city of
Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Finance
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: August 17, 2026
Re: Amending the FY 26 Annual Budget for fourth quarter appropriation of funds
Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

For FY 26, budget adjustments will be compiled by Finance and brought to City Council for consideration on a quarterly basis. For the fourth quarter, adjustments are requested by Airport, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Electric, Employee Benefit Fund, Finance – Utility Customer Service, Fire, Mid Missouri Solid Waste Management District (MMSWMD), Parks & Recreation, Fleet Operations, Public Works – Streets & Engineering, Sewer, Stormwater, Transload, Vehicle & Equipment Replacement Fund, Airport CIP, Parks & Recreation CIP, Public Works - Streets & Sidewalks CIP, and Stormwater CIP.

Discussion

OPERATING:

Airport: $3,000.00
This request will appropriate **$3,000.00** for office furniture for the new Deputy Airport Director position. Funding is needed to furnish an office setup—including a desk and chair—prior to the arrival of the new hire for this newly created position.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): $6,000.00
This request will appropriate **$6,000.00** in personnel authority to the Community Development Block Grant Fund. These funds are necessary to cover personnel costs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Electric: $7,200,000.00
This request will appropriate an additional **$6,000,000.00** to the Purchased Power account. The City has been called on by MISO to operate more often than past years incurring more expenses. This appropriation to the purchase power account ensures the Utility can meet its ongoing wholesale power obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

This request will appropriate an additional **$1,000,000.00** for the purchase of natural gas used for electric generation. Higher-than-budgeted fuel expenses incurred during Winter Storm Fern, combined with being called on by MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) for local generation more frequently this fiscal year than in any recent history, have depleted available funding. Without this appropriation, the Utility will have insufficient funds to meet its ongoing natural gas purchase obligations to maintain plant operations.

This request will appropriate an additional **$200,000.00** to cover anticipated and pending residential solar and energy efficiency rebates. Expiring federal tax credits drove an unprecedented surge in solar installations, exhausting budgeted rebate funds early. Staff anticipates this is a one-time issue; funding is needed to avoid program disruption and processing delays for participating residents.

Employee Benefit Fund: $5,575.00
This request will appropriate **$5,575.00** from the Employee Benefits Fund Balance to cover a prior-year Nationwide invoice. Due to an administrative processing delay, an invoice from FY25 was paid out of FY26 funds, causing a budget shortfall in Q2. This one-time transfer reconciles the account, restores the current-year operating budget, and ensures ongoing payments remain timely to avoid late fees.

Finance - Utility Customer Service: $80,000.00
This request will transfer a total of **$80,000.00** from Water, Electric, Sewer, Solid Waste, and Stormwater retained earnings to mitigate a budget shortfall in Utility Customer Service (UCS). A fourth-quarter forecast identified that the Credit Card Fees account will run short by the end of the fiscal year. This transfer reallocates fund reserves across the five utility funds to ensure processing fees remain fully covered.

Fire: $1,160,000.00
This request will appropriate **$60,000.00** from the General Fund Balance to support fuel purchases through the end of the year. This request is for a one-time expenditure to cover projected fuel consumption and ensure uninterrupted operations for all emergency apparatus.

This request will appropriate **$50,000.00** from the General Fund Balance to support vehicle maintenance and outside repair work provided through the City's vehicle maintenance shop. This request is for a one-time expenditure to align the budget with current fleet maintenance demands.

This request will appropriate **$500,000.00** to the Contractual Services budget for emergency repairs and remediation at Fire Station 9. Following a catastrophic HVAC failure during recent extreme temperatures, severe condensation flooded the station's electrical network. Funding is urgently needed to repair and restore the station’s HVAC, electrical, and backup generator systems, as well as perform necessary mold remediation once the facility is fully dried and cleared.

This request will appropriate **$550,000.00** in personnel authority to the Fire Department. These funds are necessary to cover personnel costs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Parks & Recreation: **$80,533.50**
This request will appropriate **$20,533.50** received from the Missouri Department of

Conservation to the Forestry Division as part of a financial assistance award for the removal of ash trees and planting of new trees at Albert-Oakland Park.

This request will appropriate **$60,000.00** to the Sports Fieldhouse utility budget for increases due to the expansion.

Fleet Operations: **$700,000.00**
This request seeks an appropriation of **$700,000.00** to increase the Materials and Supplies budget for Fleet Operations. With eight (8) new mechanics now fully onboarded, Fleet Operations has expanded shop capacity and significantly increased vehicle repair throughput, resulting in a higher rate of parts consumption to maintain the city's fleet. Additionally, there has been a substantial rise in the cost of automotive supplies driven by inflation, and Fleet Operations has not implemented yearly percentage adjustments in this account in several years. While this request increases budget authority, increased costs are offset by revenue recovered from departments receiving services.

Mid Missouri Solid Waste Management District (MMSWMD): $6,000.00
This request will appropriate **$6,000.00** in personnel authority to the Mid Missouri Solid Waste Management District Fund. These funds are necessary to cover personnel costs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Public Works – Streets & Engineering: $40,000.00
This request will appropriate **$40,000.00** for sign software and a sign cutting machine for the Public Works Department. These funds are necessary for the safe operation of the Streets Traffic Division. Without this equipment and software, the City will be unable to create and cut traffic signs in-house. This replacement was initially requested as a new decision item (NDI) in the FY 27 budget, however, it is being moved up because the current machine is no longer operational. If this request is approved, budget authority related to this request will be removed from the FY 27 budget.

Sewer: $320,000.00
This request will appropriate an additional **$320,000.00** to Sewer for the shortfall in electric utility expenses. The primary contributor to this shortfall is the constant running of the pump stations during recent rainy weather events. This has been an especially rainy year, with a record rainfall event in June.

Stormwater: $70,000.00
This request will appropriate an additional **$30,000.00** for the Boone County contract for the Hinkson Creek Chloride Study. Council previously approved this contract, but funding was omitted from the originally adopted budget. This appropriation is necessary for the division to fulfill its contractual obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

This request will appropriate an additional **$30,000.00** for vehicle repairs. Unforeseen repairs on a 2017 International Dump Truck required specialized outsourcing not accounted for in the original budget. Without this appropriation, the department will lack sufficient funding for basic operating expenses through the remainder of the fiscal year.

This request will appropriate **$10,000.00** in personnel authority to the Stormwater Fund. These funds are necessary to cover personnel costs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Transload: $6,000.00
This request will appropriate **$6,000.00** in personnel authority to the Transload Fund. These funds are necessary to cover personnel costs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund (VERF): $1,655,650.00
This request will appropriate **$1,655,650** from General Fund Reserves to the VERF for replacements for vehicles and equipment requested by departments during the FY 27 budget process. These items were deemed in critical need for replacement by the Fleet Department.

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Once a capital project is complete, there may be funds remaining in the capital account. Staff must gain council approval to move those remaining funds from the completed projects to ongoing projects that may need additional funds. This is the case for the majority of the listed changes, unless additional funding is stated.

Airport CIP: $100,000.00
This request will appropriate **$100,000.00** for an ADA-compliant switchback ramp at Columbia Regional Airport (COU). This ramp will allow all aircraft types to enplane and deplane passengers from the ground during weather delays or periods of increased flight activity. Funding is essential to ensure on-time operations, as lacking this ramp would severely limit passenger boarding and deboarding capabilities.

Parks & Recreation CIP: $**590,000.00**
This request will appropriate **$100,000.00** in donated funds to the Whitegate Development Capital Project for the park development. The donated funds will assist with the completion of the project including basketball court improvements, park lighting and landscaping.

This request will appropriate **$45,000.00** in donated funds to the Twin Lakes Improvement Capital Project for a shelter. The donated funds will be used for a shelter located within the small dog park.

The request will appropriate **$395,000.00** to the North Village Park Development Capital Project for the park playground in the family plaza and change orders for underground utility installation. Funds are needed to purchase and install the playground and to process change orders related to underground utility installation.

The request will appropriate **$50,000.00** to the Flat Branch Expansion Capital Project to complete the expansion project. Funds are needed for the construction of the accessible ramp and railing on the east side of the new bridge and new electric service.

Public Works - Streets & Sidewalks CIP: $3,615,660.99
This request will transfer **$3,000,000.00** from CIP 00503 (County Road Tax Revenue) to fund CIP 00771 (Forum Blvd Chapel Hill to Woodrail). Approval is required to provide the necessary funding for the Forum Blvd project, as the city will otherwise be unable to fund improvements on this corridor.

This request will appropriate **$500,000.00** from the Annual Street Reconstruction project to fund CIP 00771 (Forum Blvd: Chapel Hill to Woodrail) from CIP 00646647 (Annual Street Reconstruction).

This request will appropriate **$26,203.33** from the Ridgemont Traffic Calming project to fund CIP 00600 (ADA Curb Ramp & Sidewalk Improvement) from CIP 00790 (Ridgemont Traffic Calming).

This request will appropriate **$38,277.86** from the Rollins Traffic Calming: Fairview to Stadium project to fund CIP 00600 (ADA Curb Ramp & Sidewalk Improvement) from CIP 00899 (Rollins Traffic Calming: Fairview to Stadium).

This request will appropriate **$9,604.64** from the Ridgemont Traffic Calming project to fund CIP 00968 (Hoylake Dr Traffic Calming) and close CIP 00790 (Ridgemont Traffic Calming).

This request will appropriate **$6,137.16** from the Rollins Traffic Calming: Fairview to Stadium project to fund CIP 00968 (Hoylake Dr Traffic Calming) and close CIP 00899 (Rollins Traffic Calming: Fairview to Stadium).

This request will appropriate **$35,438.00** from the North Salt Dome Renovations project to fund CIP 00632 (Municipal Service Center South) and close CIP 00935 (North Salt Dome Renovations).

Stormwater CIP: $2,452,199.96
This request will appropriate **$100,000.00** from the completed Calvert Drive project to Phase 2

of the Quail Drive stormwater project. Because the Calvert Drive project came in under budget upon completion, surplus funds are available for reallocation. Approval is required to avoid project delays on Quail Drive.

This request will appropriate **$700,000.00** from the completed Calvert Drive project for stormwater work on Rock Quarry Road. Because the Calvert Drive project came in under budget upon completion, surplus funds are available for reallocation. Approval is required to avoid project delays on Rock Quarry Road.

This request will appropriate **$650,000.00** from the completed Calvert Drive project to fund the W Broadway/Atkins/Maplewood project. Because the Calvert Drive project came in under budget upon completion, surplus funds are available for reallocation. Approval is required to avoid project delays on the W Broadway/Atkins/Maplewood project.

This request will appropriate **$952.98** from the completed Calvert Drive project to the Capri Drive project. These funds are necessary to cover final expenses and formally close out the Capri Drive project. Surplus funds remain available from Calvert Drive to accommodate this transfer, preventing the Capri Drive project from remaining open in the system.

This request will appropriate **$114,911.97** from the completed Alan Lane project to the Braemore project. Because the Alan Lane project has been completed with remaining funds, surplus dollars are available for disbursement. Approval is required to avoid project delays on the Braemore project.

This request will appropriate **$87,501.85** from the completed Bernadette project to the Braemore project. Because the Bernadette project was completed under budget, surplus funds are available for transfer. Approval is required to avoid project delays on the Braemore project.

This request will appropriate **$200,000.00** from the completed Bernadette project to the Old Plank Rd Culvert project. Because the Bernadette project was completed under budget, surplus funds are available for transfer. Approval is required to avoid project delays on the Old Plank Rd Culvert project.

This request will appropriate **$598,833.16** from the completed Nebraska Avenue project to the Braemore project. Because the Nebraska Avenue project was completed under budget, surplus funds are available for transfer. Approval is required to avoid project delays on the Braemore project.

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Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Total new funding of $11,857,225.00, and $6,233,394.45 in re-appropriations
Long-Term Impact: N/A

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:
Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Safe Community, Tertiary Impact: Organizational Excellence

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:
Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve the listed budget adjustments.