



City of Medina

2024 Preliminary Budget Memo





2024 Budget Calendar City of Medina, Washington

Statutory Dates	Planned/Actual Dates	2024 Budget Process
No legal requirement	September 11, 2023	Council holds Public Hearing to gather input on 2024 Preliminary Budget.
Oct 2, 2023	September 11, 2023	City Manager provides City Council with 2024 Revenue projections for the current year. City Manager provides a 2024 Preliminary Budget showing 2022 Revenue and Expenditures by Department.
No legal requirement	Sept 25, 2023	City Council holds a study session on 2024 Preliminary Budget. <i>Balancing decisions made if necessary.</i>
Nov 2, 2023	October 9, 2023	City Manager files 2024 Updated Preliminary Budget & Budget Message with the City Clerk and the City Council.
Prior to November 25, 2023	October 9, 2023	City Council holds Preliminary Public Hearing on 2024 Budget & Revenue Sources (Property Tax Levy)
No later than Nov 2, through Nov 20, 2023	Dates as needed prior to Nov 8 th meeting	City Clerk publishes notice of filing of 2024 Budget and publishes notice of public hearing on final budget once a week for two consecutive weeks.
Nov 21, 2023	Nov 13, 2023	Copies of 2024 proposed final budget are made available to the public at the Regular City Council meeting.
Nov 30, 2023 (KC due date) (Hearing due date 12/4/23)	Nov 13, 2023	Council holds Final Public Hearing and sets the 2024 Property Tax Levy to certify property tax levy to King County Assessor's Office
Dec. 31, 2023	Nov 13, 2023	Council adopts Final 2022 Budget at the Regular Monthly City Council meeting.
After Adoption	After Adoption	Copies of 2024 Final Budget Ordinance are filed with the Washington State Auditor's Office, MRSC and AWC.



To the Community and Council of the City of Medina, staff is proud to present the 2024 preliminary budget memo. Please note a more comprehensive overview will be provided alongside the budget workbook prior to the deep dive at the second September Council meeting.

Included with the memo is an overview of the 2019 passed property tax levy lid lift, with an updated financial forecast through 2031.

Lastly, the overall preliminary summary of the 2024 budget, along with a brief description and highlights for visibility before the deep dive.

2019 Property Tax Levy Lid Lift

The promises that were made to the voters, if they passed the measure, are the foundation this budget was built on.

Why did we go to the ballot? The City was at a financial crossroads. Rising costs were making it difficult for the City to provide the level of services our community has come to expect. Until 2019, the City had been able to balance the budget through aggressive cost-savings measures, identifying additional revenue sources and dipping into reserves. But in looking long-term, the City determined it could no longer find efficiencies without impacting service delivery.

The 1% rule: While property values continue to rise, the City's tax revenues don't rise in tandem. This is because the City's tax revenues are not based on a percentage of Medina property value; instead, the City is authorized to collect a predetermined amount of property tax each year, and each homeowner pays a proportional share of that predetermined amount. Since 2001, local governments (like Medina) are not allowed to raise their portion of the property tax levy beyond one percent (1%) a year without a vote of the public. For context: In 2019, the City's total 2019 property tax income was set by state law at \$2.8 million in total, and a 1% increase would only yield an additional \$28,000 for the City in 2020, not nearly enough to cover the rising cost of services. (Fire services alone increased by nearly double that amount in 2019.)

Asking the voters to decide: In the fall of 2019, the question of how to maintain Medina went to voters. Because the levy lid lift was approved, the City has funds to continue current service levels without significant cuts.



99% of all Medina’s General Fund & Street Operations spending is for services that are state-mandated or essential support functions to the mandated services. However, the state doesn’t dictate the level of services to be provided. For example, a city must provide law enforcement, but the state doesn’t dictate staffing levels, how often patrols are scheduled, or whether lifeguards are required for public beaches. After nearly 20 years of budget trimming, Medina was facing the need to cut into service levels that would be noticeable in every area, including public safety. In 2018, City Council and staff started a 2-year process of long-term financial planning, exploring options and public engagement surrounding a levy lid lift measure. These promises were born from those conversations and must be kept:

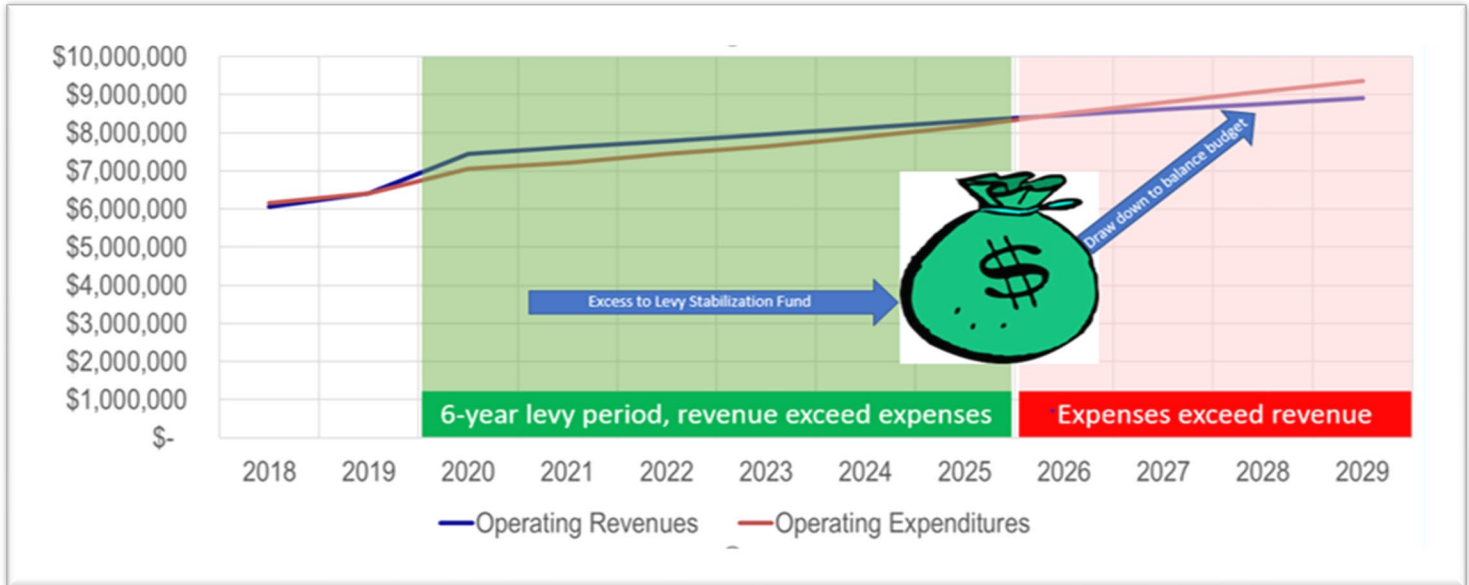
-Maintain the same LEVEL of services as before the levy lid lift. Remember, these were already trimmed service levels. This dictates a service level, status-quo budget. So, no additions or reductions from the promises made in 2019.

-Restore the City’s measures of financial health:

- Start each new year with the full General Fund required balance to cover first quarter expenses. This is something the State Auditor looks for, as well as creditors. It allows us to continue to pay the bills while waiting for our major source of funding (property taxes) that only get paid to the City in portions every 6 months.
- Engaged Finance Committee.
- Continual long-term financial planning, always looking ahead 10 years.
- Contingency Fund rebuilt.
- *Develop community friendly financial statements.

-Make the “bump” from the 6-year levy last at least 10-years.

Levy year 1 (2020) filled the gap and allowed services to continue without reduction. Years 2-6 (2021-25) will have budgeted transfers to a *Levy Stabilization Fund* in amounts that will build a minimum operating reserve of \$2M to draw on for at least another 4 years. 2023’s budget reflects a \$500K transfer into this fund. See illustration below.



SPECIFICS ABOUT THE LEVY

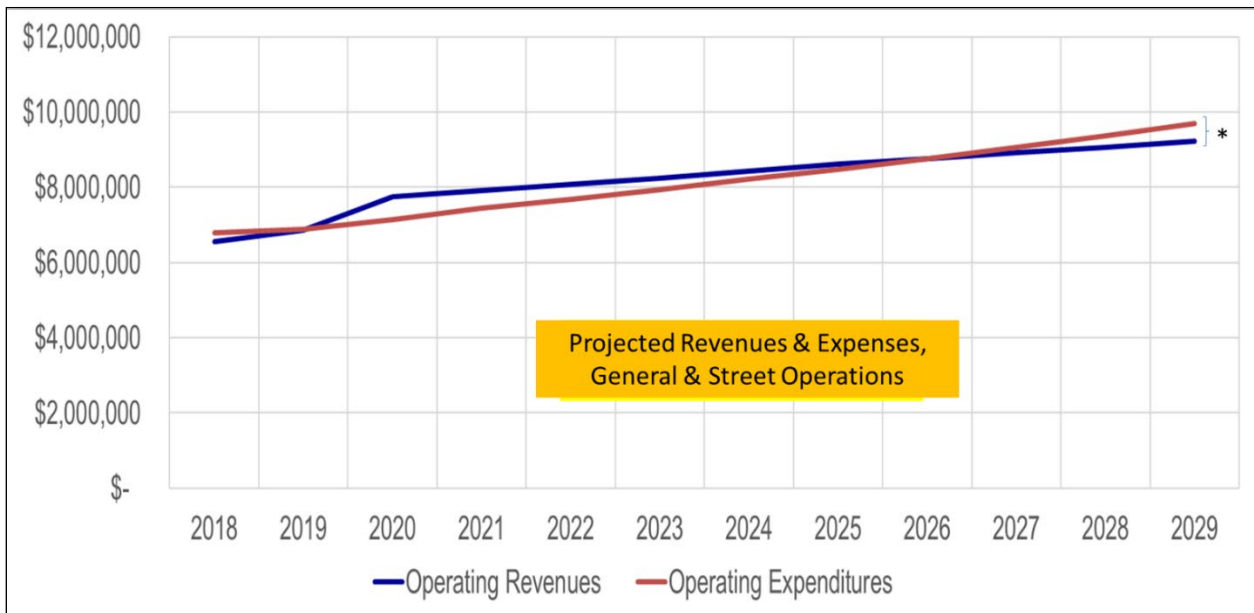
The levy's structure was designed to have an initial increase of no more than \$0.20 per \$1000 assessed value (example \$2M AV home = additional \$400/year). In 2020 this gave the City an additional 12% of revenue towards General Fund and Street Operations, \$941,572. For the next five years (2021-2025) the City will be allowed to increase this amount by 5%, see projected table below. In 2026 the previous year's levy total will roll into the regular property taxes, which is limited to an annual increase of no more than 1%.

How Much Extra Funds is the Levy Lid Lift Creating Each Year?			
Projected Revenues, 2020-2029			
	Amount of Increase	Total	
2020	\$ 941,572	\$ 941,572	Initial "bump"
2021	\$ 47,079	\$ 988,651	+5% each year
2022	\$ 49,433	\$ 1,038,083	
2023	\$ 51,904	\$ 1,089,987	
2024	\$ 54,499	\$ 1,144,487	
2025	\$ 57,224	\$ 1,201,711	
2026	\$ 12,017	\$ 1,213,728	+1% each year
2027	\$ 12,137	\$ 1,225,865	
2028	\$ 12,259	\$ 1,238,124	
2029	\$ 12,381	\$ 1,250,505	
		\$ 11,332,713	10-year total



Forecasting for the Future

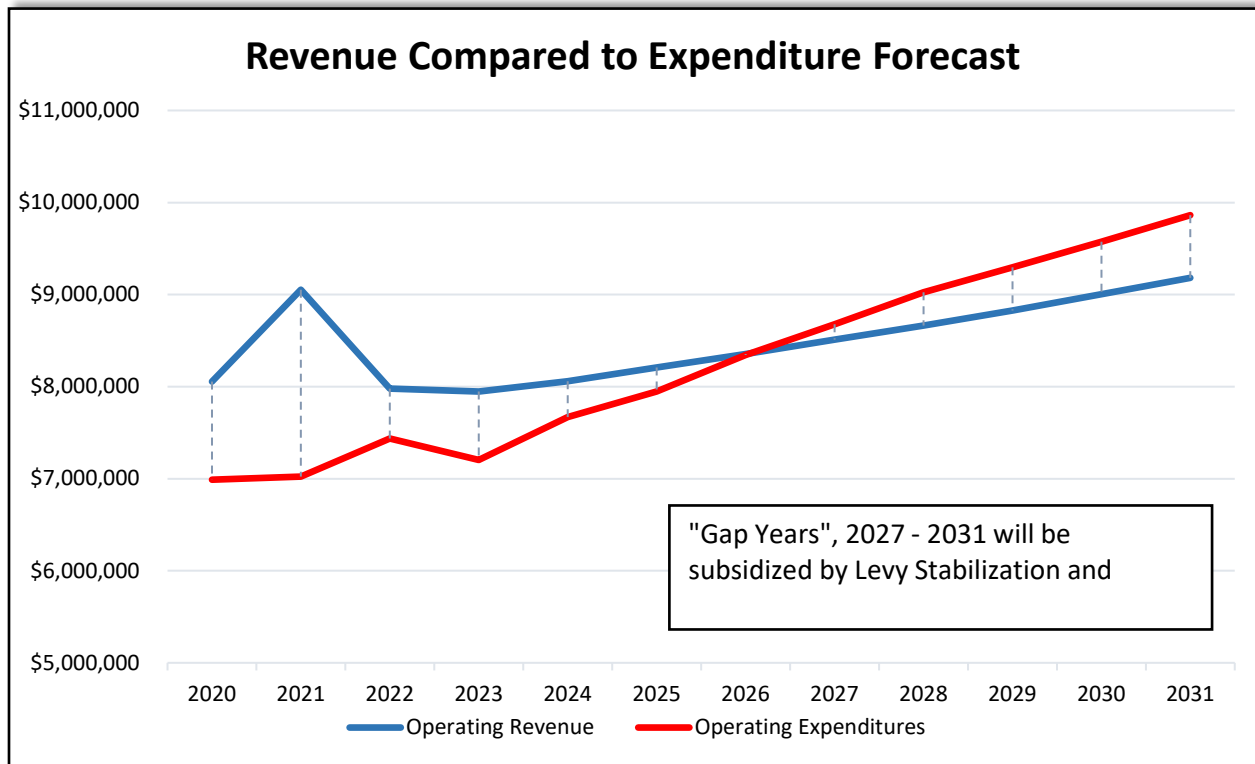
After the Levy passed, former Finance Director Julie Ketter prepared the following report to compare forecasted operating revenues to expenditures over the life of the Levy and beyond. She predicted a crossover point of 2027, where expenditures would surpass revenue and the City would then have to dip into the stabilization fund.



Now that we are preparing for the 2024 Budget, a new forecast is imperative to track the financial stability of the City and to prepare for the future. When the prior model was created, there was no way to predict the impact that the COVID 19 pandemic would have on the City and its finances. With a halt to projects and a stay-at-home order in effect, the City saw a decrease in expected expenditures in 2020 and 2021 while subsequently seeing an increase in sales tax revenue. This would not last however as 2022 and 2023 have seen an inflationary increase across the board, only somewhat mitigated by the increase in investment interest revenue. These increases are expected to impact the 2024 budget, before a predicted gradual return to pre-pandemic levels within 2-5 years.



The below graph shows that while revenue and expenditure numbers differ from the 2020 model, the crossover to deficit spending is still on track for 2027 with the Levy stabilization amount predicted to supplement the general fund until at least 2031.



2024 Preliminary Budget Summary

With high inflation raising prices across the board for almost every department, I must thank staff for their conservative approach, to allow for us to bring a balanced preliminary budget to both Council and the community. First an overview of the total preliminary numbers across the board for 2024, followed by key items and asks. Please note that this is a working document, and all numbers are subject to change as additional information and feedback is given.



City of Medina 2024 General Fund		
Revenue		
Total Revenue	\$	8,059,234.00
Change		3.08%
Expenditures		
Department	Amount	Change
Exec.	\$ 293,498.40	4.38%
Finance	\$ 685,418.00	20.49%
Central Services	\$ 1,226,360.80	-2.76%
Police	\$ 2,821,134.54	5.66%
Fire	\$ 934,285.00	12.87%
Parks	\$ 632,531.00	4.45%
Rec Services	\$ 48,500.00	0%
Legislative	\$ 70,500.00	0%
Municipal Courts	\$ 62,000.00	0%
Legal	\$ 327,200.00	0%
Social and Env. Services	\$ 52,648.00	25.18%
Transfers	\$ 800,000.00	20.69%
Total General Fund Exp.	\$ 7,954,075.74	▲ 4.18%
City of Medina 2024 Capital Fund		
Revenue		
Total Revenue	\$	1,300,000.00
Change		3.73%
Expenditures		
Total Capital	\$	830,000.00
Total Stormwater	\$	350,000.00
Total Capital Fund Exp.		\$ 1,180,000.00
City of Medina 2024 Dev Services Fund		
Revenue		
Total Revenue	\$	1,121,500.00
Change		11.31%
Expenditures		
Total Capital	\$	1,016,812.00
Change		16.10%



2024 Budget, Key Items and Asks

Employee Salary and Benefits

- With the CPI above the max COLA increase, employee salaries will increase by 4% with a 4.6% increase for law enforcement.
- As we still await final rates on the benefit side for AWC and a few others, a conservative 8% increase will act as a placeholder.
- The additional cost of adding Juneteenth as a recognized Holiday for the City has been added to the budget, awaiting Council discussion and direction.

Fixed Cost Increases for 2024

- ARCH, the City's portion to support transitional and low-income housing will increase in 2024 to cover the admin costs (\$8.5K increase).
- With a heavy increase in employee compensation and the new Station 10 being built, Bellevue Fire has increased their service cost by 13.35% for 2024.
- For the second year in a row, WCIA has increased their insurance cost significantly to replenish their fund drained by heavy payouts by other jurisdictions. Medina's portion has risen by 29% for 2024.
- Our IT managed services are expected to increase by 10% for 2024.

Specific Department Asks for 2024

- **Police Department**
 - o Body worn cameras and tasers, both would be leased and set at a fixed annual cost of \$32K.
- **Public Works**
 - o A replacement plow truck, fitted with a sprayer to allow for better coverage and service to the community during winter storms. The truck with the necessary attachments would cost an estimated \$100K.
- **Development Services**
 - o A new fuel-efficient vehicle for Building Official and staff use to visit work sites and to conduct inspections. Estimated cost of \$40K.