

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, August 22, 2022**

The meeting of the Public Work and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, August 22, 2022, at 5:01 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Ramirez, Markley, Johnson, Kane, and BPU Board Member Groneman. The following officials were also in attendance: Brett Deichler, Interim County Administrator; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Wilba Miller, Director of Community Development; Misty Brown, Chief Counsel; Alley Porter, Commission Liaison; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communication; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Jeff Miles, Interim Fleet Services Manager; Brittanie MacDonald, Clerk's Office; Joseph Hall, Safety Training Officer for Public Works; Irvin Jackson, Operations General Superintendent of Public Transportation; Lance Lavender, Safety Officer of Public Works; Schad Hampton, Operations Supervisor of Parks & Rec; Turina Lopez, Fleet Division; and Randy Hand, Fleet Division.

Chairman Bynum said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that due to COVID-19, 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 they're not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak so the public that is observing knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and it's also current guidance from our 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 the meeting. The public can also indicate their intent to provide remote public comment by contacting the Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the meeting. The public will also have an opportunity to provide brief comments tonight either by telephone or Zoom from the lobby of the Municipal Office building.

Chairman Bynum called the meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Bynum said we do not have any revisions on our agenda tonight and our first order of business is minutes from March 28.

Approval of standing committee minutes from March 28, 2022. **On the motion of Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, the minutes were approved as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Groneman, Kane, Markley, Johnson, Ramirez, Bynum.

Committee Agenda

Item No. 1 – 211883...PRESENTATION: ENTRY-LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING

Synopsis: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration added additional training requirements while obtaining a Commercial Driver’s License. This additional training affects the Unified Government financially, along with the recruitment of new employees and retention of current employees, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works.

Chairman Bynum said we have one item on the agenda tonight. We have a presentation on entry-level driver training, and I think we have Jeff Miles here, our Fleet Manager. Are you the main presenter? I was wondering if anybody else was able to show up. This is a presentation by our Public Works Department and it's regarding additional training requirements when folks are trying to obtain a commercial driver's license. Mr. Miles, thanks for being here, and if you wouldn't mind, go ahead and introduce your team and we'll turn it over to you.

Jeff Miles, Interim Fleet Manager for Public Works, said when we go through the presentation each of them was going to tell their name and the division they are at. We have many divisions and departments here tonight. We've got a slide per committee member that's very educational, we're really proud of this opportunity. I'm excited for this presentation. This is a great example of utilizing the talent from within our organization to unify a valuable need and save unbudgeted costs. A Commercial Driver's License, CDL, is required by law for drivers in Streets, Transit, Parks, Water Pollution Control, and Fleet. These essential workers help clear the roads of snow

and ice for public safety to do their jobs. They clean sewers to protect the environment. They transport community members, and they repair and maintain our infrastructure that all city departments rely on.



Public Works Transit, Parks & Rec *Entry Level Driver Training*

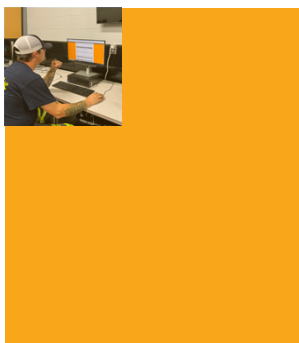
August 25, 2022

When the 2022 UG budget was constructed and approved, none of us had any idea that the federal government would implement a new and expensive driver training program to obtain a CDL. As residents and employees, we know you commissioners have a difficult job balancing the budget. I'm confident after this presentation, you'll trust we're doing everything we can at this level to stretch the budget dollar even further. Adding the financial benefit to all of Wyandotte County we've offered this new program to the teams at the city of Bonner springs, the city of Edwardsville, as well as BPU, which has designed their own internal driving program. I'm honored to hand off the floor to this all-star committee that has a combined 125 years of UG experience.



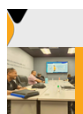
CDL Changes in 2022

- Beginning Feb. 7, 2022, all new drivers are required to follow updated DOT FMCSA rules.
- All drivers require classroom and behind the wheel training.
- Classroom or online training can be used.
- Closed course BTW (Behind the Wheel) training required.
- New computer tracking website FMCSA TPR.



August 22, 2022

Joseph Hall, Safety Training Officer for Water Pollution Control, said we kind of wanted to start off by giving you kind of a background of how we brought this committee together and some of the rule changes that forced us to do this. Beginning February 7, 2022, all new drivers were required to follow updated Department Of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rules (DOT FMCSA). That is a rule-making committee for the Department Of Transportation that has its own committee that promotes rule changes, advisory roles, etc. What they came up with was that all new drivers that get trained after that date are going to have to have a classroom and behind-the-wheel training section that they have to comply with. We could do the classroom, it could also be computer-based training for that section. The second section was a closed course behind the wheel training, and this required, like I said, a closed area off of public roads for us to be able to train our drivers. They also instituted a new computer tracking website they called the Trainer Provider Registry and that's basically a website where we can upload our employees trainings, and then they're able to look at it to make sure that we've completed all the sections that they put in. To explain more of that, I'll pass off to Irvine.



Driver Training Committee

- ELDT Committee was formed comprising several agencies, Fleet, Water Pollution Control, Transit, Parks & Rec
- Meet and observed other cities program compliance
- CBT JJ Keller was selected for classroom portion
- 4th & Minnesota Site chosen for BTW training

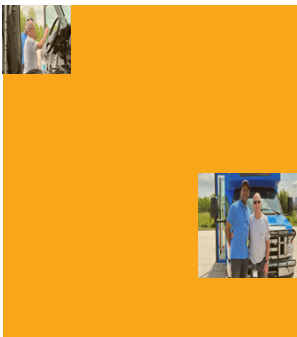
Irvin Jackson, Operations General Superintendent of Public Transportation, said in the fall of 2021, a committee was formed with the following departments; Fleet Maintenance, Parks and Rec, Public Works, Water Pollution, and the UG Public Transportation. We meet every Tuesday and Thursday. We've also met with the city of Olathe to see how their training program operated. Out of that, our committee came up with our own program and we set up a training course at 4th & Minnesota. That's where we do our behind-the-wheel training. As a committee, we believe that we're the only municipality in the metro area, one of the metro municipalities in the area to take

on this challenge by doing the in-house training. With that being said, I'll pass this on to Lance Lavender.



Cost & Time Savings

- External CDL Training Approx \$5800 per person
- 30-45 days lost for training
- Expected cost increases
- 5 employees projected cost \$29,000

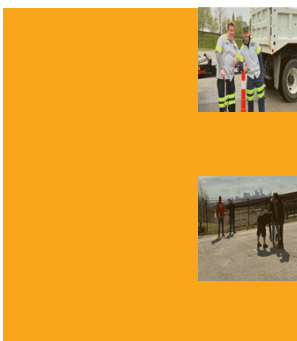


Lance Lavender, Club Supporting Liaison for Emergency Management and Public Works Safety Officer, said I have the privilege of telling you about some of the costs and time savings this great committee did for the Unified Government. External training was approximately \$5,800 per training. Lost time of work from the employees for 30 to 45 days for outstanding outside training. We expect the cost increases because of the high demand for this training, in fact, it did. We're having five employees go to this outside training, it will cost us \$29,000 dollars. I'll pass it over to Ms. Lopez, who will tell you more about the cost of time savings.



Cost & Time Savings

- Internal CDL Program
- JJ Keller training \$149 per person
- One-week average training on site
- In house Classroom & BTW training
- Total program savings to date: \$20,357



Turina Lopez, Fleet Division, said our committee's goal was to design a program that will provide an efficient and cost-effective training tool that will make our drivers more efficient, safer for themselves and for the public. We have succeeded that by designing our own UG CDL Driving Training Program that saves money and is an excellent recruitment and retention tool. Internally we'll spend only \$149 dollars for each driver, versus the \$5,800 that is the cost charged in the

outside program. We provide on-site classroom education and behind-the-wheel training in the actual vehicle. They will be performing their services in our community. The driver's trainer is a seasoned veteran who will work within the department once they graduate. Our program has already saved \$20,357 dollars to date. This unbudgeted cost would have taken further services away from our community. I will now pass it on to sure shot.

Employee Training

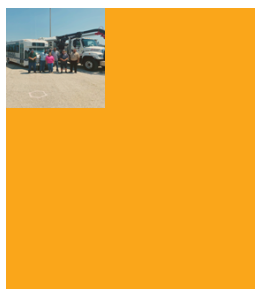
- 5 Employees were trained
- 100% pass rate for Classroom and behind the wheel training
- 3 Completed CDL License's
- Class A, B and Passenger
- 6 licenses remain for training



Schad Hampton, Operations Supervisor for Parks and Rec Department, said with our team's success, we have five employees that were trained with a 100% passing rate, in-class and behind the wheel, totaling three completed licenses. With each department that requires CDL, two employees with permits are ready to complete their final stages of the course and receive their CDLs, which consist of class A, B, and passenger. Further along, I'll pass this on to Randy Hand to conclude our last slide.

ELDT Program

- 1 Meeting DOT Requirements
- 2 Reducing costs
- 3 Minimizing Impact on operations



Randy Hand Fleet Services, said with everything this committee has shared this evening, I'd like to summarize. We have designed an internal training program that compares to the private sector,

such as Amazon, FedEx, and UPS. We created an employee recruitment and retention tool that will make it easier to find new team members and transfers from within the Unified Government. We are meeting and exceeding the new Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards DOT requirements. We're maximizing productivity by having team members perform city services while training. We are helping keep our roads safer with trained CDL drivers. We are saving a substantial cost today and into the future. Thank you for your time and I'll hand it back over to Jeff.

Mr. Miles said as you can tell how proud we are of this committee. They were handed something that no other cities at the time, with the exception of the city of Olathe, was doing. They did their homework, they meet, they're very diligent of what the plan that they came up with, ultimately where there's a value. I think a big point of this, as well, as a lot of you guys know, we took a poll today between all of our divisions departments for over 50 positions down right now. You add to that, this extra CDL training that would be required, we would lose new employees for an additional 45 days before they ever did anything in our community. So, one of their goals was to do the training in-house and not only are they training while they're driving, but they're learning about their job as well.

The other thing I wanted to share is, I think it's a great example of empowering the team members that we have on staff. Again, they took this opportunity, met week in and week out and really built a nice little culture and merged a lot of our division departments to a common goal and I'm extremely proud of them for that. We just wanted to thank our leaders, Jeff Fisher, Justice Walker, Angel Orbit, Jack Webb, Vince Bellachi, and especially Dave Reno for helping us with this presentation to look so professional. He couldn't make it tonight, but we got to give him a shout-out. With that being said, we'd love to answer any questions you might have.

Commissioner Kane said I just have a comment. I only worked in states for 21 years and I'm a firm believer that people listen to the people that work here. If we could do it with this, I think there's other programs we could do the exact same thing and it's a lot better. They don't have to go out of town. They don't have to pay for hotels. They don't have to do any of that extra stuff, we could do it here and learn why you're doing it. I think it's great, I think there's other projects you do the exact same thing on.

Commissioner Markley said thank you all for being here tonight and for the work that you do every day and especially for the work on this committee. It's just an amazing example of what our folks can do and, Jeff, I think you said words similar to "you stretch every dollar". You're the king of stretching our every dollar and we recognize it and we appreciate it, so thanks for all you do for us. **Mr. Miles** thank you very much.

Chairman Bynum said thank you so much and I just feel like I want to see every slide again because I want to repeat back for purposes of folks hearing this. Again, what you just brought us and what I heard was made aware of a new requirement, which was a problem potentially and you collaborated, you communicated, you innovated, and you problem solved. The entire time that you were doing that, you found a way to save a substantial amount of taxpayer money and get to the same exact result that was needed. It's impressive and I can't say it enough.

When we talk about those dollars you didn't spend so that we can spend them elsewhere you know it's just a continuation of what I hope you believe is the partnership between Public Works and our commissioners, and the work that we're doing right now to get you more dollars in your budget to address the things that our community has told us over and over and over again they want. I hope you see it the same way or are on your way to seeing it that way. It's just highly impressive and we know that employees like this are all throughout our Public Works Department, at least that's my opinion. We know that what you've brought forward here is a good representation of the really good people working every day in our Public Works Division.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you, Jeff, to all of the departments who worked on this. I echo everything that everyone has said. It's a testimony that it can work, it can happen if departments just work together, break down those silos and work together to find those efficiencies, find those cost savings. it can work but we just have to put the work in, and I thank you for doing that. Public Works, as Commissioner Markley said, you stick to the budget you're given and you make sure that what you give, you can give the best service out. I do thank you for that, and thanks to Jeff and all of the departments who worked on this. I hope this is something that other departments see and that they can work to implement something like this within their own programs, their own services, to have that inward look. Thank you for all that you do, it does not go unnoticed.

Commissioner Johnson said, Jeff, thank you for two things that really stuck out to me. One is teamwork, and I can't say that enough. That is something that speaks dearly to me, to have your line managers here talking with us so that we know who they are. When we hear the names drop, you know, we don't necessarily able to put a face to a name. I'm just wondering are the folks back in back, those who are here, why don't you all stand up if you work for Jeff.

Mr. Miles said we have Parks, Transit, and everybody that's here to support them.

Commissioner Johnson said oh everybody, okay, let's give them a hand. I really do appreciate that, this style, because in the back of my mind I'm always thinking, what's the ask, what were you going to ask, and you did not ask. You told us where you were able to save some costs. These are the conversations that you know we're having during the budget season, and I hear our Mayor talking about cost savings and things of that nature. This right here is what we call a case study on how to do that and so, again, I applaud you, I applaud your staff. Jeff Fisher, back there, applauds your leadership as well and all the managers. You know you've done a great job and if we can I'm just going to pile on, if we can figure out how to replicate this throughout our departments, Commissioner Bynum, I think we would really find some real cost savings there. Thank you again.

Chairman Bynum said thank you very much and I will ask the clerk if anyone online or from the public has a comment to make.

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, said no comments were received, and no hands were raised.

Chairman Bynum said thank you very much. Is anyone in person here that would like to address the item? All right, information only item no vote required from us. You solved your own problems, and we appreciate all of you taking the time to come and be with us tonight. Thank you, Jeff.

Mr. Miles said thank you for trusting us.

Action: For information only.

V. Public Agenda

Item No. 1 – 211885...APPEARANCE: CHRISTEN FORNAL-HIGBEE

Synopsis: Appearance by Christen Fornal-Higbee to discuss that the KCK Animal Services is full. Strays are not being picked up because there is no place to house them.

Chairman Bynum said we have two public comment appearances on our agenda tonight. The first appearance is by Christen Fornal-Higbee, I hope I'm saying that correctly. Is Ms. Higbee present in person or online?

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, said she's not online.

Chairman Bynum said I don't see her stepping forward to the microphone either.

Monica Spark, Acting UG Clerk, said Commissioner, we contacted her she never confirmed.

Chairman Bynum said so I would just ask that we contact her again and allow her time in September, if she is available for that date.

Item No. 2 – 211886...APPEARANCE: VERONICA MCNEILL

Synopsis: Appearance by Veronica McNeill to discuss Police/Fire/Sheriff/Public Safety.

Chairman Bynum said we had a second item this evening that Mr. Bruce Draper is going to speak to discuss police, fire, sheriff, and public safety. Reverend Draper, if you would state your name and city of residency and you have up to three minutes for your comments.

Pastor Bruce Draper said I actually live in Shawnee, but I have been a Pastor here for a long time. I am representing Churches United. One of our two proposals that we are making to the Unified Government this year, Churches United For Justice is a Wyandotte faith-based ecumenical cause made up of 18 plus congregations of various faiths and still growing. I come before you today as one of nearly 600 members who are anxious for positive change in Wyandotte County. Group Violence Intervention, GVI, previously known as Operation Ceasefire, is a proven crime

reduction strategy that has been recognized by the Department Of Justice and replicated in over 30 cities. When followed through with fidelity, it has proven to reduce violent crime in cities by as much as 60%. GVI reduces homicide and gun violence, it minimizes the harm to communities by replacing incarceration with deterrence. It fosters stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve. We believe that the National Network on Safe Communities, an NSC, has found a viable solution in that of GVI. The strategy for the change has three main components. One, community members delivering a credible message over violence. Two, law enforcement notifying violent groups of the consequences for groups if violent behavior continues. Three, support and outreach providers extending genuine help for those that wish to receive their services.

Ms. Sparks said one minute remaining.

Pastor Draper said in 2018 there were 35 homicides, in 2019 there were 39 here, in 2020 there were 58, in 2021 there were 51 and currently in 2022, we are sitting at 27. I think maybe there are a couple more. How many more will it take until we can agree to break the status quo? The first step is to hire the National Network on Safe Communities to conduct a thorough problem analysis of assets and group violence in Wyandotte County. That's a \$100,000 service, the NNSC has stated that Wyandotte qualifies for grants that would cover nearly 95% of this expense. Many times you and I have found it, even professionally, we can miss some key points when it comes to listening to our constituents. As you've mentioned in experience from this year's budget process, you know the value of outside independence vision and expertise and that's what we're proposing here. With this, we're presenting our solution as a united community of voices. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Chairman Bynum asked could I have a motion to extend?

Pastor Draper said I have a sentence and a half; I'm racing. **Chairman Bynum** said go for it.

Pastor Draper said with this we are presenting our solution as a unified community of voices to see a detailed analysis of crime to truly understand where we can provide our services and lift up our marginalized communities. We want to know for certain how group violence has plagued our communities.

Chairman Bynum said thank you for taking the time to come and be with us and for the commitment you've made to the congregations and to the community. I appreciate it. I know it won't be the last time we see you. Thank you that concludes our Public Works and Safety meeting tonight. BPU Board Member Groneman, as always thank you very much for your service to the committee, you're dismissed and the rest of us get to stay.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Groneman, Kane, Markley, Johnson, Ramirez, and Bynum.

Chairman Bynum said we are adjourned.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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