



# City of Grand Island

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Special Meeting - Updated

## Item -5

### Councilmember Questions

Staff Contact: Jaye Monter, Finance Director

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NEBRASKA

*2014-2015 - Public Hearing*  
**City of Grand Island & Community  
Redevelopment Authority (CRA)  
Budgets**

*COUNCILMEMBER SUBMITTED  
QUESTIONS  
8-21-14*

Q: What is the extra \$125,000 for Economic Development for?

Q: Where is the budget for life safety funding as presented by the Downtown Business Improvement District?

A: 2014-2015 Budget for Economic Development account 10011102-85454 actually went up \$105,000 from \$420,000. \$100,000 for downtown life safety program and \$425,000 State Lottery Match program. Budget Summary II page 46, Budget Summary IV page 4.

Q: Travel and training for Information Technology Department is high and not been used for last 2 years - over \$1000/person

A:

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Budget	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
Actual/Forecast	\$ 2,652	\$ 5,391	\$ 6,500	N/A

Budget Summary III, page 156  
account 60510001-85428

Q: What are the new administrative services for health insurance – Budget Summary III, page 166?

A: Account 61550023-85221 set up in 2013-2014 budget to account for incentive contributions to employees for new Health Savings Account for employees participating in new High Deductible Health Insurance Plan.

Q: HR operating increased in 2014 due to all the union contracts. For the 2014-2015 budget, it did not go down much - where is this new spending going?

A: There is a \$10,000 contingency in the 2014-2015 budget in case one of the 6 labor agreements currently being negotiated isn't settled until 2014-2015. If all 6 agreements are settle before 9/30/14, the contingency won't be needed. There are also dollars to cover the cost of recruiting a new City Administrator in the 2014-2015 proposed budget.

Q: Why is operating expense of Council up almost 1/3 since 2013?

A: To be answered during presentation

Answer:

- Best use of resources possible
- Engineering – plans must include sprinklers and other built-in components
- Enforcement – must conduct inspections
- Education – Change the mentality of business owners and occupants, process will still have issues if this doesn't occur
- Workload is too much for one inspector and it is inefficient to have engine crews perform inspections



Answer:

- LE Ray is on the list for possible locations
- Each location has pros and cons
- LE Ray may be good for large dogs and not so good for small dogs
- Park is currently used for multiple activities and the required fencing may disrupt those
- Riverside golfers may also have issue with noise
- Humane Society has approached the City with a possible alternate and shared cost idea
- \$50,000 is just a placeholder for now, Council will make final approval of location and any contract(s)

Q: Please remind me of the specific upgrades/remodels of Island Oasis for the \$350,000 requested in the budget.

A: The \$350,000 for the water park will be earmarked to update the wave machine, restore exterior woodwork, remodel bathrooms, replace the roof on the building and, if money is left, make waterslide improvements. \$150,000 will also be used for a sound system and pool painting improvements

Q: What was the cost of operating Lincoln Park pool this year? Revenue appears to be around \$51,000?

A: The updated forecast for Lincoln Pool at year end is revenue of \$45,750 and expenses of \$52,500.

**Q: What is the purpose of the Recreation van?**

A: The RECREATION VAN is primary used by the Recreation Division. It is a very useful vehicle because it has good load capacity for supplies and people.

- Used on a daily basis in the summer to transport children's program games and craft supplies to the various locations for parks programs
- Transportation for supervisor staff and supplies to from swimming pools.
- Used at the Fieldhouse for outside trips: sports equipment, t-shirt vendors, hardware store, trophy vendors, outside meetings, City Hall, etc.
- Used for special events to transport staff and supplies: Grand Island Games,
- Summer Concert Series, Winter Rally Volleyball Tournament
- Because this van can carry up to six people it is commonly used by other City departments for out of town meetings or city tours/assessments.

## **Ryder Park Tennis Complex - \$175,000**

- Replace existing courts and add three additional courts
- Total project estimate is \$350,000; dependent upon Grand Island Tennis Association contract modification.



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# Questions