

LRB – FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

FEBRUARY 27, 2002 AGENDA

ITEM 4, FILE 011399

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Emma J. Stamps

File #011399 is a substitute ordinance relating to uniform and clothing benefits for nonrepresented non-civilian, fire department employees.

Background

1. The term Commissary is synonymous with “fire fighter clothing replacement”, “fire fighter [safety] clothing equipment replacement” and “fire fighter clothing replacement schedule”.
2. Mandated by State Department of Commerce regulation Section Comm. 30.11, the Fire Department is required to provide appropriate safety equipment to its employees (fire fighters). Costs of the State mandated commissary system were not available upon adoption of the 2001 budget.
3. In April 2001, the DOA-Budget and Management Division provided the following 3-year project cost estimates: \$405,850 in 2001, \$388,850 in both 2002 and 2003 (based on contract prices).
4. Per DOA-Budget and Management, the fiscal impact of the commissary system totaled \$372,253 in 2001, approximately 91.7% of the projected \$405,850.
5. The Fire Department's 2002 budget includes funding for the 2002 commissary-system costs.

Discussions

1. The annual uniform and clothing maintenance allowance for fire fighting personnel was reduced \$150, from \$400 to \$250 beginning in 2001.
2. The Milwaukee Fire Department Chief Officers' Association is a 36-member body consisting of Fire Chief (1), First Assistant/Chief Engineer (1), and Battalion Chief (24), Deputy Chief, Fire (9), Chief Dispatcher of Fire Alarm and Telegraph (1). Approximately 12 members per year, from 2001 to 2003, participate in the Commissary program.
3. This ordinance seeks to extend Local 215 commissary benefits to all 36 members of the Chief Officers Association. Under this ordinance, each employee promoted to the rank of battalion chief is provided with the following items:

1 white nomex coat	1 pair of boots
1 pair of white nomex trousers	1 pair of gloves
1 white helmet	
4. Previously, Fire Department Chief Officers wore helmets, painted white. The state mandates condemned this clothing article because they were "painted", thus creating a need to change bid specifications to require that helmets not be painted.

5. Current legislation does not allow the Fire Department to pay for Chief Officers Association members' state mandated helmets, boots and gloves.

Other Information

The Fire Department's sought and received \$140,000 in 2001 Common Council Contingency Funds, after determining that the 2001 operating budget could not absorb all 2001 commissary system costs

Resolution 011251 authorized the fund transfer to pay outstanding invoices related to year 2001 costs of implementing the first year of the fire fighting commissary system.

Fiscal Impact

1. This file authorizes the \$4,574 expenditure from the Fire Department Operating Expenditure Account, which received a \$140,000 fund transfer from the 2001 Common Council Contingent Fund to cover outstanding commissary related invoices.
2. According to the Department of Employee Relations, the Fire Department will recognize \$5,100 savings in 2002, \$2,495 in 2003, and \$4,462.50 annually thereafter.

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