

September 11, 2025

## City of Northwood Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Northwood Safety Committee was called to order by Chairman Mark Stoner at 6:30 PM on September 11, 2025 in the Council Chambers and via Live Stream.

### ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Clerk Popovitch and those in attendance were as follows: Mark Stoner, Dean Edwards, Michael Melnyk, Fire Chief Whitmore, Police Chief Zahradnik and City Administrator Kevin Laughlin.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**May 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION:** Michael Melnyk made a motion to **Approve**; seconded by Dean Edwards. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Mark Stoner, Dean Edwards, Michael Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None  
**Result: Passed**

### TOPICS/ISSUES

#### Totaled Police Cruiser Replacement

Chief provided an update regarding the total loss of a police cruiser involved in an accident. He has been working with insurance companies to determine reimbursement. The other driver's insurance initially offered \$25,000 for the vehicle, which was valued at approximately \$65,000 including equipment and decals. The Chief declined that offer and is now working through the City's insurance provider, which may take additional time. The officer involved sustained only minor injuries and returned to duty the same night. The other driver was found to be at fault. The department is currently managing with one less vehicle and has sufficient cars in service. Once insurance reimbursement is determined, the City will consider replacement options. If approved, ordering a new cruiser through Reineke Ford would take approximately 2–3 months, with new models now being 2026 model year vehicles.

Committee acknowledged the update and noted that further information will be provided once insurance negotiations are complete.

#### Fire Department Capital Replacement Schedule

Chief provided an overview of fire department staffing, facility, and apparatus needs as part of long-term planning.

##### Staffing:

Daily staffing averages 4 personnel on duty, with less than 1% of time at two-person coverage. Since hiring three new SAFER positions in March, 74.5% of shifts have had four personnel, and roughly 91% of the time a paramedic is on duty. While staffing may eventually need to increase to six depending on community growth, no immediate increase is anticipated.

##### Facilities:

The department continues planning for a new combined police and fire facility. The current fire station, built in 1950–51, is outdated. The long-term plan is to consolidate operations into one station once a new facility is built, pending progress on the Wales Road corridor improvements.

##### Apparatus and Fleet Overview:

Current fleet includes: 2 chief cars, 2 utilities, 3 medic units, 1 mini pumper, 2 engines, and 1 tower ladder. Medic 83 has been out of service for two years; replacement delivery is expected in spring 2027. Several vehicles are scheduled for replacement over the next seven years, including the tower ladder, which is approaching 15 years old.

##### Tower Ladder Discussion:

The department is considering selling the tower ladder due to limited use and staffing constraints. The ladder truck, purchased for \$752,000 nearly 15 years ago, could sell for an estimated \$500,000 based on current market research. A new aerial truck would cost over \$2 million with a 4–5 year delivery timeline. The truck responded only 14 times this year and cannot fit in the main fire station.

##### Proposed Fleet Adjustments:

Consider selling the tower ladder if favorable pricing can be obtained. Replace one aging engine (2001 model) with a Quint, which combines engine and ladder functions, reducing fleet size and costs.

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Replace the mini pumper with a similar or slightly larger model to maintain ISO credit.  
Maintain two medic units instead of three when the next replacement is due.

### Financial Overview:

Estimated costs:

New engine: \$1.0–\$1.2 million

New ladder truck: \$2.1 million

New Quint: \$1.6–\$1.8 million

New mini pumper: ~\$600,000

No immediate funding is required until a new truck is delivered; price locks occur upon order. Reducing the fleet could save approximately \$125,000 in equipment and lower maintenance and insurance costs. Annual price increases for apparatus average 3–5%.

### Next Steps:

Chief will conduct further research into the best method for selling the tower ladder and potential buyer arrangements and will return to the committee with additional information and a recommendation before proceeding.

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### NEW BUSINESS

### OLD BUSINESS

### ADJOURNMENT

6:53PM

**ATTEST:** Emily Popovitch  
*Clerk*

**APPROVED:** Mark Stoner  
*Chair*