City of Rock Falls
Police/Fire Committee Meeting Minutes

Date:05/21/26 Time Meeting Started: 5:30 p.m. Time Meeting Ended: 6:03 p.m.

Members		Also Attended	
Chairman Dowd	P	Mayor Kleckler	P
Alderwoman Arduini	P	Assistant City Administrator McKanna	P
Alderman Stahr	P	Chief Sommers	P
Alderman Doane	A	Chief McKanna	P
		Administrator Blackert	A
X-Attended A-Absent			

Ordinance/Topic	Discussion	Plan of Action
Call to Order	• Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Dowd.	
Audience Request	• None	
Approve Minutes	• Committee reviewed the minutes of the January 15, 2026 meeting, and Alderwoman Arduini moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2026 meeting, second by Alderman Stahr, all ayes, motion carried.	Minutes Approved
Fire Chief Report	• Chief Sommers explained the need for a long-term plan for the fire department to include succession planning, capital planning, strategic planning, and emergency management planning. While Chief Sommers is working on this now, he expects the planning and implementation of the long-term plan could take several years and will involve a variety of stakeholders. His priority is a long-term training and professional development plan for the organization, which supports the succession plan. For capital improvement activities, an apparatus replacement plan is at the forefront of his mind due to the cost and timeline of replacing trucks. • Mayor Kleckler asked about running hydrants and water lines out to rural areas and Chief Sommers explained that the department mostly serves in an advisory role in those situations, but that they do have access to rural hydrants if needed. • Alderwoman Arduini asked how the department felt about the new shift rotation and Chief Sommers felt it was going well.	No action needed
Police Chief Report	• Chief McKanna presented two quotes for new radios, one from Ultrastrobe and one from Motorola. Chief McKanna explained that the Ultrastrobe quote at $82,487.90 is a better value and better price than the one from Motorola at $152,477.43, as Ultrastrobe's quote included 21 radios compared to the 18 radios offered by Motorola. Chief McKanna felt that the radios offered by Ultrastrobe were highly reliable, and would allow them to have the 16 radios needed to fully cover patrol, plus 3 radios for the detectives and administration to use, and offer a couple of backups in the event a radio is broken and is out for repair. Alderman Dowd asked if this was a budgeted expense and Chief McKanna confirmed that the radios were budgeted at $156,000, so the city would be under budget by $74,000 if the council approves the purchase through Ultrastrobe. Chief	Forward to City Council

	McKanna noted that Ultrastrobe has done other work for the police department and the department has been pleased with them so far. Alderman Dowd asked about a timeline for receiving the radios and Chief McKanna said Ultrastrobe did not provide a timeline but he would not anticipate it to take more than a month or two. • Mayor Kleckler inquired about using excess county funding from the new sales tax that was passed to support the 911 dispatch center, to buy the radios. Both Chief McKanna and Chief Sommers explained they believe the sharing of excess funds, if there are any, is intended to be a long-term plan and as the tax is so new, there is no current plan to distribute any excess funds. • Alderman Dowd inquired about other capital improvements and Chief McKanna mentioned they budget for about two new squad cars each year. • Mayor Kleckler inquired about how the public can monitor calls with the new radio system used county-wide, and both Chief McKanna and Chief Sommers confirmed that because of the way the calls are encrypted, and changes at the FCC level, it is not really possible for the general public to tap into the calls like they used to do with old police scanners. • Alderman Dowd made a motion to approve the quote from Ultrastrobe in the amount of $82,487.90 for the radios and send to council. Alderperson Arduini second the motion. • Role Call Vote: Alderwoman Arduini: Yes; Alderman Star: Yes; Alderman Dowd: Yes. Motion carried.	
Committee items	None	
Adjournment	• A motion was made by Chairman Dowd to adjourn, second by Alderman Stahr, all ayes, motion carried. Adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.	

Chairman Dowd