

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 6, 2026

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Sanitation Historical Data – City Equipment Incidents and Claims**

This memorandum is provided in response to the City Council's inquiry regarding the frequency of City equipment incidents within the Sanitation Department and the resulting liability claims, workers' compensation claims, associated claim costs, and equipment repair expenses.

Based on a review of available incident and claims data, the Sanitation Department incidents vary in severity and include both minor events resulting in limited damage and more significant incidents requiring repair or generating a claim.

Liability and workers' compensation claims arising from sanitation equipment incidents represent a subset of total incidents and are generally tied to routine operational risks inherent in sanitation work. The provided data's reporting period is from FY19 through FY25. The data parameters are for all Sanitation locations (including McCommas Landfill). Data is not maintained in a manner that will allow the current risk management information system (RMIS) to identify City Equipment Incidents (CEI) and claims that occurred in alley locations compared to non-alley locations.

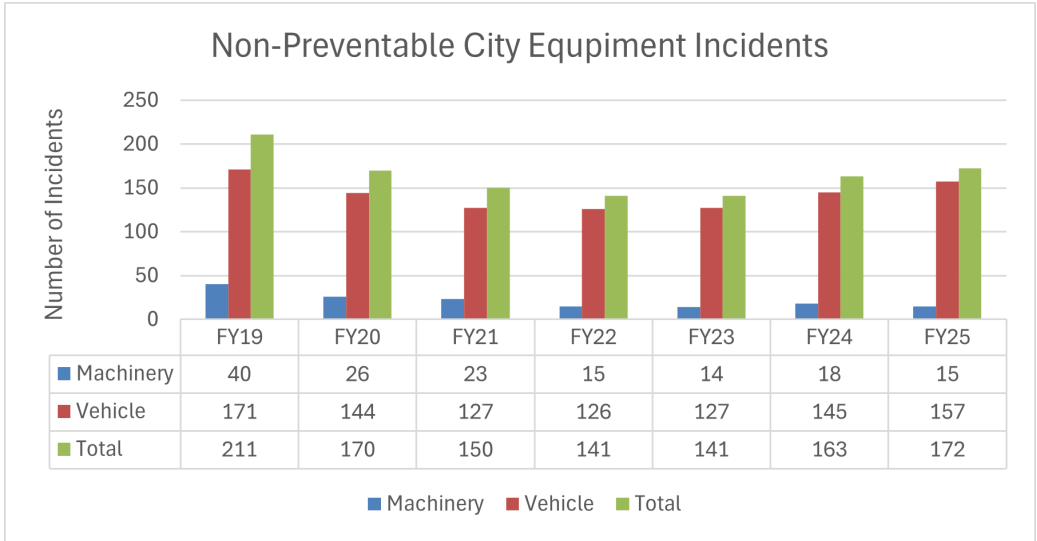
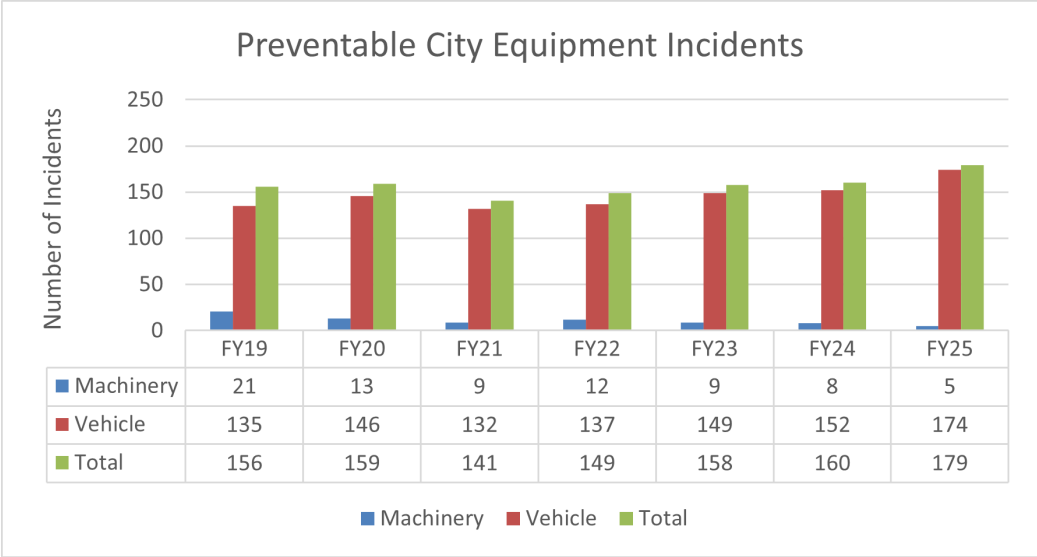
Claim costs and repair expenses fluctuate annually based on the nature and severity of incidents. Costs are influenced by factors such as equipment age, extent of damage, injury severity, medical treatment needs, and market repair rates. The City continues to manage these exposures through established safety protocols, employee training, incident review procedures, and coordination between the Sanitation Department, Risk Management, and Fleet Management.

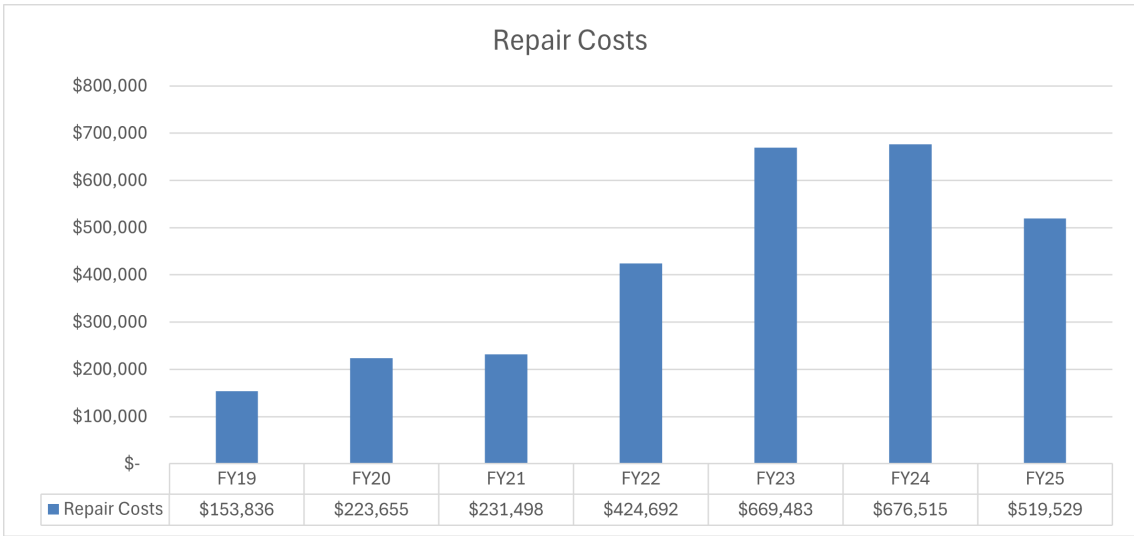
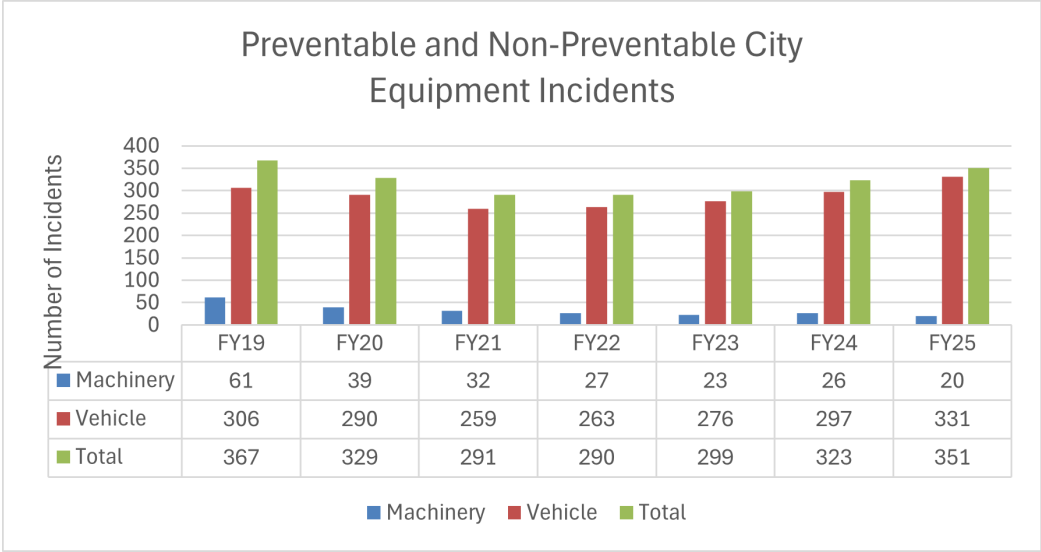
The City remains committed to reducing incidents and associated costs through ongoing preventative maintenance, safety initiatives, and operational improvements, while ensuring that legitimate claims are handled promptly and in accordance with applicable laws and policies.

## **CITY EQUIPMENT INCIDENTS (CEI)**

Incidents are classified as **preventable** or **non-preventable**. Preventable incidents occur when an employee fails to take reasonable action which could have avoided or prevented the unplanned event, violated a City or department rule, policy, or procedure which contributed to the event or committed moving traffic violation(s). Non-preventable incidents occur despite the driver or other operator of City equipment having taken reasonable action to avoid or prevent the event. Non-preventable incidents that occur in alleys are generally related to requiring drivers to operate heavy equipment in confined conditions.

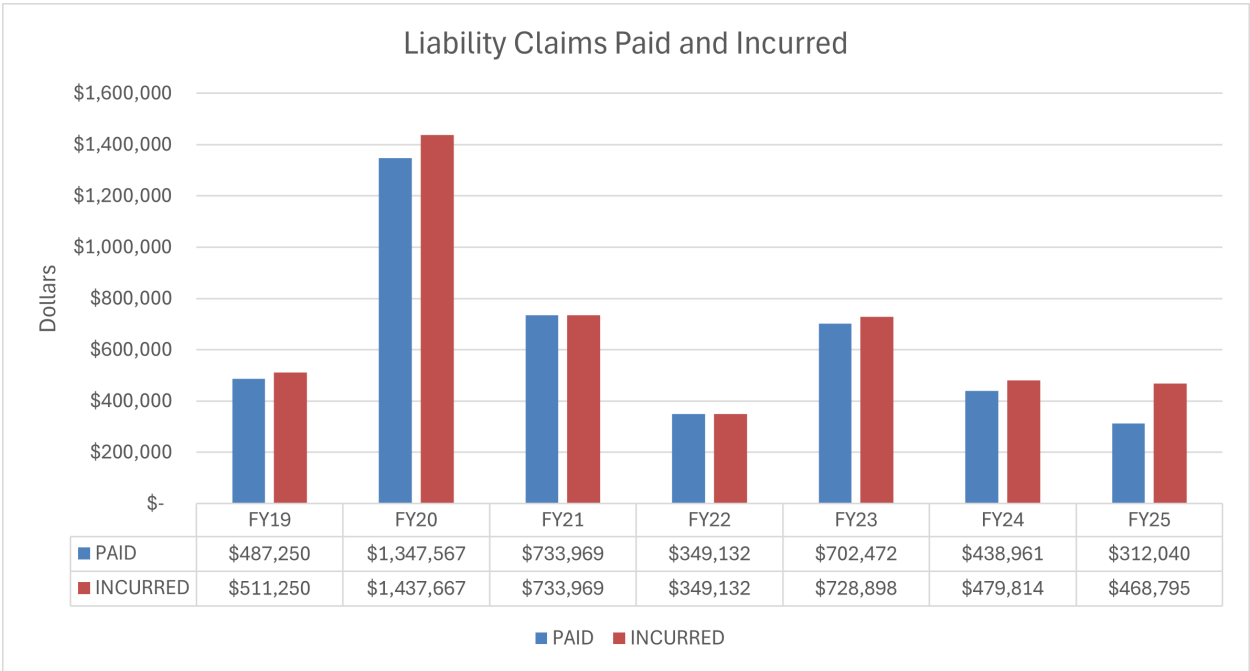
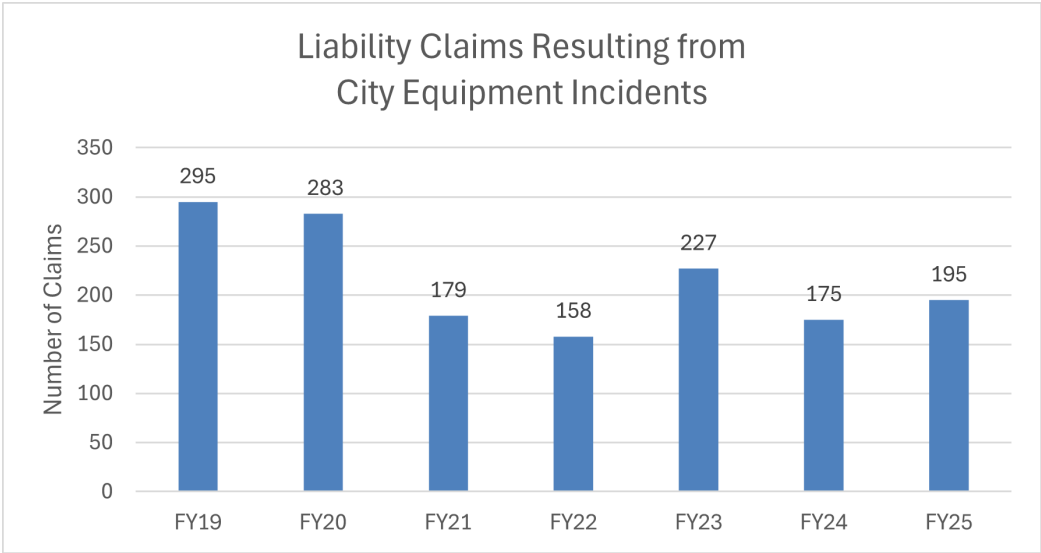
Departments administer the corrective actions per the corrective action table of Administrative Directive 03-03, Driver & Equipment Safety Program. Where circumstances warrant, corrective actions may exceed the mandatory minimums listed in the corrective action table, up to and including termination.





**CITY EQUIPMENT INCIDENTS LIABILITY CLAIMS**

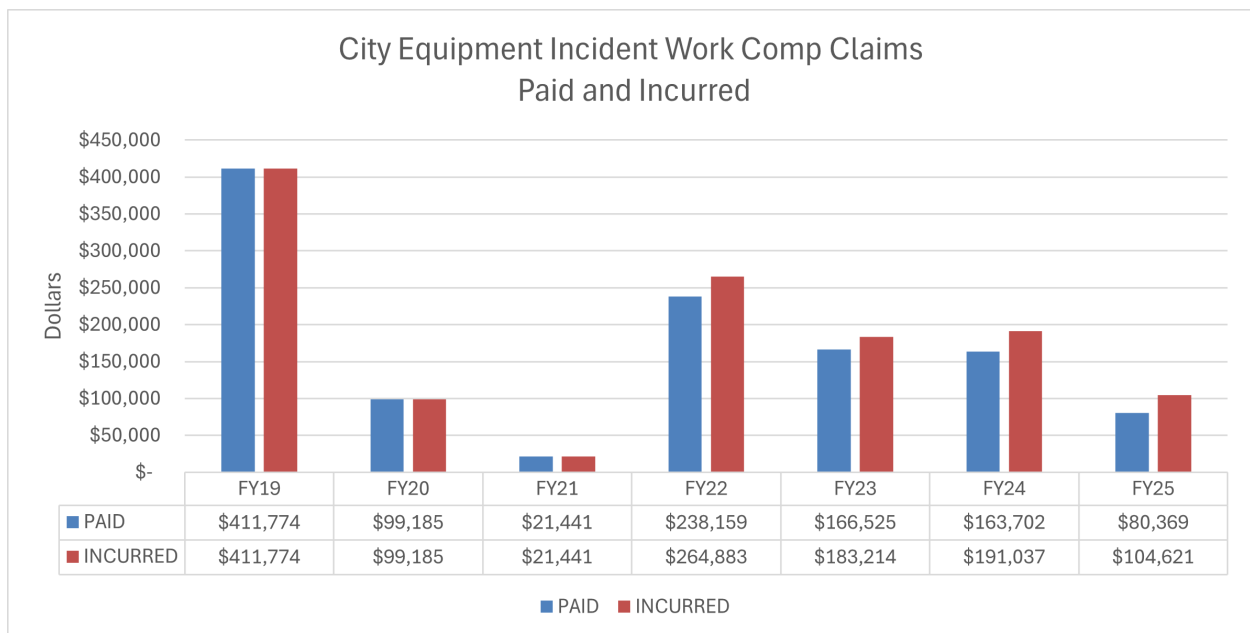
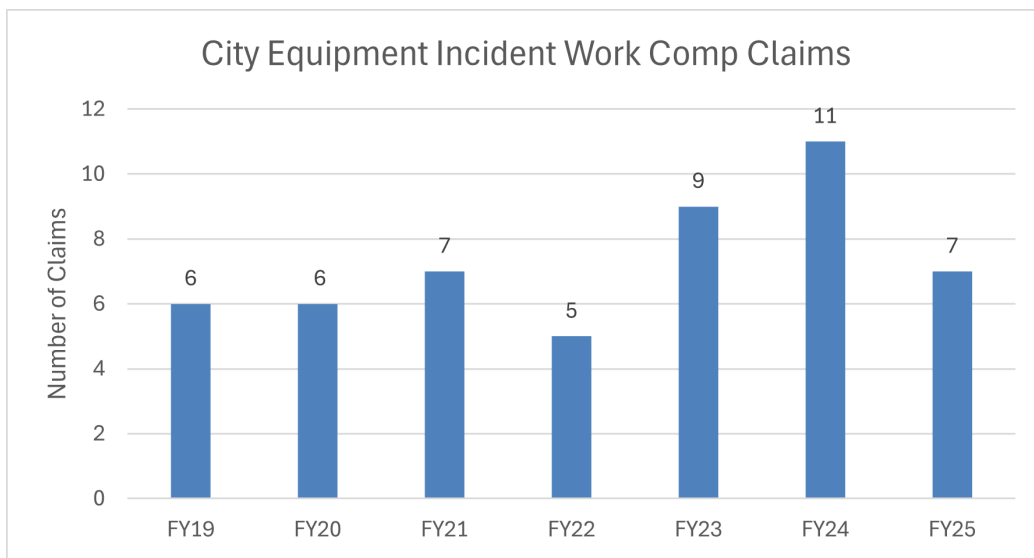
A liability claim as it relates to the city, is a request for compensation made against the city, alleging legal responsibility for bodily injury, property damage, or damage arising from the ownership or use of city equipment. The amounts indicated as **“paid”** in the chart below are amounts that have been disbursed by the city to satisfy all or part of a claim, including payments made to claimants and service providers. The amounts indicated as **“incurred”** in the chart below are the total financial obligation associated with a claim, including amounts already paid plus any outstanding reserves or expected future payments, whether or not those amounts have been disbursed.



**CEI WORKERS’ COMPENSATION CLAIMS**

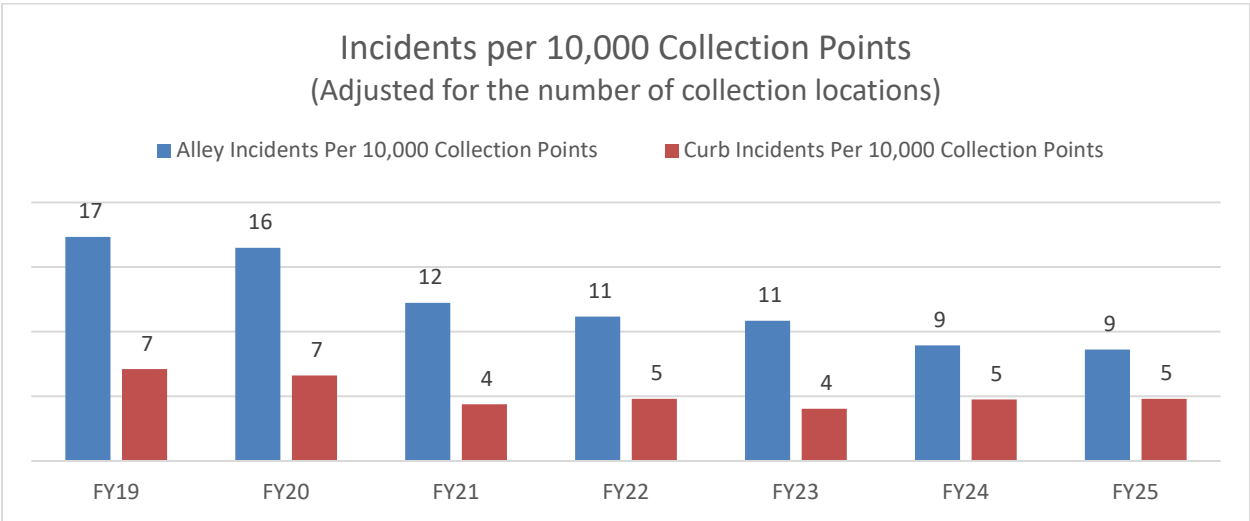
Workers’ compensation claim information only pertains to City of Dallas employees and excludes contract/temporary labor.

A workers’ compensation claim is a formal request filed by an employee to obtain benefits under workers’ compensation laws for an injury, illness, or condition that arises out of and in the course of employment. These benefits may include medical treatment, wage replacement, disability benefits, death benefits and, when applicable, vocational rehabilitation. CEI workers’ compensation claims are the result of CEIs.



**INCIDENTS AND CLAIMS SPECIFIC TO WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION POINTS (ALLEY vs. CURB)**

The table and accompanying chart below focus specifically on incidents associated with residential alley and curbside waste and recycling collection activities. Staff from the Department of Sanitation reviewed total departmental incident data, including incidents from landfill, transfer, and other operational areas, and filtered the dataset to isolate only the residential waste and recycle collection incidents and claims directly tied to alley and curb collection point addresses. Incidents occurring while traveling to or from routes, as well as incidents on thoroughfares or side streets between collection points, are excluded. To allow for a meaningful comparison between the different collection location types (alley or curb), incident counts are presented as incidents per 10,000 collection locations on the table below, reflecting incident frequency relative to the number of locations served.



Total Alley and Curb Collection Incidents by Fiscal Year

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
<b>Alley Incidents</b>	163	155	115	105	102	84	81
<b>Curb Incidents</b>	118	110	73	80	67	79	80

\*Alley service locations 37%, Curb service locations 63%

DATE February 7, 2026  
SUBJECT **Sanitation Historical Data – City Equipment Incidents and Claims**  
PAGE **7 of 7**

If you have additional questions, please contact me at [jack.ireland@dallas.gov](mailto:jack.ireland@dallas.gov), Zeronda Smith, Director of the Office of Risk Management at [zeronda.smith@dallas.gov](mailto:zeronda.smith@dallas.gov) or Clifton Gillespie, Director of the Department of Sanitation at [Clifton.gillespie@dallas.gov](mailto:Clifton.gillespie@dallas.gov).

Service First, Now!

  
Jack Ireland  
Chief Financial Officer

c: Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, City Manager  
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Baron Eliason, Inspector General (I)

Dominique Artis, Chief of Public Safety  
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager  
Alina Ciocan, Assistant City Manager  
Donzell Gipson, Assistant City Manager  
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager  
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Directors and Assistant Directors