in August 2021 - completed;
- 108th Avenue East to 156th Avenue East - four lane undivided rural section to begin in 2025;
- 156th Avenue East to Tecumseh Road – four lane undivided rural section to begin 2026-2027; and
- 24th Avenue West to 24th Avenue East – six lane divided section - completed

In the City Vehicle Replacement Program, the City replaced 29 units in FYE 2019 - \$2,045,471; 36 units in FYE 2020 - \$1,991,083; 27 units in FYE 2021 - \$2,147,635; 34 units in FYE 2022 - \$2,179,732; and will replace 16 units in FYE 2023 - \$2,443,227. The City has about 150 vehicles that need replacement, but are only replacing 16 vehicles due to the inflationary costs of new vehicles. A true vehicle replacement program would cost \$6,000,000 annually and the City has never been able to budget those funds.

Proposed recurring sidewalk projects from the Capital Projects Fund in FYE 2023 include Sidewalk Program for Schools and Arterials - \$140,000; Sidewalk Accessibility Projects - \$30,000; Citywide Sidewalk Projects (50/50 repairs) - \$100,000; Downtown Area Sidewalk Project – \$50,000; Sidewalks and Trails - \$545,000; and Horizontal Saw Cut Program - \$40,000 for total expenditures of \$905,000.

Recurring proposed CIP Projects in FYE 2023 include Capital Outlay - \$4,096,539; Street Maintenance - \$2,305,377; Maintenance of Existing Facilities - \$262,800; Stormwater Drainage Maintenance - \$2,025,000; Personnel - \$1,371,521; Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Audit Adjustments - \$100,000; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Compliance and Repair - \$386,000; Bridge Maintenance - \$750,000; Driveway Repairs - \$10,000; Street Striping - \$100,000; Traffic Calming - \$50,000; Community/Neighborhood Improvements - \$100,000; Building Maintenance Mechanical/Electrical - \$75,000; and Geographical Information System (GIS) update - \$145,000 for total expenditures of \$11,777,237.

Upcoming Significant Projects in FYE 24 pending federal grant applications include:

- SH9 Multi-modal path from 48th Avenue to 60th Avenue;
- SH9 Multi-modal path from 60th Avenue to 72nd Avenue;
- Alameda Road Diet;
- Lindsey Street Sidewalks – 12th Avenue S.E. to 24th Avenue S.E.
- Boyd Street and Berry Road Sidewalks
- Robinson Street Resurfacing
- Gray Street Two-Way Bond Project

Item 1, continued:

Plan updates for FYE 23-24 include the Comprehensive Plan; Housing Market Analysis and Affordability Strategy; Comprehensive Transportation Plan; Stormwater Master Plan; Water Hydraulic Modeling; Wastewater Master Plan; and Sanitation Master Plan. The current Comprehensive Plan is 18 years old and does not take into consideration the Oklahoma Transit Authority's proposal for two turnpikes.

PSST Fund Projects underway in FYE 2022-2023 include Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with a budget of \$17,000,000 with \$9,500,000 from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and \$7,800,000 from PSST. The EOC will be approximately 19,800 square feet and fully "hardened" against severe weather. The project costs include design, project management, Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), and Architecture and Engineering (A&E) services. Design work is underway and groundbreaking is anticipated to take place this year and is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2024.

The PSST fire apparatus replacement schedule consists of Elevated Platform truck in FYE 2016 - \$1,105,943; Fire Engine in FYE 2017 - \$523,853; Fire Engine in FYE 2018 - \$622,079; Pumper/Tanker in FYE 2019 - \$724,974; Pumper/Tanker in FYE 2020 - \$735,974; Air and Light Unit/Public Education in FYE 2021 - \$541,600; Fire Engine in FYE 2022 - \$687,804 budgeted; Fire Engine/Staff Vehicle in FYE 2023 - \$800,000 budgeted; and Ladder Truck in FYE 2024 - \$1,800,000 budgeted.

NORMAN FORWARD projects underway include the *Young Family Athletic Center* (YFAC) (\$41,677,428) with approximately 135,000 square feet, eight basketball courts, 12 volleyball courts, 25-meter eight lane competition pool, 25-meter four lane warm water recreational pool, NMotion (Norman Regional Health System Performance Clinic), and retail and restaurant space to be completed in Fall 2023; *Senior Wellness Center* (\$14,026,000) with approximately 30,000 square feet, wet and dry arts and crafts space, indoor walking track and workout areas, indoor fitness classroom, game room and lounge with outdoor patio, multi-use area with stage, wellness rooms, kitchen with coffee bar and cooking classroom, and saltwater temperature controlled recreational pool to be completed in Summer 2023; *Reaves Park Improvements* (\$10,000,000) with new road loop and parking lots, new T-Ball four-plex, Light Emitting Diodes (LED) field lights, new restrooms and concession stand, detention pond, trees, vendor areas, enhanced park walks, and improvements to existing softball and baseball fields to be completed in Spring 2023; and *Griffin Park Improvements* (\$14,000,000) converting all fields to soccer fields, new fields, lights, parking, concession, restrooms, trails, interior park road, traffic lights, and large tournament capacity to be completed in Summer 2023.

NORMAN FORWARD completed projects include Ruby Grant Park, Phase IA, that included youth football practice fields, restroom, and parking lot addition (completed in October 2022) as well as Rotary and Vineyard Park renovations.

Item 1, continued:

NORMAN FORWARD future projects include New Neighborhood Parks - \$1,000,000 (PayGo); Existing Neighborhood Parks - \$4,700,000 (PayGo); Lease Payments for Griffin Park - \$80,000 annually (\$2,400,000 total); Canadian River Park - \$2,000,000; New Trail Development throughout Norman - \$4,100,000; and Saxon Park Development - \$2,000,000 (PayGo).

Mr. Huckabaa highlighted upcoming challenges that include the I-35 Corridor Study; Access Oklahoma Turnpike Plan; public transportation/Regional Transportation Authority; new traffic signals on State highways and City arterials; fleet replacement; Fire Station No. 10 Staffing; bridge replacements; stormwater infrastructure; Fleet Fueling Facility; sidewalk gaps; escalating construction costs; and plan updates.

Councilmembers thanked Staff for the presentation.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "FYE 2023 Capital Improvement Program Budget Status, Preparation of FYE 2024 CIP, Preparation of FYE 2025 – 2028 Capital Improvements Plan"

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2. DISCUSSION REGARDING A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$1,139,088 FROM THE SEIZURES AND RESTITUTION FUND BALANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO BE USED DURING SPECIAL EVENTS, CRITICAL INCIDENTS, SEARCH & RESCUE EVENTS, AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THE SWAT TEAM AND HAZARDOUS DEVICES UNIT.

Mr. Ricky Jackson, Deputy Police Chief, said the Norman Police Department (NPD) has many unmet equipment needs which allow them to maintain and enhance the quality of life in the City by protecting life, liberty, and keeping the peace as well as keeping the community and officers safe. He said while Council may not be aware of these needs, these requests are not new and many of the items were first broached several years ago and remain unfilled. Proposal for funding will be brought forward next week and be structure based on input from tonight's meeting.

Deputy Chief Jackson said current technology and tools used by NPD have become outdated, non-serviceable, and in some cases no longer function in an operational way. Officers are now using personal funds to provide equipment the City has failed to provide, i.e., night vision goggles, tech tools, etc., and if continued will put the community and officers at risk. He said these requested tools and equipment are compliant with industry standards across the nation and are not new to NPD. These tools help provide officers the ability to slow incidents down, creating time for less lethal options thus creating a safer environment for all involved persons. He said tools themselves do not cause harm, poor leadership, poor training, poor accountability, and lack of appropriate policy of use of the equipment create potential concerns.

Item 2, continued:

The NPD completed 70,000 to 100,000 calls for service each year and dynamic and violent encounters becoming more prevalent across the country. The Norman community is not exempt from these acts of violence and must be prepared to provide the next level of protection the community deserve. In the last two years, NPD has had four incidents resulting in more than a dozen officers being shot at in the line of duty.

Deputy Chief Jackson said the NPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) was founded in 1974, and is deployed to the community's most violent situations, including hostage situations, barricaded persons, high-risk situations, and incidents where the capabilities exceed those of traditional patrol response. He said SWAT averages five to six activations each year with the priority of a peaceful resolution and in its 48-year history, SWAT has never used lethal force. Additionally, SWAT supports large venue events, such as the Norman Music Festival, home football games, etc. He said the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) set team training, policies, and equipment standards. Failure to achieve standards reduces NPD's ability to protect the community when needed and increases risk to team members and the requested equipment brings NPD closer to meeting the national standards necessary for protecting the community.

Deputy Chief Jackson highlighted equipment and tool needs that include:

SWAT Negotiations Equipment (\$21,000) Negotiators are the key to peaceful resolutions and creates the ability to provide a reliable means of communication with barricaded persons or hostage takers. Current systems are outdated and/or not serviceable

Simunition Training Kits (\$12,500) Simunition kits for issued weapons systems converts weapons to only shoot simunitions (soap rounds) and allows for training using issued systems in high-stress environments. Currently officers are unable to train with their issued weapons system.

Ballistic Shield and Blanket(s) (\$20,000) Current items are several years past their expiration and are unreliable. The shield and blanket provide ballistic protection and will assist in safeguarding life and property during high-risk situations and comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) standards for employee protective equipment.

Respirators and Canisters (\$13,000) Provides protection from hazardous environments. In specific incidents, the SWAT team may introduce chemical agents to assist in creating peaceful resolutions to high-risk incidents. Current equipment is expired and unreliable. Standard NPD issued respirators cannot be used in long-term tactical environments and are necessary to achieve OSHA/PEOSH compliance.

Door Breaching Equipment (\$22,000) – Equipment necessary for breaching doors when making emergency entry into a location. Entering buildings in non-tactical, slower ways increases risk and reduces rescue abilities as well as increases operational readiness giving additional officers the ability to quickly enter a structure to address public safety issues and protect citizens.

Item 2, continued:

Equipment and tool needs for HDU, continued:

Large Venue Security Equipment (\$7,000) – Binoculars with high-definition lens clarity for accurate visual assessments and tripods for stable working platform, which allows for protection of large venue environments and outdoor events. Current items limit ability to properly identify and assess incidents.

Nigh Vision Equipment (\$52,000) – Provides ability to accurately assess and respond to situations in low light environments. Some are personally owned because current inventory is not enough to outfit the entire team. The inability to accurately see in low light environment significantly limits abilities to safely manage incidents.

Aiming Laser Systems (\$20,000) – Allows for full field of view vision rather than limited standard optics and significantly increases low light capabilities. There are currently not enough in inventory to outfit entire team and some equipment is personally owned.

Armored Rescue Vehicle and Training (\$353,000) – This equipment is not currently owned by NPD. It is used during high-risk incidents involving armed suspects and is a critical tool to rescue residents from danger and is a critical tool to keep offices safe and de-escalate situations for peaceful resolution. NPD currently uses outside resources that limits accountability and increases response times. This “borrowed” equipment has been used in Norman twice in the last two years providing life saving capabilities and can be used during weather related incidents for rescue and access. This defensive tool has been proven to save lives around the nation as well as in the City of Norman. This tool is currently available in Cleveland County Sheriff’s Department, Moore Police Department, Oklahoma County Sheriffs Department, City of Edmond Police Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, and Oklahoma City Police Department.

Deputy Chief Jackson said the Hazardous Devices Unit (HDU) was founded in 1972, to be deployed to high-risk, radiological, nuclear, and explosive threats. The HDU is also deployed to all large events with an average of 15 to 20 activations each year. The team training, policies, equipment standards are set by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) with routine inspection. Both the FBI and FEMA require that Public Safety Bomb Squad (PSBS) have a robot, bomb suits for technicians, x-ray machines, and tools to enable HDU to safely investigate and disrupt any possible explosive threat. Failure to meet standards in team disbursement and failing to have a HDU within the NPD significantly reduces capabilities and increases response times when needed. The included request allows NPD to continue meeting these standards.

Deputy Chief Jackson highlighted equipment and tools needs for HDU that include:

Protective Vests and Helmets (\$15,000) – Necessary for protection of officers managing explosive devices. Current equipment is expired and outdated and failure to replace items will reduce response capabilities.

Item 2, continued:

Equipment and tool needs for HDU, continued:

Bomb Suits (\$70,000) – Replacing two outdated suits, which are starting to show signs of degradation and pose a risk of failure. The suits are designed to protect certified bomb technicians working on and rendering safe Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's).

Portable X-Ray Machine (\$40,000) – Replacing a 15 year old device that is a critical tool for evaluating and rendering suspicious packages and devices safe. Necessary for identification of IEDs and assists in determining safest response to device.

Radiation Detector (\$20,000) – Replacing current non-operating device used for rapid determination and evaluation of possible radiological or biological threats. Failure to identify and manage these threats in a timely way result in large-scale injuries and fatalities.

Bomb Technician Tools (\$20,000) – These tools are critical in rendering expected IED's safe and allows for more mobile and faster response than a robot may provide. An example of immediate response when use of a robot may not be ideal, i.e., an active shooter situation.

HDU Robot Primary Large (\$375,000) – Current robot purchased in 2004 with a normal life expectancy of ten to 15 years. The current robot often fails to operate or respond when needed and is necessary for assessing and evaluating suspicious devices. The robot is also used to make contact with barricaded suspects to assist with communication.

All Terrain Robot Small (\$32,000) – A critical tool for evaluating and managing IEDs in smaller confined spaces. The small robot is faster and more agile than large full capacity robots and has more limited capabilities and duration than a large unit, making it ideal for deployment in active shooter and SWAT situations. It can also be deployed to assist with situational awareness in crisis situations.

Deputy Chief Jackson said the Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit (UASU) was founded in 2019, and serves the community as an effective tool for protecting lives and property within the City of Norman. Fully trained and licensed UAS pilots staff the UASU and the program assists with search and rescue, traffic collision investigations, crime scene documentation, critical incident monitoring, disaster response, and critical infrastructure inspections. All team members have completed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensing and meet national guidelines.

Drones and Support Equipment (\$35,000) – Additional devices will improve response capabilities and include safety lighting, monitoring, and charging equipment. Drones are industry-leading tools for search and rescue, natural disasters, a critical incident response.

Item two, continued:

The NPD Bike Team provides operational support and community outreach and bicycles are an industry leading tool for safe management of large-scale events. Bicycles provide mobility and visibility for officers in areas where vehicular or foot operations are not efficient or reasonable. Bike teams are deployed to natural disasters, search and rescue incidents, and are an excellent community outreach tool. The NPD Bike Team is operated within the standards of the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) and NPD Officers assist in development and instruction of officers throughout the state and nation.

Electric Assist Bikes (\$10,000) – Electric assist bikes are an excellent tool for reduction of overexertion and injuries, allows for prolonged deployment, greatly expands effective range of deployed officers, and has been deployed at NPD on a demo basis for national training guidance.

Deputy Chief Jackson said asset forfeiture processes are highly regulated by State law and Norman seizure funds come primarily from interstate organized crime and not many from Norman residents. Police Officers must have probable cause with the burden always on the State and NPD must prove nexus between criminal activity and the currency seized. All seized items and/or funds must be adjudicated by courts before use. In 2020, \$1,539,338 was seized in currency (2.4% from Norman residents), in 2021, \$126,896 was seized in currency (3.5% from Norman residents), and in 2022, \$1,767,528 was seized in currency (6.2% from Norman residents). NPD has \$1,268,876 in state funds and \$202,699 in federal funds.

If the proposed funding request is approved it will significantly improve the department's abilities to protect lives during our community's most dangerous times. The requested tools will enhance NPD's current failing efforts to meet minimal industry standards and without the equipment, NPD will experience continued degradation of its abilities to respond to those in crisis as well as failing to meet standards and lose critical response capabilities in the community. Simply put, inaction will reduce the safety of residents, officers, as well as the community and require reliance on other agencies to protect Norman's community.

Councilmember Schueler asked what percentage of the Bike Team are currently using e-bikes and Deputy Chief Jackson said NPD has no e-bikes at the moment, but NPD would like to add e-bikes to its existing bicycle fleet. He said officers become fatigued when covering large scale events on bicycles and e-bikes are faster and will preserve officers' energy.

Councilmember Holman said he supports moving forward with all requested items, but has some reservations about using seizure funds for the rescue vehicle and would like to explore other funding options. He said if these items are an extreme need, then Council should consider using money from the City's budget.

Item 2, continued:

Councilmember Schueler asked if there could be an opportunity for the City to be thoughtful about the way it is using the different percentages of seized currency taken from Norman residents versus non-residents. Deputy Chief Jackson said the federal government has specific guidelines on how seizure money is spent. Mr. Pyle said the lion's share of seizure funds come from drug related crimes and the City could focus on the dangers of these drug challenges to the community and determine if there is a method to identify local dollars for drug education purposes. Mr. Kevin Foster, Police Chief, said local seizure funds could be used for public drug education; however, just because the seizure funds are "local" does not necessarily mean the money comes from Norman residents as criminals come to Norman to set up shop. He said saying a certain percentage of seizure funds are from "Norman residents" is not really a good term for some of these seizures.

Councilmember Schueler asked where the future Public Safety Study factor into utilizing the armored rescue vehicle in the community and Mr. Pyle said the policies and procedures are a national standard and the Study will provide valuable data on utilizing all public safety tools and equipment. He believes the Public Safety Study will determine this piece of equipment will be necessary when thinking about Norman joining the SEC, population growth, tourist growth, turnpike proposal, etc.

Councilmember Schueler said all the items discussed are on one resolution and asked if the rescue vehicle and associated training could be on a separate resolution uncoupled from the total request. She would like to have public input on the vehicle to determine what the community would like to see moving forward. Mayor Heikkila said it is an easy decision for him to purchase the equipment with drug seizure money, but if Council wants the rescue vehicle to be on a separate resolution, he is fine with that.

Councilmember Grant said the City needs to have a use and accountability policy for the rescue vehicle and she would like to wait for the Public Safety Study before purchasing the vehicle.

Councilmember Foreman said she would like to see a list of where the seizure funds come from. She said there are State statutes that are very specific about the use of seizure funds that include the purchase of police equipment and/or training so the City cannot use the funds for infrastructure or other projects. She said she is fine with spending seizure funds versus using the General Fund for the needed equipment, but will defer to other Councilmembers wishes.

Mr. Pyle said Staff is tasked with preserving the General Fund and Staff will always look for funding options other than the General Fund for discretionary purchases.

Councilmembers Tortorello and Peacock said they are fine with using either funding source to purchase the needed tools and equipment and prefer to keep everything on one resolution because it all falls under public safety.

Councilmember Grant was adamant about waiting on the Public Safety Study prior to purchasing a rescue vehicle, but supports using seizure funds for needed police gear.

Item 2, continued:

Councilmember Foreman suggested using General Fund money instead of seizure funds for the rescue vehicle and training.

Mr. Pyle said there seems to be consensus among Council for separate resolutions utilizing seizure funds for equipment gear and General Fund money for the rescue vehicle and training.

Items submitted for the record

1. Staff report dated November 15, 2022, from Ricky Jackson, Deputy Chief of Police, to City of Norman Police Department
2. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Norman Police Department Funding Request," dated November 15, 2022

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

ATTEST:



City Clerk



Mayor

