

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Public Services
Minutes
March 18, 2015

The Standing Committee on Public Services met to review the FY 2016 proposed budget of the Fire Training Academy on March 18, 2015, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Chairman Marcia King, James Killion, Brian O'Malley, and Linda Zuern.

Fire Training Academy

Fire Academy Deputy Director Mark Foley met with the committee to review its proposed budget request for FY16. The operating budget has one full-time employee that is a split position between to individuals. There are approximately 40 to 50 other per-diem employees used for various programs. Electricity, heat, and rubbish removal account lines have increased and were beyond the control of the department to limit. Equipment that is donated from other fire departments is useful, less expensive than purchasing new but sometimes needs repairs reflected as an increase in the equipment line. Expendables increased due to a contract with Massachusetts Maritime Academy contract. The contract will be re-visited to see if the Maritime Academy could purchase direct.

All Cape Cod Fire Departments (15), Fire Districts (5), and Joint Base Cape Cod (1) participated in the Academy. When Off-Cape-towns use the Academy they pay tuition. The Stowe Fire Academy is used for full-time Firefighter I & II certifications and the Academy does not compete with them. Chief Moran from Brewster commented on the fact that Cape-towns make good use of the Fire Academy.

Contract fees are negotiated on an annual basis and increased slightly. The Maritime Academy is under negotiation now and will probably increase slightly. Anticipated revenues are approximately \$175,000 to \$200,000 which is close to half of anticipated budget expenses. Mark Foley indicated that the services given back to the towns exceed the costs two to three times over. Joint Base Cape Cod is treated the same as every other Fire Department on Cape Cod.

A capital expense priority for FY16 is necessary repairs to interior walls in the burn building. HVAC is the second priority followed by paving and computers. This is the first year that capital items are in the budget. Previously these were addressed independently and can no longer continue to be handled in that manner.

Linda Zuern motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend the Fire Training Academy budget as proposed for FY16 to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried. 4-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by:
Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates