



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Cote, Downs, Noel, Grossman, Lipof, Auchincloss and Markiewicz

Also Present: Councilor Lappin

City Staff: Chief Bruce Proia, Assistant Chief Gino Lucchetti and Alex Chadis, Director of Technical Services, Newton Fire Department; Chief David MacDonald, Lt. John Daly, Executive Officer and Lisa Pearson, Executive Secretary, Newton Police Department; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer and Ryan Gauthier, Junior Financial Analyst

Chair's Note: Chief MacDonald provided Committee members with updated material regarding crash trends in the city from October 3, 2017 to May 8, 2018 indicating the top ten accident locations and accident totals where changes have been made. This material is attached to this report.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#243-18 **Appropriate \$1,210,000 to purchase new portable radios for Police and Fire**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of one million two hundred ten thousand dollars (\$1,210,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the purchase of new portable radios for the Police and Fire Departments.

Action: **Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting**

Note: Chief MacDonald, Chief Proia, Mr. Chadis and Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief MacDonald stated that the Police and Fire Departments portable radios have met their suggested life expectancy. It is necessary to be able to swap radios if and when necessary when conducting drills and during emergencies.

Chief Proia stated that the need to replace this equipment comes from the manufacturer, Motorola Solutions, who has stopped production and support on these types of radios. Because of the collaboration of the two departments, the radios can be purchased at a better price. The equipment that is being purchased uses the same accessories allowing a Firefighter

and Police Officer to exchange batteries when necessary. This cannot happen today. The Fire Department radios have not been upgraded since 2005. The departments expect the same life expectancy from the new portable radios.

Mr. Chadis stated that the purchase of new radios would allow clear audio and voice announcements notifying the operator what channel they are set to. The Firefighters radios will be larger allowing the microphone to be worn on the outside of their jacket. Batteries will be shared between the two departments, something that cannot happen today. The warranty on these batteries will be three years, today the batteries only last one year.

Questions and Answers:

Will the new radios be capable of recording information, events or conversations? Mr. Chadis answered that this information is recorded at the system level; not recorded through portable radios.

Did you consider other companies for purchasing the radios ensuring the best cost and technology? Chief Proia stated that they reviewed other brands but the radio quality was not as clear as Motorola Solutions. Yes, other brands were less expensive. It is extremely important to have clear signals and the Fire Department desires to stay with Motorola Solutions.

Is free cash funding available to make these purchases and can we anticipate this amount being available every twelve years to make radio purchases? Chair Ciccone said that the budgeting for radios is difficult. These new radios will have a three-year warranty. Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Office stated generally yes, on a regular basis, money is available in free cash.

Without further discussion, Councilor Auchincloss made a motion to approve this appropriation for purchasing new radios for the Fire and Police Departments. Committee members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#244-18 Appropriate \$600,000 for Fire Department overtime

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) from Free Cash to the Fire Department Overtime Account.

Action: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 8-0

Note: Chief Proia and Asst. Chief Lucchetti joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief Proia stated that this overtime appropriation request is due to the minimum manning clause of the Fire Department. This appropriation will assist the department with the overtime account through July 1, 2018.

The winter manning clause in the Collective Bargaining Unit (CBA) requires an extra person on each engine from January 1 through March 31. The department is still not up to full capacity. When a Firefighter retires, uses vacation time or sick time the overtime account is used.

Assistant Chief Lucchetti said that after a vacancy occurs, there is approximately an eight-month wait for entry into the Fire Academy followed by a ten-week training process and certification before a Firefighter is assigned to an engine. It has taken longer than anticipated to secure placements at the Fire Academy. As a result, the City has been forced to pay overtime for coverage of positions while having several personnel in the academy.

Questions and Answers:

Can the department anticipate vacancies? Assistant Chief Lucchetti answered that the department cannot start the hiring process until a position is vacant or unless a Firefighter is reaching the mandatory retirement age of 65 years old. There is no line item in the budget for extra personnel.

Can the minimum manning clause be negotiated? Chief Proia answered yes; it is required to have a minimum of four Firefighters on each engine from January 1 through March 31. During April 1 through December 31, three Firefighters are required on each engine. The contract forces minimum staffing.

When was the last study completed on minimum staffing? Chief Proia did not have this information available. The National Fire Prevention and Control Administration (NFPCA) standard requires four Firefighters on each truck.

Please explain Firefighter overtime and are they required to work double shifts? Chief Proia answered that Firefighters are allowed to work 48-hours consecutively, followed by a mandatory 24-hour rest period.

Has an analysis been completed determining if it would be cost effective to have additional salaries in the budget rather than approving overtime? Chief Proia stated that this study has not been completed.

Without further discussion, Councilor Lipof made a motion to approve the Fire Department overtime account appropriation. Committee members agreed 8-0.

At approximately 9:50 pm, Councilor Auchincloss made a motion to adjourn. Council members agreed 7-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair

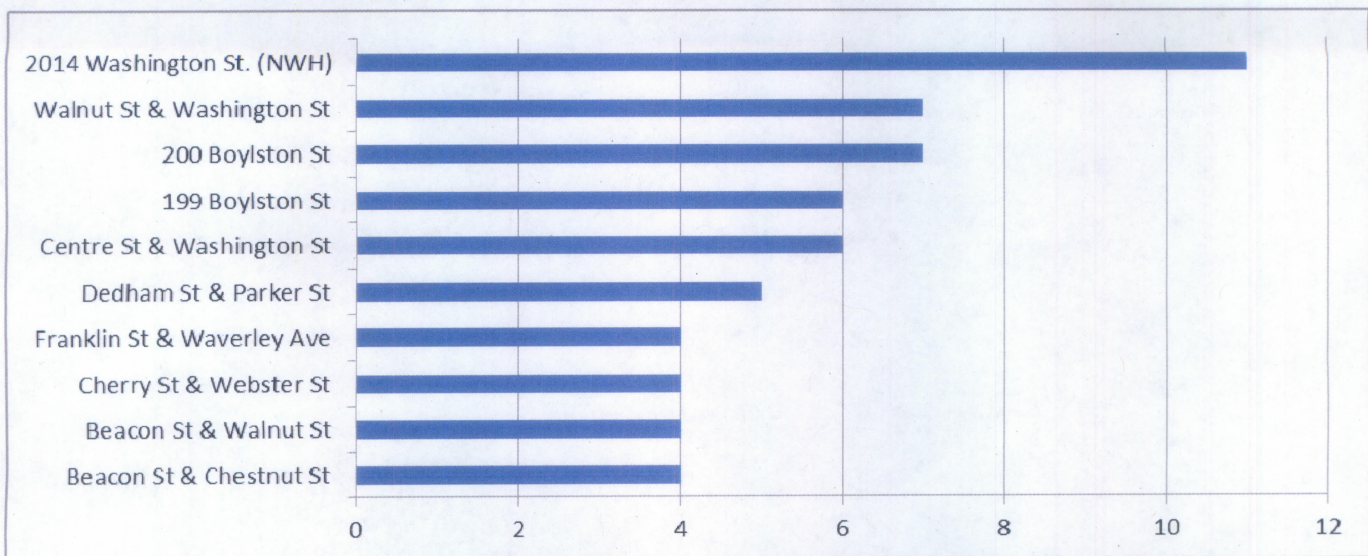


Newton Police Department



Top Ten Accident Locations & Accident totals where changes have been made

October 3, 2017 to May 8, 2018



Accident totals at locations where traffic control changes have been made

Lexington St. & Staniford St. – Install temporary Pedestrian Crossing, March of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 2/1/2018) - 0

Accidents after change (3/1/2018 – 5/8/18) - 0

California St. & Jassett St. – New Controller Installed, February of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 1/31/2018) - 1

Accidents after change (2/1/2018 – 5/8/18) - 0

Centre St. & Bowen St. – New Cabinet installed, February of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 1/31/2018) - 0

Accidents after change (2/1/2018 – 5/8/18) - 0

Harvard St. & Washington St. – New signal operational, October of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 9/30/2017) - 6

Accidents after change (10/1/2017 – 5/8/18) - 1

Beacon St. & Beethoven St. & Evelyn St. – New signal operational, August of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 7/31/2017) - 0

Accidents after change (8/1/2017 – 5/8/18) – 0

Jackson St. & Pearl St. – Upgrade signal hardware, August of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 7/31/2017) - 7

Accidents after change (8/1/2017 – 5/8/18) – 0

Centre St. & Tyler Ter. – New emergency signal installation, Summer of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 6/20/2017) - 4

Accidents after change (6/21/2017 – 5/8/18) – 1

Washington St. & Auburn St. & Perkins St. – Prospect, Upgrade Signal Hardware and Detection, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 5

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 5/8/18) – 5

Watertown St. & Adams St. – New signal operational, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 2

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 5/8/18) – 6

Comm. Ave & Lexington St – New Cabinet, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 2

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 5/8/18) – 8