

Walter M. Gardner, Jr.
Mayor

Robert F. Davie
Town Administrator

TOWN OF WARRENTON

"Historically Great - Progressively Strong"

P. O. Box 281

Warrenton, NC 27589-0281

PHONE (252) 257-3315 FAX (252) 257-9219

Public Safety Committee Meeting **Thursday, February 14, 2013**

Those attending were:

Commissioner George "Al" Fleming

Commissioner Margaret Britt

Police Chief Goble Lane

Town Administrator Robert Davie

Annette Silver, Minute Taker

Commissioner Banzet was absent from meeting.

Attending was 1 citizen (Linda Shearin).

The meeting was called to order by Police Chief Lane at 3:00 PM in Town Hall conference room. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss priorities in the department in preparation of 2013-2014 Budget. Chief Lane presented a proposed budget with line item numbers, account description, proposed amounts and reason for increase/decrease if any. The Committee is reminded the police department budget is approximately 54% of total Town Budget.

There are a total of 6 fulltime officer positions and 4 part-time positions. The Grant acquired during ex-chief Yount's tenure ends August 2013 and no additional grant funds will be received for the extra officer's salary. Chief Lane would like to maintain the position in the budget, even if a freeze is necessary to keep other officers. Chief Lane added approximately a 15% increase to health insurance with disability to cover possible increases. Mr. Davie inquired about the possible opinion of officers if asked them to contribute a portion of their health insurance coverage. Lane thought feedback would depend on the amount the officers would be asked to contribute. He will do research of various police departments and report back to committee. Ms. Shearin asked if Town was now paying for family insurance for employees. The answer is no. Salaries in the department will remain the same.

Chief Lane wanted it noted that all vehicles are paid for with routine maintenance as only budgeted expense. The department may need to look to vehicle replacement during 2015-2016 budget years. At present each vehicle acquires approximately 12,000 to 16,000 miles a year in local driving. When purchasing a new vehicle over a used highway patrol vehicle the overall cost will be evaluated and compared for best Town advantage. The Equipment/Materials item line shows an increase of \$10,000 due to Viper radios needed. Viper radios are necessary to the department as Warren County is switching to this form of communication. Commissioner Britt asked for explanation of Viper communication. This form of communication affords interstate communication in emergency as well as everyday use. The \$10,000 will cover the cost of 4 portable Viper units (1 for chief, 1 for sergeant, and 2 in office to be used by officers on duty) for Town. There is an abundance of ammunition on hand and the shelf life has been verified. (We have enough for at least 4 years with average use.)

There is an expected increase to software support due to upgrade of system and in office supplies due to Town purchase of a new copier. A decrease is shown in Professional Development and Police Grant Matching; however, if possible, Lane would like to maintain a minimum amount in line item for educational purposes. Lane would like to reinstate Cops Program to assist a needy family in Town, National Night Out and the bicycle rodeo held at Mariam Boyd School, all were popular with community.

Mr. Davie reminded Chief Lane of 1/3 cost of offices in building for rent, maintenance and anticipated roof repair that needs to be filtered in. This will cause some tweaking to budget presented.

Commissioners and administrator were all impressed with police department budget. Chief Lane and Mr. Davie stated the Budget is comparable to that of former Police Chief Robinson. The Town attorney is reviewing the wording in the police policy and procedures manual for tweaking before presentation to Committee and BOC.

Ms. Shearin stated she believed the meeting was more about Town safety issues but had received valuable information. She had done an unofficial survey of citizens on safety concerns with the consensus being the need for more visibility by officers in neighborhoods and walking the streets not just riding the areas. Chief thanked Ms. Shearin for her input and would discuss with officers.

With no further business meeting was adjourned.

