

MINUTES
DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE
ONLINE GO-TO-MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
DELAWARE, OHIO

Call to Order

Chairman Ken LaVoy called the Department Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:00 pm 6:00 pm Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

Salute to the Colors

Chairman Ken LaVoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjutant John Robinson gave the invocation.

Roll Call

Members present:

Department Treasurer, Holly Lewis, Finance Chairman, Ken LaVoy, Dean Boyers, Member, John Life, Member

Guests Present:

John Robinson, Department Adjutant, Stan Oren; 1st Vice Commander, Gary Cox Jr, 2nd Vice; Rebecca Corbin, Fiscal Secretary; Steve Masowick, BBS President

Reading of Previous Minutes

John Life member motioned to accept the previous finance minute dated September 10, 2024, as printed and seconded by Holly Lewis, Treasurer.

MOTION PASSED

Steve Masowick- President Buckeye Boys State

Steve Masowick stated that the BBS is requesting a quarterly statement of the Buckeye Boys State account. Buckeye Boys State will pay the General Fund \$5000.00 for 2024/2025 to help offset the cost that the Department of Ohio pays out of the General Fund. The Buckeye Boys State Committee will review the data on time spent on BBS expenses, including staff time and resources, to determine the amount needed for the future. Finance will only transfer monies once DEC approves them in December.

Unfinished Business

Adjutant Robinson stated that the districts are working with the posts to clean up the Life Membership lists. The 3rd, 4th, and 10th districts updated their status and reported their deceased members. Adjutant Robinson is currently emailing post adjutants with a good response. Adjutant Robinson will include this topic on the DEC Agenda in December to remind Districts why this is so important.

Adjutant Robinson sent information to V360 to start the prosses. The other day, Joe from V360 sent an email asking how we were doing, so Adjutant Robinson is figuring out what else they need. He told the Committee at National Fall Meetings last week that V360 was a hot topic in one of our Adjutant's meetings and suggested to be careful. Dean Boyers and Adjutant met with Adjutant Wisconsin, who was doing really well with theirs. They talked quite a bit and said they were having trouble getting paid from them. They were having issues, and it raised a red flag.

The information pulled for the 50-50 Gaming is ready for the IA committee. They wanted a one-year output into the contract and had no problem. They already sent the contract over for it. We need to determine what percentage we will return to the post. Florida does 20% of whatever their posts sell, but that doesn't mean all the tickets sold by the post. That means the post is doing the extra bit, so they get rewarded more than usual. The average is between 7% and 15%, and Florida changes occasionally. They raise the percentage at certain times and lower it at certain times.

Adjutant Robinson will present to the DEC for approval to possibly do at Mid-Winter.

Adjutant Robinson will complete employee reviews by Friday; Genochio is working on them and will have them with me soon.

We would look for January 1, 2025, as the date for the increase. Treasurer Lewis and Adjutant Robinson will work on the proposal that we bring to the Finance Committee because we have a couple of people that we must adjust for the labor laws. There was a discussion last year about getting certain individuals up to date with their salaries.

The Finance Committee will convene for an in-person Quarterly Review at Department Headquarters on Monday, November 18, starting at 10:00 am. This review is a crucial opportunity for us to collectively assess our financial standing and plan for the future.

The Charity breakdown review strategy is pending approval by the Charity Board. Once approved, it will be distributed to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

The committee thoroughly reviewed the SOP for the credit card policy. It is crucial that all members understand and adhere to this policy, particularly the requirement to submit receipts in a timely manner. Currently, there are 14 individuals in possession of credit cards. Each person will receive a copy of the policy and sign a waiver stating that they have received and understand their responsibilities for using the credit card.

Commander Vehicle SOP was reviewed last year, and it states that the Commander will receive \$25,000.00 towards a car of their choice. If the vehicle costs more than \$25,000, the department commander is expected to contribute the remaining. The amount and the car can not be financed or carry a loan. Immediately after the Finance Committee, the DEC will be prompted with an email vote to authorize the purchase. The Department purchases the vehicle; it's titled to the Department and insured by the Department. The department commander's spouse may be added to the insurance policy as a driver, but the Commander will cover the cost of adding the spouse to the insurance. The Commander will be a W-9 when receiving \$25,000.

The Department will purchase new laptops for employees every three to five years, depending on their condition. Used laptops are either recycled, sold, or repurposed. Laptops will be made available for Legion Post to purchase.

The new phones will be installed on Friday. They haven't run into the building yet, but they will be coming in to do the upgrades on Friday.

The Finance Committee has discussed raising the allowance for the Commanders Car. The first suggestion is to raise the price between \$35,000 and \$40,000. This increase would be good for four or five years before we have to ask for another increase.

Another option we discussed was the Department purchasing a vehicle every three years. The new incoming Commander would use it for one year and then pass the keys on to the next Commander.

The third one was kind of a combination of how some departments do it: the Commander chooses the new vehicle, and then the old vehicle is passed down to the Adjutant or for use by the Department before it runs out of its life cycle.

Examples from other states:

Oklahoma said that they buy a commander's vehicle and drive it until the wheels fall off. *South Dakota* buys a commander's vehicle and keeps it for two years or 60,000 miles, whichever comes first. They felt that they got the best return on trade-in by doing it that way, doing the two years or 60,000 versus a three-year. They also give their Adjutant a \$ 6,000-a-year stipend plus paid mileage for the Adjutant's vehicle.

Connecticut told me that since it's such a small state, its Commander gets reimbursed for mileage for travel.

Maryland gets a new car for the Commander, and the Adjutant receives it for the second year. After the second year, they trade it in.

Montana needs to do it.

Maine does not do it.

Alabama, they just wrapped up the Commander's POV.

Michigan commander gets a new vehicle or SUV.

West Virginia doesn't do anything, and neither does

New Mexico doesn't do anything

When the Finance Committee meets in November at the Department, they will work on an agreement to recommend to the DEC.

The Budget vs. Actual Report will be run and reviewed from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, to calculate the percentage used for the year. The committee reviewed the report. The November meeting will discuss the budget to ensure that the monies cover the rest of the year.

New Business

Jacob Brault was hired as the new Legislative coordinator. He is very sharp and doing well. He enrolled at the Statehouse and is fitting in well with the staff. He sat in at his first legislative meeting the other day, took minutes for it, and did very well.

Nancy Saum has worked for Rea and Associates and Legion since December 2021. She will retire on October 31, 2024.

Rea & Associates will send someone else to help as needed. Nancy let us know that she would be available to still help us as needed. Nancy's knowledge is vast, and she's very good at what she does, but she's also a whole lot cheaper. The Finance Committee and the Adjutant will review the options to see which way to go.

Good of the Legion

The following Finance meeting will be held at the Department Headquarters on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourn- Salute colors 7:04 pm7:04 pm