

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, June 24, 2024**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, June 24, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Burroughs, Chairman, Commissioners, Burns, Lopez, Stites. Commissioners Kane and BPU Board Member Henry; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Casey Meyer, Senior Counsel; Assistant Chief Shane Turner, KCKPD; and Brittanie MacDonald, 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 remotely should please mute phones and devices when you're 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, and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments will be 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 brief comments, either by telephone, Zoom, or here in person in the 5th floor conference room. The comments should be limited to the item at hand and per the Commission Rules of Procedure should not include any rude or derogatory remarks, reflections as to integrity, abusive comments and statements as to motives and personalities.

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

Chairman Burroughs said before we get started, I would like to announce for those that are online and here this evening, that the Administration & Human Services Standing Committee has been cancelled for this evening. So, if you are here for that meeting, it has been cancelled.

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Approval of the minutes from March 27, 2023. **On motion of Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, the minutes were approved.** Roll call was taken and there were four “Ayes,” Lopez, Burns, Stites, Burroughs.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 21118...RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING DONATION OF EQUIPMENT FROM KCK FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CITY OF PIERCEVILLE, KS

Synopsis: A resolution authorizing the donation of equipment from the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department to the city of Pierceville, KS.

Casey Meyer, Senior Counsel, said this was requested by the Fire Department. They have a Water Tender that is no longer useful to them. They estimate the potential value, if sold in an auction, to be \$1,000 or less. They have worked out an agreement with the city of Pierceville, Kansas. Pierceville can use the Water Tender and so this resolution is to approve the donation from the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department to Pierceville, Kansas the use of our 1973 Water Tender.

Commissioner Burns said is it a donation or are they paying \$1,000? **Ms. Meyer** said it’s a donation.

Chairman Burroughs said the value of the donation is \$1,000. **Ms. Meyer** said we are not being reimbursed. It’s just a donation, but if we were to sell it at auction, it would be a maximum value of \$1,000.

Action: **Commissioner Stites made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, to approve.**

Chairman Burroughs said before I get there, I do have to ask if there is anyone appearing in person that would like to speak to this item. Is there anyone online who would like to speak to this item? **Ms. MacDonald** said no hands are raised. **Chairman Burroughs** said has anyone submitted written testimony? **Ms. MacDonald** said no comments were received.

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Commissioner Burns said I think for the record, where is Pierceville? **Ms. Meyer** said I don't know, Commissioner. **Commissioner Lopez** said it's actually going to be west of Dodge City off of 400 Highway. It's about 378 miles from here. **Ms. Meyer** said I see it's in Finney County, Kansas, so yes, that's far out west. **Commissioner Lopez** said are we going to have to haul it or are they going to come get it? **Ms. Meyer** said no, I'd recommend that they would come get it since it's a donation in the first place. **Commissioner Lopez** said this Tender Tanker, this fire truck, it's a great big tanker. I was reading it's a 73 Ford 9,000, just a big truck, but it's great big tanker and I think this is great. This is a really good vehicle for the Fire Department down there just because of their—the farmers down there burn all their grass and this is basically what it's for. It's for big grass fires and whatnot. I think it would be perfect.

Chairman Burroughs said, Commissioner Stites, I accept your motion to approve and I believe Commissioner Lopez seconded that motion. Clerk, please call roll.

Roll call was taken and there were four "Ayes" Lopez, Burns, Stites, Burroughs.

Item No. 2 – 21178...RESOLUTION: COMMUNITY BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION INITIATIVE SITE BASED GRANT

Synopsis: Approval and acceptance of a grant request administered by the US Department of Justice for an amount up to \$2,000,000, with no matching funds.

Shane Turner, Assistant Chief of Police, KCKPD, said the Police Department is seeking approval to accept funding if awarded under the FY24, The Bureau of Justice Assistance Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program. The CVIPI, for short, program is offering federal funding to organizations proposing multidisciplinary strategies that will disrupt cycles of violence and retaliation in an overall effort to reduce gun violence. The Police Department is requesting \$2M to support several different strategies to include programs for youth addressing gun violence at our Police Athletic League, trauma response in cooperation with Ad Hoc, re-entry resources provided by The Village Initiative, technology equipment and investigative software programs, and overtime for officers to patrol areas most impacted by gun

violence. The project period will extend from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027. There is no match requirement for this program.

Chairman Burroughs said it sounds wonderful. Any questions, any comments, committee?

Commissioner Burns said what is the total amount you're requesting. **Assistant Chief Turner** said \$2M. **Commissioner Burns** said oh, you're going up to the max. **Assistant Chief Turner** said yes. **Commissioner Burns** said okay.

Chairman Burroughs said I'll ask if there's any comments received from the public. **Ms. MacDonald** said no comments were received. **Chairman Burroughs** said is there anybody online who wishes to make a comment. **Ms. MacDonald** said no hands are raised. **Chairman Burroughs** said is there anyone appearing in person this evening besides our representatives from the Police Department that would care to speak to this grant. Let the record show no one stepped forward. Now I would entertain a motion.

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

Item No. 3 – 21119...RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Synopsis: A resolution authorizing the approval of an agreement between the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas State School for the Blind for the provision of a school resource officer.

Shane Turner, Assistant Chief of Police, KCKPD, said the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department is requesting a resolution authorizing the approval of an agreement between the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas and the Kansas State School for the Blind for the provision of a School Resource Officer.

Casey Meyer, Senior Counsel, said the terms of the agreement—I don't know, Shane, if you want to cover those or if you want me to. **Assistant Chief Turner** said yeah, I do. Basically, the terms of the agreements—the highlights are that we would initiate a cost that's currently being invoiced at \$76,513.11. We have an agreement that this contract or this MOU would extend to 10 years past this start date with each individual year being negotiated based on the average salary of the police officer for the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. Basically, it's the same number. In this particular instance, it would be about a 4% increase from what we had in 2023-2024 year and that's a result of the pay increase for the Police Department. Any such increases in the future would be factored into that agreement. Other than that, it's a standard policy and procedures that's governed underneath the Police Department for a police officer to be on the premise of a school to serve the purpose of security and as necessary any kind of requirements for the school as far as police services require.

Commissioner Lopez said so basically we're going to go ahead and pay our police officer, but then we're going to send the school the invoice to pay that bill for the police officer. **Assistant Chief Turner** said yes, so the school is going to be paying for the services of that police officer that we normally provide for the city. **Commissioner Lopez** said we're just being reimbursed.

Commissioner Burns said has the Police Department seen any upsurge in the crime around there. **Assistant Chief Turner** said when the School for the Blind reached out to us and made this request last year I was still in this position as the Assistant Chief and I made contact with him and there is no upsurge in crime, but they are cognizant of the security for the area that they're in. When I asked specifically if there were any issues such as the students getting into fights, problems with employees, anything that would require an extensive amount of security, they said no as far as the students go and as far as the employees go. They did say they had a couple of people climb the fence that surrounds the property and the people that engage their services would feel safer and I'm sure that the students there would feel safer with the presence of the law enforcement officer. I believe that was the primary motivation for them making this request.

Commissioner Burns said if no one has ever been there, it's a wonderful facility and they do so much for the kids there. They've been in Wyandotte County forever as far as I can remember. **Assistant Chief Turner** said I would agree. When I was there we took a tour and they showed us

everything to the apartments that they have there for the students, the cooking facilities, the programs they have available, and everybody was especially nice and very happy to have us there and they were very excited in engaging in this agreement with us. **Commissioner Burns** said the students come statewide, correct? **Assistant Chief Turner** said yes, they come statewide. Actually, this particular school is different than the ones we normally engage with in that they operate on a 12-month basis, so no summer break. As a matter of fact, when I was there they said some of their busiest time is during the summer where they provide instruction for those who would otherwise be engaged throughout the school year. So, yes, they come from statewide.

Commissioner Stites said the only thing that I would have, and I think it's a well-deserved that they should have an officer, SRO, onsite makes sense. My only concern is that it is removing another already taxed Police Department with manpower off of the streets into another position into the school, not that they don't need it and they don't deserve it, it's just that we're taking another person out of the rotation, if you will, for an officer on patrol, but I'm in support of it.

Chairman Burroughs said thank you Commissioner Stites, you bring up a fine point.

Ms. Meyer said I would just like to add, I know several of you know this, but Shane mentioned it, our Kansas City, Kansas Police Department also has SRO's in Piper, Turner, and Bishop Ward High Schools. So, it's not a unique agreement, it's pretty consistent. **Chairman Burroughs** said it's an environment also that our young people have a chance to interact and see the Police Department in a more positive light and what may happen outside the school property, so we appreciate that.

Chairman Burroughs said if there's no more comments from the committee, I'll ask the Clerk if there are any comments received from the public. **Ms. MacDonald** said no comments were received. **Chairman Burroughs** asked is there anyone online who wishes to speak to this item. **Ms. MacDonald** said no hands are raised. **Chairman Burroughs** said is there anyone in person that would like to address this item. Let the record show no one stepped forward. I will entertain a motion.

Action: **Commissioner Stites made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burns, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were four “Ayes” Lopez, Burns, Stites, Burroughs.

Public Agenda

Adjourn

Chairman Burroughs said thank you Committee. That concludes our meeting this evening. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Action: **Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lopez, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were four “Ayes” Lopez, Burns, Stites, Burroughs.

Chairman Burroughs said, again, for those that are watching, the Administration & Human Services Standing Committee, which usually follows the Public Works & Public Safety Committee has been cancelled this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

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