

**Budget Workshop**  
**City Hall, Cherokee, Iowa**  
**February 8, 2017, 5:30 P.M.**

A budget workshop was called to order on this date by Mayor Murphy. Present: Council members Agnitsch, Brown, Johnson, Pingel, City Administrator Kooiker and City Clerk-Treasurer Cargin. Absent was councilperson Miller.

Police Dept. – Chief Nate James reported on his proposed budget. Of major concern is the replacement of radios for the officers. The current ones are very outdated and he can no longer get parts. Dave Skou, communications director for the county was present and explained the many entities are upgrading to 700 MHz radios. This is cost prohibitive for smaller communities. Nate and Dave recommend upgrading to the newer style VHF. The Police Department also needs a new phone system, their current one is old and dropping calls. He would like to put a cell phone in each squad car. This would be ideal for taking pictures and not having to go back to the station to get the big camera, also officers can return calls immediately and not have to wait until they go back to the station. Nate also explained the work schedules for patrol officers. Replacement of one squad car is also included in his budget request.

Fire Dept. – Greg Eaton, Fire Chief, reviewed his budget request with the council. The firemen have tried to keep track of the hours that are working on building and rental inspections but it is very difficult. A solution is charging 70% of their salaries and benefits to the fire department budget and the remaining 30% to the building inspection department. The 28E Agreement with the Rural Fire District was briefly discussed. The Fire Department building needs a new roof.

Building Inspection – Greg is not proposing many changes to this budget. He would like to send personnel for additional training.

City Council – Sam Kooiker, City Administrator, proposed an increase from \$40 to \$50 per council meeting for the council. The last increase was in 2001. He recommends purchasing iPads for the council or possibly instituting a “technology allowance” of \$50 per month and they would then supply their own device. Funding CAEDC fees from the general fund instead of splitting it between general, water and sewer was discussed.

Mayor/Administrator – Sam proposes a \$1000 increase for the mayor position. Both the increase in council pay and increase in mayor pay, if approved by the council, would not take effect until January 1, 2018, after the next election. He would like to attend the national ICMA conference in San Antonio TX this year.

Financial – City Clerk Cargin presented her budget proposal. Diane would like to purchase Laserfiche software, which would enable any document to be scanned into the “cloud” and allow for easy retrieval by keyword. All of the departments would be able to use the software and access the documents.

Legal – Discussion on paying all legal fees other than those specific to a project from the general fund legal budget. A transfer could be made at year end from water and sewer for a small portion of the fees. Currently the fees are charged a third to each general, water and sewer.

City Hall Building – There was \$10,000 budgeted for new carpet in the office area of city hall in the current budget. These funds have not been spent and are now targeted toward replacement of the roof on City Hall, as well as allocating another \$10,000 out of the FY18 budget.

Planning & Zoning – no change.

FEMA Buyout Project – This program will end in October, 2017. The City has requested the inclusion of up to nine additional properties as there are grant funds remaining with only one property left to demolish. We should be notified of the status of our request sometime in the spring.

**Adjournment.**

Pingel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brown. All voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Media Present: *None*

---

Mark Murphy, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk Treasurer