



UNIFIED FIRE SERVICE AREA FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 26, 2023

Meeting held both electronically via Zoom Webinar/UFA Headquarters

Committee Members Present:

Council Member Hull
Mayor Silvestrini
Council Member Bailey
Mayor Stevenson

Committee Members Absent:

Mayor Overson

Staff Present:

Chief Burchett
CFO Hill

Cyndee Young
District Administrator Anderson

Staff Absent:

AC Pilgrim

Guests:

Aaron Whitehead
AC Dern
AC Robinson
Council Member Butterfield
Courtney Samuel

Jay Torgersen
Kimberly Ruesch
Lana Burningham
Mayor Knopp
OC Russell

Rob Ayres
Scott McNeil
Shelli Fowlks

Meeting called to order by Chair Hull at 8:36 a.m.

Public Comments

None

Public comment was made available live and with a posted email address.

Minutes Approval

Mayor Silvestrini moved to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting as submitted.

Mayor Knopp seconded the motion.

All voted in favor, none opposed.

Discussion on the 2024 Budget – CFO Hill/DA Anderson

- ◆ CFO Hill gave an overview of the structural imbalance of UFSA.
- ◆ Two things have contributed to this:
 - ◆ Over \$6M of fund balance is appropriated in order to balance the budget.

- ♦ Property taxes came in less than projected.
- ♦ The last tax increase was 2018 with a 9.5% increase, the previous tax increase was in 2008.
- ♦ CFO Hill explained that if all budget items remain the same and the normal assumptions of revenue are applied, \$5.6M is needed.
- ♦ The expenditures were reviewed.
- ♦ Mayor Silvestrini noted that UFSA hasn't much control over expenditures, the main cost is labor and to remain competitive, the UFSA Board decided to maintain salaries.
 - ♦ A smaller increase should have been implemented, 6-7% is easier for residents to accept
 - ♦ The UFSA Board must do a better job in anticipating costs and implement regular increases of less than 10%.
- ♦ Mayor Silvestrini suggested the possibility of a 9% increase this year and another for next.
- ♦ CFO Hill stated that this is a reasonable approach and reminded the Committee that per policy, the minimum reserve must be 15%.
- ♦ The main area where there is the ability to make an impact is on the expenditure side with the member fee, per CFO Hill.
 - ♦ There are other fixed costs within the budget that can't be touched.
 - ♦ The fixed cost and member fee make up 95% of the budget.
 - ♦ There are just a few percent in administration and capital, 1% administrative cost is pretty lean.
- ♦ CFO Hill pointed out that everything mentioned in the memo just returns the UFSA back to a level playing field.
- ♦ Mayor Stevenson agrees with Mayor Silvestrini, we need what we need and would rather lower the sticker shock.
- ♦ Council Member Hull agrees as well.
- ♦ Chief Burchett pointed out priorities in the memo that will impact the decisions today and in 3-5 years.
 - ♦ Station 107 in Kearns currently houses Special Enforcement, no crews.
 - The station was closed as part of an original response model change, with the dropped border response, call frequency has been monitored and has increased.
 - Over the last 5 years there has been a 20% increase in calls.
 - About 20-25% of these calls are being handled by West Jordan and WVC.
 - ♦ Station 253 was built for predicted growth. The difference here is that there are two stations in Eagle Mountain.
 - Chief Burchett mentioned that Eagle Mountain is 50 square miles and Kearns is 5.
 - Also, units from the valley respond into Eagle Mountain when necessary.
 - ♦ Station 112 was in the original bond, but due to FEMA floodplain issues, construction was paused.
 - Millcreek continues to work with FEMA and the federal government to change the floodplain mapping.
 - This change and the building of the station is anticipated in 3-5 years.
- ♦ Council Member Hull asked how long Station 107 can remain closed. Chief Burchett stated that call volume continues to increase, and UFA relies on other agencies to fill that need, but including this priority item will add another 7%.
 - ♦ This is what UFSA must consider, as the reliance on neighboring agencies is getting to an uncomfortable level for Chief Burchett.
- ♦ DA Anderson reminded the Committee that governmental agencies aren't as nimble when responding to inflation. These entities are expected to, and it is acceptable to raise taxes.
 - ♦ It is just a matter of less frequent, larger, or smaller more frequent tax increases.

- ◆ DA Anderson also mentioned that she, CFO Hill, and Chief Burchett are glad to attend municipality council meetings to explain the need for the increase.
- ◆ Mayor Silvestrini prefers 10% for this year and having the latitude for another increase next year.
 - ◆ The mayor doesn't feel it is fair that West Jordan and WVC cover as much as they do
 - ◆ Council Member Hull feels that if the need in Kearns is increasing, we need to serve those residents.
- ◆ In response to questions, CFO Hill presented a chart showing the average impact to residents.
- ◆ Chief Burchett explained that splitting the increase into two allows some staffing/hiring flexibility for UFA.
 - ◆ Staffing Station 107 would require 15 FTE's and today UFA is struggling to get to that number so more time to manage the current open vacancies would be necessary.
- ◆ Council Member Hull proposed an 11% increase for 2024, Mayor Silvestrini added that it may make sense to go 12% so next year's increase could potentially be less.
- ◆ Mayor Stevenson does not like the increase, but both he and Council Member Hull agree.
- ◆ CFO Hill reminded the Committee that property taxes are the only way to fund the service area, the option to rely on sales tax, etc. does not exist.

Mayor Silvestrini moved to propose a 12% property tax increase with the idea that another will be necessary the following year.

Mayor Stevenson seconded the motion.

All voted in favor, none opposed.

Closed Session

- ◆ None

Adjournment

Mayor Stevenson moved to adjourn the July 26, 2023 UFSA Finance Committee Meeting

Mayor Silvestrini seconded the motion

All voted in favor, none opposed