



**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Date: September 30, 2025
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Village Hall, Board Room
740 Hillgrove Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558**

Present:

Chair Avakian, Member Fink, President Rudolph Village Manager Baer, Director Scott and Director Gilhooley.

1. Call to Order

Chair Avakian called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. A motion to open the meeting was made by Chair Avakian and seconded by Member Fink. The motion passed via roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Avakian moved to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Fink and passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

3. Public Comment

No public comments were received.

4. New Business

a. Intergovernmental Agreement-Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT)

Director Gilhooley presented a recommendation to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement among various municipalities to formally establish the Major Case Assistance Team (MCAT).

MCAT is a mutual aid organization designed to support local police departments during complex investigations that require additional personnel and specialized resources beyond what a single department typically has available.

The organization includes several specialized components:

- Investigations
- Traffic Crash Investigation
- Drone Team
- Evidence Technician Team
- Planned Events Team
- Public Information Officer Team

The annual cost of participation is \$2,750. Director Gilhooley noted that the Western Springs Police Department has already benefited from MCAT's services, having utilized its resources three times this year.

A motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement establishing the Major Case Assistance Team was made by Chair Avakian and seconded by Member Fink. The motion passed via roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

b. 2026 Department of Fire & EMS Budget Request Highlights

Director Scott presented several budget proposals for the 2026 fiscal year. Below are key highlights of the requests submitted for committee consideration:

1. **Increase in Part-Time Shift and Callback Funding**
Director Scott proposed a 19% increase in funding to support part-time staffing and callback resources. He noted that Fire and EMS call volumes have continued to rise over the past year, and the additional funding will help ensure adequate coverage, improve responsiveness, and maintain continuity of service.
2. **Replacement of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**
A request was made to replace thirteen aging AEDs currently in service across municipal facilities and vehicles. The total estimated cost is not expected to exceed \$32,000, which includes updated AED units with the latest technology and manufacturer warranties.
3. **Purchase of Structural Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
To enhance firefighter safety and ensure compliance with national standards, Director Scott requested \$30,000 for the replacement of aging structural firefighting PPE. The investment will allow the department to maintain up-to-date protective gear essential for firefighter health and safety.
4. **Leasing of Fire Department SUVs**
A budget request was submitted to replace two aging staff vehicles through the Enterprise Fleet Lease Program. One SUV will serve as a take-home vehicle for the Deputy Chief, who responds to emergency calls, while the second will replace a 10-year-old vehicle currently used as the front-line incident command unit by the daily duty officer.

5. Other Business

Chief Gilhooley presented several budget proposals for the 2026 fiscal year. Below are key highlights of the requests submitted for committee consideration:

1. Axon Body-Worn and In-Car Video Camera Program

This request supports the continued payment for year two of the five-year contract with Axon for body-worn and in-car video cameras.

- Body-Worn Cameras (all officers): \$39,415 annually
- In-Car Video Cameras (8 squad cars): \$28,000 annually

2. Lease of One New Squad Car and Outfitting

To replace an aging department vehicle, a request was made to lease one new squad car.

- Estimated total cost: \$45,500
- This includes outfitting (emergency lights, prisoner cage, decals, etc.)

3. Squad Car Computer Wireless Service

A request for \$11,000 to cover wireless service costs, allowing officers to access mobile data computers while on patrol.

4. Squad Car Laptops and Mounts

A \$12,000 request to replace laptops and mounts in four of the department's eight squad cars, as recommended by the Information Technology Department.

- This is a two-year project, with the remaining four vehicles scheduled for replacement in 2027.

5. Lease of Detective Vehicle

A \$7,300 budget request to continue lease an unmarked squad car for use by members of the Detective Division.

6. License Plate Reader (LPR) Maintenance

A request for \$12,000 to fund maintenance of six license plate readers deployed throughout the Village.

- These devices have been valuable investigative tools in solving crimes.

7. Taser (Conducted Energy Weapon) Program

A \$6,000 request to support ongoing maintenance and training related to the department's Taser program.

8. Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS)

A request for \$11,000 to support department participation in the Mobile Field Force Team and Emergency Services Team, including equipment and training costs for assigned officers.

9. Ballistic Shield and Breaching Equipment

A \$4,000 request to purchase a ballistic shield, breaching tools, and ballistic helmet for one squad car.

- The long-term goal is to outfit multiple squad cars with similar equipment.

10. Social Worker Program

A \$18,000 request for contracted services from a licensed social worker.

- This program has proven effective in assisting individuals in crisis and conducting officer wellness checks.

6. Adjournment

Chair Avakian moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 PM. The motion was seconded by Member Fink and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ayes: Chair Avakian, Member Fink

Nays: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Gilhooley

Director of Law Enforcement Services