# BUDGET OVERVIEW 2027

Discover COLUMBUS

# TIMELINE

Sept 15 – Wants vs. Needs, Direction Focused Discussion, High Level Initial Overview

October 6 – Draft Budget Presentation With Department Heads and Council

October 15 – Final Budget Presentation

November 3 – Public Hearing and Final Approval

# EXPENDITURE RESTRAINT 2027
# 3% OR LESS ANNUAL INCREASE

| Year | Actual | Adjusted | Increase Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2023 | $ | $ | $ |
| 2024 | $ | $ | $ |
| 2025 | $ | $ | $ |
| 2026 | $7,187,610 | $6,097,812 | $ |
| 2027 | $9,586,379.76 | $6,280,746 | $182,934 |

# FINANCE DEPT. EFFORTS FOR 2027 SAVINGS

Transition from Caselle to Workhorse

Auditor Change from BakerTilly to CLA

Ramp Card Introduction

Staples Business Partnership

Administrative Assistant Position– Cemetery, Recreation, DPW assistant moved to one position and is centralized at City Hall.

DPW/Utility - Utility Director & Assistant Director – Partnered with Utilities to combine role to oversee Utilities and DPW.

Overall Savings Equaling About $320,000

# PAYROLL OVERVIEW 2026 VS 2027

- Insurance Increases 8.6% Health and Dental.  Vision No Change.
- WRS Employee/Employer Increase to 7.25% (2026 was EM/ER 7.20%).
- WRS Protective Occupation w/ SS Employee Increase to 7.25% Employer Decrease to 14.35% (2026 EM 7.2% ER 14.70%).
- Current Additional FT Staffing Wants – Fire Inspector/Fire Chief, Patrol Officer, and DPW Maintenance/Parks Lead.
- COLA Average For Government Employees 3.6%. Library Board has Approved 3.6% for Library Staff. Calculations below factor in the 3.6% for Library Staff.
- 2026 Merit Program amount $45,000. 2027 Requested Merit Program amount $51,000.

1% Staff Increase: $170,955.94

2% Staff Increase: $194,488.54

3% Staff Increase: $218,021.13

3.6% Staff Increase: $232,140.69

# DEPARTMENT STAFFING REQUESTS COST ANALYSIS

Fire Inspector – Estimated Cost Based on Averages from Wage Study – $86,937-$102,014.04

Or

Fire Chief – Estimated Cost Based on Research Proposal - $105,000.00-$150,000.00

Patrol Officer – Estimated Cost Based on Current Wages – $109,768.68-$129,873.08

DPW Maintenance Worker II – Estimated Cost Based on Current Wages – $73,661.59-$85,229.19

Or

Parks Lead – Estimated Cost Based on Current Wages - $85,229.19-$96,782.72

Total for 3 of the suggested positions (using one OR position not both)– $270,367.27 - $365,102.27

Estimations included – Wage, SS/Medicare, Benefits

# CIP INITIATIVES

Currently we are working as a team to update our 10 year CIP. Current focuses continue to be on Streets, Facilities, Equipment, Vehicles, and Parks.

At the October 6th meeting with Department Heads we will go into in depth discussions on CIP, borrowing, and needs for the City.

# CURRENT BUDGET DRAFT W/ ALL DEPT. WANTS

A few departments are still reviewing items. Finalized numbers at October 6th meeting with department head presentations.

With current initial wants:

This general fund budget estimate includes 3.6% Cola, 2027 department expenses, and no added positions.

Expenses are equating to $5,560,353.90 which is $186,240.95 increase from 2026 actual general fund expenses.  We need to be at a maximum increase of $182,934. This already equates to adjustments of $3,306.95 being needed at max increases and no added positions.

# QUESTIONS AND DIRECTION

Focus Initiatives Staff and Citizen Concerns:

1. What staffing roles should we focus on adding this year, if any, and do you have a vision for hiring the next few years? What COLA should we focus on working in if any?

2. Where should we prioritize necessary funds vs. where do you think we should decrease funds?

3. Has this body looked into non tax payer revenue options via local, state, or federal routes that staff has not? Or do you have ideas for the staff so they can continue to provide the services that we need in Columbus?

4. Any other comments or questions?


## THANK YOU! TRANSPARENCY IS IMPORTANT TO OUR DEPARTMENT AND WE ENCOURAGE ANYONE TO REACH OUT WITH QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, AND TO SHOW UP TO COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COMMENT ON THE BUDGET PROCESS ESPECIALLY DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING.

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