

**Mosier Fire District**  
**Budget Committee Meeting**  
**May 5th, 2022 6:00PM**  
By Zoom

Budget Committee: Phil Evans, Kris McNall, Todd Reeves, Steve Fisher, Joe Sacamano,,  
Wayne Haythorn, Tim Hudson  
Staff: Mike Renault  
Public: Witt Anderson (also City Council; JUF Project Manager)

The meeting began at 18:07

No public comment.

Kris showed a distribution of what a \$0.35/1000 taxable value tax increase (from \$1.65 to \$2.00/1000 or a 21% increase) would mean for the community. For many properties, the increase would be less than \$100/year. For most, it would be less than \$200/year.

Phil asked Witt to explain the new costing estimates for the JUF.

Witt explained that the old estimate was \$5.7 million.

There have been additions and subtractions and cost increases so the cost to build the JUF is now around \$7M for construction (a 25% increase), though that is not a firm estimate. With soft costs, the entire project will be between \$8M - \$8.4M.

Witt reviewed funds in hand. We have around \$4M. That's a big gap. There is hope to get another \$2.5M, including the \$800,000 from the Business Oregon loan for which MFD has applied. Another big chunk would come from Senator Merkley earmarking money. Even then we would still be \$2M short. In addition, some of the money we have has restricted uses e.g. the parks money can only be used for the plaza and bike hub.

At this point, we need to decide whether to proceed to 95% design so that we can get firm bids on building. The expectation is that we will have to phase the project. There is general agreement that the Apparatus Bays/Fire Hall portion is the highest community need, and also it's crucial for MFD getting the \$800,000 loan. The next phase of design will cost \$365k. The idea would be to then build what we have funds for, starting with site work, the Fire Hall, and the plaza to use the Parks money. However, we would do the full detailed design so that we would be ready to build other phases as we have funding.

Todd said that he's trying to understand where the costs are coming from. Phil said it's not a reasonable market. Witt said that prices keep changing. Witt confirmed that the city is in agreement that emergency services are the highest community need.

Wayne said that he thinks everyone needs to sit down and look at costs and figure out what can be made less expensive. Joe asked whether we can get rid of any luxury options to save on costs. Kris said she'd like to see whether it makes sense to put a mezzanine over the storage portion of the Fire Hall that could be used as volunteer space and possibly make the Multiuse Building (MUB) less expensive.

Bottom line: the current proposal is to do the architecture and engineering for the entire JUF, bringing our soft costs to around \$1M, and then spend around \$3M on the Fire Hall. All of this is contingent on MFD approving a rate hike and getting approved for the \$800k loan.

Phil asked each budget committee member present to state how they felt about whether they were willing to move forward. Kris clarified that the budget committee will need to approve the \$0.35 rate increase to \$2.00/\$1000 and also the \$915,000 appropriation for JUF construction.

All members present (7 total) stated that they approve of committing funds to the project.

At this point the group moved on to the LB30. There were no questions on the historical data. Kris confirmed that it matched what we got from the auditor.

On next year's budget, Mike noted that he has not been able to find less expensive health insurance so we are budgeting just over \$21k. He also explained that when he only buys one or two smaller items they are more like consumables and thus he does not budget them in capital outlay. Thus, even though we may keep a radio or a nozzle more than a year, he puts them in the Materials and Services category. There were a few questions, but no changes other than spelling Maintenance correctly.

Next the group looked at the Unallocated spreadsheet. Kris explained that we would be transferring \$200k to Capital Reserves, \$148,070 to the JUF fund, and would have \$178,853 left over which would be put into the Unappropriated Fund balance—money we will use to keep MFD running next year before tax revenue is received in November.

We are budgeting \$300k for taxes to be received, although the most accurate available estimate would be \$306k. Phil said he'd like to use the most accurate number. Kris said that the forms could be updated to use that number (both the LB30 and LB20 to balance the budget). Todd asked for confirmation that the additional revenue would go into a vehicle fund. Kris confirmed its an allocated line item in the Capital Reserve fund. Mike asked whether we needed another fund for the loan and Kris said no, because we aren't planning on drawing on the loan until the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The group agreed to skip the May 10 date and hold the next budget meeting will be on Thursday May 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM. The Budget Committee look at the entire budget. All forms will be a second viewing except for the Grant Fund.

The meeting adjourned at 19:31