

**CITY OF BELLEVILLE
POLICE & FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2026 MEETING TIME – 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELLEVILLE CITY HALL**

Aldersperson Mary Stiehl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:	Bryan Whitaker	Carmen Duco	Scott Ferguson
Johnnie Anthony	Kathy Kaiser	Phil Elmore	Kara Osthoff

Excused: Mary Stiehl

Department Head/Staff:	Fire Chief Lougeay	Deputy Fire Chief Garnica
	Police Chief Eiskant	

Guest Aldersperson:	Dennis Weygandt	Raffi Ovian	Gigi Dowling-Urban
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Guest:	Catherine Kreher
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Call to Order

- January 5, 2026 meeting of the Police and Fire Committee called to order at 6 o'clock.
- Prayers for Police Chief Eiskant "Keep him and his family in your prayers, if you can."
- Disaster procedures reviewed.
- Public Participation: Two to three minutes per person.

Public Participation

- Catherine Kreher: She served as Aldersperson in the 8th Ward from 1999 to 2011, still a precinct committeeman.
- A bullet hit her roof and skylight on New Year's Eve.
 - The couch is directly underneath the skylight.
 - She could have been severely injured.
- She measured the bullet and "It appears that it's 9 millimeters."
- She has lived in Belleville the majority of her life.
- Served 12 years as Alderman in the West End.
- Expresses concern for safety due to house being attacked by gunfire.
- Mentions excessive fireworks on the 4th of July, lasting for weeks and going on until 2 AM.

- Bullets damaged her house.
- She lives on Michelle Drive, behind the 3908 West Main apartment complex.
- Heard fireworks and gunshots, including "seven pops" of a gun being discharged.
- Estimates being 200-300 feet from the apartments.
- She asked about the type of bullet and how far it can travel.
- Inquired about the lethality and range of the bullets.
- Has called the police multiple times for gunshots at the 3908 West Main Apartments.
- Asks if the bullet is a 9 millimeter.

Response and Procedure

- Asst. Police Chief Heffernan told Ms. Kreher to make a police report and turn the bullet over for analysis by the state police.
- The state police keep a database to trace the bullet back to who fired the shot.
- Analyzing the bullet in a public forum is deemed inappropriate.
- The speaker acknowledges the response and thanks the committee.

Minutes

Aldersperson Whitaker made a motion second by Aldersperson Elmore to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2025 meeting.

All members present voted – AYE.

Motion carries.

Old Business

- None.

New Business - Fire Department

Grants

- Received a grant from Illinois American Water for \$1,000 at the end of 2025.
 - The grant will go towards upgrading equipment.
- Completed a grant application with the State of Illinois for a small equipment grant.
 - The grant will replace a rapid intervention air pack.
- The Belleville Improvement Group is providing a check to purchase a four-gas meter.
 - The meter will detect carbon monoxide, lack of oxygen, hydrogen sulfide, and other chemicals.

Training

- Recertifications are about 98% complete.
 - Should be done by the end of the first quarter.
- Deadline of about March.
- Data crashing to get all the data in, communicating with the State Fire Marshal's office and a program called Vector.
 - Input all data in Vector.
 - Training applies towards all the certificates.

Fleet

- Refurb Ladder 49 issue: Still not completely functional, out for about two weeks, anticipating another two weeks waiting on parts.

Community Risk Reduction

- Inspections: 150 inspections completed despite holidays and short weeks.
- School Meetings: Met with three additional schools to address needs, training, and state certifications.
 - Met with diocese schools and Belle Valley, both high schools.
 - Working on meetings with Emge and Signal Hill schools.
- National Fire Incident Reporting System:
 - Being replaced by National Emergency Reporting Information System in 2026.
 - New system is all data and requires more information gathering.

Fleet SUVs

- Goal: Rotate SUVs on a 10-year cycle (5 years as regular driver, 5 years as backup).
- SUV Purchase:
 - A new SUV was budgeted for this fiscal year.
 - Request on the agenda for tonight.
 - State bid purchase: \$59,702 for a 2026 Tahoe from Miles Chevrolet in Decatur.

SUV Usage

- Assignment: The new SUV will be assigned to the Fire Chief.
 - Current vehicle will be rotated down for training purposes.
- Replacement: Replacing the oldest SUV.
- Rotation Plan: Sticking to the 5-year new, 5-year reserve plan, so the 2021 will not be gotten rid of.

Vehicle Usage and Replacement

- 2021 vehicle will be moved down for travel/training purposes.
- SUVs are assigned to:
 - Each Chief Officer.
 - Battalion chief.
 - Two for travel training.
 - One for the Fleet Maintenance Director.
- The oldest travel vehicle will remain for the fleet maintenance director's use within the city.
- The Fire Department will have a total of seven SUVs.

Concerns About Vehicle Purchases

- Concern raised about the frequency of vehicle purchases (3rd or 4th in the last two years).
- There was catch up from before.
- The city had an 2006, 2008, and now a 2010 model year vehicle that needs to be replaced.

Concerns About Vehicle Rotation

- Concern that purchasing four vehicles in two years will lead to needing to replace them all again in five years.
- This could create a situation where many vehicles need replacement at the same time.
- The current pattern is not spacing out vehicle replacements effectively.

Vehicle Availability and Research

- A search was conducted for a 2025 model, but none were available.
- The oldest travel vehicle is a 2008 model.
- A 2010 vehicle has significant mechanical issues and is used by the fleet director within the city.
- The newest vehicle is a 2021 model.

Vehicle Discussion

- The vehicles in question are the 2025 (battalion chief's car bought last year), 2024s (used by the deputy and assistant chief previously), 2021 (currently being driven).
- The condition of the 21 is "really good."
- The goal is to rotate vehicles to have more reliable vehicles.
- The 21 would be moved down to one of the travel vehicles.

City Council Involvement

- The issue is on the City Council agenda for this evening.

- The committee needs to make a motion to either approve or reject the proposal, not just offer no recommendation.
- If it doesn't make it out of committee, it can't be brought up on the floor.

Aldersperson Whitaker made a motion second by Aldersperson Elmore to forward this to City Council without a recommendation of police and fire.

Members voting aye on roll call: Whitaker, Ferguson, Kaiser, Elmore, Duco, Anthony, Osthoff.

Motion carries.

Ladder 49 Refurbishment

- Proprietary vehicle: Only handled by E1 dealers. Banner is the only choice for repairs in the area.
- Payment status: Down payment paid.
 - Check for the bill has been cut but not sent out yet, will be held until everything is back.

Fleet Vehicle Refurbishment

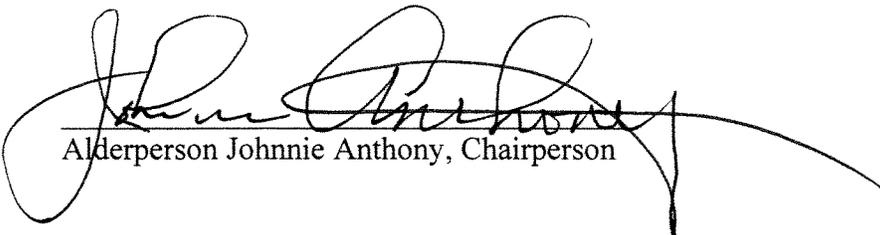
- Fleet vehicle originally purchased from Banner in 1999.
- Banner also did the refurb work.
- Refurbishment cost approximately \$600,000.
- A new vehicle would cost around \$1.5 to \$1.7 million.
- A new ladder truck was purchased in 2024 for \$1.5 million.

Police Department Update

- Asst. Police Chief Heffernan: No new business. Statistics for 2025 will be presented at the February 2nd meeting.

Adjournment

- Aldersperson Elmore made a motion second by Aldersperson Ferguson to adjourn at 6:24pm.
- All members voted aye.
- Motion carried.



Aldersperson Johnnie Anthony, Chairperson

Minutes by: Niccy Cook, Asst. City Clerk

