

FY 2026 Budget Development Guidelines

- 1) Develop a structurally balanced budget that brings ongoing revenues and expenses into alignment. Develop a plan for any structural imbalance to ensure that the City maintains fiscal sustainability over the short, medium, and long-term.
- 2) Allocate one-time resources for one-time needs rather than committing one-time resources to ongoing services. Examine appropriate uses of revenue surpluses that exceed forecasted levels such as planning for recession needs, restoration needs, and strategic investments.
- 3) Review resource allocation for the City Council's existing priorities and identify priority funding needs.
- 4) Focus on business process redesign to enhance quality, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness of service delivery (include examining opportunities to streamline, simplify, reorganize, and reallocate resources to avoid duplication of effort).
- 5) Explore alternative service delivery models (such as partnerships with non-profits or other public/private sector groups) to minimize overlap, maximize cost share, and effectively use resources.
- 6) Continue to thoroughly analyze non-personnel/equipment/other costs, such as contract services, for cost savings opportunities or realignment with current needs.
- 7) Explore the expansion of existing revenue sources or the addition of new revenue sources, including the alignment of existing charges for services and the opportunity to establish new fees, when appropriate.
- 8) Continue to analyze and prioritize resource augmentations, seeking to offset augmentations with reductions elsewhere for net-zero impacts to the budget whenever possible; however, ensuring when resource augmentations are added, it is in alignment with one-time and ongoing forecasted sources.
- 9) Continue to prioritize proactively funding long term liabilities including but not limited to debt obligations, pension obligations, and capital infrastructure in accordance with City policies as approved by the City Council.