



Denver City Council

**Finance Committee
Summary**

Rescheduled meeting date from October 18, 2006

Tuesday, October 24, 2006 11:00 a.m.

Council Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Faatz, Chair; Brown, Vice-Chair; Lehmann, Rodriguez

Committee Members Absent: Boigon

Other Council Present: Johnson

Agenda:

- 1) Career Service Authority 2006 supplemental
- 2) Election Commission 2006 supplemental

1) Career Service Authority 2006 supplemental:

Committee Action

The Committee approved a supplemental in the amount of \$40,000 from the General Fund to Career Service Authority to cover the costs of two contracts related to enhanced communication services.

Discussion Summary

John Shick, Career Service Authority (CSA), requested \$55,000 in supplemental funding. He explained that \$40,000 is to cover the remaining cost of two contracts related to enhanced communication processes and \$15,000 is to cover costs for a random sample survey that is being run concurrently with the citywide annual employee attitude survey. He noted that Councilmember Boigon requested the additional random sample survey to measure and quantify the results from the larger survey. CSA has spent approximately \$3,000 on duplication, materials, and mailing costs on the additional survey. It is anticipated that a total of \$5,000 will be spent on these items and another \$10,000 for a vendor to conduct follow up telephone surveys. Mr. Shick explained the two communications contracts were generated in 2005 but were not signed in 2005, so they were not able to encumber the funds in 2005 and therefore the money was returned to the General Fund. In 2005, CSA returned \$153,000 to the General Fund.

Christine McGroarty, Budget & Management, said it was policy that contracts and payments must be accounted for in the same fiscal year. She explained that Budget & Management asked Career Service to hold off encumbering any funds to see if their 2006 budget could absorb the additional costs. Unfortunately, the costs were not designated in 2006 for

funding. Ms. McGroarty clarified that approximately \$3,000 has been spent on services related to the random survey.

Councilmembers voiced concern over a supplemental survey requested by Councilmember Boigon. Councilmember Brown stressed that CSA needed to seek approval from all Councilmembers regarding these types of expenditures. Councilmembers agreed to support the supplemental request for \$40,000 to pay for the two communications contracts.

2) **Election Commission 2006 supplemental:**

Committee Action

The Committee approved a supplemental to the Election Commission in the amount of \$756,186 for unanticipated costs related to Vote Center elections in 2006.

Discussion Summary

John Gaydeski, Election Commission, outlined various unforeseen election costs that necessitated the proposed supplemental in the amount of \$768,000. The breakdown of the costs includes \$188,000 for personnel and \$580,000 for supplies/services. He outlined the following issues that resulted in higher costs (see attachment):

- Additional overtime costs;
- Additional machine printers were required due to the length of the November ballot;
- Increased freight costs;
- Unforeseen machine maintenance costs;
- Increased technology services;
- Additional judges required for Vote Centers;
- Increased IT equipment and wiring costs;
- Additional computers were needed; and
- Enhanced security was required.

Mr. Gaydeski indicated that Vote Center predictions for equipment and personnel were inaccurate. Inexperience with equipment needs and expenses related to Vote Centers are primarily the reasons why the Election Commission is requesting a supplemental. He reported there are 1,050 judges and they perform various tasks including greeting voters. He noted there is one judge for every machine for security reasons and that machines are sealed when not in use. Councilmember Rodriguez noted that utilizing rental car companies is less expensive than using city vehicles. Councilmember Faatz suggested that the judge's manual be sent to another printer to lower the supplies costs. Mr. Gaydeski indicated they compared various printing costs, but will check into it further.

Christine McGroarty, Budget & Management, reminded the Committee that the Secretary of State's Office paid for the new voting equipment and is not an issue related to the supplemental. Based on the state's requirements and the number of machines how were the 55 sites determined, asked Councilmember Faatz. Mr. Gaydeski stated the planned sites were determined based on district need, capacity, ADA accessibility, expected votes, and a ballot casting formula (based on the length of the ballot). The largest Vote Center site would accommodate 24 voting machines based on various criteria.

Councilmember Faatz said she has concerns with the Election Commission hiring an additional assistant with pay and benefits estimated at \$74,000 when the agency is requesting a large supplemental. Margaret Browne, Budget & Management, said the agency meets weekly with Election staff. The agency has not increased staffing and has incurred vacancy savings on an unfilled position, stated Ms. Browne. Commissioner Rogers said there are reasons why the unfilled position is vacant and why they are proposing a new position. Councilmember Faatz suggested that the proposed supplemental be decreased by the difference of compensation (pay and benefits) between the current vacant position and the proposed new position. That amount would decrease the total supplemental by \$11,814. Mr. Gaydeski said he did not object to that amount. The Committee agreed to approve a supplemental in the amount of \$756,186. Subsequent to the meeting, Budget & Management staff explained that figures are rounded to the nearest hundredth – the total supplemental amount is \$756,200.

Councilmember Johnson asked how the Commission was going to address the 2008 mandate for precinct reporting. Commissioner Rogers said there are statewide discussions occurring, but the focus now is to move forward with Vote Center modeling. She stated that more equipment will be needed for precinct reporting and is estimated at \$4 million. Councilmember Rodriguez said she would prefer all-mail voting next year and would like to see a comparison of the costs between Vote Centers and mail voting. In addition, Councilwoman Rodriguez requested figures for absentee voting per district after the November election.