



South Davis Metro Fire Service Area

**Meeting of the Administrative Committee**  
255 South 100 West, Bountiful, Utah and Zoom  
May 4, 2023  
3:00 p.m.

**COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION / CITY REPRESENTED</b>
Bryce Haderlie	Woods Cross
Ken Leetham	North Salt Lake
Duane Huffman	West Bountiful - Chair
Brant Hanson	Centerville - Vice Chair
Gary Hill	Bountiful
Curtis Koch	Davis County

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dane Stone, Fire Chief  
Dave Powers, Deputy Chief  
Greg Stewart, Deputy Chief  
Jessica Hardy, Finance Director  
Nikki Dandurand, Secretary

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 2023 MINUTES**

Mr. Haderlie made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. All members voted and approved the motion.

**DISCUSSION OF FY 2023-2024 BUDGET**

Mr. Huffman stated the committee has mentioned looking at future year projections and Ms. Hardy has prepared a three-year chart for that. He also prepared a "live" spreadsheet to plug in numbers to forecast budget numbers. Mr. Leetham asked what commitment the committee made in the last meeting. Mr. Huffman responded they agreed to use some of the fund balance. Mr. Leetham asked when the last tax increase was. Chief Stone said 2021. Mr. Leetham stated he likes the estimates but doesn't want to aim low and stay more conservative.

Mr. Haderlie stated his city did a TNT last year and his council supports more frequent and smaller increases. Even if we go through a TNT process, we are not obligated to raise/lower taxes, but it does allow 6-8 more weeks to work on the budget. Mr. Leetham agreed but prefers not to do it this year. Let's work on a model for next year and prepare the Board. Mr. Haderlie stated we need to prepare the Board and the public.

Mr. Koch asked what the annual turnback is. Ms. Hardy responded it is approximately \$500K to \$1M. Mr. Koch suggested spending down fund balance and wait and see how the next year pans out. Even if we use it all, we should be okay. Mr. Hill stated his city council is proposing a tax increase, but another issue is the recreation district is also proposing another tax increase and that worries him. He would support the fire district increase over the recreation district increase.

Mr. Haderlie reviewed what the Chief has currently proposed in the budget. We are changing the steps from eleven to nine, including a 5% COLA, but no merit. What's the average increase per employee? Chief Stone replied the firefighters will get an average of a 20% increase, the rest will get 8-10%. Mr. Leetham stated this is the wrong time to not make the market study change and not approve the COLA. The steps are not a huge priority right now. Mr. Huffman stated the pay scale adjustments and steps need to stay competitive and not fall behind. Mr. Haderlie stated he supports a 8-20% increase, not more steps. Mr. Hanson said a TNT needs to happen. We need to take care of the firefighters. Inflation has taken over and all of this leads to a TNT. Spending down \$1M this year would be challenging. We should do this now and not wait until next year. Mr. Hill agrees with Mr. Hanson, but we need support from the Board and the public, and a larger increase, closer to 15-20%. Mr. Huffman stated that 20% this year is agreeable, hold steady for the next two years then be on target in FY 2027 for another 20%. Mr. Koch asked what the average home value is averaging. Chief Stone said we have looked at that and it is around \$500k, so it might be around \$40/annually for an increase to the public. Mr. Koch recapped saying only \$3-\$4/month for residents is very reasonable, payscale is good, market study is good and the steps are competitive.

Mr. Huffman stated he would like to present the Board with three options and increase taxes next year. Which options are the committee leaning towards? Mr. Leetham suggested any option, including a TNT. Mr. Hanson, option two or three. Mr. Haderlie, two or three. Mr. Hill, option three. Mr. Huffman recommended the 20% increase and keeping the member assessments at 5%. Mr. Leetham suggested to word it at not less than 20%, and if the Board wishes to change it, they can. Mr. Koch said he has a hard time suggesting 20% to the Board and asked again what the final turnback fund balance is. Ms. Hardy replied \$500k, just to be safe. Mr. Koch is uncomfortable with that number and really suggests spending down the fund balance, riding out this storm with no tax increase. Mr. Leetham understands Mr. Koch's point and wants the Board to understand this as well. Ms. Hardy said it's hard to spend down because we can't get some equipment, some bids are just too low, training falls thru and various other line items just don't happen. Mr. Huffman asked the staff to send the Administrative Committee the FY 2020-2023 actual expenses to view.

Mr. Leetham made a motion to recommend the budget increase of no less than 20%, including the wage proposals, wage adjustments, steps and COLA of 5%. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. DC Powers mentioned this includes the member contributions of 5%, with 20%. Mr. Huffman said yes. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Haderlie, Hanson, Huffman, Leetham and Hill voted "aye." Mr. Koch voted "nay." The motion passed with a majority vote. This item will be presented to the Board in May.

**STATION 85 REMODEL**

Chief Stone stated it was in the budget to repaint the exterior of Station 85, but there is a greater need to enclose the gym area above the mezzanine. We would like to utilize the money for the exterior painting as well as a portion in the FY 2024 budget to accomplish this. City Creek Construction has done a lot of our work before and is under state contract. Mr. Haderlie moved to approve; Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. This item was approved.

**FIRE CHIEF REPORT**


Chief Stone had nothing to report.

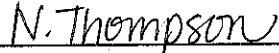
**ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIR UPDATE**

Mr. Huffman had nothing to report.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting.

  
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Duane Huffman, Chair

  
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Nicole Thompson, Secretary