

CITY OF BLUE ASH

Interoffice Memo – City Manager's Office

TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Department Directors
SUBJECT: Agenda Items for the October 22nd Council Meeting
DATE: October 20, 2015
COPIES: Department Directors, Press, Clerk of Council, Solicitor

This memo offers a brief description of the topics included on the October 22nd Council agenda.

9.a.1. Ordinance No. 2015-70 – transferring funds

The attached transfer ordinance provides for the following current budget modifications:

Fire Department Equipment Purchase

The Fire Department wishes to purchase three EMS transport cots by utilizing available capital and part-time salaries budget. The new loading systems/cots have hydraulic lift systems that alleviate the lift required by EMS personnel. With the approval of Ordinance 2015-74, this budget adjustment will transfer \$60,000 from part-time salaries to the capital account to supplement the available funds remaining in the capital account to purchase the new equipment.

OVI Grant (Fund 282) and Law Enforcement Liaison Grant (Fund 293)

The City is the fiscal/administrating agency for these police related state grants that require us to budget for the collection of grant revenues and the disbursement of grant-approved expenses. The new grant year, for both grants, began on Oct 1, 2015. Budget modifications provide for grant operations until the end of the year and any remaining amounts will be included in the 2016 Budget. The Police Department has been awarded \$225,000 for the 2015-2016 OVI grant and \$87,888 for the 2015-2016 Law Enforcement Liaison Grant.

Summit Park (Funds 445 & 447)

All within the current 2015 Budget, this adjustment provides for the transfer of engineering budget from one construction fund (447) to another (445) allowing for the proper accounting of costs.

Cooper Creek Event Center and Golf Course (Fund 752)

It is expected that the CCEC and Golf Operations will exceed our 2015 estimates of revenue collections and related expenses. The budget adjustments listed on the attachment amends our original estimates prepared back in January. It provides for additional revenue collections in event food, beverage, sales tax, and employee tips that offset the additional expenditure appropriations in those related areas to finish out the year.

Flexible Spending Accounts

The transfer ordinance approves adjustments to establish a new FSA fund (902) for the upcoming plan year and returns General Fund advances for two previous plan year funds (901/903).

Please direct any question regarding this Ordinance to the Treasurer/Administrative Services Director.

9.a.2 Ordinance No. 2015-71 – Authorizing contracts for employee benefit coverages

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager to enter into agreements and to make related payments associated with the City's group health, dental, vision, and life insurance plans for eligible employees for plan year November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2016.

Historically, the City of Blue Ash has provided its employees an excellent array of benefits including health, vision, dental, and life coverages. Several years ago, the City Manager requested the formation of an employee-based health insurance advisory committee to not only review the City's cost in this area but also to help with employee education and to examine alternatives which might continue to provide excellent coverage at a lower cost.

Over the past few months, the City's health insurance broker, Horan Associates, sought out competitive proposals from a variety of providers in an effort to develop a strategy for the renewal on November 1, 2015. Given our claims experience, UnitedHealthCare was willing to offer the City a 2% decrease in premiums for the upcoming plan year. Given such, the City has decided to remain with UnitedHealthCare. The City is in the 2nd year of a two-year contract with Dental Care Plus, Vision Service Plan has agreed to a two-year agreement with a very minimal increase and The Standard Insurance Company offered no changes in coverage rates. With these favorable rates, the City has decided to remain with these carriers as well.

The City will continue to offer tax deferred savings vehicles such as flexible spending accounts and/or portable health savings accounts for health, dental, vision and daycare expenses. Employees may earn additional City contributions through attendance at educational seminars and/or participation in wellness events during the plan year. The City does offer a \$2,000 payment to any eligible employee who chooses to secure their health insurance elsewhere (perhaps on a spouse's plan) and opt out of the City's health care plan.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Treasurer/Administrative Services Director.

9.a.3. Ordinance No. 2015-72 –continuing membership in the Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA) and accepting the year 2016 pool contribution

This ordinance seeks that ongoing approval and outlines the 2016 pool contribution to MVRMA of an amount not to exceed \$290,000 for our coverage. The City's portion of coverage will represent approximately 6.47% of all pool costs in 2016.

The City's annual contribution is composed of our share of the pool's operating expenses, as well as payment relating to our "share" of expected reserves and losses for the upcoming year. The total amount of the expected loss fund as determined by MVRMA's actuary for 2016 for all 20 members is \$2,575,000, and as losses, claims, and reserves are addressed over the next several years, those costs will be charged against that particular "2016" fund. Should total losses exceed that amount, then it is possible that an assessment will be charged against each of the cities using their original contribution percentage as a basis. If the entirety of the loss fund does not get used, any balances are refunded or credited to a city in proportion to their percentage of contribution.

Blue Ash's affiliation with the Miami Valley Risk Management Association has been a positive one and we are very satisfied with the administration and structure of the program. MVRMA is audited and examined by the Ohio Department of Insurance on an annual basis and prepare a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report each year as well. No city has ever left the Association and the group seems very content with the level of service provided by the pool.

Additionally, MVRMA offers a discount to members whose police and fire departments wish to take advantage of a top-notch policy manual and training service called "Lexipol". Our Police and Fire departments both participate in Lexipol, which has proven helpful in keeping our policy and procedure manuals up-to-date. MVRMA also provides in-person and web-based training opportunities to our City staff.

Please direct questions concerning this ordinance to the Treasurer/Administrative Services Director.

9.a.4. Motion setting 6:00PM, Monday, November 30, 2015, as the Budget Study Session; and setting 6:00PM, Tuesday, December 1, 2015, as the Council swearing-in ceremony

This motion formalizes the establishment of Council meetings later this year, including setting of the Council Budget Study Session as Monday, November 30th (6:00PM); and the Council swearing-in as Tuesday, December 1 (6:00PM)

9.a.5 Motion establishing a Work Study Session for Strategic Planning on Monday, January 11, 2016, from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Cooper Creek Event Center and cancelling the January 14, 2016 Council Meeting

This motion formally establishes a Council Work Study Session for Strategic Planning on Monday, January 11th beginning at 3:00 pm at the Cooper Creek Event Center and cancelling the January 14th Council Meeting.

9.b.1. Ordinance No. 2015-74 authorizing the purchase of Medic Unit power load cots

As you may recall back in April of this year, Council approved ordinance 2015-33, for the fire department to purchase an emergency medical unit. This unit is currently being built at Braun Manufacturing. The new medic unit will be built with a new loading system and cot. Unlike current cots, this new cot/loading system not only assists paramedics with lifting patients on a cot, it actually takes the heavy weight off of them by loading the cot into the medic unit.

The Fire Department requests three of these systems to ensure consistent equipment on all units. The cost of all three cot/loading systems is \$121,617.36. While this was not originally in the capital equipment list, the Fire Department has saved \$61,759.00 on other purchases in the capital account. Additional funds would come from selling older equipment, a reimbursable grant, as well as transferred funds from personnel savings. There would be no additional money needed outside of the total base Fire Department budget.

Please direct questions regarding this ordinance to the Fire Chief.