



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: August 12, 2024

Prepared By: Jim Snider, City Administrator

Agenda Item: Proposed Successor Agreement with the Washington Fire Department 5/1/24 – 4/30/27.

Explanation: The Washington Fire Department Board provided us with the attached proposal for a successor agreement to the contract that expired April 30, 2024 (*Attached Item 1. Their proposed agreement above has not added the request for the bunkhouse*). Included with the proposal is as follows:

- a. A proposed Exhibit “B” establishing compensation for Fire/Rescue Service and compensation for Ambulance Service from 5/1/24 – 4/30/27.
- b. Proposed Exhibit “A” revisions including:
 - i. The city would pay \$212,500 for half of the cost for a new ambulance (\$425,000 total cost).
 - ii. The city would pay \$375,000 for half of the cost for the refurbishing of the existing T1 ladder truck (\$750,000 total cost).
- or
- iii. The city would pay \$1,375,000 for half of the cost for a new ladder truck (\$2,750,000).
- iv. The city would pay for the cost of a new bunkhouse (\$904,419) at the Wilmor Road WFD location.
- c. WFD bank statements as of 4/30/24
- d. WFD FY25 Budget Report

Please note below Article 4.12 of the November 1, 2020 – April 30, 2024, agreement between the city and the WFD (*Attached Item 2*):

Mediation Procedures. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the parties agree that if an agreement, with respect to the compensation to be paid to the Department for any subsequent Agreement is not reached by April 30, 2024, the parties shall automatically extend this Agreement for an additional 90-day period on the same terms and conditions then in existence, and that by August 1, 2024 or the first working day thereafter, the parties agree that they shall enter into non-binding mediation and shall follow the process provided for at Section 315/12 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/12). The parties shall not be obligated to comply with any of the other provisions of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act except those specifically set out in Section 315/12.

The parties shall work together to obtain a mediator from the Public Employees Mediation Roster, or from another source, with experience in this particular area of the law.

As of this writing, the WFD Board has not requested action on the mediation step outlined above.

Mayor Manier appointed Council Member Brett Adams, Police Chief McCoy and me to negotiate with representatives of the Fire Department Board. Our last meeting outlined the presentation that is before you.

Fiscal Impact:

As indicated by the attached spreadsheet (*Attached Item 3*) prepared by Finance Director Baxter, the financial impact of the WFD overall request is significant. If we were to fund all of these items with property taxes the overall property tax increase would be approximately 37.5% over last year to fund a potential one-year increase of \$806,742. The overall 3-year increase would be \$2,340,726 under the new fire truck scenario and \$1,340,726 under the refurbished fire truck scenario.

The current tax levy for Fire and Ambulance represents approximately 24% of the total final year of the contract with the remaining paid with other General Fund revenues such as Sales Tax and Income Tax. The tax levy increase is what would be required to fund the increased expenses related to the Fire contract, not including anticipated increases for Police Pension, IMRF, Social Security, Liability Insurance, etc.

Action Requested:

We are looking for direction from the Council related to the WFD request to fund expenses in a three-year successor agreement.