

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY  
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Monday, May 18, 2020**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, May 18, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., remotely via Zoom. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Markley, Ramirez, Kane, Philbrook, BPU Board Member Groneman. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell, Melissa Sieben and Emerick Cross, Assistant County Administrators; Kevin Bibbs, IT Director; Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel; Alley Porter, Commission Liaison; Acting Deputy Chief Rance Quinn, KCKPD; Assistant Chief Steve Haulmark, KCKPD; Bridgette Cobbins, UG Clerk; and Fire Chief Michael Callahan.

**Chairman Bynum** said we are coming to you live from quarantine. We are going to host tonight the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee and it will be followed by Administration & Human Services. Before I call the meeting to order, do you want to announce that due to COVID-19, the committee members, the staff and the public are attending remotely via Zoom. Any participants joined 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 the public who's observing the meeting knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants that we have and it is our current items from the Kansas Attorney General. Due to our COVID-19 requirements, public comment has been suspended unless otherwise required by law. The public has been allowed to submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those will be included in this record of the meeting; however, for this evening two meetings we have received no email public comments.

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

**Chairman Bynum** said there are no revisions on tonight's agenda.

Approval of standing committee minutes from February 24 and March 23, 2020. **On motion of Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Agenda:

**Item No. 1 – 20151...RESOLUTION: INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF WESTWOOD FOR 47TH AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS, RAINBOW BOULEVARD TO MISSION ROAD**

**Synopsis:** A resolution approving an interlocal agreement between the Unified Government and the City of Westwood, KS, for the improvement of 47th Avenue, Rainbow Boulevard to Mission Road, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Director of Public Works; and Troy Shaw, County Engineer.

**Troy Shaw, County Engineer,** said what we're looking at here is the interlocal agreement, as you mentioned, with the City of Westwood for improvements on 47<sup>th</sup> St., between Rainbow Blvd. and Mission. The City of Westwood has submitted and applied, or have received a grant for around a little over a million dollars in funding to make complete street improvements to 47<sup>th</sup> St. and 47<sup>th</sup> St. is basically split right down the middle; half of its UG owned and half of it's owned by Westwood in that section of the road. This agreement is basically a partner on the remaining share of the expenses related to that, you turn that into a Complete Street project.

The overall estimate currently is a little under \$1.5M. Like I said except the grant is a little over a million, so between the two of us we're looking at an additional, roughly \$500,000 split. However, it may be a little more than that just as we know we would probably program somewhere between 250 and 450 just because we know expenses get a little more when you start working on KDOT projects as we've seen in the past. This is just to have a resolution to enter into that agreement with KDOT and the city of Westwood.

**Chairman Bynum** asked so the grant was applied for through the city of Westwood. **Mr. Shaw** said correct. **Chairman Bynum** asked does that cover our financial cost, or is our part not covered by a grant. **Mr. Shaw** said the grant is for the road project on 47<sup>th</sup> St. so it's the whole road, from Rainbow to Mission. It doesn't matter if it's in UG or Westwood for the grant money. It's all there, so \$1.047M I think is the actual total amount of the grant and it's an 80/20 match so then

the 20% remainder needs to be paid for by the city of Westwood and a split between the city of Westwood and UG is the way we're looking at it because we own half that road. We will look at the new improvements to that road as well as maintenance items as far as curbs and pavements as well during this.

**Commissioner Philbrook** asked so Troy that means basically we're just paying 10% of it. **Mr. Shaw** said roughly, yes, correct. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked approximately that. **Mr. Shaw** said approximately yes, we will pay whatever the difference over that \$1.047M that is the grant, but we'll split that with Westwood because we own half the road and they own half the road. **Commissioner Philbrook** said okay.

**Action:** **Commissioner Philbrook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.** Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

**Item No. 2 – 20147...GRANT: FY2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAM**

**Synopsis:** Request approval to apply for and accept the FY2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding grant in the amount of \$318,256, submitted by Assistant Chief Steve Haulmark, KCKPD. Funds will be used by the Police Department and Sheriff's Office to purchase items for use when mitigating incidents or serving individuals in incidents directly related to Coronavirus exposure. No match required.

**Steve Haulmark, Assistant Chief Kansas City Kansas Police Department,** said we are seeking approval, along with the Sheriff's Office, to apply for and accept the federal Fiscal Year 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This particular grant is similar to our Edward Byrne JAG Awards and that the funding is based on a formula and actually we're eligible for this grant because we're a routine Edward Byrne JAG

award recipient. For this particular grant we've been allocated \$318,256 to spend on Coronavirus preparedness, response and prevention.

The Police Department along with the Sheriff's Office have put together a proposed budget that incorporates several items to meet these spending requirements, primarily personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks, gowns, sanitation products and etc. Once awarded, we will have until January 20, 2022 to spend down the grant funds. This grant is 100% federally funded with no match requirement from the UG.

**Chairman Bynum** said that sounds great, thank you so much for that.

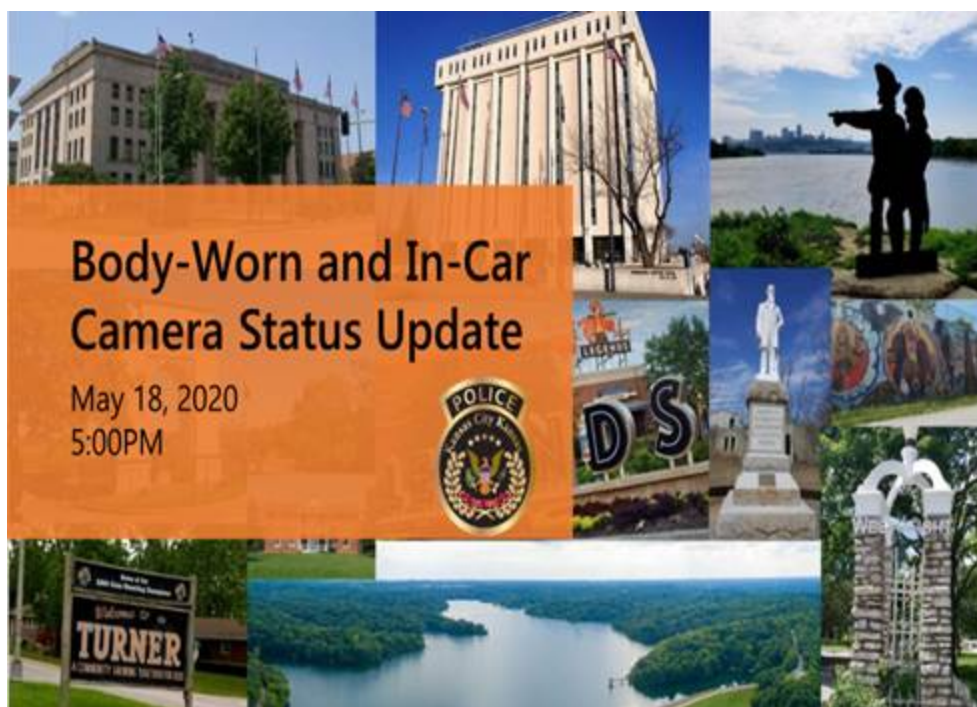
**Commissioner Philbrook** said I want to thank you guys for coming forward to request those funds and did I hear you say we're open for this because we have been receiving grants from the same entities in the past and I guess that supposed to infer that we did a good job. **Assistant Chief Haulmark** said yes, Commissioner, that is correct. We have received the JAG Grant, Edward Byrne JAG Grant for several years now and we partner with the Sherriff's Department for that as well. **Commissioner Philbrook** said great, okay thank you, Steve, I appreciate that.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve.** Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

### **Item No. 3 – 2055... UPDATE: BODY CAMERA PROJECT**

**Synopsis:** Update on the implementation of body cameras for the Kansas City Kansas Police Department, submitted by Interim Chief of Police Michael York.

**Acting Deputy Chief Rance Quinn**, KCKPD, said I appreciate the opportunity for us to kind of give an update on our body-worn Camera project here. Rocki has kind of guided me how I'm going to share my screen here to start this PowerPoint so if you can give me just a second. Can everybody see that? **Chairman Bynum** said yes, I can, yes, I see heads nodding.



**Acting Deputy Chief Quinn** said the Body-Worn Camera project, let me just kind of give you a brief history as to what the project is for, why we're doing it and the current status and the future steps for that. The project is to outfit our marked patrol units so the cars that you see driving around every day out on our streets with in-car cameras, those cameras then will sync with the body-worn cameras worn by our officers. Each of our officers who work in our operations assignments within the department as well as our animal service officers and some of our special units will all receive their own personal body-worn camera. The newly acquired cameras will replace an aging fleet that we currently have in our cars that some of those are 10 to 15 years old and many of them are on shoe strings and duct tape to make those work, if we can get those to work. It's an important tool that we use in our cars now, we just don't have the body-worn cameras and they would record any enforcement contact with the citizens of our community.

## WHY?

- ⇒ Improve officer safety
- ⇒ Enhance public trust
- ⇒ Strengthen evidence of crime scenes and investigations
- ⇒ Increase officer accountability
- ⇒ Improve officer training
- ⇒ Reduce liability



Why are we doing this? What it does, studies have shown across the country body-worn cameras improve officer safety, it allows us to kind of like use videos that we see for training purposes and mistakes we may have made. It enhances public trust so that the trust, the community can see that we're doing business the correct way and we're able to kind of like squash any kind of incidents that come about by having the body-worn camera footage for us. It strengthens evidence of crime scenes and investigations so that the camera may actually capture some evidence or information that we may not have realized was on that scene and those videos can then be used in courts and it increases our officer accountability. It keeps our officers doing the right thing when they are on camera. Again, studies have shown that they act, not that they normally acting inappropriately, but they act more so appropriately. It improves officer training, again, by being able to see the mistakes they made and it reduces liability to our organization.

## CURRENT STATUS

- ⇒ We completed the BWC Pilot of two vendors.
  - ⇒ The preferred vendor was selected
- ⇒ Currently, we are in contract negotiations.
  - ⇒ Wrap up contract negotiations within 30 days
- ⇒ The Covid 19 situation has slowed this process but it is still moving forward.



Our current status is we've completed the body-worn camera pilot of two different vendors. Due to the fact we're in an open forum here, I've been told to stay away from naming those two vendors but our preferred vendor was selected. We're currently in contract negotiations with them and we hope to wrap up that contract negotiations within the next 30 days. The COVID-19 situation obviously has slowed the process a little bit because that company, as well as us, you know we're kind of working remotely and kind of, has definitely slowed the process down; however, we're continuing to move just a little bit slower than we were.



Our future steps here, is we're going to complete these negotiations and award the contract and implement a kickoff of our body-worn camera, in-car camera process, and create a timeline from that. Working with the vendor obtaining the equipment obviously, and then get the infrastructure working, you know, how do we get data back from our stations back to our servers that house that data. We've got a lot of infrastructure already in place, but until we get the actual equipment across our entire organization, you know, there's little kinks that we would have to work out.

The way we're going to roll that out, is where looking to train our officers in-house. Probably most likely like a train the trainer type situation where we take our police training officers and selected individuals who may be a little bit more techno savvy than some of the other people and train them how to use these cameras. They will then help train our officers and we'll do one

station at a time so most likely that station may be either midtown or east patrol because they piloted these cameras with us in the past and so it would be easiest to get them spun up. We'll work on that for two to three weeks, work out any types of kinks, allow those officers to tell us the good and the bad, then we'll roll to the next station. The entire thing you are getting across all four states may take a couple of months to get it all up and running, but that's to be expected in a project as big as this.

As we're launching that to a particular system, we want to educate our community, how we're going to go about doing that. We're going to sit down with our District Courts and Municipal Courts. Show them the goods and the bads of body-worn camera footage and in car camera footage and kind of show them how to receive the videos, how they are going to get them from us when we have evidence to send them. Ideally, we would love to send a link to them and they would just download from that link and so we're not burning DVDs like we have been in the past and that just a labor-intensive project.

After that, or during that, we're going to do press releases to our community. Again, educating kind of the good and the bad, what to expect from body-worn camera footage. You know it's not the see all, be all kind of thing. There's going to be things that cameras miss, there's going to be stuff that they may see that the officers didn't see so we have to educate our community when it comes to those sorts of things. Then community presentations to our community policing groups, and any other entity within our community that needs to kind of understand how these cameras are going to work. With that, I'll end my presentation here and I'll take any questions.

**Commissioner Philbrook** asked how many units is that, Rance. Do you know. **Acting Deputy Chief Quinn** said yes ma'am, in-car cameras, it's about 101 in-car cameras that would outfit the majority of our cars that we have in service and the last request it was about 303 body-worn cameras. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked what did that mean, I'm sorry Rance, I didn't understand the response. Are you telling me that we've gotten a third now of what we're requesting or you're saying we've gotten some in the past, what are you saying? **Acting Deputy Chief Quinn** said body-worn cameras, not everybody in the department is going to be issued a camera, so people like myself who don't work the streets, sitting in the office all day, there's no need to spend that money. Just the officers who work in our patrol units, if you will, our specialized units, traffic enforcement; those individuals would be the ones that are issued those.

We'll have some that we identify for training and then our animal service officers that deal with very delicate situations from time to time, so that total will be about 303 body-worn cameras and about 30 of those are spares. So, if one breaks down, we have another one to put in place of the one that broke down. **Commissioner Philbrook** said okay. **Mr. Quinn** said then the 101 cameras outfit all of our patrol cars that are working in our operations or our patrol units as well as our spare cars. Again, our special enforcement units, traffic support unit, those sorts of things. **Commissioner Philbrook** said we thank you, Rance, thank you for letting me know so I'll make sure that I behave like a good commissioner. **Acting Deputy Chief Quinn** said yes ma'am. **Commissioner Philbrook** said thank you.

**Commissioner Bynum** said I do have a question and a comment. I know we've been working on the body-worn cameras since 2015 and I'm glad that we are close to implementation. One question I've had during that whole time is for that citizen who might be wanting to have a communication that's private or confidential with their officer, for example, at a community meeting where they're trying to share some sort of information for that officer to be aware of about crime and whatnot. I'm concerned about that. My question really is, if you have developed your protocols and standard operating procedures yet for wearing the cameras and is there an allowance for that citizen who wants to have a private communication? **Acting Deputy Chief Quinn** said yes, so the cameras, we have draft policy that has been reviewed by our body-worn camera grant entity. They feel that we fall in line with all of the other policies across the country and it's typical that the officer would use them for enforcement type of encounters meaning: I stop somebody at a traffic stop or I do a pedestrian check, I have to arrest someone, that sort of thing, so they would be on on those situations and capture those incidents. However, just you know talking to somebody, receiving information and stuff like that, it's left to the officers discretion to weather they turn on the camera or turn off the camera, but however all enforcement we want to be caught with the cameras.

**Chairman Bynum** said with regard to the education piece and sharing this information with the community, I know that during our COVID-19 experience here, our Mayor has had good success meeting regularly with the faith community and also a second group of folks that work in the social service arena and you might be able to reach out to the Mayor's Office for those contacts and perhaps do some community education through both of those channels as well. I would think those

would be two additional good ways to help share the information, so just a suggestion on that. **Acting Deputy Chief Quinn** said very good.

**Action:** For information only.

**Item No. 4 – 20152... GRANT: SAFER GRANT FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Synopsis:** Request to submit an application to FEMA for a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, submitted by Fire Chief Michael Callahan. The department will be requesting 18 additional firefighters to assist in being compliant with NFPA 1710 and OSHA regulations. The Federal match for the first two years will be 75% and the third year will

be 35%.

**Fire Chief Michael Callahan, KCK Fire Department,** said Rocki is going to help be but yes, I am going to show a presentation. Some of this information you've already seen but there has been some updates so I'll go through it one more time. The SAFER Grant Application, which is staffing for adequate fire and emergency response, the department is proposing hiring 18 additional fire fighters. Typically, the SAFER Grant, if awarded, would reduce our initial fiscal expenditures for the 18 firefighters in the first three years by 75%, 75%, and 35% respectively. You can see there the cost to the UG each year, year one and year two are above \$259,000 and year three is about \$673,000, although the savings that would be garnered would be about \$1.9M. However, actually some good COVID news for a change, if we go to that next slide.

## COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

- Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, FEMA has waived **ALL** local match requirements for SAFER Grant hires.
- This anticipates, the SAFER Grant, if awarded, would reduce our initial fiscal expenditures for the 18 firefighters in the first three (3) years by:
- Year 1 UG cost = \$1,035,146.40
- Year 2 UG cost = \$1,035,146.40
- Year 3 UG cost = \$1,035,146.40
- **Total 3 year Initial Cost Savings = \$3,105,439.20**

So, because of the COVID-19 implications, FEMA has waived all, back one Rocki, please. FEMA has waived all local match requirements for SAFER Grant hires so this anticipates that the SAFER Grant, if awarded, would reduce our initial fiscal expenditures for those same 18 firefighters in the first three years by about \$1.035M over the three-year period for a total three-year cost savings of \$3.1M.

## NEW HIRE UTILIZATION

- These firefighters would be utilized to convert six (6) of our current 3 Firefighter pumpers, into 4 Firefighter pumpers
- This would allow the Department to conform with the NFPA 1710 Standard for the arrival of a Fire Company within 4 minutes, as well as the contemporaneous standard to place 4 Firefighters on the scene within 4 minutes
- This would also comply with the OSHA regulation of 2 in/2 out at a fire scene
- The expectation would also be an organic attenuation of certain overtime costs.

Those new hires, if approved, these firefighters would be utilized to convert six of our current three firefighters pumpers into four firefighter pumpers. That would allow the department to conform with the NFPA 1710 Standard for the arrival of a fire company within four minutes as well as the contemporaneous standard to place four firefighters on that same scene within four minutes. This would also enable us to comply with the OSHA regulation of two in and two out at a fire scene. The expectation would also be an organic attenuation of certain overtime cost by these hires. That's all I have for this presentation; I'm open for questions.

**Chairman Bynum** said I have two questions Chief. When we say year one of a three-year grant, what year would that be, 2021. **Chief Callahan** said it would be the first year that we hire those firefighters using the grant funds. **Chairman Bynum** asked whatever year that is. **Chief Callahan** said correct, it would probably be, as you said, 2021 to get everybody processed and hired, it would take us into 2021, but yes that is correct. **Chairman Bynum** asked, if I understand the good news from FEMA, basically three years on their dime with no match from us so totally covering the cost of the 18 firefighters for three years. **Chief Callahan** said that is correct. **Chairman Bynum** asked and the cost three years after for 18 firefighters based on today's figures, do we know what that is. **Chief Callahan** said yes, it would be about \$1.035M a year. **Chairman Bynum** asked \$1.3M. **Chief Callahan** said no not \$1.3M, \$1.035M. **Chairman Bynum** asked oh okay, \$1M basically. **Chief Callahan** said correct. **Chairman Bynum** asked okay, so a million in new cost beginning in year four. **Chief Callahan** said that is correct. **Chairman Bynum** said okay thank you.

**Commissioner Philbrook** said quick question, does that include—those moneys, does that include not only their salaries but their health care, that sort of thing? **Chief Callahan** said yes, that's salary and benefit package. **Commissioner Philbrook** said okay, I just wanted to make sure. **Chief Callahan** said I understand. **Commissioner Philbrook** said thank you.

**Commissioner Kane** said first of all that's great news, we appreciate it. My question is, how many fire personnel are we still going to be down after we hire these 18? **Chief Callahan** said down in terms—none, zero. **Commissioner Kane** asked we'll be up to full staff when we hire these 18. **Chief Callahan** said we'll be above full; we'll have to create new pin numbers to hire these 18. **Commissioner Kane** said okay.

**Action:** **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook to approve.** Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Adjourn:

**Chairman Bynum** adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

mbb