

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
2025-10-28**

ATTENDANCE

Johnnie Warren, President*	Dave Tapp, Fire Department
Eloise Hardin, Pro-Tempore	Brian DiRocco, Fire Department
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1*	
Yvonne Evans-Warren, Ward 2*	
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3	
Mary Davis, Ward 4	
Candace Hill, Ward 5	

ABSENT

Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor	James Climer, Law Director
Matt Jones, Village Engineer	Sam O'Leary, Assistant Law Director
Roland Walker, Chief Bldg. Official	Erica Nikolic, Mayor
Carlean Perez – Recreation Director	Tom Haba, Service Director
Mark Garratt, Police Department	
Brian Thompson, Finance Director	

** Arrived after roll call*

Meeting opened at 5:43pm by Hill
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Hill: Finance director any comments before we get started with the fire budget? **Thompson:** Uh, no, we can, uh, get ready and let, um, Part 2 Tap get us started. **Hill:** Chief Tapp and Assistant Chief DiRocco, would you all like to give a comment, please? **Tapp:** Sure, I've provided you with a copy of our proposal for 2026 year. I know you haven't had much time to look at it, but you can kind of go through it. The very first page is just a chart of our positions, that really hasn't changed since last year. So, it's kind of the same from what we gave you last year. And then we gave really job descriptions for each position. Again, nothing's changed from last year so it was pretty much the same job description. We haven't had anything new or anything that's changed. **Davis:** You have that many lieutenants? Two, four, six, eight? **Tapp:** Eight, yes. **Davis:** Okay, so that's like 24-hour shifts, or how does it work? I mean how many lieutenants are usually on like a... **Tapp:** One per day, there are 12 hour shifts, so two per day but one works during the day and one in the evening. **Davis:** Okay, but these are not all your employees... **Tapp:** No. **Davis:** So the regular firemen are underneath, not the regular firemen, you're other paramedics... **Tapp:** Are underneath each lieutenant, there's usually about 7 to 8 per lieutenant that's covered under here. But yeah, per shift, we were on six men. **Davis:** Okay, so how many do you have total of firefighter's? **Tapp:** We're at 65 right now. **Davis:** 65, including yourself, or just 65, talking about the regular? **Tapp:** Including ourselves it rounds up to 71. **Davis:** Thank you, I appreciate that. **Hardin:** That was the question I had, what did the ordinance give you? **Tapp:** The ordinance is 71, so at our budget page. The next page on there, we were asked to not put anything for wages and we can just start over with the next line. **DiRocco:** It's the first one that looks like a spreadsheet, or not a spreadsheet but kind of a grid.

**Hill: For the record, Council President Johnnie Warren has arrived.(arrived at 5:45pm)*

Tapp: So, we're going to stay away from wages at the moment. The next line item on there was chief officer back pay, which we budgeted for in 2025. Which will not be anything in 2026 for that, because all the officer back pays should have been paid out by now. Our overtime, \$15,000 has been staying the same for probably the last five years. We're not asking for an increase at all in that. This year, we're probably going to be a little bit under that number, but to cover the overtime, I think we should keep that at \$15,000, which is still within the program. Pension, we figured out what pension is going to, Brian figured that out number with me, because I'll be the only one that's in the pension come January. So that's where that number comes from. Brian's always

figured it out in the past, but it would have been old Chief Shades pension, and now it's going to whatever my pension will be in January. So, that number is figured out by a percentage from what Brian figures out.

Hardin: Okay, this is based on your pension as... **Tapp:** I'll (inaudible) system here in January. **Hardin:** That's what I want you to tell me. **Tapp:** Yes. **Hardin:** How does that affect your status? What does that mean? **Tapp:** It doesn't change my status, I will just be entering the pension system for the first time. **Hill:** Previously, he was with another department and was in their pension system... **Tapp:** I was under another pension, so now I'm just transferring that pension into this one. **Davis:** Yeah, I was going to ask you then, you can do, that can be carried over from one department, I mean one city to another city, the pension part? **Tapp:** The pension part can be carried over. Obviously, the wages have changed because... it wouldn't have mattered. I'm making less here, so we'll be taking less. **Davis:** All right, and can you go back, I'm sorry, you jumped over that. The Chief Officer back pay or whatever, the \$40,400, the second line... **Tapp:** That was what was paid out from last year. And then what was still owed as far as back pay from the acting positions, that was budgeted for in 2025. **Davis:** Okay, budget in 2025, the \$40,400, but you have not been paid that amount, or whoever is due to, or? **Tapp:** We got paid that last year. **Davis:** You did get paid? **Tapp:** Yes, so that's why it was budgeted for 2025... **Davis:** Okay, I just want to make sure, thank you. **Matlock:** So, that's saying that all the back pay has been done, correct? So, we're now starting on a clean slate for 2026? **Tapp:** (inaudible). **Matlock:** Ok, great. **Tapp:** Medicare, Brian figures that one out for us. Maybe Brian can enlighten you on how he comes up with a number for Medicare. **Thompson:** Yes, pretty much state percentage. **Tapp:** Dispatching, I think there was a 5% increase. That's why it went from 105, staying at 105 this year. But we had an increase to 5,000 this past year. I believe is what dispatch was, but we're not asking for anymore. **Hardin:** You're being dispatched out of Bedford Heights also, and this is your portion of the contract? **Tapp:** Correct, so us and the police split it. It's \$200,000, we pay \$100,000 and they pay \$100,000. But they can go up 5%, so it could be a 5% increase. **Davis:** I was going to ask you, do we know, I was going to ask the same with the police. For sure we're staying with them, or we don't know yet? And when is our contract up with Bedford Heights? **Tapp:** We can cancel the contract; we have to give them a six-months' notice. But there have not been any plans or talks to switch them Walton Hills. They can't handle it, they're not ready for it. **Davis:** Okay, and you said that they're going to increase, or they did increase by \$5,000? **Tapp:** I think they did increase it to \$5,000 and that's the most they can do per year. **Davis:** And that's for both the use of police and the fire? **Tapp:** Correct. **Davis:** Ok, so \$2,500 a piece, ok. **Matlock:** Did they increase it in 2025? I don't think that they did because they didn't meet that six months... **Tapp:** I think it was \$100,000 last year and that's why I went to \$105,000 last year because they went up to 5% but it's supposed to stay the same this year. **Matlock:** Yeah, because they didn't make it. But just one more question I wanted to ask. Are you guys satisfied with using Bedford Heights Dispatch Center? **Tapp:** I mean, yeah, there's problems behind the Dispatch Center, I mean obviously, but yes. **Matlock:** Okay, we just want to know, you know, because if we're taking this on for a contract, they should give you 100% satisfaction that you need. As long as you're pleased with it. **Tapp:** Yeah, we don't have another option right now. Because Walton Hills can't handle what we're doing and they're not set up for it. **Matlock:** Okay. **Tapp:** And price-wise, Bedford Heights is probably our best option right now. Dispatching professional dues, we asked for an increase of \$1,200 and it is listed out on what professional dues billed for. The professional dues are called first due, it is our reporting system. It handles all of our EMS fire reporting, our hydrant listing, and our training. It's our reporting systems and after the process per year it was increased to \$25,200 from \$24,000. So that's a yearly fee for our reporting. **Davis:** Okay. **Tapp:** We used to pay two different companies, Firehouse and ESO for it. We tried to do the one program, and we're still about the same price as it normally was, but that was their increase in price. **Davis:** Thank you. **Hill:** Are you aware that you have two budgets in here? **Tapp:** Yeah, one included the raises we're asking for, but we were told not to put that in. That's why I said we'll stick with the front wages right now. We're told to not put any increase in wages in there, but (inaudible). **DiRocco:** The only thing that's changing is the wages line-up on the second sheet. **Tapp:** Yeah, that is the only thing to change on the 2nd sheet if the wages were up. **Davis:** Well, the pension would change too, or no that doesn't change? **Tapp:** That thing was figured out at the time (inaudible). **Davis:** Okay, so it does not change. Medicare amount would be changed if you had a wage increase, correct? **Tapp:** I believe we based the pension off of what my salary would be. **Hill:** She said Medicare, if wage increase Medicare increases as well... **Thompson:** Yeah, it would, so we could adjust. **Davis:** Just so we know. I mean, we have to know. **Matlock:** I'm looking at the raise amount. What was the raise that you were requesting? What percent? **Tapp:** We were requesting 6%. **Hardin:** We can get back to that. How did you

arrive at 6%? **Tapp:** If you look at the budget from last year, we gave you our average pay for this area. If you combine us with any other fire department around here in a practical facility that we did comps with, we were around \$1.30 below everybody else here. And that 6% would put us right to the bottom to middle tier of pay for part-time firefighters. **Matlock:** You said that you were below the other part time? **Tapp:** Right now we're below. **Matlock:** Do we have a listing of all of the other surrounding us with basically the same number of individuals there? **Tapp:** Yeah, well I gave that to you in last year's budget. But I can provide that to you for sure. **Matlock:** Hey Brian, question, are you still asking for information from Walton Hills? When do you negotiate with Walton Hills and Northfield for your fire department? **Thompson:** Are you talking about the two EMS contracts? **Matlock:** Right. **Thompson:** Tapp do you the year that it's expired? **Tapp:** 2027 is Walton Hills, and Glenwillow is not until the thirties. **Davis:** Oh really, that long? **Matlock:** So, we can't negotiate any higher amount for raises or whatever? **Warren:** I think it was like 5% or something like that. **Thompson:** I have been raising it each year that the contract is enforced, between five and six percent each year. You had the invoicing to them; I have raised it. **Matlock:** Okay, so what did you raise it for? **Thompson:** One was maxed out at six percent; I'd have to look back. But it was between five and six percent per contract. And I think the max for Walton Hills was six and I had them at six. **Davis:** Oh, up to 6% total for the whole time of the contract, is it like that? **Thompson:** Each year. **Davis:** Oh, each year, okay. **Tapp:** And we've been increasing it every year, and it's based off of, I think, COLA and everything else. **Hardin:** When we get to the proper area, based on the collection activities that we're anticipating. I want you to show me where you will be reporting that. And are you going to report it on a monthly basis, whatever we collect. How are you going to report those funds? **Tapp:** From Walton Hills? **Hardin:** No, no, I mean, I made a quantum leap... Funds that are delinquent, remember, you're in a contract for collecting delinquency money. **Tapp:** Yeah, the Attorney General is going to start collecting the funds? **Hardin:** Yes. **Tapp:** Yeah, once that gets started, I should get a report from them every month and I'll forward it on to you. We haven't started that yet. **Hardin:** Okay, but it will be a monthly scenario? **Tapp:** It should be monthly, it's going to depend on how much they collect, obviously. But yes, I'm going to report a monthly to show you how much we're actually getting back from that. **Hardin:** Thank you, it just happened to hit my head at this time. So thank you, Madam Chair. **Tapp:** Let's see where we're at, contractual services, and that's listed completely out. It lists everything for those fees in there. Basically, they're all yearly memberships, four contracts for certain things that we do. The radio usage fee, obviously we can't change anything there. All of those are tests and membership contracts, so this is going to just get yearly. Yes, and that why, because the contracts went up in price. That's why we're asking for the increase in their earnings. **Hill:** Which contracts? We don't have any reference points to see which contracts actually increase. Do you know which ones? **Tapp:** I believe it was striper used to be like \$3,500 and then up to \$5,500. Bench testing went from like \$1,500 to \$500. I can pull last year's and give you the exact numbers that they went up. **Evans:** These are expenses? **Hardin:** Yes. **Tapp:** Yeah, we pay for our hazmat team each year. We have to be a membership for our fire prevention memberships. Certain testing on certain equipment has to be done yearly. Creating air is our air cascade system. Our drug license is annual. So this is stuff we really cannot get away from, unfortunately. But I will double check my map to make sure that I'm really right. **Hardin:** Madam Chair, I'd like to know, when are we expecting the new fire engine? **Tapp:** It's going to 2028. **Hardin:** We don't get it until 2028? **Tapp:** That's correct. **Thompson:** And I started paying it this year. **Hardin:** That's another question, we started the payments this year? **Thompson:** I paid it already, the first payment, like a hundred thousand, some change. **Davis:** I was going to ask, the Stryker contract, is that the only one that does that maintenance on light packs and Lucas? **Tapp:** Unfortunately, yes. **Davis:** I didn't know if they have other companies that could do that too. **Tapp:** It depends on the type of cots and stuff you have. We own all stryker equipment, so they have to do the maintenance on it. So, we're kind of stuck going with them. And if they raise their price, we really can't shop around unfortunately. **Davis:** Okay, thank you. **Tapp:** I believe we've got a training of \$17,000. That hasn't changed probably in five or six years since I've been doing this. We're asking for the same amount there. We went through almost all of that training money this year. Cell phone, Brian probably figures that number out more than us. But that's for our iPads, tablets like that that we use in the trucks. That usually doesn't change because we keep the same amounts every year. **Davis:** So, that's not just cell phones, it's the iPads and everything else. **Thompson:** They gave a huge discount for safety forces, so we do have that title to contract at a pretty low price for them. This is the lowest price we can get because of their service to the community as a safety force. **Davis:** Do we get the same discount for police? **Thompson:** Yes. **Matlock:** What about for employees? **Thompson:** We negotiated for the best rate on them.

Theirs a run between \$30 and \$40 a month. **Tapp:** Going down, if you look at electric, water, sewer, gas, utilities, that's pretty much the numbers that me and Brian have figured out in the past couple of years. That's our average, and we haven't asked for any increases there. Uniform allowance, we haven't asked for an increase there. **Davis:** Okay, may I ask a question on uniform and allowances? Have you guys just given a check, or do you guys have to hand in your receipts, or...? **Tapp:** We're given a check, and then the rest of that uniform allowance money that's in there pays for our new guy's first set of uniforms. It pays for fire boots, gloves, because that's not part of (inaudible) turnout gear. You don't get a hood, you don't get gloves, you're not going to get boots, or helmet. So, that turnout gear price, that's why we spent all that turnout gear line item. We used the rest the uniform allowance for boots, gloves, hoods, helmets. A pair of boots, now is \$450 for one pair of boot, now its \$480. **Davis:** How long do they last? I have no idea... **Tapp:** About ten years. **DiRocco:** Ten years is the max you're allowed to use it. So even if it looks like it's in good shape, all of the PPE for firefighting, the national standard is ten years. So ten years, that's why we have a replacement schedule. We have 65 guys, we order in about 10 sets, 8 to 10 sets. **Tapp:** We order 10 sets of gear a year. **DiRocco:** Because what we had before they bought in 2002, they bought everybody here. So it's about 60 sets, and then in 2012 it was all due. And in 2020 it was a huge expense to get half a million dollars. So, now we have like a recurring seven guys get a set of gear every year so every so then it marches out gets everybody over the course of 10 years then you're right back to the beginning. **Davis:** Okay, thank you. **Matlock:** I know our proposed budget is \$50,000 a year. The question that I have, do you know exactly how much of that \$50,000 that you used? What did you use in 2025? I mean, I know we already budgeted for \$50,000 just... **Tapp:** So, I actually get the clothing lines painted individually. Last year it was around \$30,000, and then the \$20,000 was used for, like I said, new guys' clothing, boots, hats, gloves. **Matlock:** Okay, so you guys just kept it at \$50,000, that's just your mark point right there. So, you know that you don't have to, I just wanted to know what was the actual amount that you used in 2025. What was that amount? **Thompson:** They spent \$27,354. **Matlock:** Okay, we already know you marked it for \$50,000, that's okay. **Davis:** Can we always get exactly what's been spent on each line item? Because it's hard for us to see what they needed, or whoever needed, without knowing what we spent on it. **Thompson:** I'm going to circle back and give that for police and fire... **Davis:** Service too, anybody who has a budget I would appreciate. **Thompson:** Yeah, I'll start putting the historical. **Warren:** Between 2025 budget and the 2026 budget, you can have 2025 sent today. **Thompson:** I'll have a separate spreadsheet done with three-year history.

**Hill: For the record, Councilwoman Evans, -Warren, and Councilwoman Scruggs arrived some time ago, apologies for that.*

Matlock: When we first came into council, me and Mary, you used to give us a spreadsheet. Telling us exactly what the budget was, and exactly what their budget would be, or what they had spent on that budget at that time period. For instance, if it's nine months, what did they spend as of nine months on that budget. So that gave us a clear idea of actually the funds that they were using, what their If the budget was lagging, if it was over... stated or it is understated and add some more to it. But it gives us a clear look at their budget, where they are at that point. And then how much, like you put a percentage, they're at 85% of using their entire budget. They're at 90% as of September of using your entire budget of whatever. **Tapp:** I ran that report this morning, as far as fire, we're not anywhere near the whole... **Matlock:** Oh, no, it's good, that's fine. We want to have that from him; he used to provide us with that. **Thompson:** I'll give the Police and Fire tomorrow and then move forward with every department I have. **Davis:** Appreciate that. **Matlock:** We just need to have that, you put that back in place. That was a good form that you could look at and kind of see. **Thompson:** Yes, that's no problem, I can get those for you. **Matlock:** Ok. **Tapp:** The next item was the fire gear and helmet and that's how we came up with \$35,000. It was \$3,500 a set, we get 10 sets per year. We didn't ask for an increase, it could go up a little bit this year. But if it does, we'll try to stay at 9 sets a year instead of 10, if we have to. **Davis:** I thought you said the fire gear you buy a brand-new person would be under the other uniform allowance. Or is that not part of it? **Tapp:** The fire gear itself is just \$3,500. **Davis:** Okay, never mind. **Tapp:** They asked me to put that in there as a line item. (inaudible), but last year, that's what we did. But that's not the price of the helmet included. Repairs and maintenance, \$75,000, we didn't ask for an increase. But I guarantee we're probably going to use every bit of \$75k this year with the blown motor on the other ambulance. The engine repairs we had to do this year. and I'm not sure if you're aware, our squad got in an accident last Friday,

our other squad. **Davis:** Now does your insurance for fire department cover them? **Tapp:** The insurance will cover this one. **Davis:** What about the blown engine? **Tapp:** (inaudible) **Davis:** They do, okay. **Matlock:** Who got into an accident? **Tapp:** Well, last Friday, Tom Post,(inaudible), Officer Bowden's, and we had a patient in the back. Officer was running with the patient to the hospital, and right around Union and Northfield. They got T-Boned in an intersection over there. Everyone was treated and released to the hospital. The squad is already at the body shop getting the insurance information. **Thomson:** We started to claim already with the insurance. **Tapp:** They said it would be about three weeks. We borrowed a squad from Bedford Heights, so we have two squads running. **Hardin:** That was the question I had. When something like that happens, you can't go and rent one from... So within the departments, you have those kind of agreements to help each other? **Tapp:** Yeah, Northeast Ohio Fire Chiefs in the area, we all have a listing of all our apparatus like if we have a spare that they can use. This fire we're using now is 23 years old, but they had it and they let us borrow it and our insurance covers us on it. **Davis:** Good. **Tapp:** We all kind of use the resources, anybody we got mutual aid with, so it helps out. So it worked out just fine, so we're happy to have it. So yeah, repairs and maintenance, I would say we'd probably keep that around the same, but we haven't asked for an increase in years, and we've always tried to keep it right there. Station supplies, I asked for \$1,000 more, only because that is like our Staples, toiletries stuff from Sam's Club, prices have just gotten more expensive on everything. And I just don't want to have to go over and ask you for more money. So, we may come in a little bit under that \$3,500, I'm asking for. But I just don't want to go over. Gasoline, that's the number Brian and I worked out. I don't think we're over it this year, but instead of asking for more or less, just keep it the same so we don't go over with gas. The other expenses, again we have another listing in here that lists out everything for other expenses which came out to \$30,000. Vehicle under-coating, we had a lot of vehicles under-coat in the last two or three days. We do that every year just to keep up on the maintenance. DEF Fluid, diesel exhaust fluid, we need that put in underneath the diesel engine; so that's a yearly fee. Office supplies, that's what we get for our papers when I'm stationary. Whatever we need to keep our reports on. CO detectors, you could buy the CO detectors in the past. And them for \$10 (inaudible). But we're kind of getting away from that program, so we can actually delete it if you want. Or we can keep up with the CO detector program. The water is really good inside. I just put a price of \$500 that we keep water and liquid IV in the trunks for days where there's house fires and they need something to drink. Station maintenance and repairs, that's \$2,500, that's small things. A toilet valve leaks, kitchen sink, faucet, stuff like that, small repair, we keep about \$2,500 in there. We have a Home Depot account, we can pick up some supplies just to fix up small things that we can, that we don't need service involved. **Hill:** Yes, I'm sorry, can we go back, please? **Tapp:** Sure. **Hill:** You started talking about the CO detectors. You said it was a program, you start it, but... **Tapp:** In the years past, we did CO detectors for the residents. The city would purchase them, and then we charged the residents \$10 for them. Since then, that's when we did the smoke detectors with them. Since then Red Cross gives us the smoke detector for free. We have to go out and install them, so we can't just hand them out for free and let them put them up. And since we're doing that program with the free ones, we figured we shouldn't be transferring money around anywhere. That people can go by their own CO detectors. We prefer just to stick with the free smoke detectors from Red Cross because they're all locked and kept. Brown keeps a complete record of which ones go out. The CO detectors, we can keep that program going, but then you're going to have money coming in and out of here. To the smoke detectors test for CO too? **Tapp:** They do not. **Hill:** So, it's not the same device? **Tapp:** It's not the same device, and in the past, we'd buy the CO2 tank and half the people would come in and didn't have money. **Hill:** Do you all have any record of how many you actually installed or gave out the past few years? **DiRocco:** CO or smoke, which one? **Hill:** CO. **DiRocco:** I do not know CO's, no, but you can see how many we've purchased. **Tapp:** We purchased 50, and we're down to 2, so, 48 CO detectors last year. **Hill:** And you guys keep a log of which residence they're going to? **Tapp:** We ask for your ID to make sure your a resident of Oakwood. And now, the new smoke detector program, everything is logged into the system because Red Cross (inaudible) record it. **Tapp:** And we did a hundred and eight smoke detectors this year. **Hill:** Alright, so for the CO detectors, 50 of them cost \$2,500? **DiRocco:** Yeah, they were, I want to say they were close to \$75 dollars apiece. **Davis:** And the city only charges \$10. **DiRocco:** You would pay \$10, but it was a \$75 detector. So, I hope it was eating the difference that everyone knows. **Hill:** thank you for clarifying that. **Hardin:** Is there a reason to just discontinue it? Would it not be a good thing to continue? **Tapp:** And it's not a bad thing to do, we would just have to spend the money to buy more CO detectors, that's the only issue. So, we don't have a problem keeping it up. But the Red Cross started the smoke detector program so we moved over to the Red

Cross. **Hardin:** Apples and oranges, fire and CO, I mean, why you cut one out just because you get the other? I'm just trying to understand your right. **Tapp:** At one point when we bought the CO detectors and smoke detectors, there was one detector that did both; at one point. And we went away from that program and now it's two separate units. And Red Cross is providing us with one, so we said we were just going to stay with that one. But I can still do the CO program. **Davis:** The CO's, have you given it to Walton Hills, too? Are they also eligible because we have the contract? **Tapp:** Yeah. **Davis:** So, they're able to buy it, too, for the \$10? **Tapp:** Correct. **Davis:** And do you know what other cities, have they given out CO's? **DiRocco:** The smoke detectors are pretty common in the area to give away. CO detectors, nobody's given those away, I think they're just too expensive. **Hill:** So, my suggestion would be that we only do our residents then if we're paying the significant portion of those monies I would say restrict it, and we're not restricting it, there are tax dollars we're going to use them for our residents. So, I would say that might be one suggestion but... **Matlock:** That's exactly what I was going to say, that we use it just for our residents and carbon monoxide that detector, that's a non-smell. You can have it carbon monoxide and you not know. So, it's best to have it and have it put in, especially for seniors who don't, you know, they don't even check... **Tapp:** And we can have it set up where the residents can call...**Matlock:** You for that carbon monoxide, because that's a deadly killer right there. It can go off and you don't even know it's carbon monoxides inside of your home. **Tapp:** I just know we've had people come up here and they didn't have the money for them, and you don't want them going home not safe. So we've handed out many of them for free, but across the city that much money is not that big of an expense. **Warren:** Well, it only cost the city \$10 more though... **Tapp:** A lot of them were handed out for free for that reason. You don't want somebody going home (inaudible). **Davis:** Do you get a discount because of being in the fire department to buy them or is it the same thing whether I go there to buy \$75 or more? **Tapp:** It depends, we shop around for them when we try to buy them, and we will probably get them at a more discounted rate a little bit. So, for us to hand out free COs to our residents, which would probably be less than 50 a year. It would probably cost the city about \$2,500. And that's if we did not charge them for them, it would be a total of \$2500. Okay. And that is if we didn't charge them. They showed us proof of ID when they get here that they're in the village. I would limit it to one per household. **DiRocco:** The good news is we've given so many of them away over the last half-dozen years. They have a ten-year life expectancy, so a lot of people don't have them from the program. **Davis:** Can we increase the price of them or not? I mean, do you recommend \$20? Because I had no idea that they were that high. **Tapp:** Well, I mean, they don't think that they need the money, but when they come up here, they just show up. You feel bad if you send them home with nothing, and you want them to be safe, so they end up just handing them out. **Hill:** So, we either send them to the front office for them to collect the money and then go over with something. Or we just... We got to have a better process. **Davis:** I would say at least something, because... **Tapp:** Yeah, we don't want (inaudible) money over there. **Davis:** No, I don't blame neither. **Hardin:** You don't switch one for the other, we need both. This is where we are, I think this is what I'm hearing. So, we can keep the program going. **Tapp:** Yeah, I'll just make sure that if they say that they're from Oakwood, we'll prove that their Oakwood residents. **Davis:** And they can come here and pay for it or whatever. You don't want to collect the money, I know. **Warren:** Brian, can you coordinate that with them to have somebody that's charged with the collection for those devices they need? **Thompson:** \$10 was just... **Hill:** Are we collecting the \$10 or not? Because this... **Warren:** I thought we was collecting the \$10 and then they would come over, give the \$ 10 to someone and Brian staff... **Hill:** Does anyone have any, are we collecting the \$10? **Davis:** I would say yes, they should at least pay something for it. **Hill:** Can we set up the process to where they come over here and then they just get like a slip or something. And y'all check if they live here and do all that, so they can just hand them out. **Tapp:** We'll just make up a form so when they pay the \$10. They can hand them the form with our phone number, they can call and we'll put it up. **Davis:** Okay, thank you. **Tapp:** I believe we're still on other expenses. Our portable radios are about \$10,000 a piece now. We need a few more, so we put one there for a year so we don't have to start buying 10 radios at the same time. **Davis:** This is housed in your building? You're talking about that kind of radio or ...**Tapp:** The walkie. **Davis:** Oh, okay. **Tapp:** And then new air packs, we had three failed bench tests in this year. We just purchased three this year off of 2025 budget. But we'd like to keep issuing one per year so we don't have a big expense. one time we bought 16 air packs in one year. It cost the Village (inaudible) dollars, we rather one a year now. **Hill:** Are they \$10,000 each or how much are they? **Tapp:** \$11,008, I just picked up my invoice today. **Hill:** So, if you're trying to buy one. you have \$10,000 in the budget... **Davis:** So, do you want \$11,008? We'd have to go with... **Tapp:** Uh, it'll be \$11,008. I just know that it was a bag number. We were down to ballpark at \$10,000,

and I asked him, with shipping and everything, it was \$11,007. **Hill:** Can you make an edit to the budget in that area? **Thompson:** Yeah. **Tapp:** I can adjust them too. **Hill:** Alright, appreciate it. **Warren:** So, we're going to make it to \$11,000? **Tapp:** So, the only reason I know the exact numbers is because I just got one shipped today, so... **Thompson:** We'll raise it to thirty-one at this point. **Hill:** So, just one other edit. So, it says "Air pack 3 failed bench testing, replacing old ones", but this is just for one air pack. That's replacing one airpack right? **Tapp:** One air pack per year. **Hill:** Can you edit that line item number? Because it looked like you're replacing three and they're about thirty-one, thirty-two hundred, somewhere around there. **Tapp:** Okay, one per year is perfect. Alright, that was the other expenses. Fire hydrants, that's our yearly fire hydrant fee. That covers Cleveland Water coming out to fix any of our hydrants that we find in our flushing hydrants. That number probably hasn't changed in 10 years that I know of. But it comes out to like \$14,980 every year, so we put the \$15,000. So, we use that full line on them every year. Equipment, \$40,000, and that's for fire equipment. Saw blades, saws, chainsaws, stuff for the fire trucks. So, anything in the 101 account is used for fire equipment. **Hill:** Well, it's all fire equipment. **Tapp:** We have an EMS equipment line item as well. So, any ambulance equipment comes out of EMS, that's why I said it's just for fire. **Hill:** Okay. **Davis:** Okay, truck equipment? **Tapp:** Yeah, just like more fire related tool, stuff like that. **Hill:** Can you add fire equipment to that? **Thompson:** Sure. **Tapp:** Yeah, I tried to split it up, so this way EMS stays with EMS, and fire stays with fire. **Davis:** Can I ask now since we're done with this part of the front. When the money comes back, the company collects money for say, the ambulance or whatever. How does that money come back to them? This budget or does it come just to the general fund? **Thompson:** From the insurance company it goes to the general fund. **Davis:** Okay. **Tapp:** And the next page is our 217, um, 217 account, leases, not sure where we get that number from, but Brian's always had that number in there for us. **Davis:** If we pay a hundred and some thousand for it, is that what you're (inaudible)? **Thompson:** Yeah, \$100,000 came from the new fire truck, and in the past years, we've found equipment and it's just based on the amortization schedule by yearly payments. So, that's why we've got the \$225,000 there. But that \$100k would be in that line for the new truck that we won't see until 2028. **Davis:** Right, so, why do we have 220k? **Thompson:** Oh, it's the \$100,000 plus the other... **Davis:** We have equipment lines and everything else for that. **Thompson:** Yeah, these were like really big purchases for squads and things we bought. And it was an amortization schedule, so it scaled out. **Hill:** So, let me just dig down into that a little bit. So we are paying \$125,000 for probably one of the fire trucks that the engines have gone bad? **Thompson:** No, the \$125k is the one we ordered for the brand-new truck. The new truck was \$1.1 million dollars, and I had to start making a payment this year. So, the hundred and some thousand for that new engine truck with the ladder. **Hill:** That's not my question, let me go back. So, I got \$100,000, the \$125,000 we're paying for their old equipment. Is it old trucks that they're also failing now, too? **Thompson:** They should be, no, fairly new trucks we might have bought like five years ago. But on a still pen, that amortization schedule out until it's over. So, they would be fairly new maybe. **Hill:** Can you give us details on that? **Thompson:** Yeah. **Tapp:** Next line on repairs and maintenance, that's usually what our repairs and maintenance has been for the last couple years. That is just on, I use the 217 account for ambulance repairs, not fire trucks. Tires... **Hill:** Real quick, just to clarify what you just said. The engine that blew, that is the truck that we purchased, the new truck that you plan to swap out? **Tapp:** No, that was from the ambulance that the engine blew off. **Hill:** So, the engine that blew, we didn't have plans to replace that? **Tapp:** We didn't, but we're going to have to look at that spot eventually, yes. It's getting repaired, but that repairs probably will last us a couple of years. And it takes three or four years to build an ambulance, not about three years to build an ambulance. We'll probably be looking to order an ambulance by the end of this year, to get it in three years. **Hill:** The ambulance engine blew? **Tapp:** Correct. **Hardin:** How old is this ambulance? **Tapp:** That was 2019. **Hill:** And you expect the engine repairs to last, what, maybe, did you say three, four years? **Tapp:** We're hoping that that's what that motor will last us through. **Hill:** We're hoping... **Tapp:** Yeah. **Hill:** So, we could be looking at the cost of a new ambulance, and then it takes, did you say, three, or four years to do? **Tapp:** From the day you order it's about three years before it's shipped out. It's kind of like the fire engine. **Hill:** Can you all get us a quote on an ambulance? Because that sounds like, to me, we need to be planning for another... **Tapp:** It would be between \$425,000, \$450,000. I have a quote coming, it should be here by the next two weeks. An actual quote with the full price of that quote. **Matlock:** You said that the EMS that you have now, one of the EMS trucks that you have, the engine blew. Do you know how long it would take for them to repair that? Have they given you like an estimated date? **Tapp:** They had been working on it and they said hopefully about another two to three weeks it will be repaired and back to us. And the one day it was in the accident. they were

saying about two to three weeks once they get it started was they were starting it today. **Matlock:** Okay. **Tapp:** So, we should be back to everything within a month. **Matlock:** You will be probably back functional before the end of the year? **Tapp:** Yes. **Davis:** The engine that is being repaired, that would be a warranty on that or whatever, to last a while? Or they don't do that? I have no idea. **Tapp:** The engine. **Davis:** Yeah, the engine that you're having in the one ambulance. **Tapp:** No, there's not a sign of a warranty. **Davis:** No, I mean, they don't put it under a warranty? Like the engine will not blow up again...**Tapp:** Unfortunately, it's a after market engine because they don't make those engines anymore. So, no they don't have a warranty. **Hill:** Do we have an estimated cost yet? **Tapp:** It's going to be about \$60,000. **Matlock:** So, are they rebuilding this engine? **Tapp:** It's a brand new engine, but they had to make modifications to make it (inaudible). **Matlock:** What if you take that truck off of the, from being maintenance and then you find that there's something wrong? Are they honoring, bringing it back? **Tapp:** I'm sure that they would cover that part of it if it was something wrong with that engine they just put in. **Hill:** One more question, do we incur any costs for the accident repairs anything? **Tapp:** I don't know, it's all going through love insurance. **Hill:** Okay, thank you. **Hardin:** I think this is a good time to remind us of something that the chair brought up a long time ago. Is there anywhere in your budget that you have like a case history projections so that we are aware of future... **DiRocco:** There's a replacement schedule with our major apparatus in the back of this. It has our full fleet in there, what the projected life expectancy is, the age of our current, and what we're expecting to replace. **Hardin:** Thank you, so you did comply. **DiRocco:** We did. **Hardin:** Okay, (inaudible) that was something you would ask for, so I thought I'd bring it up thank you. **Hill:** If we go into next year, can you make sure that you keep the need for the engine that just blew, can you keep that uplifted in your discussions about money? Because we need to plan for purchasing a new one, right? **Tapp:** Yes. **Hill:** I just don't want it to be one conversation and we forget the next thing you know you're down another... **Tapp:** Yeah, I put in a capital budget request in here and it was listed in there as well. **Hill:** Okay. **Tapp:** So, it's listed in here as far as capital improvement. **Hardin:** Excellent. **Hill:** Are there any other questions that I'm missing out on? No? Okay... **Tapp:** Alright, to finish up the 217 account, service charges the life force, that's our ambulance billing. That averages out to about 8% is what they charge us to collect the ambulance fees. That's why we left it at \$26,000. We don't know exactly how much it's **Davis:** May I ask, how much do they collect? I mean, we're paying \$26,000, but do we have an idea of how much they actually collected for us this year? **Tapp:** The average is probably between \$260,000 and \$300,000 a year for average ambulance billing. Last year, in 2024, we collected \$426,905, it usually hovers around that amount. **Tapp:** I think there was an increase last year, that's why it was up a little higher. So, this year I'm probably going to say a little bit less than that. **Davis:** Okay, thank you, I appreciate that. **Tapp:** But then it may come up again when we start to return down and going back after late fees, so it should be about the same. EMS equipment we put in there, I'm asking for a \$5,000 increase only because stuff is way more expensive now, again, on any of the EMS equipment we're seeing. **Davis:** We don't have enough in here for your cost of your engine for 2025. We have \$46,000, correct, or \$340,000 or whatever, but you said it's going to cost \$60,000 for that blown engine? **Tapp:** Correct, but we have repairs and maintenance in the 101, which Brian said he can move over. So, they're both repairs and maintenance. I just keep one for fire trucks, one for us, but they can be flopped for all repairs and maintenance. So, when we run a report, we can ask for a return. **Hardin:** Are you saying that life force charges us a flat fee? **Tapp:** Of 8%, to collect the money. **Hardin:** Okay, where do we get \$26,000 from? **Tapp:** That was the 8% of what they collected last year. That's the actual thing, okay, so at eight percent what did they collect then again? How much? For twenty-four... **Davis:** Four hundred and twenty- five thousand something more. **Thompson:** We try to get our best estimate. **Tapp:** Yeah, this is all based on estimates. You never know how much you're going to collect. And we've kept it at that number for the last couple of years because you never know how much is coming in, how many people are paying. And now that we're going to go back after some of the late fees, it should be even better. **Hardin:** Well, as long as I've been here... **Tapp:** It's always coming. **Hardin:** Thank you, that's a nice chuck of money. And thank you for saving lives and thank you for collecting the money. **Tapp:** The only reason I asked for an increase in equipment is everything got so much more expensive as far as even EMS equipment. A brand new life pack now which we're going to have to start buying, which I put in capital, is about \$60,000 a piece. they used to be \$30,000. Now, my new (inaudible) is \$15,000 a piece now, it used to \$9,000. So, prices on our way have just gone crazy. So, if we need any of that stuff. I listed it out in capital here. But we can also make it work through some budget capital, some of our stuff we purchased. And the vehicle outlay, that was kind of a (inaudible) line item in there that they helped pay for certain things with that way. **Hardin:** I don't

know the amount, but what is vehicle outlay? **Hill:** You know, all the stuff they put in their vehicles to make them do all the things they're supposed to do. **Hardin:** For all of those vehicles, it's only \$19,000? **Thompson:** I'll have to run a detailed sheet to see what... **Tapp:** And numbers never changed as far as I've been doing budgeting, so... **Hardin:** But is that realistic? **Tapp:** I couldn't tell you where exactly it went. **Davis:** Okay, we need to know, please, Mr. Thompson. **Thompson:** Yes. **Hill:** How many vehicles do you have? 3 ambulances, 2 engines, a ladder... about ten, all total. vehicles. **Hill:** So, Councilwoman Hardin and Councilwoman Davis are asking for an actual number to see if that \$19,000 is too low or what? **Davis:** What other vehicles do we provide? I mean, I'm not talking about, I'm talking about your personal, not personal, but the personal vehicle that you drive. Is it just for the Chief? Or do we have one for the Assistant Chiefs too or no? **DiRocco:** There's one. **Davis:** Just one? **DiRocco:** Yeah, I use one along with the other Assistant Chief that stays here. **Davis:** One stays here. **DiRocco:** We use it, like we kind of use it when I'm here, or he uses it if he'd here when're doing inspection. **Tapp:** And our swat medics uses it as well. **DiRocco:** After hours, if we're not there. **Davis:** Okay. **DiRocco:** There's the Chief's car, and then the chase vehicle, which is the Ford Explorer that's got the markings on it. It says Oakwood, that's the one that'll go to a serious EMS call. It'll take the extra paramedic to go help out, stabilize, and then go back. **Davis:** And that's parked back here too? **DiRocco:** That's inside, and then the pickup truck, which has the plow, there's a pickup truck. It has a plow and also it's for pulling like the hazmat trailer or like any rescue equipment to the scene. **Davis:** Okay. **Thompson:** Last year on bid for outlay, it looks like you spent \$16,875, I'll run the detail. **Hill:** Can I ask a question about that? So, the vehicle outlay, is it once you've installed things you don't need to install every year or update? It's just, it's good until you need to replace the entire truck or how does that work? **Tapp:** Yeah, and then we wouldn't have to do any more after that unless somebody needs it upgraded. **Hill:** So, you're not doing this every year for all your vehicles? **Tapp:** No. **Hill:** Okay, so that could be a reasonable number. **Hardin:** This question is to the finance director or whoever. Do we have navigational systems in all of the cars or trucks? **DiRocco:** The iPads that we have, where we get all our run reports and we write our runs on. They're mounted like in the front like a police car. That is navigation because that's where you get our routing software. So that's part of that cell phone bill because they're all, it's like you're on an iPad that you could use wirelessly. So, that you know, if they have Wi-Fi connection because we have to be able to get the reports or transmit them to the hospital, and then it also gets our GPS. **Tapp:** Yeah, so our call comes across there, it rings in there like a tone. All we have to do is hit the address on there and it pulls up directions for us to get there. Obviously we know every street in Oakwood, Glenwillow, and Walton Hill. But if we go mutual aid somewhere it'll take good directions. **Hardin:** And this is a portable device versus... **Tapp:** It's an iPad, it's in the truck, so it just sits there. But then it unplugs and they can do the report on it as well. **Davis:** Okay, and it's in your car too also? **Tapp:** I don't have one at my car. **DiRocco:** I have one, the fire prevent, the uh, the chase car has one, each ambulance, and each fire engine. **Hill:** Okay, are there any other questions? I know we have to move to work session. **Evans-Warren:** Is he providing a list of other cities with their population. **Hill:** So, you know the budget analysis that you all did in terms of comparing the hourly wages of other employees and other communities. We have new council people. Can you re-submit that to us, please? **Tapp:** Absolutely. **Hill:** Thank you, even if you just send it through the clerk and then she can distribute it. That'll be helpful for them okay, thank you. **Tapp:** And just for a bunch of purposes this year, we put in a capital improvement budget. And we've never done this in the past, but it might be a good idea. I've notched it out for five years, so you can kind of look at that and see what expenses may be occurring in the next five years. Maybe that's more money than normal. Kind of like a wish list, but it's kind of like projections out for the next five years. So, nobody was really surprised when they started asking for certain things that they may need. **Hill:** Where did, um, let me ask the finance director, which line item did you expense their, um repair of their apron to? Apron. Did that come out of the fire budget? **Thompson:** (inaudible). **Hill:** Okay, thank you, any other questions? All right, well thank you all. If we have more questions, we'll follow up. Any questions before we adjourn the Finance Committee meeting?

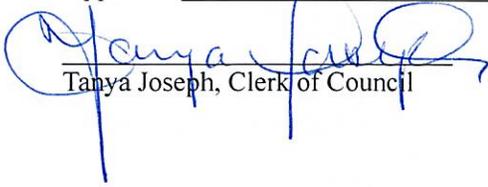
Motion to adjourn made by Warren seconded by Matlock

YES VOTE: Warren, Hardin, Scruggs, Evans-Warren, Matlock, Davis, Hill

MOTION PASSED

Adjourned at 6:42p.m.

Approved 12.23.25


Tanya Joseph, Clerk of Council


Eloise Hardin, President of Council