

Missoula City Council Public Safety, Health and Operations Committee Minutes

May 22, 2024

2:15 PM

Council Chambers (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)

Attend in person: City Council Chambers, 140 W Pine, Missoula MT

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, Amber Sherrill

Members absent: Sierra Farmer, Kristen Jordan, Sandra Vasecka

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 Minutes of May 15, 2024, meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Workers Compensation Vendor Change

Angela Simonson, chief human resources officer for the city, gave history on the city's Workers' Compensation coverage with Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA) since 1986. Municipalities had trouble finding coverage for fire fighters and police so MMIA filled the void. The city is a part of 3 out of 4 coverages that MMIA offers, they include workers' compensation, liability, and property. We do not participate in the employee benefits coverage program. She showed the history of payments and claims, along with the Mod factor history, which represents our loses, whether they are higher or lower than expected. She then explained why we should consider changing carriers. It was determined that the city could save an estimated \$631,427 per year, in addition to gaining more robust risk management services and an annual dividend payout.

Ms. Simonson is asking the committee to consider a 5-year service agreement through Marsh McLennan Agency / Montana State Fund (MMA/MSF), with services beginning July 1, 2024.

Moved by: Daniel Carlino

Approve and authorize the mayor to sign a new contract for workers' compensation coverage services with Marsh McLennan/ MT State Fund effective 7/1/2024.

AYES: (9): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, Bob Campbell, Daniel Carlino, Gwen Jones, Eric Melson, Mike Nugent, Jennifer Savage, and Amber Sherrill

ABSENT: (3): Sierra Farmer, Kristen Jordan, and Sandra Vasecka

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

3.2 2023 Missoula Police Department (MPD) Annual Report Presentation

Police Chief Mike Colyer presented an overview of the department's 2023 annual report. He highlighted areas such as volume of incidents and trends in crime. The reason for the increase in incidents could be an increase in property crime, the activity going on at the Johnson Street Shelter, and around traffic safety. The good news is the violent crime overall is down.

Between 2021 and 2023, Fentanyl dosage seizures has increased significantly. The police department is working to disrupt the Fentanyl coming into Missoula.

Internally, he has focused on giving officers a quick guide on what is expected in their behavior. Ethical Excellence is broken down into principals guiding ethical conduct and policing excellence.

He then reviewed a section on internal investigations, which includes complaints and their findings, and Use of Force Actions. All complaints are investigated through the officer's supervisor or through the Office of Professional Standards. He states that incidents of force were less than 0.6% of all 56,234 incidents. No officer fired a firearm in 2023.

Chief Colyer reviewed internal accomplishments that did not effect the budget. These accomplishments include: uniform patrol division leadership Imbalance, pre-employment background investigators, eSOPH software, and Lexipol Policy update. To address traffic safety, they received a grant funded DUI officer, and began the utilization of Sotaxa, which is a roadside analyzer of drugs other than alcohol.

Additional internal accomplishments include: property and evidence inventory, organization re-branding, position to assistant the Public Information Officer on evenings and weekends, and the re-emergence of the Citizen Law Enforcement Academy.

3.3 Mobile Support Team (MST) Update

Mobile Support Team (MST) Operations Manager John Petroff and clinical social worker, Ursula Holloway with Partnership Health Center. Ms. Holloway began the presentation by going over the various positions that make up the team. There were 1,605 calls in 2023. Of those calls, she gave a breakdown of the time spent with clients. Each call takes an average of 1 hour and 4 minutes. If a person is in crisis, the average time spent on-scene is 2 hours and 31 minutes.

MST is partnering with other agencies. Calls types include anxiety, depression, thoughts of suicide, psychosis, PTSD, follow up for frequent falls, and then all other calls that come from 911.

Mr. Petroff explained the several ways in which someone may call for MST. He also discussed the possibility of receiving Medicaid dollars in the upcoming fiscal year to help cover costs. He then presented opportunities for improvement, which include: funding through upcoming levy, peer support, staff training and collaboration, facilities, and data.

4. ADJOURNMENT

3:35 p.m.