



To: Department Heads
 From: Dylan Mulfinger
 Subject: Budget Cut Act of 2025
 Date: 2/23/2026

Item	Amount	Time Frame	Notes
Police Patrol	\$60,000	July 1 2025	Position was budgeted for but not filled. The position is no longer budgeted for in the city's budget.
Park and Cemetery positions	\$30,000	April 2026	
Library Funding	\$30,000	July 1, 2026	The library board determined to take a full-time position to part time.
Community Development Administrative Assistant	\$44,928	April 2025	This position was not filled after it became vacant.
Phone Cost	\$19,200	October 2025	While this has been the worst project in the history of the city, the city has still saved money. More to come from this project as the current phones do not meet expectations
Internet	\$2,000 Annually	February 2026	The city hall switched to fiber at a much lower cost each month
Bigleaf	\$4,800 Annually	January 2026	With fiber internet, the city will no longer need bigleaf to prioritize bandwidth within city hall.
No Downtown baskets	\$5,000	Summer 2026	The city will no longer water the flower baskets in the downtown daily
Snow text alerts	\$2,544	November 2025	The city will no longer subscribe to a service that allows text messages to residents about snow emergencies
Junk House removal reduction	\$10,000	July 2026	The city will reduce the budget from \$60,000 to \$50,000
Bulk Sticker	\$5,000	May 2026	The city will use reserves in the landfill fund to cover this cost
Tech Spec Payment	\$35,000	July 2026	The city will have its last payment for the tec spec center that the school owns



Items still in progress

- City Hall reorganization
 - This move will start with the retirement of the City Clerk/Treasurer. City Hall will be evaluated, and staffing levels will be studied.
 - Cut costs unknown
 - Starting July 2026
- Work to lower attorney fees
 - This is an ongoing project the city will need to prioritize. Attorney fees have climbed up with the focus being on code enforcement and nuisance abatement. Since bringing on Lynch Dallas, the city is nearing back-to-back years of \$100,000 attorney fees. This is much higher than any comparable city.
- Less mowing in the parks department with prairie plantings
 - The city will start placing prairies wherever prairie can be planted.
 - Cut unknown
 - Starting May 2026
- Remove downtown streetscape
 - This will happen gradually as the downtown sidewalks are repaired. This will require less staff time, equipment, and supplies.
 - Cut unknown
 - Starting Summer of 2026
- Reduce city cell phones
 - The city has invested in VoIP which works on desktops and laptops. The city has also invested in radios. The need for cellphones is not as crucial as it once was for city staff. Any staff who needs to report to work must provide a cellphone or form of contact. Once the employee gets to work, they can use the city phone or the radio. The city's VoIP allows for an app which forward calls to a cellphone and allows the cellphone to make calls through the app. Staff is still evaluating this cut as it may not be large enough of a cut to make a complete switchover.
 - \$3,243.24 annual cut general fund
 - \$2,157.84 annual cut other funds
 - No start date as this item has been reevaluated
- The housing tax abatement program will start to fall off each year eventually providing \$20,000
 - The city is slowly ending their five-year tax abatement plan. The new plan abates taxes, but does not offer city reimbursement. The current reimbursement are paid for using the local options sales tax.
 - Cut \$10,000
- Police Loan Shift
 - Move the police station loan payment away from franchise fees to debt service as allowed each year
 - Free up franchise fee for supplementing public safety
 - This would be three transfers of \$100,000.
 - This money could also be used for library HVAC or pool floor



- Reduce road spending in Franchise Fees
 - Franchise fees can be used for public safety. Any time we offset the cost of public safety it allows the city to spend money on other general fund departments. While the city needs to maintain the streets, cuts are needed to ensure the city functions.
 - \$50,000 transfer from franchise to the general fund
 - The city already transfers \$30,000 for public safety from franchise fees
- Vote on local option sales tax language to change to all government purposes
 - This is needed to allow for general fund operations to be charged to local option sales tax

Items the council did not approve:

- Code Enforcement officer
 - The city will need to cut the code enforcement officer to create space in the general fund. This position was created by the city council in 2021. The City Administrator understood Community Development was at a high level of staff, because staff were needed to address the critical job of improving housing in Oelwein. With the city finishing up the first round of rental inspections and moving onto the second round. New software and longer tenure of staff should allow for more time for the Building Official and Building Inspector. This will reduce the city's ability to address code enforcement. This cut is not supported by the department head or the Mayor.
 - An alternative would be to move this position to a part-time April-November. The position would cap out at 1040 hours.
- Move funding for the chamber to the hotel motel tax
 - The city would reduce the amount of available hotel motel funds from \$20,000 to \$10,000 each year with the chamber receiving \$10,000, of their \$50,000, from hotel motel funds. This would not include the payback clause should the chamber run a profit on their events. This frees up local option sales tax to be used for other general fund needs.
 - Cut= \$10,000
 - July 1, 2025