

## Meeting 2 Minutes

### Subcommittee on Elgin Police Department Allocation of Funds

**Date: Thursday, January 20,  
2022 Time: 5:00pm – 6:30pm**

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Review discussion from meeting #1
- Learn more about EPD’s existing budget and resources applied to mental health
- Discuss preliminary reactions and recommendations

#### Discussion Agreements:

- Speak for yourself about what has heart and meaning
- Honor the agenda or modify by agreement
- Learn from and understand each other’s perspective
- Be respectful, candid, and constructive
- Provide balance of speaking time
- Test assumptions by asking questions
- Explore innovative solutions based upon common interests
- Strive to resolve differences and seek common ground
- Discuss topics together rather than in isolation
- Limit side conversations and actively participate

Members Present: Brockway, Blair, Arreola, Calhamer, Flickema, Zaldivar, Blanchard, Rivera  
Absent: Banner

Time (CT)	Topic	
5:00pm	Call to Order and Agenda Review	The facilitation team called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm. Facilitators reviewed the agenda items as well as useful resources posted to the box folder.
5:05pm	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <i>Any member of the public who wishes to address the task force may do so via Elgin City Hall</i></li></ul>	There were no members of the public present at city hall to provide public comment.
5:10pm	EPD Current Budget Allocations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Briefing from EPD</li></ul>	Police Chief Anna Lalley and Lacey Roberts, EPD’s Budget Analyst, gave an in-depth presentation of the police department’s budget. Chief Lalley’s presentation covered an overview of the police department’s expenditures, a detailed breakdown of expenses, and a wishlist of possible budget priorities in the future.  The Chief began by noting that the authorized strength of EPD consists of 184 police officers. In

	<p>addition there are 62 civilians who work in the police department as 911 dispatchers, animals control officers and more. There are also 6 personnel who manage department records and a part-time FOAI clerk.</p> <p>Chief Lalley then added that the crime rate in Elgin is currently at its lowest in 50 years. She attributed that statistic to the employment of a sizable force and to the use of community policing practices. Community policing is a policing strategy that emphasizes building trust between and force and a community so that both work together to solve problems. Chief Lalley stated that Elgin, police have coffee with community members, pass out ice cream, and participate in events like the National Night Out Party to build such a relationship.</p> <p>According to the budget breakdown presented, 89% of police department expenditures are budget expenses. \$21.4 million goes to the compensation of sworn officers. The largest division of sworn officers in the department is the Traffic Patrol Division. Extra payroll expenses – including items such as overtime and union obligations– amount to \$8.2 million of the police department’s budget.</p> <p>Additional operations expenses amount to about \$5 million. These expenses include training, uniforms, a new body camera program, a records management system and new technology. In addition, the police department pays about \$700,000 annually to an outside law firm that acts as a third-party in reviewing internal complaints.</p> <p>The police department also operates off of multiple grant programs. For instance, the department holds a contract with the Ecker Center for Behavioral Health for 3 part-time mental health professionals and 1 full-time mental health professional. Recently, the EPD received a grant from the Department of Justice for \$250,000 toward the new body camera program.</p> <p>Grants also help to pay for bullet proof vests, a victims assistance fund in the Social Services Unit, outreach on DUI’s and seatbelts, take-home vehicles, school resource officers, and Kids United</p>
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		<p>– a free after school and summer program that provides positive programming for kids in the Elgin community.</p> <p>Chief Lalley then noted that as technology needs increase and cost of living goes up the budgetary needs of the police department will also grow.</p> <p>The Chief then gave a “wish list” of budgetary items that she hoped could become a reality for the EPD in the future. Lalley’s first “wish list” items was a Smart Station on the western side of Elgin. A Smart Station is a station where residents can submit evidence, file a police report, and in general contract the use of police services automatically without having to have officers present. Chief Lalley noted she had studied such stations in Dubai for her masters thesis. Chief Lalley also said that she would prioritize more take-home vehicles and the creation of a cold case unit. She also said that she believed that there was a role for mental health professionals in crisis situations, and the EPD had begun diverting mental health calls to other agencies, but also that there are many opportunities where it would be most effective for police and mental health professionals to collaborate in high-risk situations.</p> <p>Chief Lalley concluded stating that EPD was a very lean organization and there was nothing left to cut.</p>
5:30pm	Q&A from Subcommittee	<p>Members of the Task Force then asked the Chief questions about the EPD budget and priorities.</p> <p>One member asked if there was work being done to improve the relationship between police and young children and create a safe space for them to report abuse, including child sexual abuse.</p> <p>The Chief responded that the police make an active effort to be a positive presence in Elgin elementary schools and that school resource officers build close relationships with school aged children. Officers make school visits, pass out pens and pencils, and are present at community events.</p>

		<p>Another member asked how EPD incorporates mental health officers. To which the Chief responded that EPD has begun diverting mental health calls that come in and is preparing to respond to 988 calls, the new Illinois suicide prevention hotline.</p> <p>One member asked about specific salaries in EPD to which chief Lalley responded that exact salaries are available in the collective bargaining agreement as well as other resources.</p> <p>Other member's questions included reaffirming the number of police officers in EPD, if there are recommendations on how much budget should be spent on salary, if there is money spent on jail operation, if citizens are consulted about the budget, if taxes are used to fund all of the budget, and if there are technologies that could be used to slim down the number of labor hours at EPD.</p>
6:25pm	Review, Wrap Up & Next Steps	The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm