

Community Relations Board for Yankton Federal Prison Camp accepting member applications

The Community Relations Board for the Yankton Federal Prison Camp, which was established via By-Laws to act as an official liaison between the FPC and the community at the time the Camp was established in Yankton, is seeking two new members.

The purpose of the Board is to be informed about policies, programs, and conditions at the camp, to encourage community interest and involvement, to make recommendations for disseminating information to the community, and to learn about the many programs and educational opportunities which the Bureau of Prisons, Yankton Federal Prison Camp, provides for inmates in order to facilitate their re-entering society.

The Board meets quarterly on the third Wednesday of January, April, July, and October at 8 a.m. at Yankton Federal Prison Camp.

Those interested in applying for the position on the Board must submit a letter of interest and be willing to submit to a background check. Letters should be sent by March 15 to Board president, Joni Pier, 903 Hillcrest Grand Ave., Yankton, SD 57078.

The positions will be awarded by the week of April 18.

IN A MINUTES NOTICE *Part three*

Yankton Fire Dept. spends 17.5% of budget on salaries

Editor's Note: This is the third story of an Observer series titled "In a Minutes Notice." These articles highlight information and news value in meeting minutes and other public notices in newspapers. Part three looks at City of Yankton spending on public safety, library, and legal services.

This chapter of "In a Minutes Notice" takes a look inside City of Yankton's 2017 budget and compares four appropriations with six other South Dakota cities between 11,000-24,000 residents. Areas reviewed were fire department, police department, library, and city attorney.

City budgets used for this article were from Spearfish (population 11,283); Huron (pop. 13,313); Pierre (pop. 14,002); Yankton (pop. 14,557); Mitchell (pop. 15,669); Watertown (pop. 22,073); and Brookings (pop. 23,657).

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The seven cities range from \$602,771 to \$1.73 million in spending for community fire protection. Mitchell is the highest this year at \$1.73 million, followed by Pierre, \$1.64 million; Watertown, \$1.09 million; Yankton, \$897,956; Huron, \$749,665; Brookings, \$629,942; and Spearfish, \$602,771.

Yankton Fire Department has a full-time chief, full-time assistant chief, and 40 volunteer firefighters. The volunteer-based squad saves the city in personnel costs, allowing YFD more budget room for equipment (\$317,000 in 2017).

For example: Yankton dedicates 17.5 percent of its fire department budget to salaries for the city's two full-time firefighters. YFD's January 2017 payroll was \$12,988.

Huron spends 61 percent of its fire department budget on pay for nine full-time firefighters. HFD's January 2017 payroll was \$38,203.

Yankton's total firefighting costs have ranged from \$518,262 in 2013 to \$1.48 million two years ago. The 2015 expenditure was an outlier with \$925,342 of that \$1.48 million spent on a brand new 100-foot rear mount aerial ladder truck with a 20-year expected service lifespan. Outside of Sioux Falls and Sioux City, Yankton is the only department in the region with an aerial truck of such size and capability.

The nearly \$1 million vehicle replaced a 1989 ladder



This 2015 100-foot rear mount aerial ladder truck is one of the jewels in the Yankton Fire Department fleet of firefighting vehicles. Outside of Sioux Falls and Sioux City, Yankton is the only department in the region with an aerial truck of this size and capability.

truck. That 26-year-old mobile machine was sold to Huron Fire Department for \$72,000.

Following are thumbnail descriptions of staffing at the seven S.D. fire departments reviewed for this article:

Watertown Fire Rescue merges firefighting and ambulance services with 36 full-time employees who respond to both types of calls.

Mitchell Fire Department is also merged with the ambulance service with 24 full-time and three part-time employees.

Huron Fire Department has nine full-time employees and a roster of 27 volunteers.

Brookings Fire Department has three full-time firefighters and 45 volunteers.

Spearfish Fire Department has three full-time firefighters and 60 volunteers.

Yankton Fire Department has two full-time firefighters and 40 volunteers.

Pierre Fire Department has one full-time fire chief and 60 volunteers.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Yankton ranked second in law enforcement appropriations among the seven cities with \$3.39 million budgeted for the Yankton Police Department. Watertown was first at \$3.63 million. Others are: Brookings, \$3.35 million; Mitchell, \$3.26 million; Pierre, \$2.64 million; Huron, \$2.42 million; and Spearfish, \$2.11 million.

YPD has 40 members (including two canines). Structure of the Yankton department is a police chief, three lieutenants, three detectives, three sergeants, 16 sworn officers, two canines, nine communications officers, one animal control officer, and two support staff.

LIBRARY: 2017 appropriations of \$791,394 for the Yankton Community Library is fourth highest of the seven communities reviewed. Other city library budgets are: Brookings, \$1.1 million; Watertown, \$958,325; Huron, \$819,495; Pierre, \$789,609; Mitchell, \$666,794; and Spearfish, \$442,050. Yankton's library budget includes a new item this year – \$45,000 in the building fund for roof repairs and some work on the south entrance.

CITY ATTORNEY: Yankton has the lowest 2017 attorney costs among the seven cities at \$57,081. Other city

attorney budgets include: Mitchell, \$148,745; Watertown, \$148,410; Huron, \$113,460; Brookings, \$103,000; Pierre, \$87,800; and Spearfish, \$76,747.

Yankton city attorney Ross Den Herder receives \$42,550 per year in salary for the part-time position. Among the seven S.D. municipalities reviewed, only Mitchell and Watertown have full-time city attorneys.

Sources: Published 2017 budgets from City of Watertown, City of Brookings, City of Mitchell, City of Yankton, City of Pierre, City of Huron, and City of Spearfish; 2015 U.S. Census estimates.

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