

CITY OF SPARTA
FINANCE AGENDA
September 7, 2022

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Consent Agenda: Consisting of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 3, 2022**
- 3. Motion by Roll Call Vote to Go into Closed Session Per Wis. Stat. 19.85 (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.
Re: Consideration of Land Sale Located on Theater Road**
- 4. Motion by Roll Call Vote to Adjourn from Closed Session**
- 5. Consideration of K-9 Vehicle**
- 6. Discussion of 2023 Budget**
- 7. Items for Future Consideration**
- 8. Adjourn**

A possible quorum of the Common Council may be in attendance at this meeting but no action will be taken by the Council.

Posted: 09/06/2022

CITY OF SPARTA
FINANCE MINUTES
August 3, 2022

PRESENT: Josh Lydon, Bruce Humphrey, Matthew Hoffland

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Todd Fahning, Emilee Nottestad, Mark Sund, Booker Ferguson, Gordon Dace, Jim Church, Kevin Riley

Josh Lydon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Bruce Humphrey and seconded by Matthew Hoffland to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 8, 2022. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Riley presented to the committee his request to dedicate an amount for new playground equipment, starting at the Memorial Park playground. This is the most used park and the equipment is grossly outdated. They want to make the playground accessible for all abilities. The designation of funds would help in the fundraising efforts that Brad Gilbertson wants to spearhead. Mayor Riley would like to establish a Blue-Ribbon Committee to help Brad with the fundraising. They both stated that if there were funds available to match, it might encourage local businesses and individuals to donate. Brad stated that playground equipment is very costly and not something they are really able to budget for.

A motion was made by Matthew Hoffland and seconded by Bruce Humphrey to approve the dedication of ARA Funds in the amount of \$300,000 for New Playground Equipment. Motion carried 3-0.

Chief Nottestad presented to the committee the quote for a LEMUR Drone they looking to purchase for tactical purposes. Brinc Drones brought the model drone to demonstrate the various features of the drone. They would use the drone in active shooter or hostage situations, as well as other tactical operations. Chief Nottestad stated that the annual maintenance fee would be covered under their normal budget.

A motion was made by Bruce Humphrey and seconded by Matthew Hoffland to approve the purchase of drone equipment for Police Department in the amount of \$26,357.00. Motion carried 3-0.

Items mentioned for future consideration were:

Mark Sund stated he should have new health insurance costs soon, as they are looking for more cost savings for the City while still providing the quality care the employees have come to expect.

Mark should also have preliminary budget numbers for the September meeting.

A motion was made by Bruce Humphrey and seconded by Matthew Hoffland to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Lydon, City Clerk

Intent

Currently, I (Officer James) reside in Juneau County just south of Mauston. Previously, I lived in the Town of Sparta and was able to take home a squad with my previous K9 partner, Larz. The intent of this memorandum is to request permission to enter into a contract as outlined in the City Personnel Policy Manual, specifically section 5.13(6)(B), so as to be once again allowed to take this vehicle home, even when residing outside of city limits.

Assignment/Safety/Maintenance

In addition to being a long-term employee (7 years) as a patrolman for the City of Sparta, I am also assigned as one of the department's canine handlers. This additional assignment requires the use of a specially equipped squad car which houses a multitude of equipment to perform my duties to standard. This assignment requires me to be available and capable to respond with minimal notice to the City of Sparta, but also to mutual aid requests, which could be within Monroe County and/or outside of the county lines.

Not only do I work my normal work schedule and any unplanned call outs for the canine, I am also required to attend training to maintain a high level of proficiency. I currently train twice a month with our local K9 training group. In total, there are approximately 24 training days, not including a 4-day K9 conference held in October, or the K9 certification which typically occurs in May.

Due to the canine handlers being given assigned squads for their extra duties, no other officers are assigned those squads. When not in use and not taken home, the squad car takes up space in the department's garage, causing overcrowding which leads to other officers needing to move them out of the way. This occasionally leads to the squad battery being drained because when other officers move the squad there is potential that they leave equipment on in them when doing so.

Since these are specially equipped squads for the canines, they are designed with a canine cage in the back area. Since the canine comes home with the handler, they would be transported from home to work in a safe and secure squad car. Also, maintaining the cleanliness of the squad car can be done at home in a safe area while not on duty, risking getting uniform dirty and/or delaying calls for service.

Distance

According to research conducted on Google Maps, I have calculated two different routes that I usually take from my residence, W7228 Leigh Rd. Mauston, WI to the Kwik Trip on E. Wisconsin St. Sparta. The mileage varies between 50 and 44 miles. I will use the median mileage between the two routes which is 47 miles. The shortest route to Sparta would be taking STH 71, taking approximately 54 minutes.

I used the current gas prices as of August 18th, 2022 at \$3.64/gal and the average miles per gallon (mpg) for a 2022 Ford Explorer being 20 mpg. The estimated fuel cost, one-way, will be roughly \$7.28 or \$14.56 roundtrip. I work 12 hour shifts, which means I work approximately half of the year, or 180 days. This totals \$2,620.80 a year to commute between Sparta and Mauston for my assigned shifts. This does not include the commute for monthly canine training because the training sites change monthly, so I cannot provide an accurate estimate of fuel cost.

Proposal

I understand that requesting to utilize and house a city owned vehicle outside of city limits is not typical operating procedures for the city. I am willing to sacrifice some of my benefits of this position in order to come to a fair and reasonable resolution, or contract, with the city so as to be allowed to maintain this privilege.

Under The Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), specifically CFR 785, and established under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), specifically brought to light in Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority case, I am entitled to compensation for "off-the-clock" time spent maintaining K9 Ronin, which includes grooming, feeding, exercise and transport of K9 Ronin.

During my time as the handler previously for K9 Larz, K9 Nash, and currently K9 Ronin, I have been compensated one-half hour of overtime pay per day, or 3.5 hours of overtime per week. My current overtime rate is \$45.31 per hour, not including fringe benefits. This totals \$158.58 per week. If we used the standard 52 weeks in a year, then the total compensation per year is \$8,246.42. If we reflect back to the distance portion of the memorandum, it will cost the city approximately \$2,620.80 per year with current gas price related fees for me to commute between Mauston and Sparta. For the purposes of this proposal, I am willing to waive this one-half hour of compensation for the life of this contract. This results in \$8,246.42 savings of overtime cost to the city.

Summary

To summarize, I am willing to waive the one-half hour of compensation. If we simply look at the cost difference between the cost of gas and yearly compensation paid for by the city for the one-half hour of compensation for the year, we would subtract \$2,620.80 from \$8,246.42, which gives us a total of \$5,625.62 that will not have to be paid for by the City of Sparta in exchange for utilization of the city owned vehicle outside of city limits.

I hope you will strongly consider my proposal and understand that I am flexible with this proposal and willing to listen to other suggestions. I would like to thank you in advance for your time.

Brian James