

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL

**Monday, November 10, 2025**

**6:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chambers**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ptak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chairman Ptak, Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, and Crane

**Others Present:** Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, Finance Director John Duncan, Economic Development Director Curt Bedei, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, City Engineer Brian Brown, and Police Chief Jason Stubler

**A quorum was present.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Thompson to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting from the October 27, 2025, meeting.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.**

**DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Finance Director John Duncan reviewed the annual Tax Levy Ordinance for approval at a later date and related matters. The handout provided to the Council for discussion is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Duncan discussed last year's figures as ideas for next year's figures. He indicated that he would like to set the levy two weeks in two weeks.

Duncan explained that the far-left column is the list of funds which are being levied, the middle column is the amounts from 2024 payable in 2025, the third column is a rough draft of possible amounts for 2025 payable in 2026, and the last column indicates the percentage changes from the previous year.

The suggested General Fund amount is a \$10,000 decrease due to funds being directed elsewhere; the Library Fund shows a \$20,000 increase as part of a ten-to-twelve-year plan to transition from the Library's reliance on private donations which had sustained the Library for many years and have expired to being able to operate on levied funds; and the Fire Pension Fund shows an increase of \$55,000 and the Police Pension Fund shows an

increase of \$100,000, both to continue working towards the goal of being 90% funded. Fire is currently 82% funded and Police is currently 48% funded.

Duncan advised increases to Fire and Police in excess of the amounts suggested by the third-party actuaries who reviewed them in order to ensure the City does not fall behind its goals; payroll amounts are not always predictable, affecting pension contribution requirements. In addition, the actuarial recommendations were based on payroll figures from a time when the Fire and Police were not fully staffed.

The proposed amounts would keep the City under 5% which would require a Truth in Taxation hearing.

Chairman Ptak asked what the percentages of payroll the levy figures represent. Duncan replied 37% of payroll for Fire and Police is 99.78%. The City is on track for the pensions to be fully funded by 2040.

Duncan pointed out that the money contributed to the pension funds earns interest helping build the fund further.

Duncan clarified that the IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) covers employees who are only in the General Fund because there is no other source of income to fund the pension. Pensions for employees in the Water & Sewer Fund are paid from Water & Sewer since there is another source of income to do so, and no levy is needed.

Chairman Ptak pointed out that there are zero bond levies.

When asked by Alderman Lavieri about loans Duncan indicated there are some outstanding loans in Water & Sewer some of which are forgivable and are being retained because the interest earned on CDs exceeds the interest payable on the loans.

No action was taken.

Duncan concluded by asking the Aldermen to review the proposed figures and contact him with any questions or suggestions.

Police Chief Jason Stubler discussed the service Lexipol provides to keep current with all the legislative changes that regularly occur. He indicated it includes keeping policies current, customizing them as needed, the implementation phase for the top 50 high risk policies. It is a Cloud-based, web-based system so there's no draw on software or IT systems. The service will cover December 1, 2025, through April of 2027. It is broken into two payments; the first is a pro-rated version that covers January through April 30, 2026, and includes a complimentary month and implementation costs to get it launched. The second payment will be due May 1, 2026, to cover the remainder of the term.

Fire Chief Jerry Janick indicated he is pleased with Lexipol which is already in use by the Fire Department.

Chairman Ptak pointed out that the City is receiving a 20% discount by having both Police and Fire use Lexipol.

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Thompson to recommend to the Council to approve entering into an agreement with Lexipol to provide full implementation of Police Policy and Annual Police Policy Manual at a cost of \$27,298.40 and related matters.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**AYES:** Aldermen Demes, Thompson, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

**NAYS:** NONE **Absent:** NONE **Abstain:** NONE

**MOTION CARRIED:** 8-0-0

#### **COMMENTS**

Finance Director Duncan updated the Council on Caselle which provides the current financial software used by the City. Caselle partners with PSN (Payment Systems Network) to provide the swipe machines the City uses internally and for residents paying utility bills. Duncan indicated he is considering changing to a hosted environment through Caselle. Various solutions are being reviewed. There would be an impact on utility billing customers who use PSN because they would have to establish new accounts with Caselle. A new system would create the opportunity for customers to pay more things online, such as turn-on fees if service has been cut off and rental licenses.

Duncan also mentioned Verizon is interested in putting up more equipment on City water towers and Duncan is recommending that the City talk with USG Water Solutions which is owned by Utility Service Communications regarding negotiating any new leases with Verizon to ensure appropriate terms are reached.

Duncan indicated that health insurance reviews are beginning and the initial outlook would be a 30% increase in rates. Due to several large claims the past few years the 30% is somewhat higher than the industry standard increases in north central Illinois which are running at 15-20%. To stay competitive, City claims need to remain at a 60-70% loss ratio; the current ratio is 100-105%. Options are being explored.

Duncan mentioned all four union contracts come due in May; negotiations will be scheduled soon.

Duncan would also like to begin reviewing water and sewer rates in January or February to devise a five-year plan.

Alderman Crane indicated an interest in having a City app to combine all City-related activities: bill paying, Code Red information, etc. Duncan indicated it would be reviewed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to adjourn the meeting.

**Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.**

Chairman Ptak adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Bishop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Liz" on the left and "Bishop" on the right.

Liz Bishop, City Clerk

# Exhibit 1

	FYE 4/30/25 2024 in 2025	FYE 4/30/26 2025 in 2026	
<b>Assessed Valuation</b>			
General Corporate Purposes	\$625,000.00	\$615,000.00	-1.60%
Audit	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	0.00%
Garbage Disposal	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Illinois Municipal Retirement	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	0.00%
Playground and Recreation	\$115,000.00	\$115,000.00	0.00%
School Crossing Guard	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Social Security	\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00	0.00%
Public Parks	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Public Library	\$300,000.00	\$320,000.00	6.67%
Fire Pension	\$120,000.00	\$175,000.00	45.83%
Police Pension	\$2,100,000.00	\$2,200,000.00	4.76%
<b>Total non-Bond Levies</b>	<b>\$3,420,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,585,000.00</b>	<b>4.82%</b>
G.O. Bonds, Series 1995A (\$3.575K)			
G.O. Bond, Series 2005B (Rfd 95A) - 2011B			
G.O. Bond, 2001 Library (\$2.250K) - 2011A			
G.O. Bond, Series 2007 (\$3.600K)			
G.O. Bond, Series 2008 (\$1.000K)			
G.O. Bond, Series 2010A (\$300K)-Rotary Park			
<b>Total Bond Levies</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total all Levies</b>	<b>\$3,420,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,585,000.00</b>	<b>4.82%</b>