



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council

Monday, July 14, 2025
2:00 PM

Budget Work Session

City Hall
Council Chamber
701 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buffaloe called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Present: 6 - Buffaloe, Foster, Waterman, Peters, Carroll, and Sample

General Fund Overview

Attachments: [FY26 Budget Work Session Presentation](#)

Matthew Lue, Finance Director, presented on the General Fund budget. He began with information on the differing budgeting philosophies between the state and federal governments compared to municipal governments. He clarified that unspent funds go back to that fund's fund balance at the end of the fiscal year. He covered what the General Fund is and what all is included. As a service based organization, the largest expense in the General Fund is personnel, with Public Safety being the largest piece of that.

The General Fund outlook included actuals from FY 23 and FY 24, and projected FY 25 and FY 26 - this included revenues, expenditures, and cash reserve target. Matthew noted that there are limited vacancies in the General Fund now compared to FY 23, and that the changes in staffing since the class and comp study occurred faster than staff anticipated. Matthew noted that the budget overall has decreased significantly outside of personnel.

The main source of revenue for the General Fund is sales and use tax, making up about 30% of General Fund revenue. He also highlighted intragovernmental revenue comes from other departments into the general fund - for example, the Law department is in the general fund and provides those services to all city departments.

Deep Debnath, Economist, discussed the actuals from FY 20 through estimated FY 26 for the General Fund. He also covered historical data on property taxes. Beginning in FY 26, a proposal to halt the transfer from the General Fund to the Public Improvement Fund (PIF) is included in the draft budget - the transfer includes 2% of the 1% General Fund sales tax. Whether or not this transfer takes place will be evaluated on a year by year basis. More information on the Public Improvement Fund will be shared on Saturday.

For the current fiscal year, use tax is coming in higher than anticipated, which is helping to offset lower than expected sales tax revenue. Deep also noted that marijuana tax revenue is also lower than anticipated, so for FY 26 just over \$600,000 is anticipated. He highlighted the other local taxes, specifically which ones are declining (cigarette, telecommunications, cable tv taxes). He highlighted the Union and Boone Electric gross receipts operate like a P.I.L.O.T fee and anticipate those to rebound.

Andrea Greer, Budget Officer, covered the categories with the largest expenditures in the General Fund, including personnel and services & miscellaneous. Police, Fire, Public Works, and Public Health are the departments with the largest budget allocations.

Meganne Montesinos, Budget Analyst, reviewed the General & Administrative (G&A) fees. These fees are charged to departments outside the General Fund to cover the services provided by General Fund departments. There are also some direct billed items charged through G&A fees, such as Airport Safety. She covered the divisions that are covered through a G&A fee billed to departments outside of the General Fund.

Andrea covered Public Communications Fees, which are calculated to cover costs for Creative Services & Marketing and the Contact Center. An example of a direct bill is the costs for the City Source newsletter which is created by Creative Services and then billed to the Utilities. The Contact Center fee is based on call referral history. She also covered the Facilities Fees, which are calculated based on square footage. These fees support maintenance and custodial services.

Meganne emphasized that G&A fees don't go to a specific department, while the Public Communications and Facilities Fees are budgeted as revenue in specific departments.

Jim McDonald, Assistant Finance Director, discussed the budget for a variety of General Fund departments and divisions. He reviewed the role of the Streets & Engineering and Public Health departments and how each is funded. Rebecca Roesslet, Public Health Director, discussed some of the impacts of funding cuts to Public Health. The Community Health Worker program and vaccines in public schools are both ending.

Matthew covered changes in the FY 26 proposed budget for the General Fund. These include not transferring to the PIF, a change for Parks (4) and Airport (2) safety officers becoming sworn police officers, and 8 new FTEs in Public Health (2), Housing & Neighborhood Services (1), and CPD (6).

The first read for the budget will be August 2nd.

II. ANY OTHER ITEMS COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:42 p.m.