

Decorah City Council - Public Safety Committee Minutes
Monday, July 19, 2021
Immediately follow Council meeting

City Hall Council Chambers

Chair Neal, Zittergruen, Carlson, Hadley

Joint meeting with public safety committee and the 28e Rural Fire Association Board of Trustees

1. 28E Agreement with Rural Fire

Jim Ludeking reviewed the equipment owned by Rural Fire

½ of Rescue 1

2 tankers

1 pickup

Pd for ½ of addition

He stated Chad Bird, former City Manager did not advocate for any increase and anything over the cost of living is inappropriate.

Councilperson Hadley stated the City Manager does not set policy. Council makes these decisions

Zittergruen stated amount paid in 2015 was \$40,000. Adjustment for inflation would be \$44,050 in 2021. Neal, Zittergruen and Hadley agreed there should be an annual increase.

Discussion was held on adding a 2% increase each year since 2015.

Dale Johnson, Rural Fire Representative, questioned why we would go back retroactively. Past councils agreed on those contracts.

Rick Monson, Rural Fire Representative, stated we this discussion every year before. It's not right to ask them to pay all this back.

Discussion was held on the cost of living and noted everything has gone up since 2015. Rural Fire wondered how can we give you money we don't have.

Councilperson Neal agreed increase should move forward and with an inflationary factor each year.

General consensus for contract to require \$44,000 for FY22. Discussion will begin for FY23 no later than January 2022.

City Public Safety Committee

1. Fire Dept quarterly report

Chief Ashbacher reported 32 members with 1 application pending and 1 being currently recruited for membership.

Talked about the Firefighter Combat Challenge and the new physical fitness course at the training facility. Spoke of it being a great team building activity

Potential purchase of equipment to locate bodies under water

Potential training with City of Clear Lake to train with the boat for side and down scan

Looking to train 3 additional drone operators

2. Police Dept quarterly report

Chief Smutzler reported the following:

Participating in the "Elevate" mental health program out of Waterloo Ia. They have seen a rise in mental health issues during the past year

More tourism in the past year

Spoke about the activities Sarah Mickelson, Intern, is involved in

Jim Frost retirement

Fallon Cassidy hire

National Night Out

