



FITCHBURG CITY CLERK  
2022 FEB 11 AM 8:42

## City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

### CITY COUNCIL

**Councilors at Large**  
Marcus L. DiNatale  
Sally H. Cragin  
Amy L. Green  
Samantha M. Squailia  
Anthony M. Zarrella

**President**  
Anthony M. Zarrella

**Vice President**  
Andrew J. Van Hazinga

**Ward Councilors**  
Ward 1 – Bernard J. Schultz, III  
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin  
Ward 3 – Andrew J. Couture  
Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga  
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming  
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz

### Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Councilor Zarrella, chairing the meeting by designation of Chairman DiNatale, on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:05 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, Andrew Van Hazinga, and Anthony Zarrella.

Committee Members absent: Councilor Marcus DiNatale.

The chairman read an announcement regarding the recording of public meetings, noting that FATV was recording and broadcasting the meeting. No other person stated that they were recording the meeting.

The chairman opened the meeting for public comment. No one spoke.

012-22      ORDER:      that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from a contribution from B.O.T.Realty, LLC in the approximate amount of \$21,500.00 (TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is for the paving and reconstruction of Perkins Street.

Discussion: Public Works Commissioner Nick Erickson was present. He stated that the contribution was for the repair of Perkins Street and was part of a condition of approval for a certificate of occupancy from the Planning Board for B.O.T Realty, LLC. The work was done by PJ Albert this past summer and the owner complied with all city requests. The work greatly improved the previous road and this contribution covered a little more than 50% of the costs.

Councilors asked if these repair costs are comparable to other streets. Mr. Erickson said that there is really no comparison, because each road is different in terms of width and general construction.

Action: Motion to amend to change the word "grant" to "contribution" made by Councilor Beauchemin and second by Councilor Van Hazinga.

Motion adopted. (4-0).

Action: Motion to approve as amended made by Councilor Beauchemin and second by Councilor Van Hazinga.

Motion adopted. (4-0).

013-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security VAWA grant in the approximate amount of \$69,027.00 (SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND, TWENTY-SEVEN AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to support the Domestic Violence Advocate position within the Police Department.

Discussion: Chief Ernest Martineau was present. He asked that the order be amended, because the amount of the order should be \$62,097.00. This grant funds the Domestic Violence Advocate, a position that has been funded by a federal grant for the last ten years. Last year she made over 100 visits to homes in response to over 300 calls for domestic violence. Most of the grant covers salary, with some available for expenses.

Councilors asked if domestic violence is declining. The Chief responded that the numbers have been pretty consistent. The advocate works with the District Court to provide a support system for victims. Councilors asked if these disturbances are related to drugs and alcohol. The Chief answered that there are all sorts of reasons for the domestic disturbances. He commented that there may have been a slight uptick because of the pandemic keeping people at home. Councilors said that what is important is that the city is showing that people are paying attention to the problem and trying to make people's lives better.

Action: Motion to amend to change the amount of the grant from "\$69,027.00" to "\$62,097.00" made by Councilor Van Hazinga and second by Councilor Cruz.

Motion adopted. (4-0).

Action: Motion to approve as amended made by Councilor Beauchemin and second by Councilor Cruz.

Motion adopted. (4-0).

014-22 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Affairs, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program grant in the approximate amount of \$504,061.86 (FIVE HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND, SIXTY-ONE AND 86/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to contract a licensed clinical social worker to provide follow-up and case management to persons who are suffering from substance abuse and co-occurring disorders, as well as training and data tracking.

Discussion: Chief Martineau remained. He said he has been working three years to get this grant and come before the Finance Committee. This program is about bringing help to the

residents of Fitchburg by bringing in clinicians to work hand-in-hand with the police to go out and assist those in need. This grant was very competitive and one of only three awarded in Massachusetts. No match is required.

Fitchburg has had an outreach program for many years. In 2021, officers responded to 177 calls for overdose and deployed Narcan 90 times. The master clinician being brought in will have a ready-made client list from these 177 overdoses. The clinician will reach out to other programs for support and will look for solutions for those who need it most. The grant is for three years, with the bulk going to a vendor who will provide the clinicians and the remainder being used by the city to cover training, conferences, and administrative costs. This program is on the cutting edge, having police and clinicians working together.

Councilors expressed their excitement about this issue. They asked about receiving a financial breakdown, and the Chief indicated that he would send them one. They also asked about coordinating with the Board of Health so that the city is not going in too many directions. The chief said that no one is working in silos. The city has a substance abuse person in its employ and the department has discussed this grant with her to coordinate responses. This grant is another tool in the toolbox. The program discussed at an earlier meeting focused on the homeless; this grant focuses on overdoses. There is some overlap in the two groups.

Councilors asked about sectioning people using either Section 12 for alcohol and drug dependency or Section 35 for imminent self-harm. The Chief replied that it is happening daily; the officers are constantly looking at people in crisis to see if they warrant sectioning. It is a forced commitment, so officers also try to look at other methods to improve the situation. Councilors asked if the department is going after the sellers for more than just selling. The chief answered that prosecution decisions are made by the District Attorney. The department spends a lot of time to get drugs off the street. There are very few cases when a seller is charged with wrongful death. However, dealers do get extensive time when convicted and sentenced. He prefers to go after the drug dealers, but show compassion for the users.

Councilors spoke about reimagining police work with this grant and asked about the impact of mental illness. The Chief said that this grant focuses on drug abuse, the Board of Health is focusing on homelessness, and the Police Department is also working on mental health issues. While this clinician will focus on drug abuse, they will also be able to link to the other resources.

The Chief noted the work that grant writer Kristi Fritscher has done with this grant. He is looking to reduce repetitive drug overdoses and that this model is one of the most promising. The department also has a jail diversion program and the Drug Court will be making a return to the city as the pandemic winds down.

Action: Motion to approve made by Councilor Van Hazinga and second by Councilor Cruz.  
Motion adopted. (4-0).

- Discussion about the meeting days and time for Finance Committee

Discussion: City Auditor Calvin Brooks reported that the possibility of moving Finance Committee meetings to Mondays was problematic because of Monday holidays and the arrangement of School Committee meetings. Wednesdays seemed to be more promising. The Water/Wastewater Commission are currently meeting the second Wednesday and the Airport

Commission on the fourth Wednesday. There are no groups meeting on the first and third Wednesdays. Mr. Brooks said he has spoken to employee contacts with these groups about moving their meetings and that change may be possible. He also reported that Councilor DiNatale has expressed a willingness to move to Wednesdays.

Councilors discussed this information and informally agreed to a Wednesday move. They will await a formal vote to give the three commissions time to review the matter. Therefore, the matter will be held in committee.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Beauchemin second by Councilor Van Hazinga.  
Motion adopted. (4-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Calvin D. Brooks".

Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk

**City of Fitchburg  
Available Funds Summary  
Fiscal Year 2022**

<b>Available Funds Certified as of July 1, 2021</b>			<b>8,682,198</b>
Less Approved Appropriations:			
12/07/21	201-21	Stabilization Fund	-350,000
12/07/21	202-21	OPEB Trust Fund	-450,000
12/07/21	203-21	Reserve for Other Municipal Purposes, Capital Expenses	-125,000
12/07/21	204-21	School Expenses	-600,000
12/07/21	207-21	Police Maintenance of Buildings, Repair & Care	-8,380
12/21/21	208-21	Health Expense, Weights & Measures	-16,750
12/21/21	209-21	Library Trust Fund, Wallace Fund	-31,320
12/21/21	218-21	Facilities, Tax Possession Maintenance	-9,000
Subtotal - Approved Appropriations			-1,590,450
<b>Balance Available</b>			<b>7,091,748</b>
Less Proposed Appropriations:			
02/01/22		Law Other Expenses, Litigation and Special Counsel	-115,000
Subtotal - Proposed Appropriations			-115,000
<b>Balance Available if Proposed Appropriations are Approved</b>			<b>6,976,748</b>
<b>Possible Appropriations:</b>			
Snow & Ice			
Stabilization Fund 5% - \$6,974,000 7% - \$9,764,000 Current - \$7,517,897			
OPEB Fund Current - \$1,997,632			
Labor Contracts			
Veterans - Cash Benefits			
Community Development - Rail Trail			
Main Street Garage - Phase 1			
Salary Study			
Crocker Field			
DPW - Equipment List			
DPW - Paving			
Library Renovation			
Schools - Longsjö School - Window Replacement			
Police Station Renovation			
Senior Center Renovation			
Demolition			
Demolition - Laurel Street School			
Police - Vehicles			
Fire - Vehicles			
Marketing City			
Cemetery Software			
Cemetery - Vehicles			
Cemetery - Masoleum			
Cemetery - Engineering & Design for Expansion			
Cemetery - Construction for Expansion			
Parks - Downtown Summer Groundskeeper			
DPW - Oak Hill Road Bridge			
DPW - Street Paving			



**UMass Memorial Health**  
COMMUNITY HEALTHLINK

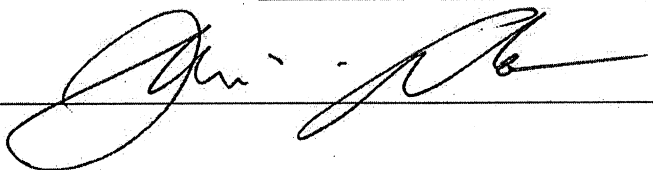
72 Jaques Avenue  
Worcester, MA 01610

TO: Fitchburg Police Department  
20 Elm Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420-3204

June 28, 2021

	PROPOSED BUDGET			
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
<b>Personnel</b>				
Clinicians, 1.5 FTE supervision	\$ 97,500.00	\$ 99,450.00	\$ 101,439.00	\$ 298,389.00
supervision	\$ 2,190.00	\$ 2,233.80	\$ 2,278.48	\$ 6,702.28
Subtotal	\$ 99,690.00	\$ 101,683.80	\$ 103,717.48	\$ 305,091.28
Tax&Fringe	\$ 19,938.00	\$ 20,336.76	\$ 20,743.50	\$ 61,018.26
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 119,628.00</b>	<b>\$ 122,020.56</b>	<b>\$ 124,460.97</b>	<b>\$ 366,109.53</b>
<b>Non-Personnel</b>				
Telephone, Internet, Data	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,836.00	\$ 1,872.72	\$ 5,508.72
Computer Equipment	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
Supplies	\$ 900.00	\$ 918.00	\$ 936.36	\$ 2,754.36
Marketing	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 10,500.00
Prof. liability	\$ 405.00	\$ 413.10	\$ 936.36	\$ 1,754.46
<b>Total Non-Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 10,605.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,667.10</b>	<b>\$ 6,245.44</b>	<b>\$ 22,517.54</b>
<b>Total Direct</b>	<b>\$ 130,233.00</b>	<b>\$ 127,687.66</b>	<b>\$ 130,706.41</b>	<b>\$ 388,627.07</b>
Indirect	\$ 20,446.58	\$ 20,046.96	\$ 20,520.91	\$ 61,014.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 150,679.58</b>	<b>\$ 147,734.62</b>	<b>\$ 151,227.32</b>	<b>\$ 449,641.52</b>

SIGNED:



SIGNED BY:

Zhani Lito, CFO

DATE:

June 28, 2021