



COVID-19 Response: General Fund

CITY COUNCIL | AB 5694 | June 2, 2020

Purpose

- Brief Background
- Memorialize Phase 1 and Phase 2 Cost Saving Measures
- Contingency Funds
 - Support Emergency Operations thru August 2020
 - Establish an Unemployment Reserve
- Utilize Compensated Absences Reserve
- Will pause during presentation for questions



Roles and Responsibilities

City Manager

- Chief Executive Officer
- Executes biennial budget
- Authority to make budget and personnel decisions

City Council

- Sets policy
- Approves biennial budget
- Legislative action and personnel policies



Brief Background



Council Action – May 5

Directed staff to:

- 1. Continue Level 2 emergency response
- 2. Return with a budget amendment on 5/19 to:
 - 1. Appropriate funding from the Compensated Absences Reserve to pay accrued benefit cash-outs for laid off workers.
 - 2. Appropriate \$500,000 of Contingency Funds for Emergency Operations thru August.
 - 3. Appropriate Contingency Funds to address projected YFS Fund deficit.
 - 4. Rebalance the 2020 budget based on Phase 1 and Phase 2 reductions.
 - 5. Present policy options to address remaining revenue shortfalls.



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Cost Saving Measures



General Fund – 2020 Forecast

Forecasted General Fund Revenue Shortfall

\$(4,700,000)

Approximately 15% of budgeted revenues



Phase 1 – Cost Saving Measures

- Laid off contract and seasonal labor in Parks and Recreation
- Hiring freeze for vacant positions
 - Parks and Recreation Department
 - Community Planning and Development Department
- Phase 1 cost saving measures resulted in:

\$1,150,000 in General Fund Savings



Phase 2 – Cost Saving Measures

- Laid off 13 full-time equivalent positions in Parks and Recreation and Facilities Division
- Scaled down operating budget in Parks and Recreation and Public Works
- Reduced resources for staff travel and training
- Phase 2 cost saving measures resulted in:

\$1,757,000 in savings in the General Fund



Phase 2 – Unexpected Changes

- Moved Parks Maintenance and Capital Planning to Public Works
- Unanticipated staffing loss with two senior Public Works Managers
 - Retirement
 - Resignation
- □ City retained Parks Operations Manager and Natural Resource Specialist



Cost Saving Measures as of May 1

General Fund Budget Amendments	Total
Phase 1 Cost Savings Measures	\$(1,150,000)
Phase 2 Cost Saving Measures	\$(1,757,000)
Staffing Adjustment – Park Maintenance/Capital	\$121,400
Total Budget Reduction	\$(2,785,600)



Contingency Funds Emergency Operations



Contingency Fund

Beginning Fund Balance as of June 2020

\$4,212,236



Emergency Operations

- □ "Level 2" activation sustained long term response to shifting needs
- Meticulous tracking of staff time and emergency-related purchases
- Unbudgeted expenses
 - Equipment and supplies
 - Critical staff support



Emergency Operations - supplies

- Unbudgeted emergency-related purchases
- □ Prior to May 1, spent **\$150,000** on emergency-related purchases
- □ Estimate **\$12,500** in monthly expenses
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Auxiliary restroom facilities
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Equipment to comply with Governor's Safe Start Plan



Emergency Operations – staff

- Unbudgeted staff support
- □ Up to 20 positions supporting EOC at any given time
- 8 positions unbudgeted solely dedicated to emergency operations
 - Timekeeping and cost tracking
 - Reimbursement requests and interagency communications
 - Recovery planning
 - Centralized customer service (Call Center)
- Monthly cost of \$74,000



Emergency Operations

Unbudgeted Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Expenses						
	MAR – APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	
L1 – supplies and services	150,000					
L2 – EOC staff costs		74,000	74,000	74,000	74,000	
L2 – EOC supplies and services		12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	
Monthly Totals	\$150,000	\$86,500	\$86,500	\$86,500	\$86,500	

\$496,000 appropriation from Contingency Fund

Supports emergency operations through August 31

Reimbursable through CARES Act and FEMA Public Assistance



Contingency Funds Unemployment Reserve



Unemployment Reserve

- New staff request create separate reserve for unemployment costs
- Standard practice for Cities to "self-insure"
- Typically paid for with each Department's vacancy savings
- □ Highly unpredictable and difficult to track



Unemployment Reserve

- □ Staff estimates \$275,000 in fully-burdened unemployment costs
 - Former employees may not apply
 - May find other opportunities
 - May not use full benefit
- □ Via CARES Act, Federal Government agreed to reimburse 50% of unemployment costs March 13 December 31, 2020.



Unemployment Reserve

- Establish up to a \$300,000 unemployment reserve
 - Only use Contingency Funds when expense is incurred
 - Cleaner accounting during current Pandemic
 - Better tracking of General Fund budget activity
- Return to Council 2021 (or sooner) to close reserve and replenish
 Contingency Fund once 50% federal reimbursements are received.



CARES Act

- □ Confirmed the City will receive \$734,100 in CARES Act funding
- Provided through the Department of Commerce
- Strictly for one-time expenses related to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Note, 50% Federal reimbursement for unemployment costs is separate from \$734,100 emergency assistance.
 - Managed through State Employee Security Department
 - Mechanics still being worked out



Contingency Fund

June 2020 Fund Balance

EOC Support

Unemployment Reserve

Remaining Fund Balance

\$4,212,236

\$(496,000)

\$(300,000)

\$3,416,236



Compensated Absences Reserve



Compensated Absences Reserve

- May 5 Council directed staff to use the Reserve
- Balance as of June 1 is \$1,051,055
- Covers accrued benefit cash-outs
- Cash-outs for Phase 1 and Phase 2 is \$131,000
- Additional one-time cash-out costs anticipated in 2020



Compensated Absences Reserve

- □ Staff anticipate no more than \$300,000 from the reserve in 2020
 - Accurate tracking of accrued benefit cash-outs during the Pandemic
 - Clean accounting of post-employment costs



Staff Recommendation



Staff Recommends Council

- 1. Suspend Rules of Procedure 6.3, requiring a second reading for an ordinance.
- 2. Adopt Ordinance No. 20-08 amending the 2019-2020 budget to:
 - 1. Memorialize Phase 1 and Phase 2 cost saving measures totaling \$2,785,600 in General Fund reductions.
 - 2. Appropriate \$496,000 in Contingency Funds to support ongoing emergency operations through August 31, 2020.
 - 3. Authorize use of up to \$300,000 in Contingency Funds to establish an Unemployment Reserve.
 - 4. Authorize use of the Compensated Absences Reserve for one-time accrued benefit cash-outs in an amount not-to-exceed \$300,000.

Questions

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