

Item 24-1195: Request to award Police Station Additional Workstations to Nordon Business Environments in the amount of \$48,100.37

Finance Committee

Wed, Sep 18, 2024 6:45PM

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 00:47

Public hearings and appearances, there are none for tonight. So, we will move to our action item, 24-1195, request to award police station additional workstations to Norden business environments in amount of \$48,100.37.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 01:04

Move to approve.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 01:06

Second.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:07

All right, there's a motion and a second. So, I—we did have some questions when we met last so if anyone has wants to start off with any questions, I'll just kind of go from there. So, Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 01:20

Thank you, Chair. I'm a bit concerned about this because of the price tag, and I conferred with Director Gazza and Deputy Director Flick in this regard. And I'm, I guess I'm still concerned, but the concerns were alleviated a bit in—if Deputy Director Flick can just rehash what he and I discussed in regards to the portability, etc., of this, I would appreciate that.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:50

All right. Yep, your mic's on, Deputy Director.

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 01:52

Thank you, Chair. Some of the conversations that we've had revolved around, why is the expense so intense? And it comes down to the walls. The furniture is pretty standard. The breakdown roughly about \$13-\$14,000 of that total is for furniture, chairs, and equipment. The remaining funds are for the walls. These walls allow the flexibility not just for PD but for all the departments, if we were to want to reuse this equipment in another setting, another layout, if there was a need. This is moving towards, I'd say, a standardization of office walls. These walls are also insulated to meet HIPAA law requirements for privacy for the staff members that will be utilizing these offices. Heavily constructed, they are your typical steel frame door with the wooden with the wooden door, kind of similar to what's in here, again, for sound barriers, etc. Glass is involved in this, I'd say, design of the of the units.

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 02:57

Ultimately, we did look into, can we construct these walls? Our staff probably could construct them cheaper. However, we do not have the time or the labor hours to put towards this. So, if we had to hire an engineer to design the walls, put it out for public bid, most likely it would be more expensive to build these offices than going with a modular unit through a competitive bidding process. So, we are receiving municipal pricing with these modular units, so it guarantees us the lowest price from the vendor.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 03:33

Thank you. Just as a follow up then—and thank you Deputy Director Flick—I am still concerned, because this is a pretty hefty price tag, but the thing that mitigates it a bit for me is that this is not come out of actual budget funds. This is—these are ARPA funds. So, with a bit of trepidation, I will look to approve this. Thank you.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:00

Alder van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 04:02

Thank you, Chair. With these being modular, are there any other areas in which these could be used should we have to make some changes to the layout?

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 04:11

Within the PD department or city?

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 04:13

Within the PD or the city.

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 04:15

Yes, they could be used throughout the city in other projects or needs, and definitely in the PD if they did a remodel, they could be reused.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 04:23

Okay, thank you,

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:25

Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 04:26

No, I'm sorry.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 04:27

All right. I have a question though. About how often historically have we repurposed like, where this modularity has been a benefit to say, where we've been able to take what we already have and reconfigured elsewhere. Is that something that we've done kind of regularly?

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 04:44

No. So we just started this process with the Health Department. We completed the remodel there. A lot of those offices are with these modular wall units that can be reused throughout the city and in other departments. So, PD would be the second option that we're asking to do this. We are asking in the 2025 budget for renovation of the park and rec department, in which we'd be looking to go into the modular units there. So again, starting the process of a standardization and having the same furniture throughout our city complexes.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:18

All right, I just kind of asked, because I sense between when we had the discussion about the Health Department remodel and this one, I've had conversations with someone who, within their daily work does this kind of work, and commented to me, just by chance, that how expensive these were, how much more complex these were

than doing your custom stud and dry wall type construction. So that was something I'm taking into consideration, is comments of somebody who's worked with these types of systems in the past and has made remarks to me, again, kind of more off the cuff, but still.

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 05:51

They are expensive, but the flexibility, I think, is probably what's most important with these with these units.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:01

And Alder Hartzheim.

Alderman Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 06:04

Thank you, Chair. And on that note, I think it's—not that I'm trying to convince anyone else, because I'm still not 100% convinced, but I think it's important for these particular pieces to be module—modular, because these two particular jobs are to be embedded in the police department, but somewhere along the line, may end up elsewhere in the city. So, I think it would be important for us to be able to say we can basically pick you up and move you to wherever we need to have these positions best stationed.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:36

Thank you. Anyone else? Alder Fenton.

Alderman Denise Fenton (District 6) 06:40

Just briefly, I just want to thank both Deputy Director Flick and Director Gazza for providing the information that we needed, and appreciate the detailed breakdown. Thanks.

Deputy Director Tom Flick (Parks and Rec) 06:53

You're welcome.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:54

I want to second that and that also—I mean, I'm going to vote for this, but it's just something with these modular designs, especially because of the high cost, that if it's something that it's harder to justify the potential of having to move around, then I'd have a harder time supporting this. But I think to the points that Alder Hartzheim made, that's a pretty good reason to give this a shot and kind of go with that from here.

Alderman Brad Firkus (District 3) 07:19

So, unless there's any other questions or comments, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? Abstentions? That passes four to zero.