

Re: City Council contingencies

Jonathan Silverstein

Tue 6/11/2019 1:06 PM

To: Brian Hopkins <Brian.Hopkins@cityofchicago.org>

Cc: Belinda Cadiz <Belinda.Cadiz@cityofchicago.org>

You're welcome, Alderman.

You were cc'ed on additional information which we received yesterday afternoon. In case you didn't have a chance to see it, we received this from Annette Plattner, Deputy Director of OBM :

Yes, I handle oversight/maintenance of the Council Ward Staff, Expense Account and Committee expense budgets. The account in question is used for expenses for operating the council chambers which include bottled water, copier leasing and usage, office supplies, etc. In 2018, approximately \$35,000 was spent out of the \$43,000 budgeted. Of that amount, approximately \$26k was for copiers. Please let me know if you have any more questions.

And this from OBM Director-nominee Susie Parks:

[In the past that account was used to fund expenses for operating council chambers.](#)

[The amount in the amendment is to help with the transition between the various committees.](#)

During the Budget Committee meeting, Ms. Parks was asked about the large increase in the Contingencies line item, and she said that it was for expenses related to Committee reorganization, but that it was impossible to say at this time what exactly, if anything, it would be spent on, because it was truly contingent. She said that there was a good chance that it would not all be spent, but of course that could not be guaranteed. As you know, the funds were specifically earmarked for AV equipment for livestreaming in an earlier version of the ordinance, but that is no longer the case.

Please let me know if Ms. Plattner's description of past contingencies spending is sufficient, or if would like COFA to obtain a more precise breakdown from OBM.

Jonathan Silverstein
Budget Analyst
Council Office of Financial Analysis
30 N. LaSalle St, Ste 201
Chicago, IL 60602
312-744-6680

From: Brian Hopkins
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 12:52 PM
To: Jonathan Silverstein
Subject: Re: City Council contingencies

thank you for that update

From: Jonathan Silverstein
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 10:26 AM
To: Brian Hopkins
Cc: Belinda Cadiz
Subject: City Council contingencies

Alderman:

We have been told that the line item for City Council Contingencies is for Council Services, and that in 2018 those funds were used for leases of photocopiers and other office equipment and other office supplies (paper, etc.).

We will get you an exact breakdown. We are attempting to do so before 11:00.

Jonathan Silverstein
Budget Analyst
Council Office of Financial Analysis
30 N. LaSalle St, Ste 201
Chicago, IL 60602
312-744-6680

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