

Capitola Scrutinizes Police Budget

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The Capitola City Council scrutinized the proposed \$1.2 million Police Department budget — the largest single category in its \$2.7 million preliminary 1982-83 budget — during sessions Thursday night.

No decisions were made, although another session was scheduled Tuesday. The council is expected to adopt the budget at its June 24 meeting.

The \$2.7 million budget is nearly identical to this fiscal year's. City Manager Steve Burrell has maintained that in most cases, the present level of city services will continue to be provided to residents despite it being a "difficult year."

The proposed \$1.2 million Police Department budget is 4 percent more than 1981-82. Under the proposal, Police Chief

Bob Allen hopes to create the position of deputy chief by deleting one sergeant. A police officer and clerk/typist will be added on July 1.

Salaries and wages, earmarked at \$760,267, represent the biggest slice of the department's budget. It is up 5 percent.

At one point, Mayor Ron Graves put a hypothetical situation before Allen, questioning if the department had enough contingencies to get by if the council were to cut the budget by 5 percent. While Allen maintained there were some categories that could withstand a 5 percent cut, he stressed there was no "padding" in his budget for such a contingency.

Councilmembers specifically questioned the \$14,350 proposed for police tools and equipment. It represented a 48 percent hike.

This category included everything from the replacement of two shotguns (\$500) to portable eight-channel radios (\$5,000).

Discussion centered on what the department does with used firearms, such as the shotguns, once they are replaced. Allen said he was unsure of his powers and used firearms were simply stored by the department.

The council expressed its support for the city selling used firearms rather than simply storing them. Burrell agreed to review the legalities involved with such a sale.

Also under the tools and equipment category, Allen explained he was in the process of annually purchasing just a few pieces of additional safety and service equipment, such as protective helmets and masks. This was hoped to eliminate the need of one large request.

The council also studied more detailed information about the \$10,310 request for police-related training, conferences and meetings, as well as \$800 earmarked for police publications.

Councilmembers also studied the \$29,500 requested for general office expenses of the city. It represented a reduction of 28 percent.

That discussion centered on the \$1,000 proposed for the annual city employees' Christmas party. It was explained, however, that the \$1,000 only represented about 30 to 35 percent of the actual costs. The rest was picked up by the employees themselves.

The next budget session will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the upstairs conference room at City Hall. Revenue-sharing requests will be discussed.