

Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
April 21, 2026

This regular meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee was held Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Acting Chairman Kovach called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Morrow, Kovach, Fogel, DeBottis, Petrucci, Cizl, Finance Director Rummell, Service Director Hastings.

Excused: Gee, Rosso, Mayor Radeff, Law Director Ward.

Attending: Fire Chief Novak, Council Clerk Randolph, Citizens.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Finance Director Rummell reports the first thing I wanna touch on is the appropriations, #15. Those I will have over to our Clerk of Council by the end of the week, so that way we can get them on the agenda, corrected for a second reading next week. The Monthly Treasurer's Report will also be to you by that point in time. Last but not least, the main thing that I wanna talk about today is the fire truck. That was our big topic of conversation. So, the primary things that, from my perspective to touch on, is the difference in the types of loans. So, we had considered bonding it, but when we ended up talking to the bank, the number one thing that they said is to essentially buy it like a car, essentially. Our option that we were going with is the 7-year loan. It's at a 4.54% interest rate. The other option was a 10-year at a 4.69. Now, the difference between the two of them is that in totality, the 7-year loan will cost \$1.18 million, which amounts to \$169,000 per year over that 7-year period. For option two, it would be \$1.27 million at \$126,924 per year. So, the savings to do a 7-year loan is gonna be 85 and a half thousand. To me, that was kind of a no-brainer to save the city. I mean, if you look at the difference per year, we're looking at 126, almost 127,000 vs 169,000 per year. One thing that I will mention right up front is that the first payment on this will not be due until '27. So, we're not paying anything this year on it to commit to it, but that will allow us to get the firetruck ordered and get started with that process. We know we're looking at about 2-3 years approximately? Probably closer to two years before we get it. So, essentially, we'll make our first payment into it. That'll go into an escrow account until we take possession of the truck and then the bank will get the money. Councilman DeBottis asks can I ask why we have to start paying for something we don't have yet? Finance Director Rummell replies essentially, it's gonna go into an escrow account. So, it's really just so that way the loan doesn't sit too long. If it sits too long, we'll end up building interest on it. So, rather than build that interest, we'll just make the payment into an escrow account. The escrow account will hold it. It's kind of like

earnest money. When you're purchasing a home, you put the money into the account until you take possession and then it starts getting paid out. It'll be kind of like that. Councilman DeBottis asks approximately how long do you think we'll be making payments for an escrow account before we get the...? Finance Director Rummell responds if we're able to take possession of the truck in two years, it should only be one payment. That'll be the 27 payment. And then, hopefully, we'll take possession then in 28 and that'll make the, all payments will then go directly toward that. Councilman DeBottis asks and obviously fully refundable if something happens and we don't get the truck? Finance Director Rummell replies correct. Councilman Fogel asks is there a pre-payment penalty? Finance Director Rummell replies yes, 1%. Councilman Fogel asks would it be common practice to pay that down early? Finance Director Rummell replies we could pay it down early. I mean, over the course of seven years, the fact that we're making \$169,000 payments, I don't know if it would necessarily make sense for us to pay it off early, but we certainly could pay it down and then just have a small final payment. Councilman Fogel asks what happens to the old equipment? Fire Chief Novak responds the old equipment, we're gonna keep, obviously, until we take delivery of the new one, and then we're gonna sell the old one. I'm not exactly sure what type of pricing we would get for it, but that's definitely the plan, is to sell it. I'd like to kind of read just a statement. I'd like to start off with a little bit of history about the truck that we were getting rid of, and that's engine 63. It was purchased back in 1996, so it's 30 years old this year. At the time, it was the most expensive engine in the county. The price was around \$263,000 when we purchased it back in 1996. Today, it's the oldest engine in the county that is still in service. In 2008, our newest engine was purchased using funding through the Assistance to Firefighters grant. Last year, Rachel Sommer and I applied for the same grant, but unfortunately, it didn't get funded. Currently, engine 61 is 18 years old, so we have an engine that's 30 years old and an engine that's 18 years old. In 2017, engine 63 underwent a class two refurbishment. At the time, the administration felt this was a better option than the purchase of a new engine. The refurbishment was to extend the life another 7 years till 2024, and I got a list of things that were done on the refurbishment. So, they updated the braking system, they replaced all the air system components, they replaced the current lighting system to LED, replacement of leaf springs and shocks, replacement of the front end components, they rebuilt all the water valves, replacement of the pump shaft assembly, replacement of all switches in the cabs, refurbishment of the AC system, replacement of all the door seals, replaced any defective hoses, they did an engine tune-up, they serviced the onboard generator, and they did body work, paint, and wrapping, and that total cost of that project was \$108,506.22. So, 9 years later, the engine is starting to develop some more cost-prohibitive repairs, costing an estimated \$55,000. At the end of the day, we're still gonna have a 30-year-old engine. So currently, we're looking at spending \$995,000 to purchase a state-bid engine from E1. If we purchase the

engine now, there will be a two- to three-year wait until we take delivery, and that'll make engine 63, 33 years old. I sent out an email with pictures of the old truck and pictures of what the new truck would look like. I do have those pictures here if you wanna take a look at them.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Cizl/Second by DeBottis to adjourn at 7:08pm. Yeas All.

CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION: This meeting of the City Committee of the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio was held and conducted under all rules and regulations governing the Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio as they apply. All meetings are recorded and available in Council's office.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Brandy Randolph

I, Brandy Randolph, duly appointed Clerk of Committee of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and exact copy of the minutes of the Finance & Audit of Apr. 21, 2026.

ACTING CHAIRMAN

Steve Kovach

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Richard Rosso