

Fryeburg Budget Committee Minutes
March 14, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
David & Doris Hastings Community Center

Budget Committee members present: Patrick Emery, Jim Tyrrell, Chiye Harper
Select Board members present: Tom Kingsbury, Tom Klinepeter
Staff present: Katie Haley, Ruth Antonucci, Jennifer Spofford, Andrew Dufresne

Emery called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Tyrrell made a motion to approve March 7, 2022 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Harper and passed unanimously.

Rescue Chief Steve Goldsmith presented the Fryeburg Rescue budget request. He noted labor shortages and the need to increase pay as a large factor for the \$36,028 budget increase. He also commented that PPP and other COVID related programs have helped him keep the budget down the last couple of years. He highlighted that there has been a 48% increase in revenues and that rescue responded to 1,074 call runs. He discussed some other methodologies for dividing the budget amongst the service area towns. A per capita model would not be beneficial to Fryeburg and the current model of using run volume per town is most fair. Tyrrell offers an option of each town picking up the portion of rescue bills that is not covered by insurance/Medicaid/Medicare. Tyrrell also inquired about the Fryeburg Fair calls getting added to Fryeburg's overall call volume and Goldsmith confirmed that they do, much like calls from the Saco River or the summer camps. There was discussion about the collections process and Medicaid/Medicare.

Library Director Jennifer Spofford presented the Library budget. She presented a proposal that would increase the hours of the library to being open 6 days per week, including an additional evening. That would move her hours to 40/week and a library aide from 13 to 19 hours per week. She noted that donations help keep the cost of purchasing books and supplies low and grants help with programming efforts. 2 new computers are needed and grants will be sought although those purchases should be budgeted for in case grants are not received. The overall budget increase is \$21,713.

Fire Chief Andrew Dufresne presented the Fire Department budget. He commented that the budget is decreasing. Related to on-call fireman pay, they will see the 6% increase and he is also reintroducing the hourly wage incentives based on training/certification/educational attainment, which was previously eliminated when the minimum wage increased. The budget presented included a Toughbook for the Chiefs vehicle which Dufresne said could actually be removed as he received a donated Toughbook. Harper asked about the estimates to rescrew and paint the roof and believes that they should be higher. She also asked about the plans and timing to purchase a new chiefs vehicle. Dufresne believes that he can reasonably get 2 more years of use out of his car.

Haley presented the Debt Service budget which consists of the Police Station lease. Harper asked about the length of the lease and referenced a conversation with Chief Goldsmith in which he stated that the lease will be increasing in years to come.

Haley presented the Administration budget, noting increases and decreases. The entire admin budget is currently proposed to increase by \$15,536. Tyrrell asked about the copier lease and copier maintenance. There were no other questions or comments.

Harper made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously.