

City of Austin  
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Austin, Minnesota 55912-3773



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TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Tom Dankert, Director of Administrative Services

DATE: September 7, 2023

RE: 2024 Tax Levy Results  
U:\Word\2023\2024 Budget\September 7, 2023 cover letter to council - Tax Levy Results.doc

I would like to provide Council with this update as to where things currently stand for the 2024 tax levy and budget, based on the decisions made at the work session of September 5, 2023. As noted at that meeting with our automatic updating of Council/Mayor decisions we ended up at a tax levy increase of 9.93%. I have attached the document showing the final decisions made by the elected officials at that meeting.

However, we have been notified by LOGIS that the new software implementation has hits some snags with the first two entities, and that Austin implementing on January 1, 2024 will not be possible. Our options are then to implement mid-year 2024, or wait until January 1, 2025. We have opted to wait until January 1, 2025, hence allowing us to reduce the needed tax levy by another 0.43% since these funds won't be needed for the new software license, leaving the levy lowered to 9.50% at this time for the September 18, 2023 Council meeting.

I have provided the attached document for all to see, especially since Council Member Helle was not able to attend the meeting. This tax levy includes \$450,000 set aside in Contingency on top of our normal \$100,000 allocation.

Name:

**SUMMARY**

Budget Document		Page	Amount	Comments	Do You Agree	Levy Increase Beginning	Levy Increase Running	Levy Increase Total
<b>Tom's Proposed Amenagements:</b>								
	Other Proposed Changes Revenues - Add	004	\$ -			0.00%	11.18%	11.18%
	Other Proposed Changes Revenues - Add	004	\$ -			0.00%	11.18%	11.18%
	Other Proposed Changes Revenues - Add	004	\$ -			0.00%	11.18%	11.18%
	Other Proposed Changes Revenues - Add	004	\$ -			0.00%	11.18%	11.18%
	Other Proposed Changes Expenses - Add	004	\$ -			0.00%	11.18%	11.18%
	Other Proposed Changes Expenses - Add	004	\$ -			0.00%	11.18%	11.18%
	Other Proposed Changes Expenses - Add	004	\$ -			0.00%	11.18%	11.18%
	Other Proposed Changes Expenses - Add	004	\$ -			0.00%	11.18%	11.18%
<b>Section #1 Staffing Levels:</b>								
	Add Fire Inspector (already in budget)	005	\$ 110,000	Additional Fire Inspector already in budget.	N	-1.33%	9.85%	9.85%
	Add two seasonal Nature Center Aides	005	\$ 13,000	Additional seasonal staff already in budget	N	-0.16%	9.70%	9.70%
	Increase wages for paid-on-call firefighters	005	\$ 22,300	Additional compensation for paid-on-call already in budget		0.00%	9.70%	9.70%
	Add Police Administrative Assistant	005	\$ 78,000	Not in budget (Neither are body cameras)		0.00%	9.70%	9.70%
	Add three new firefighters	005	\$ 321,000	Not in budget		0.00%	9.70%	9.70%
	Add proactive Housing Inspector	005	\$ 115,000	Not in budget		0.00%	9.70%	9.70%
	Add Forestry/Conservation Officer	005	\$ 120,000	Not in budget		0.00%	9.70%	9.70%
	Add Public Library aide (0.75 FTE)	005	\$ 46,000	Not in budget		0.00%	9.70%	9.70%
<b>Section #3 - Capital Outlay:</b>								
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 130,000	Playground Surface Updates	Y	-1.57%	8.13%	8.13%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 160,000	DT Master Plan		0.00%	8.13%	8.13%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 6,000	ipads buy on sale for \$350 for the 3-4 council members that use	Y	-0.07%	8.05%	8.05%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 20,000	HR Market Study	Y	-0.24%	7.81%	7.81%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 50,000	Outdoor fitness	Y	-0.60%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 4,500	Eliminate half of ipads		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 102,000	Close pool and slide in 2024, maintain splash pad; maintain fencing costs to facilitate splash pad		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 5,000	Replace 2 of 3 self check machines		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 7,000	Senior Center Carpet (XXXXXX)		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 10,000	LIDAR		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	161	\$ 25,000	Street Name Sign Replacement		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	163	\$ 50,000	Fund 190 sound wall out of Contingency/Fund Balance		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	163	\$ -			0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	163	\$ -			0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate Any specific capital outlay-tax	163	\$ -			0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
<b>Section #4 - Contingency/Outside Agency funding:</b>								
	Reduce Contingency from \$100,000	172	\$ 25,000	Reduce Contingency by this amount		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Eliminate additional City contribution-HI	172	\$ 206,000	Eliminate the 75%/25% proposed split (estimated 15% rate increase)		0.00%	7.21%	7.21%
	Agree with request to freeze/cut Outside	173	\$ 6,000	MoCo Historical Society, AACA, Culture & Arts, Human Rights, Seibel, PRC	Y	-0.07%	7.14%	7.14%

5-Sep-23

Name:

**SUMMARY**

Budget Document	Page	Amount	Comments	Do You Agree	Levy Increase Beginning	Levy Increase Running	Levy Increase Total
<b>Section #2 Departmental Budgets (Tax Supported):</b>							
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 4,000	Reduce Council (Supplies \$2000, Pillars \$2000)	Y	0.00%	7.14%	7.14%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 1,400	Reduce Council (Travel \$1400)		-0.02%	7.12%	7.12%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 3,955	Reduce Police (Gas \$3955)	Y	0.00%	7.12%	7.12%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 400	Reduce Police (Explorers Supplies \$400)		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 24,432	Reduce Equipment Rental (Fire \$13632, Parks \$10800)	Y	-0.01%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 500	Reduce Building Inspection Communications (\$500)		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 15,000	Reduce Streets OT and Temporary Salaries (\$10000 and \$5000)		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 3,000	Reduce Recreation Administration Professional Services		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 2,000	Eliminate Pool t-shirts		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 10,000	Reduce Parks Maintenance Temporary Salaries		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 8,000	Reduce Downtown Flowers Expenditures in total		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 5,000	Reduce Forestry General Supplies		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 1,000	Reduce Nature Center Professional Services (\$1000)		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 1,000	Reduce Nature Center Office Supplies (\$1000)		0.00%	7.11%	7.11%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 400	Reduce Nature Center Memberships and Subscriptions	Y	-0.01%	7.10%	7.10%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 1,000	Reduce Isaac Walton Cleaning & Waste Removal	Y	0.00%	7.09%	7.09%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 1,140	Reduce Riverside Arena Prof. Services (\$500) and Memberships (\$240)	Y	-0.01%	7.08%	7.08%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 4,500	Reduce Mosquito Spraying (Other Professional Services)	Y	-0.01%	7.07%	7.07%
Library Fund expenditure reductions	111-113	\$ 1,500	Reduce Library Programming (\$500) Travel (\$1000)	Y	-0.02%	7.05%	7.05%
General Fund expenditure reductions	023-087	\$ 5,000	Pillars of City go to 2 awards	Y	-0.06%	6.99%	6.99%
<b>New Section: Other Council ideas:</b>							
Enhanced Revenues - Other		\$ 25,000	Increase Building Permit Revenue		0.00%	6.99%	6.99%
Enhanced Revenues - Other		\$ 76,122	Close the pool, keep the splash pad open (keep \$10000 for splash pad)		0.00%	6.99%	6.99%
Enhanced Revenues - Other		\$ (244,000)		Y	2.95%	9.93%	9.93%
Enhanced Revenues - Other		\$ -			0.00%	9.93%	9.93%
Decreased Expenditures - Other		\$ 150,000	Central Garage - Eliminate Leaf Picker		0.00%	9.93%	9.93%
Decreased Expenditures - Other		\$ 90,000	Central Garage - Eliminate Parks Skid Loader		0.00%	9.93%	9.93%
Decreased Expenditures - Other		\$ 4,100	Eliminate non-tax levy supported expenditures		0.00%	9.93%	9.93%
Decreased Expenditures - Other		\$ -			0.00%	9.93%	9.93%
Decreased Expenditures - Other		\$ -			0.00%	9.93%	9.93%

Total Tax Levy Increase

Tax Increase (or Decrease) Goal Range

**SUMMARY**

<b>9.93%</b>	Low Range	High Range
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