

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, February 26, 2024**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, February 26, 2024, at 5:01 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Burroughs, Chairman, Commissioners Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, and BPU Board Member Henry. The following officials were also in attendance: Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief; Casey Meyer, Senior Counsel; Monica L. Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk, and Jessica Gabaree, UG Clerk's Office.

Chairman Burroughs said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that some committee members, staff, and the public are attending remotely via Zoom as well as on site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak so that the public knows who's speaking and we have an accurate record. This is critical given the number of remote participants, it's also guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments are included in the record of our meeting. The public can also indicate their intent to provide public comment by contacting our Clerk's Office by 5:00 P.M. the Thursday prior to meetings. The public also has an opportunity to provide comments, either by telephone, Zoom, or here in person in the 5th Floor Conference Room tonight, the night of the meeting.

Chairman Burroughs called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Burroughs said we don't have any revisions on our agenda tonight and we don't have any minutes for approval.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212967...GRANT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS

February 26, 2024

Synopsis: Approval of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of the KCK Fire Department in the amount of \$146,006.60, submitted by Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief. Matching funds will come from current budgeted funds.

Chairman Burroughs said this is the only item on the agenda this evening and I would recognize Dennis Rubin our Fire Chief for comment.

Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief, said Chief McClain and myself are representing the department asking for your support to move this item to Full Commission. Essentially, the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides grants each year to all the United States Fire Departments. With your support we will submit our application, it is a total of \$146,006.00. What that grant will specifically do will allow our Fire Department to continue down the path of becoming National Incident Management System compliance, which is a federal requirement by using what's called the Blue Card Command Program. Several of our officers, about 25 I think, are currently registered and enrolled and are making progress, I think we have five or six that have been certified. Our goal is that everyone that would be in a leadership position, Acting Captain and above, would receive this training over the next year based on this grant. The grant requires a 10% match, that match will come out of existing Training Division Funding. So, Sir and Ma'am, we're not asking for any additional money with this grant.

Chairman Burroughs said that's roughly around \$14,600. **Mr. Rubin** said yes, the matching portion is Sir. **Chairman Burroughs** said and it's within your budget? **Mr. Rubin** said oh, yes sir. **Chairman Burroughs** said does any member have any questions or comments?

Casey Meyer, Senior Counsel, said, Commissioner, can I just add real fast it wasn't originally included in the agenda, but I've added a resolution so once the vote is made, it would be a resolution to approve the application of the grant. It wasn't included in the original packet but all of you have it on your tables. **Chairman Burroughs** said we'll come back to that. No comments from the Committee? Clerk, do we have any comments received from the public? **Monica Sparks, Interim UG Clerk**; said no comments were received, no hands are raised online. **Chairman Burroughs** said anyone here care to speak to this? Let the record show no one stepped forward.

Before we get to the motion to accept this, I'll ask our Legal will we need a different—will we need two votes for this resolution? One to approve the funding or will it be included as we agreed to the resolution. **Ms. Meyer** said it would be included. So, if you're approving for the application and then if it moves forward to Full Commission and it's approved there, then it would also approve for the acceptance of the funding if the Fire Department wins the award.

Mr. Rubin said may I add to that? It'll be about October of 2024, and exactly as counsel says, we'll receive documentation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and at that time we will have to accept the grant or deny the grant. So, there's another swing of the bat if you will, but it will be quite a delay until they're ready to make these awards sir.

Chairman Burroughs said I just want clarification that before we entertain a motion as to approving the grant, the 10% match that's one point of action, the second point of action would be to approve the resolution but if we're going to combine if the resolution is inclusive of the \$14,006.00 then we can only do it with one motion. That's the clarification I was trying to get to. I'd entertain a motion for approval of the resolution. Any other questions? Seeing none, Clerk, please call roll.

Action: **Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stites, to approve as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Henry, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs.

Adjourn

Chairman Burroughs said thank you Chief, appreciate you all looking out for us. Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes our meeting this evening. I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Action: **Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Henry, Lopez, Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

JG

February 26, 2024