

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 23, 2023

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Responses to Questions Regarding the City Manager's Recommended Biennial Budget for FY24 & FY25 (Second Set)**

We were pleased to share the City Manager's FY24 & FY25 Recommended Biennial Budget on Tuesday, August 8. Below are responses to unanswered questions.

**1. How much money is available for weatherization initiatives in the FY24 budget for Building Services (BSD)?**

BSD's FY23 capital budget included \$500,000 allocated specifically for weatherization and resiliency initiatives. During FY23, weatherization projects were completed at 8 City resiliency centers totaling \$131,000 leaving a balance of \$368,000 available for weatherization projects at future resiliency centers and City buildings in the upcoming fiscal year.

**2. What type of equipment will be purchased by Park & Recreation (PKR)?**

PKR budget enhancement includes \$491,075 for specialized equipment and supplies for the citywide park maintenance trail team. The budget supports the purchase of vehicles and grounds maintenance equipment such as 2 crew cab trucks, 1 dump truck, 4 trailers, 2 bobcats, and 1 stripping machine. Ongoing supplies for trail striping, aerating, reseeding, back filling, erosion, signs, and amenities replacement are also included.

**3. Are there grant funds available for demolition?**

Demolition of blighted properties is an allowable expense under CDBG, and other grant programs. The Department of Code Compliance will work with the Office of Government Affairs to pursue grant opportunities.

**4. What are the expense object codes used for Employee Health Benefits?**

The line-item expense object codes used to account for employee health benefits include 1303 - Life Insurance, 1304 - Health Benefits, and 1120-Wellness Incentive. Expense object code 1120 - Wellness Incentive was added as a separate expense object in FY24. This expense is not new but was previously captured in 1304 - Health Benefits so you will not see this as a separate line in the FY23 forecast.

**5. How many FTEs are currently unfilled for 6-12 months, and 12+ months? How much is budgeted for these positions in FY24?**

Each year as part of the budget development process, we evaluate the vacancy rate of each department and make funding adjustments. As part of the FY24 proposed budget, we reduced General Fund departments by \$33 million to account for vacancy rates. This means that we did not fully fund all positions but reduced salary funding to account for turn-over, hard to fill positions, and delays in hiring.

As requested, we have provided in the Appendix a list of General Fund departments and identified positions that have been vacant for 6 to 12 months and positions that have been vacant for 12 or more months. Since these positions are not fully funded, we have listed the FTE (full-time equivalent) count for the quantity of the positions that are funded and the value of dollars that are included within the budget for these positions. You will notice that of the 223 positions that have been vacant for 6 to 12 months, we funded approximately 160 FTEs or \$11,508,449. For the 147 positions that have been vacant for 12+ months, we funded approximately 98 FTEs or \$6,895,002. This is based on data as of August 1, which is a different time frame than was used when the budget was developed. These positions are not fully-funded, however, they are partially-funded for departments to hire throughout the fiscal year while managing the needs of the department.

**6. Provide an Update on the Mayor's Taskforce on Homelessness. What is the update on Transitional Housing?**

The HOPE Task force report was published via the Mayor's office in June. It has not been briefed to any City, policy-making body at this time.

The Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) is working on a strategy to develop creative housing strategies to meet system needs in line with our larger housing program goals. Existing programs include overflow shelter funding, allowing partnering shelters to subsidize existing relationships with hotels for overflow space, as needed.

The R.E.A.L. Time Rehousing (RTR) Initiative is moving to house 6,000 individuals (inclusive of the 2,700 committed to in the Dallas R.E.A.L. Time Rapid Rehousing (DRTRR) Initiative) by the end of 2025. More outreach workers are needed by the larger system to decommission encampments more quickly, moving individuals into housing more quickly. The City Manager's Recommended budget includes \$1.5 million for additional outreach workers across the system.

The additional funding of \$22.8 million awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development implemented over 3 years will provide 480 housing vouchers, case management and housing subsidies however the additional funding does not pay for outreach workers. The City funding will ensure that staff capacity is increased

to match the rental and case management capacity already online to house 6,000 individuals by the end of 2025.

**7. Provide a list of the FY24 Proposed Budget document pages that have been revised/updated and replaced.**

After the final printing of the FY24 Proposed Budget book, some corrections have been necessary. We have made corrections and provided copies of the replacement pages to the offices of the Mayor and City Council. Additionally, the City’s website and other budget publication materials have been updated with the corrected information. These changes do not change the amounts included within the budget. Replacement pages include:

<b>Page Number</b>	<b>Description of Replacement</b>
Cover	Updated with final numbers from the Dallas County Tax Office received on 8/4/23 after print
1	Updated total budget from \$4.62 billion to \$4.63 billion and updated the public safety budget percentage from 62% to 61%
5 & 23	Updated the GPFM FY24 Budget for General Fund to \$128,699,893
7	Updated the Public Private Partnership (PPP) investments by removing the reference to the Economic Development Corporation
22	Updated the FY24 Public Safety Strategic Priority percentage
25	Updated the Dallas Fire-Rescue headcount header description for September 30, 2023, to an estimate not an actual
34-35, 295-300	Updated FY24 Budget for Non-Departmental
36-38	Updated FY24 and FY25 FTEs for Dallas Fire-Rescue
45	Updated the organizational chart - removed names
62	Updated the pie chart for property tax percentage by jurisdiction
95	Updated the fiscal year in the third paragraph under forecast highlights
105-106	Updated the Operating Budget Total
113	Reduced the number of D365 from 36 to 35 by removing one of the Sanitation Services measures

**8. How are the excess sales tax revenue received from DART being used?**

Planned projects listed below. DART funding is included in the FY24 Proposed Budget document.

<b>Program or Project</b>	<b>Funding Identification in Budget Document</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
ADA Ramp Installation – address backlog	Capital Improvement Plan	\$50,000,000
Traffic Signals – major DART bus routes corridors	Capital Improvement Plan	11,550,000
Sidewalk Master Plan – complete priority projects	Capital Improvement Plan	10,000,000
Bike Lane Upgrades	Additional Resource	200,000
Traffic Markings Program	Additional Resource	2,000,000
Bike Lane Upgrades	Additional Resource	2,000,000
Smart Parking Pilot Project	Additional Resource	750,000
Homeless Transit Program	Funds remain at DART	250,000
Student Transit Program	Funds remain at DART	250,000
City of Dallas Streetcar Maintenance	Funds remain at DART	3,000,000
NCTCOG Funding Partnership	Funds remain at DART	10,000,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,000,000</b>

We will continue to respond to budget questions asked by members of the City Council over the next several weeks. Please contact me or Janette Weedon, Director of Budget and Management Services, if you need additional information.



Chief Financial Officer

- c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
- Tammy Palomino, Interim City Attorney
- Mark Swann, City Auditor
- Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
- Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
- Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager
- Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

- Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
- M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
- Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
- Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
- Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
- Directors and Assistant Directors