

Budget Committee Report 9/9/2025

Solid Waste Budget: The committee is working to understand and adjust the solid waste budget, uncovering discrepancies and inaccuracies in past record-keeping. They discovered a separate bank account for solid waste reserves with \$26,197.83. They discussed how to allocate these funds, particularly in relation to reimbursing the water department for past shortfalls.

Court Budget: Reviewing the court budget, they identify line items that are no longer relevant and discuss how to adjust the budget to reflect current expenses and revenues.

Street Department Budget: The committee delves into the street department budget, focusing on revenue sources, expenses, and carryover funds. They uncover discrepancies in how carryover revenue has been accounted for and discuss how to allocate funds to cover shortfalls and future needs. They discuss fuel expenses, equipment maintenance, and holiday supplies.

General Concerns: There's a recurring theme of concern about transparency, accountability, and the need to clean up the way the city's finances are managed. There's also a desire to move away from "fantasy" numbers and create a budget that is realistic and accurate.

Unapproved Contract: A major concern arises regarding a potential unapproved contract with Axon for body cameras and tasers, raising questions about authorization and legality.

Conclusions and Actions:

Solid Waste: The committee decides to allocate \$19,988.00 from the solid waste reserve account to adjust the budget and reimburse the water department. They agree to keep the reserve account open for future savings.

Court: The committee agrees to a resolution to amend the court budget, balancing expenditure and revenues.

Street Department: The committee makes several adjustments to the street department budget, including reallocating funds for fuel expenses, equipment maintenance, and holiday supplies. They identify a need to determine the exact amount of workers' compensation insurance and incorporate it into the budget.

Axon Contract: The committee agrees that the potential Axon contract needs further investigation and that it may be invalid due to lack of authorization.

Overall: The committee acknowledges that there will be challenges in balancing the budget and achieving transparency, but they are committed to working towards those goals. They recognize the need to clean up the city's financial practices and create a more accurate and

accountable budget for the future. They will continue to review and adjust the budget as needed.

In essence, the meeting is a deep dive into the city's finances, uncovering past errors and working to create a sounder financial footing for the future. The unapproved contract adds a layer of urgency and concern to the proceedings.

Randal Bolen

Budget Chair