

American Rescue Plan Working Group  
Council Chambers, Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose St Newtown Ct  
Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Minutes

**Present:** Ed Schierloh, Matthew Mihalcik, Erica Sullivan, Charles Gardner & Michele Ku

**Absent:** Sandy Roussas

**Also Present:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director Bob Tait, Captain Bryan Bishop  
Newtown Police Department

**Call to Order:** Dan Rosenthal called the meeting at 6:46 pm

**Vote Comments:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** None

**Old Business:**

Discussion and Possible action

1. Consideration of remaining request for funding including but not limited the Newtown Police Dept.
  - a. **Newtown Police Dept:** Captain Bishop presented the request for consideration to use ARP funds to replace the departments duty firearm. During the annual inspection in December 2022 it was found that the departments duty firearm would require replacement of parts due to their age. The current duty firearm is around 8 years old. Currently the department issues Glock model 41 (4<sup>th</sup> generation) which is a 45-caliber pistol. The request is to replace the departments duty firearm with a Glock model 45 (5<sup>th</sup> generation) which is a 9mm pistol with a red dot optic. The reason for the change from the 45-caliber to 9mm is that the ammo is cheaper to purchase for annual training and easier for the officer to use should they ever be in a situation they had to. The proposal also included the replacement of the holsters, magazines and magazine pouches. The introduction of the red dot optic sight will also help officers with target detection and accuracy for moving targets. Ms Sullivan asked Cpt Bishop if the new gun is smaller and lighter, he responded yes. She also asked if the holsters were included in the price and if there was a value to the current holders. Cpt Bishop answered yes new holsters, magazines and magazine pouches are included in the request and the current holsters have no value as they are about 8 years old and have significant wear from use. Ms Sullivan asked if there were going to be any changes to the rifles, Cpt Bishop said there are no changes. Mr

Gardner asked what the expected life span of the duty firearm is, Cpt bishop said about 8 years. Mr Gardner asked what the savings is buy purchasing the ammo, Cpt Bishop said about \$3,000 annually. Ms Sullivan asked Cpt Bishop what the value of the current supply of ammo is. Cpt Bishop responded not much as they are running low. Ms Sullivan asked if the department expects to have the same issue obtaining ammo when buying 9mm vs 45-caliber, Cpt Bishop said 9mm is much easier to get and cheaper. **Ed Schierloh moved that we make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman to start the appropriation process for the Newtown Police Department request for new duty issues firearms not to exceed \$60,000. Seconded by Erica Sullivan. All in Favor (5-0), motion passes)**

**Voter Comments:** None

**Adjournment:** Ed Schierloh moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm. Seconded by Erica Sullivan, All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Mihalcik

**These minutes are subject to approval by the American Rescue Plan Working Group  
at the next meeting**

The purpose of this memo is to request the consideration of funding to replace the department's current duty firearm with a more modern and versatile weapon. The department currently uses the Glock model 21 Gen 4 (fourth generation), a .45 caliber pistol, for its duty weapons. During the annual inspection of the firearms in December of 2022, it was discovered that the guns are due for either rebuilding with the replacement of worn parts or replacement of the firearms. The cost to rebuild the weapons and replace the magazines would be approximately \$200 per gun for parts for a total of approximately \$11,000. The manufacture date of the Gen 4 Glock is between 2010 and 2016. Glock is currently producing Gen 5 (fifth generation) models. Given the replacement part cost and considering the age of the weapons, pricing was obtained for new weapons. Based on the pricing and trade-in value of the current firearms, the department is looking to transition to a Glock Gen 5, model 45, 9mm handgun, with a Red Dot Optic.

The considerations for this transition include significant improvements to the Glock Gen 5 over the Gen 4, the addition of modern optics for the weapons, and the ballistics improvements of 9mm ammunition. The Gen 5 Glock's new model variations are an improvement over previous generations by making the guns ambidextrous; previous versions required armorers to make changes for left-handed shooters. Glock also removed the finger grips with adjustable back straps allowing for more versatility and comfort for shooters with different hand sizes. Both of these features are improvements that have caused equipment and training issues for officers at the police department.

In 2014 the FBI completed an extensive study and found that, for many reasons, the 9mm round was the recommended round for law enforcement. The study found no discernable difference in the terminal performance of the 9mm vs. other calibers. The 9mm cartridge has less felt recoil, allowing for faster and more accurate shot strings than the .40 or .45. Additionally, 9mm ammunition is about 25 to 30% less expensive and more available than .45 caliber ammunition. The annual cost for .45 ammunition is approx. \$12,000 a year, and there is a 12 to 18-month delay in receiving this ammunition. The projected cost of 9 mm ammunition is \$9,000, and the ammunition is available.

The department currently uses red dot optics on patrol rifles. The officer's accuracy, speed, and confidence greatly increased with the red dot vs. the traditional sighting system. Red Dot Optics on duty pistols are now the industry standard as it allows the officer to keep both eyes open making for faster and more accurate target detection, improved target detection under stress, improved situational awareness, more accuracy with moving targets, faster follow up shots, and greater accuracy for aging officers or those with vision issues. The red dot optic is not compatible with our current duty pistol.

The 9mm GLOCK Gen 5 model 45 (MOS) with an attached Red dot sight offers the best combination of caliber and sighting system for a duty weapon in law enforcement today. Currently, this model firearm with the optic is \$904.96 each. The sellers are offering a \$310.00 trade-in value for our current firearms, dropping the cost to \$594.96 per gun.

- The total purchase price for fifty-five firearms with optics is \$32,800.
- New holsters and magazine pouches would be needed at an estimated cost of \$10,800.
- The purchase of ammunition is estimated to cost \$15,000.00 (ammunition rates fluctuate based on market availability, and this estimate is on the high side). This would include ammunition for transitional training and new duty ammunition.
- The total estimated cost for the firearms, equipment, and ammunition is estimated to cost \$58,600.00.

Prepared by Bryan Bishop

On Tue, Feb 14, 2023 at 9:33 AM Robert Tait <[robert.tait@newtown-ct.gov](mailto:robert.tait@newtown-ct.gov)> wrote:

Hello Captain,

- Question on the ARP request. Ammo is \$15,000?
- What does the department do with the old ammo?
- Typically, how much is budgeted each year for ammo.

thanks

Bob

The ammunition for the transition is estimated at \$15,000.00. This covers the cost of the ammunition needed for the transition training. The cost and availability fluctuate with market demand. Currently, we are running low on the .45 caliber ammunition we have, so there would be little left over. Depending on the quantity, the leftover ammunition could be sold or traded if there is a substantial amount or kept for training if it is a small amount.

Typically, ammunition costs between \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year. Currently, the lead time on some ammo types is 12-18 months.

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Bryan Bishop  
Captain  
Newtown Police Department

Town of Newtown the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP)						3/31/2023	
ARP Working Group Worksheet							
ARP award amount		7,674,294				Total Expended Up Till 3/31/2023	
Possible Uses:			Recommended	Approved		Encumbered	Available (f)
line	General Government:						
1	Fairfield Hills - Replace Water Distribution System	1,500,000	v	1/27/2022	f	1,092.31	-
2	Fairfield Hills Campus Safety Improvements	20,000	v	12/12/2022	f	-	-
3	Edmond Town Hall Building Improvements	125,000	v	9/22/2022	f	-	47,842.68
4	Public Works:						
5	Multi-purpose Building Roof	190,000	v	1/27/2022	f	184,414.62	-
6	Public Works 6 Wheel 8 Ton Dump Truck	240,000	v	12/12/2022	f	-	-
7	Public Works Front & Bucket Loader	300,000	v	7/28/2022	f		298,635.00
8	Truck Washing Station - Design	50,000					
9	Transfer Station Site Improvements	200,000	v	4/11/2022	f	67,667.50	78,096.00
10	Municipal Building Improvements	100,000	v	4/11/2022	f	14,400.00	-
11	Sandy Hook Side Walks						
12	section #1 - Glen Road	215,000	v	9/22/2022	f	-	-
13	Public Safety:						
14	Fire Commission Fire Suppression Tank Repair	50,000	v	1/27/2022	f	33,153.12	-
15	Fire Company Grants (4 x \$15,000); NUSAR (\$15,000);	90,000	v	1/27/2022	f	73,447.42	-
16	Ambulance (\$15,000)						
17	Board of Fire Commissioners (5 x \$50,000) + \$50,000 (training)	300,000	v	1/9/2023	f	-	-
	Police - New firearms, Equipment and Ammunition	60,000					
18	Recreation & Leisure:						
19	Parks & Recreation Truck with lift gate	90,000	v	4/11/2022	f		53,005.30
20	Treadwell Park Disc Golf Course	40,000					
21	Dickinson Park New Pavillon (Refurbishment)	150,000	v	4/11/2022	f		150,000.00
22	Dickinson Park New Pavillon (Refurbishment) - add'l amount	50,000	v	9/22/2022	f		15,603.06
23	Bike Park at Fairfield Hills	75,000	v	9/22/2022	f	53,717.59	-
24	The Art Walk at Fairfield Hills	50,000					
25	Health & Welfare:						
26	Housing Stalization Fund	20,000	v	9/22/2022	f	4,110.00	-
27	Senior/Community Center 14 passenger bus	90,000	v	5/9/2022	f	-	-
	Additional Amount Required (due to current quote)	20,000	v	2/13/2023	f	-	-
28	COVID supplies/expenses	40,000	v	1/27/2022	f	411.89	-
29	Child/Youth Enrichment Fund (Newtown Human Services Dept.)	20,000	v	7/28/2022	f	20,000.00	-
30	Community Center:					sent to united way for program	
31	Community Center Generator (75,000)	passed					
32	Community Center Outside Storage Building	75,000	v	4/11/2022	f	-	-
33	Community Center Patio	155,000	v	4/11/2022	f	155,000.00	-
34	Community Center Outdoor Spray Features (200,000)	passed					
35	Community Center/Senior Center Handicap Doors	16,000	v	4/11/2022	f	16,000.00	-
36	Education:						
37	Hawley School HVAC/Ventilation project	2,500,000	v		f	2,500,000.00	-
38	Student Tutoring Support Program (Newtown Human Services Dept.)	100,000	v	7/28/2022	f	-	-
39	Middlegate School Playground	33,000	v	2/13/2023	f	-	-
40	Project Adventure Course Installation & Upgrade	94,000	v	2/13/2023	f	-	-
	Borough:						
	Sidewalk Construction and Related Safety Improvements	200,000	v	3/13/2023	f	-	-
41	Function Wide:						
42	Reimburse the Town Medical Self Insurance Fund						
43	for COVID Expenses (since 3/3/2021)	325,000	v	1/27/2022	f	325,000.00	-
		Appropriated	f			Expended	Encumbered
		7,383,000				3,448,414.45	643,182.04
	Amount Available after Appropriated	291,294					
	v Recommended by the ARP Working Group. To go through the Town appropriation process (BOS/BOF/LC)						
	f Appropriated by Legislative Council						
	Appropriation in process						