

ORDINANCE

NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, FOR CERTAIN FUNDS OF THE CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AND APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNTS SHOWN IN EACH BUDGET; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

The annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget for FY27 proposed in the total amount of \$403,975,758 is approved and adopted in accordance with the Columbus Charter, Section 7-402 and outlined in Sections 2 through 15 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2.

The General Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$221,901,078 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, for general fund purposes.

SECTION 3.

The Local Option Sales Tax Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$51,648,055 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia for public safety and infrastructure purposes.

SECTION 4.

The Stormwater (Sewer) Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$7,280,316 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, for stormwater fund services.

SECTION 5.

The Paving Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$22,335,837 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, for street and roadway improvement purposes.

SECTION 6.

The Community Care Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$17,816,071 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, for the annual appropriation to be disbursed to various providers for indigent and inmate medical care.

SECTION 7.

The Integrated Waste Management Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$18,991,047 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending

June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide solid waste management services.

SECTION 8.

The Emergency Telephone Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$4,465,513 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide for the operation of the E911 Center.

SECTION 9.

The Civic Center/Sports Authority Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$6,765,920 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide for the operation of the Civic Center.

SECTION 10.

The Debt Service Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$20,027,380 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, for Debt Service purposes.

SECTION 11.

The Transportation Fund Budget proposed in the amount of \$21,401,214 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, for the provision of public transportation.

SECTION 12.

The Bull Creek Budget proposed in the amount of \$2,688,041 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide for the operation of Bull Creek Golf Course.

SECTION 13.

The Oxbow Creek Budget proposed in the amount of \$738,693 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide for the operation of Oxbow Creek Golf Course.

SECTION 14.

The Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center Budget proposed in the amount of \$5,024,667 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, for the operation of the Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center.

SECTION 15.

The Economic Development Authority Budget proposed in the amount of \$2,891,926 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending

June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, for the provision of Economic Development activities.

SECTION 16.

The Health and Life Insurance Budget proposed in the amount of \$31,719,099 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide for the administration of health and life insurance.

SECTION 17.

The Risk Management Budget proposed in the amount of \$8,230,472 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide for the operation of risk management activities.

SECTION 18.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), formerly the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Budget proposed in the amount of \$2,395,470 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide for the administration of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) activities.

SECTION 19.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Budget proposed in the amount of \$1,708,493 for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, covering the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby approved and adopted as the budget for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to provide for the administration of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities.

SECTION 20.

Within the overall budget limitations, authority is hereby delegated to the City Manager, or the Finance Director when acting on the authority delegated by the City Manager, to effect such transfers of appropriation within a department and revenue anticipation within a fund as may be deemed necessary to the effective performance and delivery of services approved herein. Under no circumstances, however, may the total budget of any department or fund, except WIOA and CDBG, contained in this Ordinance be increased or decreased without Council approval. Authority is extended to the City Manager, or the Finance Director on the authority delegated by the City Manager, to conduct any carryovers necessary for the continued operation of WIOA and CDBG.

SECTION 21.

The Cost Allocation Plan for FY27, which has been filed with the Clerk of Council, is hereby approved for use during the 2027 fiscal year in a total amount of \$3,549,287.

Fund Being Charged	FY27 Charges
LOST Fund (Public Safety)	\$479,392
LOST Fund (Infrastructure)	12,300

Stormwater (Sewer) Fund	249,257
Paving Fund	833,952
Integrated Waste Management	1,099,741
Emergency Telephone	144,619
Civic Center Fund	213,401
WIOA Fund	104,541
Transportation Fund	266,154
Trade Center Fund	92,769
Bull Creek Golf Course	43,096
Oxbow Creek Golf Course	10,066
Total Charges	\$3,549,287

SECTION 22.

The City Manager or the Finance Director on the authority delegated by the City Manager is authorized to make adjustments of cost allocation charges as may be deemed appropriate.

SECTION 23.

The period of emergency or war continued in Resolution No. 392-03 is hereby extended from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

SECTION 24.

The following position changes are hereby adopted as part of the FY27 Budget and are as follows:

NEW POSITIONS:

General Fund	Internal Auditor	(1) Compliance Officer (G129) (Effective 08/01/2026)
General Fund	Finance	(1) Financial Planner Manager (G129)
General Fund	Information Technology	(2) Systems Analyst Enterprise Apps (G126)
General Fund	Information Technology	(1) Cybersecurity Engineer (G126)
General Fund	Information Technology	(1) AV Specialist (G116)
General Fund	Human Resources	(1) Administrative Assistant (G115)

General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(4) Custodians (G111)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(1) Administrative Support Specialist II (G113)
General Fund	Parks and Recreation	(2) Recreation Program Specialist III (G118)
General Fund	Parks and Recreation	(2) Recreation Program Specialist II (G117)
General Fund	Parks and Recreation	(1) Correctional Detail Officer (CO1)
General Fund	Police Department	(1) Police Corporal (PD2)
General Fund	Police Department	(2) Crime Scene Investigator (G119)
General Fund	Police Department	(1) Real Time Crime Center Technician (G118)
General Fund	MCP	(1) Corrections Sergeant (C4)
General Fund	Jury Manager	(1) Administrative Support Specialist I (G112)
General Fund	District Attorney – Victim Witness	(2) Victim Advocate (G117)
General Fund	State Court Solicitor	(1) Assistant Solicitor General (G127)
General Fund	State Court Solicitor	(1) Paralegal (G119)
General Fund	State Court Solicitor	(1) Investigator (G120)
General Fund	State Court Solicitor	(1) Victim Advocate (G117)
General Fund	Public Defender	(2) Investigator (G120)
OLOST Fund	Sheriff	(4) Deputy Sheriff (PS0)
OLOST Fund	Sheriff	(1) Sergeant (PS3)
OLOST Fund	MCP	(1) Correctional Investigator (C4)
Community Care Fund	Fire/EMS (Columbus Correct Care)	(1) Firefighter/Medic (F2)
Community Care Fund	Fire/EMS (Columbus Correct Care)	(1) Social Worker (G124)
Bull Creek Golf Course Fund	Bull Creek - Maintenance	(1) PT Spray Technician (105G)

Bull Creek Golf Course Fund	Bull Creek - Maintenance	(1) Director of Agronomy (Effective 01/01/2027)
Bull Creek Golf Course Fund	Bull Creek - Operations	(1) PT Ambassador Captain (103G)
Civic Center/Sports Authority Fund	Operations	(1) Custodian (G111)

RECLASSIFIED POSITIONS:

General Fund	City Attorney	(1) Assistant City Attorney (G135) to (1) Senior Assistant City Attorney (G136) (Career Ladder Advancement)
General Fund	Finance	(1) Purchasing Technician I (G115) to (1) Purchasing Technician II (G117) (Career Ladder Advancement)
General Fund	Finance	(1) Buyer II (G120) to (1) Senior Buyer (G121) (Career Ladder Advancement)
General Fund	Finance	(1) Collections Technician I (G115) to (1) Administrative Assistant (G115) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Information Technology	(4) Application Developer (G124) to (4) Systems Analyst Enterprise Apps (G126)
General Fund	Information Technology	(2) Application Developer (G124) to (2) Software Development Analyst (G126)
General Fund	Human Resources	(1) Human Resources Technician I (G117) to (1) Human Resources Technician II (G119)
General Fund	Inspections and Codes	(1) Assistant Director G131-13 to (1) Assistant Director G131-19
General Fund	Inspections and Codes	(1) Building Inspector III (G122-10) to (1) Chief Inspector (G123-11)
General Fund	Inspections and Codes	(1) Chief Inspector (G128) to (1) Systems Analyst (G126)
General Fund	Inspections and Codes	(3) Electrical Inspector I, II, III (G120, G121, G122) to (3) Inspector I, II, III (G120, G121, G122) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Inspections and Codes	(3) Plumbing Mechanical Inspector I, II, III

		(G120, G121, G122) to (3) Inspector I, II, III (G120, G121, G122) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Inspections and Codes	(3) Building Inspector I, II, III (G120, G121, G122) to (3) Inspector I, II, III (G120, G121, G122) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Planning	(1) Planner (G121-6) to (1) Senior Planner (G122-8) (Career Ladder Advancement)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Operations Technician (G121-3) to (1) Traffic Signal Supervisor (G122-2)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Operations Supervisor (G123-7) to (1) Traffic Operations Manager (G124-7)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Control Technician (G113-3) to (1) Traffic Sign & Marking Technician (G116-2)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Control Technician (G113-8) to (1) Traffic Sign & Marking Technician (G116-3)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Control Technician (G113-8) to (1) Traffic Sign & Marking Technician (G116-5)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Signal Construction Specialist (G115-6) to (1) Traffic Sign & Marking Technician (G116-5)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Signal Technician I (G115-3) to (1) Traffic Signal Jr. Technician (G118)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Signal Technician (G115-3) to (1) Traffic Signal Jr. Technician (G118-3)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Signal Tech II (G117) to (1) Traffic Signal Technician (G120)
General Fund	Public Works	(2) Fleet Maintenance Technician II (G118) to (2) Fleet Service Advisor (G118) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(1) Facilities Maintenance Manager (G130) to (1) Facilities Maintenance Assistant Director (G132)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(1) Assistant Facilities Maintenance Manager (G127) to (1) Office Manager (G118)

General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(1) Custodial Services Supervisor (G120-8) to (1) Facilities Maintenance Supervisor (G122)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(1) Correctional Detail Officer (CO2) to (1) Facilities Maintenance Supervisor (G122)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(2) HVAC Technician II (G120) to (2) Facilities Maintenance Specialist II (G120) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(2) Electrician II (G120) to (2) Facilities Maintenance Specialist II (G120) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(3) Facilities Maintenance Supervisor (G122) to (3) Facilities Maintenance Specialist Supervisor (G122) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(3) Plumber I (G119) to (3) Facilities Maintenance Specialist I (G119) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(2) Carpenter II (G120) to (2) Facilities Maintenance Specialist II (G120) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(2) HVAC Technician I (G119) to (2) Facilities Maintenance Specialist I (G119) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Facilities Maintenance	(3) Carpenter I (G119) to (3) Facilities Maintenance Specialist I (G119) (Title Change Only)
General Fund	Parks and Recreation	(1) Recreation Program Specialist III (G115- 12) to (1) Recreation Program Supervisor (G120-18)
General Fund	Parks and Recreation	(1) Tennis Specialist I (G112) to Tennis Specialist I (G115)
General Fund	Parks and Recreation	(1) Tennis Specialist II (G113) to Tennis Specialist II (G116)
General Fund	Tax Assessor	(1) Appraiser III (G121-3) to Appraiser IV (G122-5) (Career Ladder Advancement)
General Fund	Police	(1) Criminal Record Technician (G113) to (1) Record's Supervisor (G117)

General Fund	Fire/EMS	(3) Sergeant Investigator (F3) to (3) Lieutenant Investigator (F4)
General Fund	Fire/EMS	(1) Business Analyst (G130-3) to (1) Business Analyst (G126-30) (Grade Correction Only)
General Fund	Jury Manager	(1) Administrative Support Specialist I – PT (G112) to Deputy Clerk II (G115)
General Fund	Superior Court Clerk	(1) Chief Deputy Clerk G126-32 to (1) Chief Deputy Clerk G126-45
General Fund	Superior Court Clerk	(1) Senior Deputy Clerk (G117) to (1) Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk (G122)
General Fund	Municipal Court Clerk	(1) Chief Deputy Clerk G126-8 to (1) Chief Deputy Clerk G126-23
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Executive Assistant – Sheriff (G124-19) to Executive Assistant – Sheriff (G124-31)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Correctional Officer (SC1-4) to (1) Correctional Officer (SC1-18)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-8) to (1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-19)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Administrative Assistant (G115-31) to (1) Administrative Assistant (G115-41)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-13) to (1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-28)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Administrative Operations Manager (G122-5) to (1) Administrative Operations Manager (G122-13)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-3) to (1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-16)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-6) to (1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-17)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Senior Deputy Clerk (G117-5) to (1) Senior Deputy Clerk (G117-17)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Accounting Clerk (G113-5) to (1) Accounting Clerk (G113-11)
OLOST Fund	Superior Court Clerk	(1) Deputy Clerk II (G115-12) to

		(1) Senior Deputy Clerk (G117-11)
OLOST Fund	Sheriff	(1) Correctional Officer (SC1-7) to (1) Correctional Officer (SC1-17)
Stormwater Fund	Public Works	(1) Correctional Detail Officer (C01) to (1) Stormwater Crew Leader (G122)
Stormwater Fund	Public Works	(1) Equipment Operator II (G120-6) to (1) Equipment Operator III (G121-7) (Career Ladder Advancement)
Stormwater Fund	Public Works	(1) Maintenance Worker I (G114-5) to (1) Maintenance Worker II (G115-1) (Career Ladder Advancement)
Paving Fund	Engineering	(1) Project Engineer (G127-26) to (1) Project Engineer (G127-33)
Paving Fund	Public Works	(1) PT Maintenance Worker (G114) to (1) PT Environmental Compliance Officer (G120)
Paving Fund	Public Works	(2) PT Maintenance Worker (G114) to (1) Environmental Compliance Officer (G120)
Paving Fund	Public Works	(1) Equipment Operator II (G120-3) to (1) Equipment Operator III (G121-5) (Career Ladder Advancement)
Paving Fund	Public Works	(1) Equipment Operator II (G120-5) to (1) Equipment Operator III (G121-7) (Career Ladder Advancement)
Paving Fund	Public Works	(2) Equipment Operator II (G120-6) to (2) Equipment Operator III (G121-8) (Career Ladder Advancement)
Community Care Fund	Fire/EMS (Columbus Correct Care)	(1) Data Analyst (G128-3) to (1) Data Analyst (G126-16) (Grade Correction Only)
Integrated Waste Fund	Solid Waste	(1) Animal Control Officer (G116) to (1) Container Maintenance Coordinator (G116) (Title Change Only)
Emergency Telephone Fund	Police-E911	(1) 911 Center Supervisor (G120) to (1) Business Analyst (G126)
Trade Center Fund	Trade Center Operations	(1) Event Operations Manager (G121-36) to (1) Director of Facilities & Operations (G127-

3) (Grade Correction Only)

Trade Center Fund	Trade Center Maintenance	(1) PT Facilities Maintenance Worker I (G115) to (1) FT Facilities Maintenance Worker I (G115)
Bull Creek Golf Course Fund	Bull Creek - Maintenance	(1) Assistant Superintendent (110G) to (1) Superintendent (114G)
Civic Center/Sports Authority Fund	Operations	(1) Arena Technician I (G112-3) to (1) Arena Technician II (G113-6) (Career Ladder Advancement)

DELETED POSITIONS:

General Fund	Internal Auditor	(1) Forensic Auditor (G126) (Effective 08/01/2026)
General Fund	Engineering	(1) Traffic Signal Construction Specialist (G115)
General Fund	Sheriff	(1) Investigator (PS2)
Trade Center Fund	Trade Center Administration	(1) Administrative Coordinator (G118)

SECTION 25.

The Columbus Consolidated Government Pay Plan for Salary and Wages is hereby adopted as part of the FY27 Budget and is incorporated herein by Attachment A. Effective July 1, 2026, a two (2) step (which is equivalent to 2%) Cost of Living Adjustment for all classified full-time positions is hereby adopted. Effective July 1, 2026, retirees will receive a 1% Cost of Living Adjustment.

Effective July 1, 2026, the Part Time Juvenile Court Judge position will become a Full Time Juvenile Court Judge position for the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit. The new full-time annual salary will be set as part of the FY27 Budget as follows:

- FT Juvenile Court Judge (5 workdays per week) - \$130,000

Effective July 1, 2026, the annual supplement paid to state paid Assistant District Attorneys is hereby increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

Effective July 1, 2026, the State Court Judges of Muscogee County shall receive an annual local supplement in an amount equal to 90 percent of the locality pay received by the Superior Court Judges of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit paid by Muscogee County as established in Section 21 of Ordinance No. 26-001 until said locality pay expires. The local supplement will be distributed in equal payments over 12 monthly pay periods.

Effective July 1, 2026, the Clerk of Superior Court, Danielle Forte', shall receive a local supplement in the amount of \$43,332.51 pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 15-16-88 (d). This local supplement only applies to Danielle Forte' so long as she remains in office as the Clerk of Superior Court. The amount is fixed and is not subject to any Cost of Living Adjustments or additional longevity increases.

Effective July 1, 2026, the Solicitor General of the State Court shall receive a local supplement in the amount of \$7,468.42 pursuant to 2003 House Bill No. 649. This local supplement only applies to Shevon Thomas so long as he remains in office as the Solicitor General. The amount is fixed and is not subject to any Cost of Living Adjustments or additional longevity increases.

Effective July 1, 2026, the tie-in salary percentages for the Chief Assistant Solicitor and Senior Assistant Solicitors are hereby increased by 5% from 75% to 80% of the Solicitor's salary for the Chief Assistant Solicitor and from 65% to 70% of the Solicitor's salary for the Senior Assistant Solicitors as said percentages are not less than those referenced in 1999 House Bill No. 700.

Effective July 1, 2026, the hourly pay rate for Sworn Reserve Sheriff Deputies will increase from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per hour as part of the FY27 Budget.

SECTION 26.

Other 2009 Local Option Sales Tax Pay Supplement of \$3,121 for all sworn personnel in all Public Safety departments, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, and METRA departments effective July 1, 2009, distributed in equal payments over 26 bi-weekly pay periods, will remain in effect for FY2027. This supplement excludes elected officials.

SECTION 27.

The Columbus Police Department's Additional Other Local Option Sales Tax Supplement adopted by Columbus Ordinance 21-032 shall be continued for FY2027 for the Columbus Police Department. All sworn personnel within the Police Department will receive an additional \$2,000 annual Other Local Option Sales Tax Fund pay supplement distributed in equal payments over 26 bi-weekly pay periods.

SECTION 28.

Twenty-Four (24) Police Officer positions shall remain unfunded, until expressly approved by Council, in order to fund the implementation and continued costs associated with public safety pay adjustments and longevity increases prior to the adoption of Pay Plan Ordinance No. 22-045 which was subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 23-001.

Twenty-Eight (28) Police Officer positions shall remain unfunded, until expressly approved by Council, in order to fund the implementation and continued costs associated with public safety pay plan "above and beyond" pay adjustments and longevity increases post adoption of Pay Plan Ordinance No. 22-045 which was subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 23-001.

Eight (8) Deputy Sheriff positions shall remain unfunded, until expressly approved by Council, in order to fund the implementation and continued costs associated with public safety pay plan "above and beyond" pay adjustments and longevity increases post adoption of Pay Plan Ordinance No. 22-045 which was subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 23-001.

SECTION 29.

Section 25 of Ordinance No. 19-027 provided a 2.5% pay increase to 54 Sheriff Office positions which included 34 Sergeants, 4 Captains, and 16 Lieutenants. Two (2) Correctional Officer positions shall remain unfunded, until expressly approved by Council, in order to fund the continued cost of the increased pay adjustments for the aforementioned positions.

SECTION 30.

The Pay Plan adopted by Columbus Ordinance No. 06-40 first amended by Ordinance No. 06-87 then subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 07-21, Ordinance No. 07-30, and Ordinance No. 17-24 defined a paramedic certification pay supplement for EMS-Lieutenant, Firefighter-Medic, and Paramedic classifications while assigned and actively working as providers of emergency medical services, as verified by the Chief of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Said annual supplement of \$6,000 shall be continued in FY2027 for all authorized personnel.

SECTION 31.

Columbus Ordinance No. 17-24, Section 25 authorized the Fire and EMS Department to reclassify and restrict Thirty-Six (36) Fire Medic (PS14) positions to Fire Medic (PS15) positions. Notwithstanding Section 25 of Ordinance No. 17-24, the authorization contained in Ordinance No. 19-044 thereby amended Ordinance No. 17-24 by removing the restriction of 36 positions and provided for the Fire and EMS Department to administratively restrict the number of Fire Medic (PS15) positions to 50. Effective July 1, 2026, this section is hereby amended to increase the number of restricted administrative reclassifications from 50 to 60.

SECTION 32.

The Fire/EMS Department's Specialty Certification Pay Plan adopted by Columbus Ordinance No. 21-032 shall be continued in FY2027 for the Fire/EMS Department.

SECTION 33.

Columbus Ordinance No. 24-008 authorized a \$5,000.00 pay adjustment for existing full-time Sworn Officers and Emergency 911 Technicians in the Columbus Police Department. Sworn Officers hired in the Columbus Police Department before and/or after said effective date in Ordinance 24-008 are not eligible for the \$5,000.00 pay adjustment until obtaining 24 months of employment and at the conclusion of any sign-on bonus payouts. Emergency 911 Technicians hired after said effective date in Ordinance 24-008 will be placed on the General Government pay scale in a grade and step that most closely coincides with the expected pay adjustment not to exceed \$5,000.00 above the minimum starting salary. Twenty-seven (27) Police Officer positions shall remain unfunded, until expressly approved by Council, in order to fund the implementation and continued costs associated with the \$5,000.00 pay adjustments for the full-time Sworn Officers and Emergency 911 Technicians employed in the Columbus Police Department. Said pay adjustments as referenced above shall be continued in FY2027 for all authorized personnel.

SECTION 34.

Columbus Ordinance No. 24-027 authorized a \$5,000.00 pay adjustment for existing full-time Sworn Officers in the Sheriff's Office. Public Safety Officers hired in the Sheriff's Office before and/or after said effective date in Ordinance 24-027 are not eligible for the \$5,000.00 pay adjustment until obtaining 24 months of employment and at the conclusion of any sign-on bonus payouts. Said pay adjustments as referenced above shall be continued in FY2027 for all authorized personnel.

SECTION 35.

Columbus Ordinance No. 24-027 authorized a \$2,500.00 pay adjustment for existing full-time Sworn Officers in the Fire/EMS Department. Public Safety Officers hired in the Fire/EMS Department before and/or after said effective date in Ordinance 24-027 are not eligible for the \$2,500.00 pay adjustment until obtaining 24 months of employment and at the conclusion of any sign-on bonus payouts. Said pay adjustments as referenced above shall be continued in FY2027 for all authorized personnel.

SECTION 36.

Columbus Ordinance No. 24-027 authorized a \$2,500.00 pay adjustment for existing full-time Sworn Officers at the Muscogee County Prison. Ordinance No. 24-027 was subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 26-001 which increased the authorized pay adjustment from \$2,500 to \$5,000 for Public Safety Officers hired at the Muscogee County Prison before and/or after said effective date in Ordinance 26-001. Notwithstanding either Ordinance 24-027 or Ordinance No. 26-001, no Public Safety Officer at the Muscogee County Prison shall be eligible for the pay adjustment contained therein each applicable ordinance until after obtaining 24 months of employment and at the conclusion of any sign-on bonus payouts. Said pay adjustments as referenced above shall be continued in FY2027 for all authorized personnel who are eligible to receive the adjustment.

SECTION 37.

Effective July 1, 2026, the Police Department’s Specialty Certification Pay Plan will be implemented for sworn personnel assigned to special units requiring specialized training essential to public safety and operations in the Police Department. Employees perform these special duties and responsibilities in addition to their operational role in the Police Department and have received specialty training and professional certifications to fulfill those responsibilities. These certifications require advanced training, ongoing continuing education, testing, and strict compliance with state and departmental standards. Qualifying certifications include SWAT Team Members, Field Training Officers (FTO), Intermediate Certification, Advanced Certified, Instructor Certification, Motor Squad Officers, K-9 Handlers, and Digital Forensics Unit (DFU) Officers. Sworn personnel must complete and maintain the certifications to qualify for the additional certification pay in the amount of \$50 per certification per pay period with a maximum of two (2) certifications per officer. Sworn personnel will lose the certification pay if they are transferred from the specialty units and/or fail to maintain an active/current certification as required by state or departmental standards.

SECTION 38.

Effective July 1, 2026, Parks and Recreation part time staff hourly pay rate is hereby increased for the following positions:

Part Time Position Title	Prior Starting Wage Per Hour	New Starting Wage Per Hour
Athletic Officials	\$12.50	\$17.50
Athletic Chief	\$13.50	\$18.50

SECTION 39.

Health Plan Premiums – Effective January 1, 2027

Silver Plan (Active Employees)	2027 Bi-Weekly Wellness	2027 Bi-Weekly Non-Wellness	Gold Plan (Active Employees)	2027 Bi-Weekly Wellness	2027 Bi-Weekly Non-Wellness
Single	\$75.21	\$96.42	Single	\$111.66	\$143.15
Employee + Spouse	\$141.39	\$181.27	Employee + Spouse	\$214.85	\$275.45
Employee + Child(ren)	\$131.63	\$168.76	Employee + Child(ren)	\$200.01	\$256.42
Family	\$208.26	\$267.00	Family	\$316.83	\$406.19

Silver Plan (Pre-65 Retirees)	2027 Monthly Cost Wellness	Gold Plan (Pre-65 Retirees)	2027 Monthly Cost Wellness
Single	\$334.26	Single	\$435.50
Retiree + Spouse	\$1,069.58	Retiree + Spouse	\$1,273.64
Retiree + Child(ren)	\$961.19	Retiree + Child(ren)	\$1,151.12
Family	\$1,812.57	Family	\$2,114.15

For the plan year beginning January 1, 2027, any “working spouse” shall remain eligible for coverage in the Columbus Consolidated Government (CCG) **Employee/Retiree Self-Funded Medical Benefit Plan** conditioned upon payment of a monthly surcharge of \$356.98. “Working spouse” shall mean spouses of employees and non-Medicare retirees who have access to health care coverage provided by their employer. For the plan year beginning January 1, 2027, a tobacco surcharge shall remain in effect for all employees and Pre-65 retirees who are tobacco users at the rate of \$75 per month or \$34.62 bi-weekly. For the plan year beginning January 1, 2027, the Pre-65 retiree healthcare cost sharing strategy shall be as follows: 60% (CCG) and 40% (Retiree) for Pre-65 retirees with 0% CCG contribution for dependent coverage. For the plan year beginning January 1, 2027, the active employee healthcare cost sharing strategy shall be as follows: 75% (CCG) and 25% (Employee) for active employees and dependents.

SECTION 40.

All requests for funding from the Columbus Consolidated Government for new facilities and systems will be supported by a tentative operating and business plan for such facility or system which shall be presented to, reviewed by and approved by Columbus Council before such project is approved for funding in this budget.

SECTION 41.

All requests for funding by agencies, boards, authorities, departments, or elected offices receiving grants or operating appropriations from the Columbus Consolidated Government must be made to Columbus Council during the annual budget process unless such request is pursuant to Ordinance No. 13-39. Nothing herein shall prevent the Mayor, City Manager or Finance Director from recommending mid-year budget amendments to the Council. In emergency situations, the Mayor, City Manager or Finance Director may also

recommend to Council additional funding outside the budget process for various departments, agencies, boards, authorities or other entities associated with the city.

SECTION 42.

Salary savings is the amount of salary expense saved when a position is vacant or filled at a lower salary level than the budgeted level. All salary savings achieved in FY2027 by any Department or Elected Office, of the Columbus, Georgia Consolidated Government or any Board, Commission and/or Authority created by the Columbus Council shall only be used to replenish fund balance reserves. Use of salary savings is hereby restricted for any other purpose unless expressly approved by Council.

SECTION 43.

The minimum budget requirements set forth in O.C.G.A. Title 36, Chapter 81, are hereby adopted.

SECTION 44.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the 2nd day of June 2026; introduced a second time at a regular meeting held on the 9th day of June 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Anker	voting _____
Councilor Barnes	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor

ATTACHMENT “A”

**COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
PAY PLAN**

FOR FY2027