

Minutes of the Special Agenda Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 S. 6th Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Staff Present: Veronica Moreno, Interim City Manager
Lourdes Aguirre, Finance Director
Danny Denogean, Public Safety Director and Chief of Police
Michelle Stinson for Jon Paladini, City Attorney

Councilors Present: Mayor Paul Diaz
Vice Mayor Herman Lopez
Acting Mayor Rita Rogers
Councilor Anita Romero (Absent)
Councilor Cesar Aguirre (Telephonically)
Councilor Brian Flagg
Councilor Roxanna Valenzuela

Others Present: Diana and Scott Sears, Residents
Dennis Luttrell, Resident

Mayor Diaz called the Special Agenda Meeting of Tuesday, June 25, 2024, to order at 6:00 p.m. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, and Land Acknowledgment and Mission Statements.

ITEM #03 – LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND MISSION STATEMENT

Vice Mayor Lopez: On behalf of South Tucson residents, we honor the Tribal Nations who have served as caretakers of this land from time immemorial and respectfully acknowledge the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the multi-millennial presence of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe within South Tucson. Consistent with the City of South Tucson’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, we strive toward building equal-partner relationships with Arizona’s Tribal Nations.

Acting Mayor Rogers: The Mission of the City of South Tucson is to build up our community through mutual cooperation between we, your public servants, and you our citizens so that jointly we can build a safer and stronger City. Amen.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Amen.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL (By City Manager Moreno):

Ms. Moreno: Mr. Mayor, Councilor Anita Romero is absent, and Councilor Aguirre is here telephonically.

Vice Mayor Lopez. Here.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Councilor Romero. Absent.

Mayor Diaz. Here.

Councilor Flagg. Here.

Councilor Aguirre. Telephonically present.
Councilor Valenzuela. Here.

ITEM #05 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Diaz: There are no Minutes for approval, so at this time, we will go to the Call to the Public.

Call to the Public

Mayor Diaz: Is there anybody in the public that would like to address the Council at this time?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, this evening we have two cards filled out. The first one is Dennis Luttrell, resident, address is 301 E. Benson Highway, topic is Fire Truck/Fence.

Mr. Luttrell: Good evening, Council members.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Good evening.

Mayor Diaz: Good evening.

Mr. Luttrell: Two things, I've come to about three or four meetings that I heard the used fire truck come up to be on the agenda and it's never been brought up on the agenda, so I was wondering if maybe we could do that so we could get moving one way or another with a decision because if we decide to buy a new fire truck, it's going to take, from what I understand, about one year for delivery. So, you are going to need something anyways. It would be a good point to take and have a meeting of the minds and see if we can come up with something. The other thing is the fence outside looks beautiful but I come in and I think, am I in City jail because the thing is that if you have a business person or somebody come in and they see that the bars are all locked, they say, well listen, if it's too dangerous for the City Hall to be here, it certainly is that I sure shouldn't have a business here. So, I thought if we could maybe rethink that idea also. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: The next card we have here is from Diana and Scott Sears, residents, 2301 S. 6th Avenue, topic is Matters Involving the City, I believe that's what it says.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Mrs. Sears: Good evening, Mayor and Council. I would like to say that I like the fence. There's women that work in the front office and sometimes having that extra security creates a little bit of deterrence for those that have been outside, you know, where they shouldn't be sleeping or staying so maybe even at night, so I love the color, too. Anyway, that's what I have to say about the fence. The second thing I wanted to say is I also want to talk about the budget for the fire truck. It is our understanding that there is a fire truck that is available, and I know that we have talked about it in the meetings in February, March and April, but yet we haven't heard anything about it. It's not on the agenda so I would like to see it on the agenda before we lose that opportunity.

Mr. Sears: Hello, Mayor and City Council. Businesses and owners in South Tucson want to put the fire truck purchase on the agenda so we as taxpayers and business owners can have a safe and more reliable fire truck to serve the community. Knowing that there is a fire truck for \$350,000 and it has low mileage and low engine hours, so when you as City Council provide taxpayers with a safer, more reliable fire truck, the City Council

members have taken in to vote to do what is just for the citizens of South Tucson. I know we have the money in reserves, so can one of you guys put it on the agenda.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Mrs. Sears: In addition to that, I come on behalf of businesses, and we would like to thank our Police Officers for more patrolling. We have seen less vagrancy; we have seen less heaters. They are all out there doing the best that they can even though I think it was mentioned in the last meeting about catch and release, whatever that means, but we do as businesses and residents, we do say we agree the police do deserve their very well-deserved increase in wages. And since we do know that there have been other employees in our City Hall that have been giving themselves increases in wages, I think one of them is the accountant and the other might be the Interim City Manager. We're hoping that within this budget we can shift some things around so that fire and police do get their deserved increase in wages. Also, we would like to again, it's being brought up by some of the employees that have called and emailed me, the H.R. Director position needs to be filled. The Interim City Manager cannot continue to be overworked and wear so many hats, and work so much, so we would like it as a community to have the position put it on the agenda. Also, as well as if not a City Clerk then a City Manager, a qualified City Manager that can bring in City development, economic growth. We are not talking about just saving money, we're talking about making money for the City. If we were to survive, we want this.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, time's up.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Does anyone else want to address the Council?

Ms. Aguirre: That was it.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you.

ITEM #06 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, this morning I attended at the Library there was a class that was given referencing the Alzheimer's Association and with the Dementia Risk Reduction, and this program, Pima County is putting it on and they are already working with our Housing to proceed with this project profit-share to see how it can be implemented once it gets going so where we can track and trace people who have dementia or Alzheimer's. That is kind of critical for us as elderly, we need to know it. That's all I have, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: I guess Los Mezquites is having a grand opening tomorrow morning from 8:30 to 10:30, so if Council is going to appear, would you post a notice in regard to the majority of the Council being there.

Ms. Moreno: Ok, what business is that?

Mayor Diaz: Los Mezquites, the one on 36th and 4th, the one that used to be Rigo's.

Ms. Moreno: For tomorrow? And the time?

Mayor Diaz: 8:30 to 10:30. The next is future agenda items. It looks like the public has requested the fire truck be discussed for possible action on fire truck.

ITEM #07 - CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: REPORTS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Ms. Moreno: We have no reports this evening, Mr. Mayor. It is a Special Meeting, so we are going to dedicate this time to the items we have on the agenda.

Mayor Diaz: Next item is the Study Session.

ITEM #08 - STUDY SESSION: FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 GENERAL FUND & RESTRICTED BUDGET OVERVIEW

Ms. Aguirre: Good evening, Mr. Mayor, members of the Council. We were asked at the last meeting to bring back this item. The reason why we brought back this specific Study Session is because we are going to make a couple of modifications to the restricted budget. So, on the restricted budget you may have seen we did increase it by \$6 million which is the total of the bond initiative in November because originally the restricted budget I had presented to you all was for about \$24 million, so we went ahead and we accounted for potential funding from the bond initiative for fire and EMS services from the general election in November coming up. Should it pass, we just want to be able to be ready and have it all accounted for in our budget so that the City has that budget capacity to spend. Also, a couple of slight adjustments. In the general fund budget, and you all have it in your packets, one of the things we did is reduce both the revenues and the expenditures by \$19,000 that was noted in there as from DEA, so because the Police Department no longer has an officer working with DEA, we reduced that expenditure and its corresponding revenue to zero. What I am going to hand out to you all right now is a budget that we flex, and I put it in highlights there on the front page. It reflects the most current state-shared revenues as of Friday. So, on Friday, we received notification from the League of Cities and Towns about a decrease. The total decrease was \$25,000 to state-shared revenues. That's pretty much all the changes on the general fund and on the restricted funds budget that I wanted to update you all on. Nothing else other than that has changed.

Councilor Flagg: Were you expecting that news about the revenue from the state?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor and Councilor Flagg, there had been talked about the state just re-analyzing their numbers, honestly, I personally didn't anticipate a change like that coming through. Typically, it is the other way around, so they issue an initial estimate at the beginning of the budget cycle and then towards the end of the fiscal year they review estimates, and most of the time it is slightly higher but this time it just turns out lower. It's in those three line items that you see there, the revenue sharing, then each one was by a couple thousand.

Councilor Valenzuela: Is that because of the Census count?

Ms. Aguirre: Not necessarily, I think that the Census count has affected the City of South Tucson tremendously in a negative way, but I think this more has to do with the state's estimates and what they see coming into their big pot for distribution.

Councilor Valenzuela: Has that ever been challenged by us, has it been challenged? I think you said we always get an increase.

Ms. Aguirre: A slight increase toward the end of the year for their estimates. I think any challenges to those figures would come from cities like Tucson and Phoenix, which usually through state-shared revenues they receive millions of dollars.

Councilor Flagg: So, they probably got the same letter with a similar percentage?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, everybody.

Councilor Flagg: Everybody did?

Ms. Aguirre: Everybody. It was a proportional decrease. So, Mr. Mayor, that's pretty much all I wanted to highlight, is those last-minute adjustments with reduced state-shared revenues and the elimination of the DEA overtime line item, and also the elimination of DEA overtime expenditure line item. So now your total expenditures, I'm sorry, total revenues are at \$6.7 million, and total expenditures are at \$7.3 million.

Councilor Flagg: \$6.7 million is expenditures.

Ms. Aguirre: \$7.3 million.

Councilor Flagg: And \$6.7 is revenue?

Ms. Aguirre: Correct.

Councilor Flagg: Are you usually closer than that every year?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, we are, however, what we are accounting for here in this budget built in already is \$600,000 which we know we are dipping into fund balance for, for fire operations, \$600,000 which is sitting in contingency.

Councilor Flagg: So, we are burning through our contingency with that.

Ms. Aguirre: When we have gone over financials, one of the things we pointed out is that Mayor and Council, through their fund balance policy, was able to establish and maintain a 20% fund balance policy, meaning that at any given point, Mayor and Council has at least 20% of their budget reserved in fund balance for a rainy day. Mayor and Council, right now fund balance, do have an excess so in reality when we have gone over the financials in the past, it is that excess that Mayor and Council will be utilizing to provide fire services through that \$600,000. One of the things that I do want to highlight, though, is that on this report, on the very last page, one of the things that you will notice is that even though we are going into next fiscal year with expenditures above revenues, higher than revenues, by about \$615,000, we anticipate that at the end of this fiscal year which is at the end of the week, once we get all of our bills in, we will have a surplus of just about that much, \$633,000. That pretty much washes that out. It prevents the Council from further dipping into those excess reserves with this current year's savings. So, in essence, in fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2025, you are pretty much flush. In the next section of our agenda, should Mayor and Council consider any of those items or options that were listed, whether it be through personnel needs or departmental needs, then those are the items which would dip into your excess fund balance.

Councilor Flagg: So, there's no new revenue to be found for certain things, like we need to go through, if we want to give to this, we need to go through our budget and say pull it from here or here, right?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor and Councilor Flagg, yes, if that were the direction Mayor and Council wanted to go down, however, I do want you all to be mindful of the fact that these operating budgets are pretty slim when it comes down to it. The majority of our operating budgets are made up of personnel costs with very minute amounts going toward discretionary spending, our pens, our paper, pencils, toner, that's all. With regard to revenue line items, that is a project that we do have coming up here in our near future, to actually look at all the building, not just the building, but permit, inspection type fees, but City-wide, actually, to come up with recommendations for Mayor and Council at that point, establish an administrative fee schedule. That's on the radar.

Councilor Flagg: I guess, can I do some commentary, Mayor? Is this the time?

Mayor Diaz: No, I think at the end. Let's go through the next page.

Ms. Aguirre: Well, Mr. Mayor, we have already gone through this entire report. We went over it at the last meeting. I don't know if since the last meeting any of you have additional questions regarding any of it, but at this point what I really wanted to highlight is the minor changes that resulted from last meeting.

Mayor Diaz: Except for those options, one, two and three, right?

Ms. Aguirre: Those options, yes, and those are on the agenda item for discussion and direction, the next item on the agenda.

Mayor Diaz: Well, should they be discussed now?

Ms. Aguirre: We can. Are we able to?

Ms. Moreno: Yeah, we are in Study Session.

Ms. Aguirre: Ok, so we're in Study Session so go ahead and pull out the next item.

ITEM #09 - DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 GENERAL FUND OPTIONS

Ms. Aguirre: One of the things that I have provided for you all here, and just for the purpose of our Minutes, Veronica, for verification, we are going to be reviewing the materials that are included in the Discussion and Direction, otherwise known as Item #09. Jumping straight into our budget options breakdown, you are all familiar with the very top of this sheet right here, basically the revenues, expenditures which we just mentioned right now, pretty much how much the City is going to be dipping into fund balance with the budget as is, which is also being kept (inaudible) with the current year's surplus, expected surplus. Going forward then to personnel needs, we can start reviewing those, personnel needs. Right off the bat I want to mention to you all that our recommendation is always going to be conservative, so we will provide you all with an estimate and it's up for your all discussion and for my recalculations. Essentially what we have done here is present you all with options to help address areas of needs, such as personnel, and options that basically mirror what was implemented during fiscal 2024. These are not different from what we have already done. The first option listed there has to do with a 1.5% COLA to be applied to all classified personnel, also including fire reserves. Essentially, the cost of this would be a net of \$16,000. As you can see there, I accounted for \$27,000 as to what it would cost, but fire had already built in additional funding, so pretty much back that out, \$11,000 in their cost, so a net cost of \$16,000 to be able to implement a 1.5% COLA. A little note that I have there to the side is that during our conversations regarding the budget, we had met telephonically with Capt. Luna, and one of the things he mentioned was the fire reserves hourly pay and where he would like for that to reflect. He mentioned mid-\$16's to \$17.50, so by implementing this COLA it would achieve that for fire reserves. The next line item that I see here is the implementation of retention stipends, and this would be applied to all classified employees, permanent employees, full-time and part-time. The cost of implementing that would be a net of \$26,000. The next line item would be retention stipends now for police personnel, retention stipends for uniformed police personnel, again, this is classified of \$3,000, and the total cost for that would be \$48,000. Line #4 is an increase of \$1.00 for all uniformed police personnel. The cost of that is \$80,000. Behind this specific breakdown table what I have provided you all with is cost estimates as to what a \$.50 increase would be, what a \$1.00, \$1.50, etc. So, for \$1.00, \$80,000 total cost. Line #5, during last year's budget session Mayor

and Council were presented with a policy having to do with longevity and it was designed to compensate employees after 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service, and respectively, the compensation was 2, 4, 6 and 8%. At this point, we only have one employee that would qualify for a five-years, so the cost of that is \$1,000. Line #6 is an increase in police uniform allowance by \$200. The total cost of that would be \$3,000, and I do want to mention that with inflationary costs affecting everything across the board, that we have seen that also affect the cost of uniforms. So, how much was it, Chief, \$600?

Chief Denogean: I think it was \$800.

Ms. Aguirre: \$800 original and we're increasing it another \$200.

Chief Denogean: \$200, to \$1,000.

Ms. Aguirre: What \$800 used to buy before, yeah, it can only buy you so much. \$200 I think would be sufficient for them to be able to replace their gear and keep it up to par. So, that is it for personnel needs.

Councilor Valenzuela: For #2, I heard you say \$26,000, but I have \$29,000 in mine. I just want to get a correct number.

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor and Councilor Valenzuela, I did a net because included in my #2 is the one classified employee, and you guys already have enough budget capacity in Fire to be able to accommodate that.

Councilor Valenzuela: I see the breakdown, thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: That pretty much does it for our personnel needs. Now, we can jump into the next section and then after we are done going through these sections, if any of you would have additional questions, comments, concerns, if you feel that they have been addressed and you have consensus on any of these items, then we will go through and gather your consensus on those items, just so for purposes of moving forward with a tentative budget. That is essentially what we are doing here, going through the asks, to be able to narrow them down, and see what Mayor and Council want to implement on a tentative budget. Ok, so now going into departmental needs.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, please.

Ms. Aguirre: Departmental needs, in our discussions the Chief mentioned it would be necessary to purchase at least five radios. In the current year, the Police Department has purchased a total of -

Chief Denogean: We purchased 12.

Ms. Aguirre: A total of 12 brand new ones. A large portion of those 12 were purchased through general fund. You may recall we did receive a one-time money from, I believe it was the income -

Chief Denogean: Tohono O'odham?

Ms. Aguirre: No, we received it from URS, from Urban Revenue Sharing, and then they were able to purchase the additional radios through grant. What the Chief has mentioned is the need for at least five more radios. What they do have right now with regards to equipment is that they got some of their old radios that have been encrypted. We did save some money because we spent about \$1,500 on each radio to be encrypted.

Chief Denogean: So, they haven't actually gone into operation. We are still waiting for the City of Tucson. Everything we do when it comes to radios depends on the City of Tucson so we are waiting for them to go into

process because everything on their radios, the new radios are fine, will be encrypted. This will also include the Fire Department. When we are talking about radios, we are also talking about radios for the Fire Department because we all have to make sure their radios are in place also. So, what we have been able to do so far is, we purchased 12 radios. We are still trying to work out details with the City of Tucson, but the hope is that with a lot of their encrypted radios, they will trade us their encrypted radios encrypted for our radios that are not encrypted and we will be able to get those hopefully for free. We will have to see, there is nothing set in stone on that, but that's what we have been working on. Every one of our radios has to be encrypted and between us and the Fire Department, it's a total of 39 radios and they don't even include all the vehicle ones, but we are working on them. Just so you know, if the company Motorola worked to encrypt the radio, it would cost \$1,200 to \$1,500 just to encrypt the radios that we currently have.

Councilor Valenzuela: One radio?

Chief Denogean: One radio.

Councilor Flagg: So, you are doing it instead of them?

Chief Denogean: Well, we are hoping that we get some of the radios from the City of Tucson, but that's still negotiations going on behind the scenes. If that doesn't work out, we will have the 12 brand new radios to replace the ones that we have in the Police Department. We will also have to get some of the new ones to the Fire Department. We will have to, with the rest of the radios, we will have to pay \$1,500 to encrypt them or hopefully we will get some radios from the City of Tucson that we are able to trade out for our old radios that are not encrypted for their encrypted radios. That's what we are hoping to do, but that's still in the works and nothing is guaranteed on that. And then we also have 16 police vehicles and three fire vehicles that will also need to be encrypted, the radios in the vehicles.

Councilor Valenzuela: You have 15 vehicles?

Chief Denogean: Sixteen patrol vehicles.

Councilor Valenzuela: Sixteen? Ok, thank you.

Chief Denogean: It's a very expensive thing that we really have no choice in the matter. If it was up to me and we didn't have to depend on the City of Tucson, we wouldn't go to it, but it is something that we get our communications and our 9-1-1 calls from there, that we are forced to switch over to that situation. A brand-new radio is like \$7,000 that comes encrypted. They are overpriced in my opinion, but that's what they are.

Councilor Flagg: And Motorola is gouging you on that cost, right?

Chief Denogean: I don't want to say anything bad because they have (inaudible) many other times.

Councilor Valenzuela: I have a question. Should I wait until the end? My understanding is that we have been granted some money from I think one of the Tribes for some vehicles, for some equipment. Are we planning to apply again?

Chief Denogean: I have written three grants. One for Gila River which is, to be honest with you, I don't expect to get anything. We never applied with Gila River, but I figured I'd try it this year. Usually, the reservations want to go with places that are close to them and people they interact and work with, so I don't expect any from that. The two agencies that we work really, really close with are the Pascua Yaqui and the Tohono

O'odham Nation and they have been very generous to us in the past with applications with them for cars. In the recent past they have helped us with cars, but times change, and things change. I can't guarantee anything, and they haven't, we will get answers before September if they are going to give us any, but we have to wait the process to see because many other police agencies and fire departments put in for those, too. Just so we are all aware, those two Nations have been very, very generous to us in the past so I am always grateful for everything they have given us, and they have been very good to us in the past. Whether they give us anything this year is neither here nor there because they have been very generous with us in the past and we don't want to forget that.

Councilor Valenzuela: Right.

Councilor Flagg: You know, my experience is like, if you go out and walk these streets and talk to people, pretty much by far the thing people talk about more than anything else is public safety, cops and fire. And you know, they complain a lot. We're not the biggest staffed entity in the world, so that's the issue. I mean, they're out there talking to people. So, you know, a person sitting here discussing the budget, it seems kind of stupid if you don't honor that sentiment, you know, that's what people are talking about. I realize that we are a few dollars short on balancing the budget, it seems like, so I don't know that there's money to just like take and throw at the cops. I mean, at least we have been proactive with Fire, and we got that bond election coming up, so that's a real plus, but on the cop end of it, I don't see how we can, like, not try to invest more in cops. And I do think that even though I acknowledge all the complaints that you hear from people, our response times are better than Tucson, I mean, that's my experience. I deal with both because I live right on the line of Tucson and South Tucson. I think it's a matter of going through this budget and finding stuff and usually I would say it's being creative, but hell, I personally really don't know how to be creative with the budget. I think there are things we should look at and try to redirect in the budget. One of them is like the \$19,000 from the DEA. You could invest that in the police, and the other one is that general plan that we talked about, to hell with, to be honest, my feeling is to hell with the general plan, a piece of paper. We already have the NRSA even if it isn't perfect. So, I don't think we need \$100,000 for that plan, I mean, a compromise would be \$50,000. So, there's \$50,000 right there, you know, and my thing would be the TO's and the Yaqui's have been very generous with us before, so instead of us having \$87,000 in our budget for a cop car, let's hope and pray that they come through on that level and you know, even if they didn't, I'd rather put the money in the cops' pockets instead of some car even though we obviously need it. I just came up with three things to come up with some money, and my thing is I think we have like time to try to, if anybody can be brilliant or lucky or whatever and go through this budget and come up with some stuff, I would say it should go to the cops. And when you were gone, Commander Navarro, he's a good speaker.

Chief Denogean: I know he is.

Councilor Flagg: And my thing was, what? The head guys are going to ask for a bunch more money? Like, no way, but he was compelling, and he had the paperwork, stats, so I am even willing to budge a little bit on that. So, I don't know but going into specifics, I think the compensation, what do you call that, the retention bonuses, I think that is a given, and you know, like I don't think we can go as high as what the Chief wrote, and I'm going by the stuff we got in the last meeting. I assume this is the Chief writing it, as it was presented by Commander Navarro.

Chief Denogean: You are correct.

Councilor Flagg: And you know, instead of \$1.00, it could go up to \$1.50, couldn't it? We have the money for that, right. Ultimately, that question goes to the Finance Director, and if the money didn't go into making it 1.5, like \$1.50 an hour, or even \$2.00 if didn't go into that, make it into a bonus and then increase the bonuses, you know. I think there's things, like I came up with three of them to come up with money to up that \$1.00 an hour and/or turn it into a bonus, a bigger bonus.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok, I agree with you, we should definitely give the police officers a raise, all the police officers a raise. I tend to agree more with the bonus instead of going with the higher dollar amount because who knows what condition our budget is going to be in next year, to take that away from them, you know, I think it's going to do more harm than good, but if you could find room in there to give each police officer a bonus, maybe split it up into two, I'm definitely open to that. And as for the vehicles, yes, if we can hold off on that and try to find some other money, my understanding is that we are also looking to hire a grant writer here pretty soon, and they might be able to find us more grants besides the ones that are offered by the Tribal Nation. Maybe a \$500 bonus per officer would be something we could look into. We have 15 officers, is that correct?

Chief Denogean: Right now, we have 13 full-time officers, including me and (inaudible).

City Attorney Stinson: If you fill those other positions.

Chief Denogean: If we fill those positions, we will have 15.

City Attorney Stinson: So, we have to budget for 15.

Councilor Valenzuela: You have to budget for 15, ok. I'm with you, yeah.

Councilor Flagg: Ok.

Chief Denogean: Can I comment, Councilor Flagg, I agree with everything you said there, and I just came from a meeting that they were having and I know that many times there are many people who are upset with the cops and feel more could be done, and I think a lot of times, because I think a lot of times the staff is meeting with a lot of folks and agency people explaining why they do things, why they do it. Now, there's definitely need for lots of improvement on the police part in making sure they are out there and doing things because we work for the people, and we want to make the people happy. We are always striving to educate the people and I would just say, when people come to you, tell them I have an open door. If they want to come in and ask me about things or have things they want done, I am always there and trying to work with them.

Councilor Flagg: Well, I do tell them about that, and they roll their eyes kind of thing, just to be real with you.

Chief Denogean: I get where you are coming from, and I understand where they're coming from. There's a lot of frustration out there and there's a lot of things that happen to people, bad things happen, and they just don't feel sometimes they are getting the response they need. My ultimate job is to respond to the needs of people here and give them a service they need, and I am going to do the best job I can do for them, and I appreciate you guys saying all those kind things, but I want to strive to be better on our part and I want you to direct people to me if they have those issues.

Councilor Flagg: Ok. So my thing is like, I don't give a damn about the people being happy, so to speak, but I do give a damn about like having our City being more financially stable and financially healthy and so that means you need to do economic development, bring in businesses that bring in revenue, and I think the

building block to make that happen is public safety, like improving cops and fire with the budget we have and figuring out ways to creatively add to it. I think that that is true, and the other thing is I'm saying like I'm into putting more money somehow somehow in the cops' pockets, but I think there's accountability from the cops, too. And I think my colleagues and myself could be more forthcoming in trying to be directive to the cops, because I see that policing is done by the guys in uniforms with guns on and in the car, but I think you need to involve the community more and we need to do community policing, figure that out, so it's almost like we need to meet and we need to get maybe even more reports and stuff, and so, it's almost like trying to invest more in the cops over time, but there should be maybe be something along the idea of, what do they call that, performance measures, that type of thing. I think that we need to make the cops accountable, too, on stuff that really interests us, and it comes from the outside. And then there is more money with that, too, that would be a way of thinking, so I don't know, I feel like I have been new on this Council and haven't been forthcoming enough and haven't been proactive enough and I look around, and maybe I should say it, I'll say I, but maybe we, should be more proactive and get them, you know what I mean.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you, Brian.

Mayor Diaz: I'd like to ask a question. The cost of implementation on the option sheets, it shows \$450,391. If we implemented all of them, is that the cost?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, Mr. Mayor, that's correct.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, so you would carry that number to the general budget.

Ms. Aguirre: Correct.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. It shows \$600,000, I guess quite a few places. What is that? It's under Fire most of the time.

Ms. Aguirre: Yes; Mr. Mayor, that is the money that is in contingency for Fire operations.

Mayor Diaz: That is what?

Ms. Aguirre: The money that is in contingency, that's where we placed it during the current fiscal year, fiscal 2024 budget.

Mayor Diaz: So, theoretically, then this \$450,000 would come out of the contingency fund also?

Ms. Aguirre: It would come out of fund balance.

Mayor Diaz: Fund balance.

Councilor Flagg: Is that contingency fund?

Ms. Aguirre: So, you are asking where it is budgeted or where it comes out of?

Mayor Diaz: Where it comes out of.

Ms. Aguirre: The \$600,000 is coming out of fund balance.

Mayor Diaz: And the contingency fund?

Ms. Aguirre: You put it in contingency, so contingency fund is not necessarily a fund of its own. It is a budget line item for an expenditure. It's an expenditure budget.

Mayor Diaz: Right, I understand that.

Ms. Aguirre: So, in essence, if you all decided to implement all \$450,000 of expenses that are listed, it would be dipping into fund balance as well because we only have \$6.7 million in revenue, but then we would put it into the individual departments.

Mayor Diaz: Ok. Let me take a few moments that I hear for a while, I guess that the City of Tucson was asking for \$2.4 million budget for the implementation for after they got their \$2 million for the truck and everything else, right? I came back and I offered a budget of \$2 million and then I submitted another one where I was showing the hiring of seven firefighters, one of them being a Battalion Chief, a working Battalion Chief, and two reserves per shift making it four, two full time, two reserves, and I didn't get any, I requested the numbers for that and I never got them. Anyway, I believe that that budget would be at least \$450,000 because there would be a lot of stuff that would not exist if you did that. And also, if you say we can move the \$600,000 to purchase a fire truck, for example, it is possible that you can still be under the \$900,000 that's in theoretically contingency fund, and if you're doing the \$450,000, you know that is still within the budget as far as the line items. You know, you show the front-end loader, excuse me, let me go back to the Fire Department, right now you have one full-time and approximately 29 reserves on your list, I think. So, between now and when we started saving money, if the budget passes, if the budget passes, I mean, if the bond passes, if the bond passes, we need to do a fire truck because it always breaks down and sometimes, we can't even use it. And the fact is, the mutual aid agreement is ending. So, we need to find some financial support for that, right? So, between now and then we don't really know if we can continue the way the Fire Department is working. It needs to be reorganized, I believe. And it has to be done, it should have been done in the last budget. If we don't do it in this budget, we are not going to have the money for mutual aid, we're not going to have money for the Police Department, and in fact, now that we're doing this is that every time we vote on the budget, that sets the policy. And the policy is that right now, the way the Fire Department is operating, it is operating with the, like I said, with the reserves, four of them, and maybe getting a fire truck, and no money for the mutual aid. So again, it's that we have not finished with the Fire Department, we have not. Whether we do it in using Mark's budget or this budget, we have not finished it. And now, we are going to put the \$450,000, and that includes Fire, but the Public Works, the front-end loader is listed twice, the Police is on there, so what is going to happen is pension payments, RTA, bonds, all of that has to be thought of within this budget before we actually approve the policies. So, it's really frustrating that yes, it doesn't show it on these sheets that we've got now but there are some line items that are carried over from year to year, so is that money being spent? No. I mean, obviously it is on the budget as a line item and the line item carries through so the expenditure happens, right? Because at the total end, you find that that line item was spent so you deduct it from the total amount, and you create your budget. You have unfunded Police positions, correct?

Ms. Aguirre: There is two.

Mayor Diaz: Two?

Ms. Aguirre: And a partial that was unfunded in order to balance the budget.

Mayor Diaz: Right, in order to balance the -

Ms. Aguirre: In order to balance the budget of prior years and that has not been reversed, so their staffing continues the same.

Mayor Diaz: Right.

Ms. Aguirre: Unlike the Fire Department where their staffing has increased to four, the Police Department still maintains staffing at the same levels, with 15 on the roster and two, maybe two and a half, unfunded.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, so if we accept the budget with the \$450,000, that includes the raises for the Police, right? Is that correct? It includes the raises for Police, right?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, that is correct.

Mayor Diaz: I guess I'm not making my point clear that now that's fine and all that, but you have not finished with the Fire Department. That's concerning to me.

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, one of the things I need to point out is that last summer when we were working on the budget for fiscal 2024, it was agreed upon by everybody to include that \$600,000 in contingency for purposes of using it in the Fire Department. Since then, Staff has been given direction to proceed in a direction. We went out and we obtained quotes. That quote came back at one-time expenditures of about \$1 million, no, I'm sorry, more than that, one-time expenditures, \$2 million which included fire truck, updates to the fire station, as well as cost of training, ok, so that's one piece of it. A second piece of it is what it would cost year-to-year and the cost is \$2.1 million. Fast forward, a couple of meetings ago a couple months ago, when you yourself presented an example of what it would cost to do in-house, it cost \$2.1 million as well on your example. It was at that point when Mayor, when the rest of the Council opted to form a Citizens Advisory Committee because they said we can't afford one way or the other because they both cost \$2.1 million. So, right now we've got in the budget \$1.6 million. We need to find the difference to be able to either outsource or keep it in-house because it seems it is going to cost the same amount based on your estimate of \$2.1 million as well. With that said, the Citizen's Advisory Committee was formed. We went over things. We needed to come up with an option that would cover the cost of a fire truck, upgrade equipment, as well as continuous funding to come up with the difference from \$1.6 million we had in the budget, to the \$2.1 million. That whole plan was brought to you all and it was approved through Resolution No. 24-09 to be placed on the ballot for consideration of the voters at the General Election November 5th. Now, at that point if it is approved, then you will have money to straighten out and do what we need to do to figure out the Fire situation.

Mayor Diaz: What I am interested in is between now and then.

Ms. Aguirre: Between now and then Mr. Mayor, Staff has been given direction to also increase staffing, so staffing has been increased to four to be able to have adequate people on board every day and to also be able to suppress fires because with four, that satisfies the two in, two out.

Mayor Diaz: It still doesn't cover the possible mutual aid charges nor the fire truck.

Ms. Aguirre: Which is true, Mr. Mayor, at this current point in time.

Mayor Diaz: Correct.

Ms. Aguirre: At this current point in time. November is right around the corner, and we did have our conversations. We had conversations, I'll be very frank with you, we had a conversation in which we discussed the situations with Capt. Luna, and at that point, what was brought to our attention was the fire truck was currently under repair, so we asked the question, do you think it can make it X number of months, and the answer was yes. That was the honest truth in our conversation that day.

Capt. Luna: May I speak?

Mayor Diaz: No, I can't let you talk.

Councilor Flagg: We could, right?

Mayor Diaz: The thing is, it's impossible for that truck to last that long, you know. The Chief there is very concerned about the actual replacement. If you have a replacement you don't have to worry about it when the money starts coming in because that truck will last. So again, the fire truck needs to be replaced on this budget this time, now, because of the fact we have again Thanksgiving and Christmas. Are we going to have the same situation that we had last year with the reserves. Yes, no? I don't know, we might, but again, the truck is the most important part of it. The truck needs to be replaced now, I mean, it can't last because initially the agreement -

Councilor Aguirre: Excuse me, could I say something, please?

Mayor Diaz: Hang on just a second, Cesar. So, it's really only \$350,000, it's not the whole budget, it's not the whole \$600,000 that was in the contingency. Actually, what it seems like, that was the money that years ago that was allocated to the truck, a \$600,000 truck, and that money was kept from buying that truck and put into savings, I believe, and it stayed there. Ok, go ahead, Cesar.

Councilor Aguirre: Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to think that, I feel like if we were to purchase a fire truck now, it would be totally putting the horse in front of, I feel like us trying to go out and purchase a fire truck at this time would be irresponsible of us if we haven't made the decision on which route we are going with the Fire Station or exactly what we are doing. I believe most of us want to work toward keeping the Fire Station and I am totally in agreement with that, and moving down the road if we can make it work, but the numbers don't add up and we have to figure it out. The problem I see here in moving forward is if we decide to try to buy a fire truck now before making a decision later, it will bite us in the butt. If we have a choice to go a different route for some reason if the revenue doesn't come in as expected, if this bond doesn't pass, I think that we need to be able to at that time figure out whether the bond does or doesn't pass, figure out what route we are going to take and then figure out how we are going to buy a fire truck and how we are going to do the things we're going to do in order to keep the fire station going. I think we could possibly be shooting ourselves in the foot if we jump ahead too soon. That's my thinking.

Mayor Diaz: I appreciate those comments but again, budget sets policy. Once you accept the budget, the only way you are going to move money is through line items, and the line items, they have to be brought before us and of course, again that is going to take time and research and everything else, instead of just doing it now and putting it on the front end, there's a lot of things that can be moved around and we need to do that also. Like Brian was saying, those line items especially in miscellaneous, they need to be looked at and it really intensifies where the money is really going as far miscellaneous, is that really being spent or can that be reduced in respect to the line item and maybe brought back at a different point in time, but we need that fire truck. Thank you.

Councilor Valenzuela: You bring up a good point. Where would we get the money for, the IGA could be ending here soon with the City of Tucson, so where would we get the money to pay for those services?

Ms. Moreno: If I may, Mayor, I'm not going to get into the argument with regard to purchasing the fire truck, but these bottom two are to Councilor's question. We have a mutual aid and there is the automatic aid. The

automatic aid was put in place ten years ago which the Captain can help me with this, that is the IGA when we get a fire that comes in through the tones, if there is a building fire it automatically kicks in for TFD to come in and help. The mutual aid agreement does not go away because that mutual aid agreement extends to all jurisdictions in the region if we need help. So, the automatic aid is what is going away. I believe there was this belief we would get zero help but what is going away is the automatic aid. The mutual aid is not going away, the automatic aid is.

Mayor Diaz: Right, right, I understand that, but it's the financing of the cost that is going to happen when they do show, especially the City of Tucson.

Councilor Valenzuela: So, if we continue with this mutual aid and they come in and put out a fire, they won't be billing us then, or we will just go back to the mutual aid, not to automatic aid?

Ms. Moreno: Automatic aid, yes, that will go away. So, in the event that there is a structure fire and we are now scheduling four per shift, the plan is to make sure we have four per shift, and we have functioning apparatus and the Council does not plan for long-term to have a question for the ballot, so we have heard from the Captain that things have changed. To our knowledge, the truck could hold on until the end of the year. If the Council has any decision to consider even buying a fire truck, that's up to the Council, but if you are going to buy a truck, don't buy a used truck, buy a new truck. I mean, if that's what you're thinking, that's where the ballot measure is going to come in, it would allow the Council at that point in time to determine what model you want. Do you want to keep it in-house? That is something to consider when you are there. At this point in the budget, a lot can happen tonight but what is being presented is a status quo budget, what we had last year, the same thing. I think there have been some minor changes but at this point, one is Councilor Flagg mentioned \$19,000 from DEA. I don't know if that would make a difference, Lourdes. Reducing the \$100,000 in the general fund from \$100,000 to \$50,000, and then maybe holding off on the ask for the Police car, a total of \$87,000 to see if we are awarded the grant application through all Tribal entities, which we would be able to save at least \$87,000 in that line item.

Councilor Valenzuela: And the possibility of a bonus and how much and what that would look like, where would we get that money? I'm thinking \$500 per Police Officer.

Ms. Aguirre: So, Mr. Mayor and Councilor Valenzuela, the cost of a \$500 increase to those retention stipends is about \$8,000. So, all in all, the total cost of line item #3 would be \$56,500.

Councilor Valenzuela: I'm sorry, what line item?

Ms. Aguirre: Line #3, increasing it by \$500 would be a total cost of \$56,500.

Mayor Diaz: I have more commentary about this. I read someplace that there was a house fire in the City of Tucson. They showed up with 29 firemen, 11 trucks for that fire. It was controlled within fifteen minutes, true, but that number is horrendous for getting a bill if we were in a mutual aid agreement with the City, what do you call it?

Ms. Moreno: Mutual aid or automatic aid?

Mayor Diaz: Automatic. To get a bill from that kind of services, we won't be able to afford it so again, and I go back to purchasing the truck now, because with that we won't need as much free mutual aid, I'm sorry, the mutual aid, because it has a ladder and you can use it and we buy it now, later on we can buy a new truck with

the money that is coming in and now we have two trucks which would qualify us for a certification of a real fire department because right now we are not certified per the State, is that correct?

Capt. Luna: That's not necessarily entirely true, but you are correct in what you are saying about the ladder truck and if the money does come in and you buy a new truck then it makes two.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you, but anyway, we need to do something now. Move the figures around now, otherwise, we are going to be in financial problems and I do agree with what the Police Department or the \$450,000 but there is something else there, that the street sweeper is not on there and the fact that some of the surplus equipment is not at the Public Works Department anymore, so I don't know if that was sold or given away or whatever, but we need some kind of miscellaneous items that have been sold or have been given away that it comes off of the budget in a line item or somehow to reflect those. That could be maybe a few dollars, but still some money we need. Thank you, that's all.

Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor?

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: I just have a question. We used to have a ladder truck, right? Do you recall how long ago that was?

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor, that was during former City Manager Luis Gonzales' tenure. He sold the ladder truck, if I am correct about that. Do you remember, Lourdes? His term was 2013, 2014, 2015. The ladder truck was sold.

Councilor Valenzuela: Do you know why or does anybody know why it was sold?

Ms. Moreno: I don't know specifically why, but probably because we were in a bind and needed the money. I'm sure that was one of the reasons the City was facing financial challenges and he thought at the time the money was valued for that ladder truck could be used toward saving the budget. It was at the time when a secondary property tax was determined to be illegal, so yeah, we had to find a way to make up this \$600,000 that we were losing annually, the secondary property tax, if I recall, for quite some time, at least ten years, but the ladder truck was sold.

Councilor Valenzuela: I'm sorry, I don't know if I understood you correctly, Mayor, but you're saying we're not qualified as a real Fire Department because we don't have a ladder truck?

Mayor Diaz: No, certified.

Councilor Valenzuela: Certified because of the ladder truck?

Mayor Diaz: Because of the way that we have the reserves, we have the full time, and we have a small fire truck that we don't have a certificate.

Councilor Valenzuela: From who?

Capt. Luna: If I could speak, because I know something about that. It has to do with the ISO that pertains to both entities coming in. It's long and complicated and I don't want to speak for too long, but if you talk about a ladder truck, businesses coming in, what they want to find out if you guys have a ladder truck. That's what attracts businesses and that does affect ISO rating also.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok, it's the ISO rating.

Ms. Moreno: If I may, just something to think about. If Mayor and Council is considering a temporary solution to a long-term challenge, looking at the numbers that Chief Denogean presented at the last meeting, at least 89% of the calls that Police/Fire received was EMS calls. Maybe consider the purchase of a medical piece of equipment versus an apparatus and maybe thinking about the mutual aid in the event that we do have a fire, we can reach out. It is incumbent upon all of you as elected officials to talk to your equal counterparts in the City to see how that can be achieved, but looking at the call volume and the call type that is coming from Fire Department, a large amount does come from EMS. Not to say that the Fire Department truck is not needed, it absolutely is needed, but I think the Mayor's goal is to make something happen like now which cost is going to save money for the City, so I think that is something to think about.

Councilor Valenzuela: I have another question, I think for Andy. What is our current rating now for the Fire Department?

Capt. Luna: The current rating is a two.

Councilor Valenzuela: A two. And what is the City of Tucson's rating?

Capt. Luna: One.

Councilor Valenzuela: I heard this from some constituents. If we are a level one rated Fire Department, does that help decrease their insurance, like their property insurance?

Capt. Luna: Well, it does but if you are going from a two to a one, that's pretty minor. It would, it would be a very small amount, not enough to make a difference but it would be a lot lower if you increased it by a lot. So, since we are right up there, if you were to take a survey of ISO ratings through the State, some ratings are a lot lower than theirs, about three or four, where we as South Tucson average two, which is very good. That's only because of the surrounding areas. It doesn't have to do with them responding. It has to do with the fact that they are close; there are three stations around. So, if it's automatic aid or mutual aid, that rating stays the same.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok. The insurance in the surrounding area, not just your department.

Capt. Luna: The community itself through that rating comes from other Departments that surround the area.

Chief Denogean: The ISO rating was also based on many other things to include what Capt. Luna said, but it was based on response time which the City of South Tucson had a very good response time, and it is based on the training and the thing that is beneficial with our Fire Department is all our guys, work full-time or part-time for other fire departments, but their training is up very high. So, those factors also come into play in that, besides what Capt. Luna was talking about.

Capt. Luna: Thank you for that. That is correct.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Mr. Mayor, I'd like to say a little bit about this because I tried to the other night and they said it would be put on the next time, but it wasn't and if I was with the Fire people and you were with me when we went to the meeting two or three weeks ago, I told them, they were all sitting there, about how much we owed them in City of Tucson, etc., and I told them about South Tucson I was the Acting Mayor and this is what I have to say, and they thanked me for what I had to say. What I had to say is, I have not done well.

I have been here since 2018 and I am not running again because we have had so many empty buildings that I drive by. And I told the firefighters that I guarantee you that the people who do have businesses will go up, doubled, in their price when they don't have their own Fire thing. Like the building belongs to them and the firefighters should belong to the City, and they said, I like how you think. That's all I have to say.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Well, I think we have a big dilemma here if we are going to purchase a fire truck. All these multiple scenarios we have will create a nice chunk of money as well throughout the year if we get it spent. So, personally, I just think that purchasing a fire truck is something that should be continued to be discussed because I believe the purpose of the bond was to assist us in buying it without having to touch our reserve funds, and I'll just say that we've just got to look at it from a different perspective than other just going and spending the money, just as if we had it. I don't know the status or condition of the fire truck. I wish we would know something about them, whether they are functioning half-ass or they are working full speed, but we always have something coming up and I just need to make sure that we have reserves in the fund there to use it if we have to. The fire truck will come and go, and so will us because we're running for re-election, so let it take its course and see where it takes us. I vote holding back on purchasing another fire truck, just because. That's all I have, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: I have one more item, but it's been bothering me. Apparently, when I mentioned outsourcing the Police Department, there was a lot of feedback in regard to keeping it here. So, the thing is, other cities have done it and they have saved money. A half million dollars to our budget would sure help a lot, and I'm talking a merger versus an outsource, and the merger can be done, and it has been done with other cities. If the Police Department were to merge with the County and they saved a lot of money, what I would like to do is as far as direction, is to ask our friends at the University to do a study on that for free. They do stuff for free, anyway, hopefully. If a merger would be done between us and the County, how much money that would save us, possibly, if you would.

Ms. Moreno: If you want a quicker response, Mayor, I can reach out to County Manager Jan Leshar and simultaneously reach out to the U of A, and ask her to quantify what we currently have versus what it would cost for the County to come in.

Mayor Diaz: And that's a merger, not an outright -

Ms. Moreno: Right, if I understand you correctly, you want to do like, mirror what we currently have in the budget and then what it would cost the County to come in with the same exact like personnel, or what are your thoughts?

Mayor Diaz: More or less keeping our employees where they are at here in the City, that's what a merger would do is they would keep our employees here working for Pima County.

Ms. Moreno: So, the County would be taking and paying our employees.

Mayor Diaz: Right. Are there any more comments in regard to this? The next item is #09. I guess if we don't have anymore comments, do I have for Item #09, discussion and direction, do we have direction?

Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor, I think from what I heard is reducing the Development Services from \$100,000 to \$50,000, adding the \$8,000 to the retention stipend which would be \$56,000 instead of \$48,443, and I thought there was something else.

Councilor Flagg: The cop car.

Councilor Valenzuela: Oh, yeah, putting off the purchase of the vehicle and I think that was it.

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor and Councilor Valenzuela, did you also intend to hold off on the radios?

Councilor Valenzuela: Yeah, because the money for the gaming, the gaming grants, that's what, we could use that for all equipment, right, not just for vehicles.

Chief Denogean: The specific request we put in was for vehicles.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok. I'm sorry, so the radios was \$32,500 and you need five more?

Ms. Aguirre: They have 12 now in the process of being encrypted.

Chief Denogean: We are trying to get them encrypted. The 12 new radios come encrypted. We will have to get other radios encrypted that we have, but the 12 don't completely fill what we need.

Councilor Valenzuela: Can we do a budget adjustment maybe after we hear back from the Tribes about those grant funds?

Ms. Aguirre: Uh huh.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok, so I think putting off the radios, too?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: So that lowers the option breakdown to \$400,000, right?

Councilor Valenzuela: Or more, so more like \$450,000 minus the \$50,000, minus the \$87,000 minus the \$32,000.

Ms. Aguirre: \$569,500 in savings. So the \$450,000 went up to \$458,000 with an increase in the retention stipends for the cops, reduce from that the sum of \$169,500 for holding off on radios, holding off on cop cars, and reducing the Development Services general plan to \$50,000. So, it brings it down from \$458,000 to \$288,000.

Councilor Flagg: \$19,000 for the DEA.

Ms. Aguirre: Add that as well, and you are looking at \$262,000. And it's not \$19,000, it's actually \$26,000 because we are working off the employee-related expenses that do come out of the general fund that are related to the \$19,000. So, it's \$26,000.

Councilor Flagg: Good.

Ms. Aguirre: Already with these things we discussed, that would reduce that proposal of \$458,000 down to \$262,000.

Mayor Diaz: And the expense for the fire truck?

Councilor Valenzuela: I'm hearing consensus to put that off. I don't know, maybe discussion.

Councilor Flagg: I agree with my colleague Mr. Aguirre, I think we should figure out the course we are going on which heavily involves the bond election in November and then jump on it and do whatever course we are going to go.

Mayor Diaz: What happens if the bond doesn't pass?

Councilor Flagg: We go back to the drawing board.

Mayor Diaz: If you buy the truck now, you have two trucks.

Councilor Valenzuela: We don't need two trucks. Don't we have two trucks already?

Mayor Diaz: No. Fire trucks.

Councilor Aguirre: Can I say something?

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Mayor Diaz: Yes, go ahead.

Councilor Aguirre: So, Mayor, I understand what you are saying about having two trucks, but the problem is when we are looking at budgets and thinking about revenue, if we are in a situation where we can't bring in the revenue that we need to bring in, we are going to be back in the same boat we are going to need to cut people's jobs, cut Fire Department, try to find somewhere else to cut if we don't get that bond passed. And I think first of all, we need to see what happens with the bond and second of all, we all as a Council we need to be on the same page as to where we are going forward. It doesn't make sense about buying stuff without a plan and that's just my opinion. Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: I disagree but -

Councilor Valenzuela: Do you need it in the form of a Motion or is it just direction?

Ms. Moreno: It's for direction, Mayor and Council. It's a Study Session.

Ms. Aguirre: We've moved on to discussion and direction.

Ms. Moreno: It's a Study Session.

Ms. Aguirre: Right. At this point we have already gotten the modified figure because we need the direction in order to be able to proceed towards tentative budget, so at this point we have already discussed what items are going to be on hold which are Items #7, #8, and a reduction in line item #10, that coupled with savings from the DEA employee-related expenses, brings it down to cost of implementation to \$262,000, from \$458,000. If the consensus is to implement the rest of the items just as discussed, then we would implement that into the budget.

Councilor Flagg: And where are we at timeline-wise?

Ms. Aguirre: Timewise, so on the calendar we would come back at the next meeting to present these items and implement them into a tentative budget. Then that gets posted for two consecutive weeks, once a week

for two consecutive weeks, and then we come back with a final and that is pretty much cutting it close. The deadline for a final is the 29th of July.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, so direction is whatever was stated right now.

Ms. Aguirre: Ok, and we can recap that. Direction, then, to implement options #1, #2, #3 with an increase of \$500.00. Line #4, #5 and #6, also line item #10 at \$50,000, line item #11 and #12 for a total of \$262,000 to be added to the general fund budget.

Councilor Valenzuela: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: You forgot about the fire truck.

Councilor Valenzuela: So, there's a motion on the table.

Mayor Diaz: We need a motion.

Councilor Valenzuela: I already made a motion. She was just clarifying.

Ms. Aguirre: Ok.

Mayor Diaz: Is there a Second?

Vice Mayor Lopez: I'll Second it.

Mayor Diaz: There's been a Motion and a Second.

Ms. Moreno: Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Aye.

Mayor Diaz: No.

Councilor Flagg: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Yes.

Councilor Aguirre: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: So that concludes that.

ITEM #10 - ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Diaz: Do I have a Motion to Adjourn?

Councilor Flagg: So moved.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you, Jesus.

Ms. Moreno: Thank you.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 25th day of June, 2024. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2024.



Veronica Moreno, City Clerk