

The Public Safety Committee for the City of Junction City met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 680 Greenwood Street, Junction City, Oregon.

PRESENT WERE: City Councilors, Rob Stott (Chair), Bill DiMarco and Andrea Ceniga, Chief Bob Morris, Sergeant Eric Markell

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August minutes approved; October minutes approved.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

3. AUTISIM INITIATIVE

Chief Morris explained a new training initiative for Law Enforcement to be trained on Autism Awareness. Officers will be trained on recognizing people with Autism as well as learning how to de-escalate a situation when on a call with someone with Autism. Teaming with U of O all officers in both Junction City and at U of O will be trained in this area. As well as hosting some community-based training to educate the community on what to expect when we arrive and how to help us in these situations. The last component is an autism registration data base where caregivers or high functioning people with autism can register with us, and we will have information in our CAD system to better assist these people.

4.OVERVIEW/UPDATE ON OTHER INITIATIVES

Chief Morris brought up the Senate Bill that was brought up in the last election which mandates that law agencies establish policy and provide resources for their personal mental health awareness. Morris explained that U of O just paid \$10,000 for a peer support wellness program that they have allowed us to partner with them in, at no cost to us. The company is Responder Life and what it does is develops a peer support group so if there is any major incident and/or a member has an emotional problem with something on the job, there is a support group available 24 hours a day. The benefits in this program would go far and above the EAP program that the city has now, it is tailored for law enforcement.

Medical care and psychological care component of this is not included in the original \$10,000 but U of O is looking to see what it will cost to add JCPD in there. They are thinking \$1,000-2000 a year.

Chief Morris states this brings us in compliance with the Senate Bill.

Andrea Ceniga stated she doesn't think we can put a price in what law enforcement a dispatch deals with daily and thinks it is great. The follow through on high intense cases would be very beneficial to the department.

Bill DiMarco commented that from the budget side the jurisdiction of this is huge, in the city leadership, everyone wants a healthy police force and having them healthy helps keep the budget low.

Chief Morris states offering things like this make coming and working for our small police department racially unique and it is hard for other departments to compete with things like this.

Chief Morris talks about how we are changing our approach with the community. You can't treat every call the same, not everyone reacts the same way. We can't have a one size fits all approach. We respond to people in different ways to reduce the risk to us, the city, and the community members.

Bill DiMarco comments on this applying to employee retention and budget as well as local control. He is always for local control. He thinks this is an example of a way to make us unique. He backs supporting our own people.

Chief Morris mentions that Police suicide far outweighs any other death for Police Officers. He also informs that 2 OSP troopers have come in and commented about the changed that have seen a JCPD and how in many ways we are ahead of OSP with many of these initiatives.

DiMarco addresses the homeless problem in Eugene not getting better and notes on having flexibility and looking at things a different way then the usual approach.

Morris states that in Junction City we have a low number on homeless people of probably 20 people and DiMarco states that, this is going to be a growing issue.

5. U OF O CONTRACT UPDATE

Contract needs one small change from U of O and then it is going to attorney for final review.

6. BODY/VEHICLE CAMERA AND TASER EQUIPMENT

Chief Morris brings up some technology changes for the body cameras, in recent events the value of body cameras has been proven needed. Morris states that we are running 12 hours shifts and the cameras, although better than what was had before, only have an 8-hour battery life at best and that is without any kind of recording which means officers can go through 2-3 cameras a day. When officers are having to change out their cameras, often in a hurry they are not getting checked out to the officer and JCPD is having to go back through and figure out who had the camera and reassign.

Morris states that he started looking at cameras and Taser changed their name to Axon about 2 years ago, they make tasers and body cameras. The cameras that they are coming out with now, The Axon 3 camera, have a phenomenal amount of increased technology and capability which protects the officer, the community and the governmental body that the officers work for. The Axon 3 enables command staff to watch livestream of what is happening in scene. This would allow a command level to help with course of

action from off scene. These cameras also have a technology that when any firearm is pulled from a holster it activates the camera and any other camera within a 70 ft radius. The cameras do the same when a taser is activated. They are LTE based, not Bluetooth, it is a cellular connection. The battery life is 12 hours and they are averaging a 14-hour battery life. Packaged with this is an app where you can upload evidence via your cell phone, as well as phone calls. This takes a significant amount of effort away from what JCPD does now. There is also a citizen-based aspect where you captured something on your cell or home security and through a link that can be uploaded to JCPD. The tasers are also vastly improved. Current tasers are \$1000 a piece and new tasers are about \$2400 a piece.

Chief Morris states Axons packages includes year one- Brand new cameras and tasers for every officer- year 2 ½ brand new cameras with newest technology and year 5 brand new cameras with newest technology. Cost is 1900 per officer, per year. After the 5 years we own both camera and taser. Within 5 years if something breaks, they fix it. Total cost for 5 years is 139k, based on 13 cameras and tasers.

The committee discussed dangers and matters of over confidence in this technology and talk about changing the culture of the police department. Chief Morris states through the cameras is the only way you get valid and accurate information.

Committee discusses taking this to council and if this is possible for the police departments budget. Chief states if these are purchased now, the city will save \$98,642 over an outright purchase. They also discuss the Reserve program and having enough cameras as that grows. They also discuss that this is the only company out there that has this kind of technology.

Committee agrees that the Body/Vehicle Camera and Taser Initiative should be taken to Finance and Judiciary Committee and then Council.

7. BOOKING FACILITY UPDATE

Chief Morris explains that when the back-parking lot was blocked off the back door of the City Hall needed to be closed off, due to a fire code violation. Another thing that could be done is the hallway could be closed off and used like a small room.

Chief Morris informed that JCPD got the Livescan grant of \$26000 and would like to relocate the booking room into the hallway and put the Intoxilyzed and Livescan in that room to make a create professional booking area.

8. ADJOURN

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Deckard