

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, June 15, 2023, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District (arrived at 5:10 p.m.); Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk; Monica Sparks, Deputy Unified Government Clerk; Debbie Jonscher, Interim Chief Financial Officer; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Michael Peterson, Assistant Budget Director; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Troy Shaw, County Engineer; Brandon Grover, Public Works Asset Coordination Manager; John Kelly, Director of Buildings & Logistics; Brent Smith, Fire Department; Angel Ferrara, Director of Parks & Recreation; and LaVert Murray, Economic Development Advisor in Mayor's Office.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that we do have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participates joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak so the public that is participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is also current guidance from our Kansas Attorney General. Make sure you are speaking into your microphone to ensure your comments are heard and that we have an accurate record of the meeting.

Mayor Garner called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Garner.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the fifth floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building for a Budget Workshop.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Garner said for clarity, this meeting is the ongoing budget process of the Unified Government presentation so your Unified Government commissioners can make an informed decision and have all the information they need moving forward as we prepare for the 2024 Budget. I will now turn this meeting over to our County Administrator David Johnston.

David Johnston, County Administrator, said as is customary part of the budget process is you take a look at Capital needs that we've identified as a community that need attention. This is an integral step in developing the County Administrator's recommended budget. What you'll hear tonight are some options. We promised that we would look at options as we deal with the wider budget challenge on the City side that we talked about, so you'll be seeing these challenges that we'll still have under consideration as staff and I prepare a final budget recommendation to you to be submitted sometime in August.

Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director, said I have with me Jeff Fisher, Director of Public Works; Brandon Grover, Public Works; Debbie Jonscher, our Interim CFO; and Angel Ferrara, Director of Parks & Rec.



We're here today to talk about our 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program. One thing different this year is the M that we usually have in CMIP is now Capital Improvement Program, so we have dropped the M from it which is maintenance.

One of the things when Jeff Fisher came six years ago he constantly asked the question why do we have maintenance as part of our Capital Improvement Program. Also, when Administrator Johnston came, that's probably one of the top three questions he asked me, was why do we have a maintenance in our Capital Budget and why are we issuing debt on our maintenance.

Today what we want to do is go through and talk about some of the wins we have had in the past year with our Capital Improvement Program and some of our needs in our Capital Improvement Program.

As we get to this point within the organization we have had meetings with four different core groups that we have within the organization, so we have a core group for technology that's related to Capital. We also have a core group that's related to infrastructure, we also have a core group that's related to facilities, and a core group related to equipment. Those different core groups kind of run like committees where we have subject matters on those particular topics that know if we need the new technology. We have John Kelly who knows about what we need to have done with facilities who consults us on those and then we have Brandon and Troy over in Public Works that consults us on what needs to go on like our infrastructure as far as streets and bridges.

As we jump into the presentation, what I'll do is turn it over to Jeff Fisher, our Executive Public Works Director.



Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works, said the first thing that Public Works will look to starting this year and each year beyond is to the Outcomes and Strategies document that we worked hard with the subcommittees over the course of about a year ‘21-‘22 and then the County Administrator recently asked us to revisit this document with the subcommittees and that’s been updated. This will be our guiding document from Public Works and to some degree Parks & Rec in developing each year’s budget and making recommendations to the County Administrator.

Some of you may remember the big priorities of that document are streets, bridges, facilities.

TOP OUTCOMES

Streets

- Increase average Pavement Condition Index from 51 to 65 for the entire network by 2045
- Requires sustained annual funding increase of 25%

Bridges

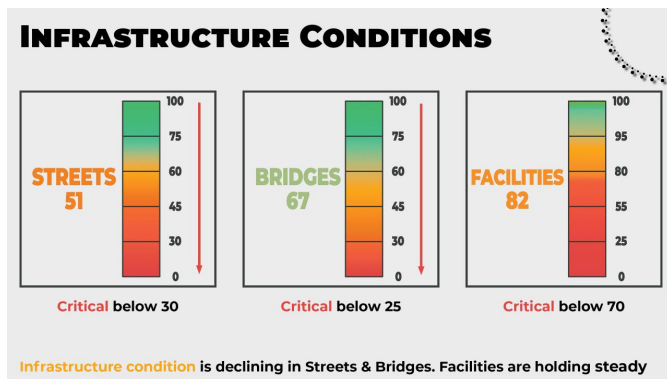
- Increase the bridge Sufficiency Index Rating so that the following is true by 2040:
 - At least 40% of structures are within the SI range of 75-100 (Good)
 - At least 20% of structures are within the SI range of 50-74 (Fair)
 - Less than 20% of structures are within the SI range of 25-49 (Poor)
 - Less than 5% of structures are within the SI range of 0-24 (Replace)
- Requires funding of at least \$14-million by 2025

Facilities & Parks

- Develop a strategic plan with criteria for removing liabilities from inventory
- Study the location of facilities/parks around the city and county
- Gather data to quantify the deferred and future maintenance needs of existing parks

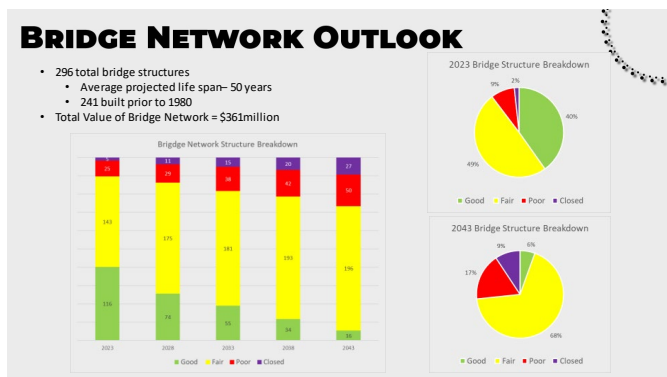
 Three circular images arranged vertically on the right side of the 'TOP OUTCOMES' section. The top circle shows a paved street with trees. The middle circle shows a large steel truss bridge. The bottom circle shows a park with a lake and greenery.

Streets, as you might remember about four years ago our average PCI, Pavement Condition Index, was 56. Our goal was to get to 65 and four years later it’s dropped to 51. We know we have a lot of work to do there. Bridges, we’re going to talk more about later, but we know we have strategies and desired outcomes in the document regarding bridges and a big funding shortfall there and then generally around Facilities and Parks it’s about rightsizing in that document.



Over the last four or five years we've been working real hard together to be data-driven and to use that data to tell the story that people can understand and then set priorities. We've worked here real recently with the help of Dave Reno to create a visual that we hope will help you all remember more easily what those conditions are, so this is our shot at that.

The two important things to recognize in this visual is the color gradient for each of those categories. They're a little bit different because the grading skills that we use in those categories are a little bit different and then the critical threshold below that. In the case of Streets, we're at an average of 51 and it's declining and then the critical is 30. With Bridges, it's green, kind of green, so that's good, but it's also declining with a critical threshold of 25 and then with Facilities, it's quite a bit different, but we did best we could to sort of normalize the three. Facilities, the Buildings and Logistics Division, has done an excellent job of utilizing the resources that they've been provided, particularly with ARPA, that's been helpful the last couple years, but it's steady; however, we expect that to decline and that's mostly because there's just a lot of square footage to cover.



I'm going to hand this over to Brandon to talk more about bridges.

Brandon Grover, Project Manager for Roads & Bridges for Public Works, said for the past several years you've heard us talk ad nauseam about PCI scores, 2,400 lane miles, all the other metrics that go in our roads. You've heard the same thing about pipes for our storm and sanitary systems, but we've never really dove that deep into explaining to you our bridge network, so we wanted to throw some of this data-driven information out to you guys for that so you can make some educated decisions, especially with bridges being such a hot topic right now.

In total the UG maintains 296 bridge structures. All of those structures usually have an average lifespan before they start showing some serious deficiencies of about 50 years. Of our 296, 241 of them were built prior to 1980, so the vast majority of our structures are at a 40 year—43 year life right now or greater. As we start looking at that, that's going to start coming into play and as we've all seen bridges have a quick deterioration. From year to year one can drop off at the drop of a hat as soon as the inspection is done if it's not appropriate to handle traffic.

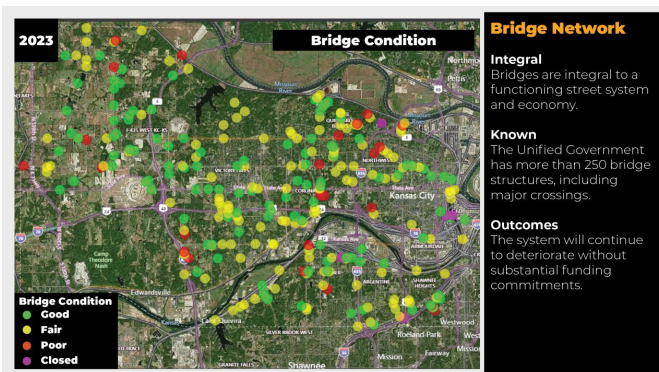
The first graph you see there is a bar graph showing 5-year increments of what our network will potentially look like. Right now you're looking at—you see a really small purple amount which is our closed structures which is five, but just in the short matter of time of 20 years if we don't start spending the amount of money we need to maintain these, we're at 27 closed structures. That goes from about 2% to 9% of our total network. You can also see that we've got about 116 right now that are good, but in that same timeframe we fall to 16 so we lose a hundred in good condition in a matter of 20 years because of where they're at in their timeframe of their life. That's a huge, huge thing to consider moving forward because every time these bridges start dropping and every closure we have or every limitation we have on weight limit that these bridges

can handle, that's an inconvenience to the citizens. It changes the response time for our Public Safety officials, so there's a huge, huge impact.

Commissioner Johnson said I apologize to my colleagues for my lateness. Does this assume that no other work will be done over the next whatever this is from 20 years to—**Mr. Grover** said the projected outcomes is based on the current funding level of \$300K a year. What we've been proposing and saying for the last year or so is we really need about \$14M a year. Our total network of bridges is worth about \$361M, so in order to address those, you see what kind of scale we're looking at. We can show you these graphs and throw out the numbers all we want, but what really shows is these next couple slides.

Mayor Garner said we have one more question.

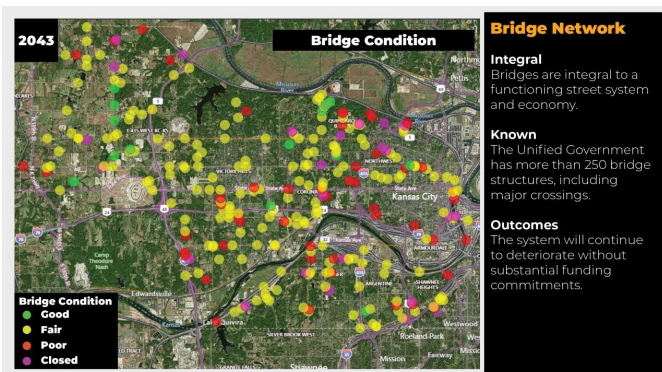
Commissioner Ramirez said for that amount, 296, is that a common amount for a city to have around the metro, around the country, 296 seems like a lot of bridges that we have. **Mr. Grover** said this ties directly into what you've heard in our stormwater conversations about the number of drainage basins that we have. Wyandotte County is in a really unique position because having the rivers on each side and the high crest that runs to the middle of the county, we have a lot of drainage basins, so every time you have a small tributary or creek, you have a road that goes over it, you have to have a box structure. This far surpasses most of the other surrounding metropolitan areas. Even those that have larger citizenry or larger geographic area, at least double most of them.



This image right here shows our network currently. You see a lot of green dots, a lot of yellow dots, some of the red and the purple kind of jumps out a little bit, it kind of blends a little bit right

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now in this image, but that's what our condition looks like right now. If we don't start spending that amount that we've been talking about, this next slide illustrates what our network is going to look like.



You see the green pretty much entirely disappear. You see the red grow exponentially almost and the purple starts jumping out and several of those purple dots are on some pretty major corridors so we've really got to start taking a harder look at what the needs are for our bridge structures.



Mr. Fisher said this is something you're familiar with. The UG's been working on a system for scoring and ranking unfunded needs for a few years now. We continue to work on that each year to get better and better.

[illegible]

This is a short list of about 150 total. We marked off a few there that has been done and one that we just removed because of the rightsizing idea around facilities, but about 150 projects that have either been identified by the elected body, staff or the public, so those are scored and ranked. Then, of course, we mentioned in the last year we have this new tool for the public to access and they can put in a request that might end up turning into a project as well.

PUBLIC WORKS 2022-2023



2022-2023 PUBLIC WORKS WINS

Kansas Avenue Bridge Repair

- \$3,500,000 investment
- Temporary repairs to begin in September 2023
- Re-opening to limited traffic in 2024

Annual Pavement Preservation

- \$7,800,000 investment
- Mill/Overlay, micro-surfacing, and other methods
- 43 lane miles paved
- 50,033 feet of curb replaced in 2022

7th & Central Intersection

- \$3,000,000 investment
- \$1,000,000 in grant funding
- Improved safety and traffic flow at a busy intersection



The activities of last year and this, just a few highlights and, of course, we're working towards making repairs on the Kansas Avenue Bridge this year. We hope to open that back up by the end of the year and if not, first quarter of next year.

The Annual Street Preservation, of course, that's an annual program. I will note here that 43 lane miles that will be done this year is the most that's been done and it sounds like a lot, but it's under 2% of the entire network. The curb replaced, that seems like a lot of curb, that's a fraction of a percent of the system.

Mayor Garner said on the Kansas Avenue Bridge Replacement, I know the Commission approved that amount last summer. Just for clarity, is there some reason why it takes so long for something—you know, we're looking at a long period of time to just open it temporarily, what causes that? **Mr. Fisher** said it's generally a supply chain issue with the steel. There's a large lead time on ordering that. We ordered as soon as we could, as soon as we had enough design to do that and then we hope that the contractor will be able to make the repairs earlier than we're projecting, sort of managing expectations.

Mr. Fisher said 7th & Central Intersection, I thought that was a very successful project. That's done.

2022-2023 PUBLIC WORKS WINS

Safe Routes to School

- \$2,200,000 investment (\$1,700,000 in grants)
- New sidewalks near Caruthers Elementary School
- North-south connectors along 13th & 11th between Cleveland and Parallel

Pierson Park Fire Station

- \$10,164,940 investment
- Replaces two outdated, smaller stations that serve the Turner Area
- Addresses immediate needs with room to grow

City Hall Stabilization

- \$5,500,000 investment
- Repair of City Hall's diaphragm for re-utilization of the ground floor



There will be a Safe Routes to School Project. We have the Pierson Park Fire Station.

Mayor Garner said I've got another question for you.

Commissioner Bynum said first just a comment. You know over KCATA to your supply chain issue, I think we have a one-year lead time when we order a bus, so it's ridiculously real. My question on 7th & Central really doesn't have anything to do with money. I'm curious if you can help me understand the why of that design. When you are heading east on Central and you take the little angle instead of going to the intersection, you used to be able to go ahead and go north, but it's all—was that on purpose. I guess it had to be on purpose. **Mr. Fisher** said it was. **Commissioner Bynum** said I was stunned the first time I took that and I'm like, oh, I'm not going to turn left here, I'm going to turn right and I thought what's the purpose of having the road if your only choice is to make a right turn. Anyway, just help me. **Mr. Fisher** said I'm going to ask Brandon to speak.

Mr. Grover said we looked at that intersection for a couple different things and the one that stuck out the most was safety concerns. With the intersection that you're talking about specifically and the one directly across the road from it, there was some sight distance issues of coming over the hill if you're heading south on 7th Street and the grant that we applied for and won for that project from KDOT was for geometric improvements and safety improvements, so the design featured into that for that purpose. You'll also notice that if you're continuing south on 7th Street, you'll see the lane configuration change. It used to be four lanes, but you could never use all four because there was parking on the outside. We worked with KDOT to come up with an improved schematic for that that allowed for parking and kept the appropriate traffic level going through, so there was a lot of thought that went into that. Adding those medians in there to limit those turning motions was a safety concern.

Commissioner Bynum said I really like the lane configuration at 7th & Central a lot. **Mr. Grover** said that's one we're actually talking about continuing up towards City Hall, continue that way, we don't run into those issues of people driving in those parking lanes. **Commissioner Bynum** said you've done that quite a bit on the 7th Street portion of that project. **Mr. Grover** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay, thanks.

Mr. Fisher said lastly is the City Hall Stabilization that's ongoing right now. John Kelly has been eager to do that for quite some time.

Mayor Garner said I know there's been some concern from Senator Petty and some others, they've reached out. When you talk about that intersection, if you can go back where the new fire station is, and the egress/ingress and maybe a safety concern at that intersection. **Commissioner Markley** said that would be the whole Douglas and Key Lane Project. **Mayor Garner** said I'm just looking for an update. **Mr. Fisher** said I believe that's on the unfunded list. That one has been there for a little while. **Mayor Garner** said okay.



Mr. Fisher said I'll turn it over to Angel.

Angel Ferrara, Director of Parks & Recreation, said we'll go over a couple of our highlights as well for projects. We did receive an increase to our budget so we were able to build in a little bit more so happy to report back out on some of the great things we've been doing with those funds.



A few of our highlights, we've got some pictures to align with some of these. We've completed the replacement of the handicap dock out at Wyandotte County Lake. The old dock was in need of repair so it provides for a safer experience for our more inclusive users when it comes to fishing and some of the other amenities out at the lake.

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Also, earlier this year we conducted some creek dredging out at Wyandotte County Lake. Just our ongoing lake maintenance, so that took place earlier this year. What we did here was dredge Marshall Creek 10 feet down the middle and then 3 feet around the bank. That is just to help with flood control and other issues that we were starting to see and some flooding over the bridges as well.

We've been working to maintain our trails. Earlier this year before summer got kicked off we actually were able to send some staff in-house to do some of these sealcoats at a few of our trails listed here; Vega, Ruby, Alvey and Matney. By being able to do this in-house we were able to save a little bit on costs and to kind of get more of the sealcoats done. Our staff worked really diligently to get that wrapped up before summer. There are probably three more parks that we will be looking to overlay which is a little bit more extensive of a process, so we'll be looking to contract that out probably fall of this year. For those trail projects we're looking at possibly Thompson, Welborn and Parkwood.

Another highlight is replacement of some key playground equipment that gets used often. You might have seen on Facebook, I think we've got it posted, but we just recently wrapped up the Hope Park playground installation and we'll be looking to celebrate that in July, so some more information to come on that. We will be replacing Westheight Park playground in the next few weeks and also Wyandotte County Lake Park main playground, a \$250K investment. I want to note the lead time on that, I think we've been waiting six months for this equipment to come in.

2022-2023 PARKS & RECREATION WINS

Annual Shelter Repair Maintenance

- \$150,000 investment
- Anticipated repairs to WyCo Lake Park shelters 10, 14, and 16 to occur in fall 2023

St. Margaret's Park Walking Trail

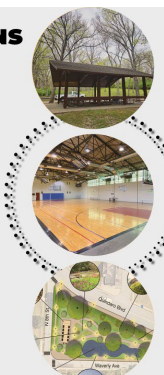
- \$150,000 investment
- Currently in design phase and construction will occur in fall 2023

Community Center Improvements

- \$200,000 investment

Boston Daniels Park

- \$150,000 investment
- \$500,000 in CDBG dollars are also being allocated



A few more wins that we've had. We shifted funding from what used to be our Annual Restroom Replacement Program to Annual Shelter Repair Maintenance, so our department will be taking a more intentional and focused approach on repairing some of our shelters. Starting with some of

the priorities, we'll be starting with Shelters 10, 14 and 16 out at Wyandotte County Lake and then moving through our priority list over the next few years.

Another project we have teed up that is currently in design is a walking trail at St. Margaret's Park, so excited to get that one kicked off, hopefully, in the fall.

Utilization of our Community Center Improvement dollars, we'll be doing some maintenance on four or five gymnasium floors just re-sanding those, rebuilding those back up and also striping them. They get a lot of use, so I know staff and the community is excited about that one. We've also been able to do a few improvements, additional improvements or working towards that and have been working really closely with John Kelly's team in Building & Logistics utilizing some ARPA funds.

I also wanted to highlight the Boston Daniels Park Project. This is an exciting project that we've been working very closely with over the last few years with the Boston Daniels Corporation and our department received \$150K through the budget process and there's also significant investment of CDBG dollars in the amount of \$500K also going towards this project. This project is also currently in design, so we're looking forward to keep working through that with the community.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you Angel for everything that you and your department do. Do you remember by the percentage how much we increased your funding last year? **Ms. Ferrara** said I want to say it was a quarter mill. Reggie or Debbie, could you verify? **Mr. Lindsey** said yes. **Commissioner Ramirez** said okay. If we had not given you the quarter mill raise, would any of this been done or would it have been done to a certain degree I should say? **Ms. Ferrara** said yes. There's a handful of these projects that were made possible through the quarter mill increase. We probably would only be having maybe one page with some of the annual funding that we've received in years past and, you know, not been able to do some of these extra projects.

Mr. Lindsey said also we did add—so there is a portion of City General Fund money for parks that goes to help fund parks for the city, it goes into the Consolidated Parks Fund. We did increase that amount also. **Commissioner Ramirez** asked, do you remember how much it was increased? **Mr. Lindsey** said I can't remember right off how much it was. **Commissioner Ramirez** said okay. I'll send you an email. **Mr. Lindsey** said we did increase that. **Commissioner Ramirez** said it just goes again saying what I've said in the past, give Parks

funding that they need, they'll do the work especially with trails. Commissioner Markley and I we got a good set of trails going for this—**Commissioner Markley** was inaudible. **Commissioner Ramirez** said yes we were, but it shows that if we gave the funding necessary to our Parks & Recreation, to all of our departments, they'll do the work. These are projects, from what I can see, touch every corner of our community. Thank you Angel for all that you do and Public Works for everything.

Commissioner Bynum said, Angel, there's a wall at the lake that has fallen—**Ms. Ferrara** said yes, correct. We will be talking about that in the needs section. It's coming up. **Commissioner Bynum** said I just wanted to say I left a meeting last night that had been held at Eisenhower Community Center and it was a gorgeous day so that was helpful, but I walked out of there, people on the track, people in the field in the middle of the track, people at the spray park, people at the playground, there were people everywhere; it was absolutely delightful and the place looked great, so you are to be commended. It's a wonderful investment to have that Eisenhower Rec Center—also people in the gym as we were leaving—to have that joint investment with the school district. I wish we could do more of that, but you are to be commended because it was just vibrant there and it was really nice to see that.

Mayor Garner said I have a question and maybe this kind of piggybacks off with what Commissioner Ramirez was asking. How many revenue streams are available that are utilized by Parks that go into parks? I know you mentioned, I think, two, but are there any more? **Mr. Lindsey** said there is a Special Parks & Rec Fund and then there's a Consolidated Parks Fund and the City General Fund does pay into the Consolidated Parks Fund to help take care of City parks. Also, Community Development Block Grant also provides funding to the parks. Then, Angel and her team have been doing a great job of getting outside grants also. **Mayor Garner** asked, what's that budget look like annually, the average, do you know? **Mr. Lindsey** said the Consolidated Parks Fund I know is about \$7M. I believe the Special Parks Fund is about \$600K. **Mayor Garner** said so about \$7.5M give or take? **Mr. Lindsey** said yes. **Mayor Garner** said I take it just based on past conversations, the majority of your budget goes to personnel costs. **Mr. Lindsey** said yeah, a good amount of it does go to—Angel probably has somewhere around 80 employees or so, so a good amount, but there are quite a few infrastructure projects that go on there.

Mayor Garner said these are great projects and I share the sentiment with Commissioner Bynum that you all are doing great work. To prioritize these projects, how do we arrive at that. Is that something that you decide. How do we get to say these are the projects that we're going to put money into these developments? Is there—and that's just for clarity for any of the folks watching. **Ms. Ferrara** said great question Mayor. We definitely rely highly on the data that we have from the 2017 Master Plan. It's still a very real document. At the time that was passed, you know, we didn't receive—the department didn't receive the level of funding needed to implement what was asked for the plan. A lot of the information in there is still what we utilize today to prioritize our needs. What we look at first is if there are deferred maintenance needs that need addressing. You'll see that kind of in some of the needs section. A lot of our requests are moreless deferred maintenance that we're just trying to get it addressed.

I will say this year our department took a really intentional approach with including the Park Board in this budget process and also working with the community. We had two months' worth of budget workshops with the Park Board gathering their input and feedback and making sure that staff and parks were working together on that. So, it's a combination of everything. **Mayor Garner** said thank you.

Commissioner Townsend said I want to echo the compliments already extended to our Parks & Rec staff and also I appreciate the hardworking effort that Mr. Fisher and everybody who spoke. That's a real challenge for our streets, our bridges. They're doing the best they can to raise our awareness of what we have to do with the budget.

I wanted to ask Ms. Ferrara about how Boston Daniels—what is expected to come of the hefty sum that's been allocated for this. What is that going to be targeted to do at Boston Daniels? **Ms. Ferrara** said yes Commissioner Townsend, so currently we're working with Verio, our consultant on the project and then also closely with Boston Daniels Corporation and so we've done a level of community engagement. I will say that I think the desires that the community would like to see at the park are definitely higher than what we have to fund, so we'll have to make some decisions there. Some of the things you'll see as we continue to bring that forward will be a redesign of the playground, probably including maybe some rubber surfacing. You'll see some of the concrete work done there, the access to the parks improved.

As far as sidewalks, you'll see beautification also proposed in that scope of work, you'll see a monument also just recognizing and promoting the legacy of Mr. Boston Daniels as well, so there's a large menu of items that the community has said they'd like to see. We're working really closely right now to get some additional feedback and go from there and see what the priorities are for the community and see what we can afford through the budget.

I know that the Boston Daniels Corporation has done an excellent job on going out and getting additional funding and trying to bring in community partners, so we are hopeful that we'll be able to do a large chunk of that project if we can kind of piece it together that way.

Commissioner Townsend said so the money, particularly that half million dollars, is that being set aside to actually affect some of these changes or is that kind of money designed for design work and that kind of thing? **Ms. Ferrara** said it will be for construction, so it'll be to implement some of these suggestions and even repairing some of the rock work that needs to be addressed is also part of that consideration as well.

Commissioner Townsend said the infrastructure around that park, as you mentioned, the walls, the sidewalks, those are going to be improvements they're going to pay off long-term. As we discussed before, when we're considering what other changes they might want to be made or nice to have things there, have to be on guard about upkeep of whatever is posed in there. A lot of times people say they want x, y, z, but we have to be aware of any attendant ongoing concept may be involved.

One other thing that we desperately need to have done, ASAP, is that step and rebar that is exposed to Parkwood Park on the stairs that leads from Quindaro down to the pool area. That really needs to be addressed as soon as possible in this budget or e.g. out some from '23, that's a very bad situation.

Thank you again for all that Public Works and Parks are doing.

Mayor Garner said I'd like to just shoutout too with Commissioner Townsend, which is really glad that Boston Daniels Park is getting some needed attention. You know he was the first African American Chief in a time when that was just unheard of and wasn't Chief very long, but really was a trailblazing icon when you talk about as you go west of the Mississippi of Kansas City, Kansas really having an African American Chief when that, you know, in an environment where that just really didn't exist during that era, so really glad that you're all taking that.

The question is, is there anything significant to really highlight Chief Daniels, the value he posed to our community and maybe a little history. Are you working with that organization to maybe—at the park itself so, you know, 50 years from now I can come and I can—who is Boston Daniels and what did he represent to our community and to our nation during that time? **Ms. Ferrara** said great question Mayor. Earlier I said monument. I probably should have said statue, so there's definitely plans. That's a high priority of the community group, Boston Daniels Corporation, so that will definitely be a part of that park project.

Mayor Garner said just an update. I was out at the lake this past weekend and I know that there was a retaining wall that looks like it fell as a result—it looks like it just maybe from some deterioration from rain and just weather. Was that something that was going to be—because I think it's down to one lane. For me it's narrow as that driving through the park is anyway and then the hills and the limited sight visibility, was that something that was a priority as well? **Ms. Ferrara** said yes, Mayor, that will be coming up in a couple slides when we get into the needs. I don't want to spoil that one. I'm kidding.

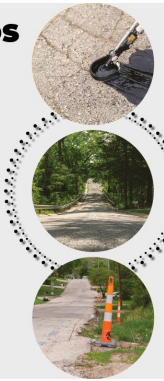
2024-2028 PUBLIC WORKS NEEDS

Request

- To slow street deterioration and obtain the goal of increasing PCI to 65 by 2045, **increase street preservation funding by 25% annually** for the foreseeable future
- Increase budget for bridge maintenance from \$476,000 (2022) to at least \$14-million yearly by 2025, excluding the capital replacement of major bridges
- Fund Kansas Avenue bridge replacement
- Fund demolition of Central Avenue bridge

Contractually Required

- Rock Island Bridge obligations, \$7,380,000



Mr. Fisher said Public Works Five-Year CIP. I think there's some decisions to be made and so until those decisions are made, what we're going to continue to do is just emphasize the importance of investments in street preservation and bridges and then our contractual obligations to the Rock Island Bridge. Of course, Kansas Avenue is going to be a big priority over the next five years.

PARKS & RECREATION 2024-2028



Mr. Fisher said I'll hand it back over to Angel.

2024-2028 PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS

WyCo Lake Rock Wall

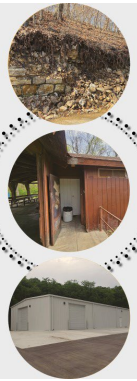
- \$560,000 investment
- Additional funding is being requested in the 2023 Amended budget for reconstruction of rock wall

Electric Heating at WyCo Lake Facilities

- \$175,000 investment

Annual Shelter Repair

- \$115,000 investment
- Request to support ongoing repairs to park shelters



Ms. Ferrara said just highlighting some of our needs. Wyandotte County Lake Rock Wall, I know the Mayor and Commissioner Bynum has mentioned this and you can see a little bit in this picture in the top right doesn't quite do it justice, but we did ask for some initial funding last year in the amount of \$200K. After working with some contractors and getting a couple bids, we realized that we didn't quite account for just how big of a scope that this would be. So, now working with a few of our consultants, it's a lot bigger project, so we are coming back around asking for an additional \$560K to make this repair.

Commissioner Bynum said it has to be repaired. **Ms. Ferrara** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said it's a historic lake, so is the repair being contemplated a repair that keeps in line with the historic look of all those rock walls and wood beams and all that? **Ms. Ferrara** said I will say this quote, or at least this estimate, does not account for restoring it towards, you know, the masonry work, but will be more of a concrete stamped stone. Happy to go back in and look at that. I will say after working with consultants, this is the most cost-effective approach, so happy to do that. I just think, you know, we're okay with seeing that drive up—**Commissioner Bynum** asked, will it

hold the earth back? **Ms. Ferrara** said yes, this solution will because the intent is for the repair to last for another 50 years or so, but it is a significant issue out there. It is closed down to one lane, so we are trying to address that as quickly as possible in the most effective way that we can. I'm happy to show some pictures offline if that helps on what it could look like, not horrible of course, it's not going to be the original stone set back. We are very intentional, even with the shelter repairs as you'll see down here.

When we do those repairs to the shelters, we do try to restore it back to its normal look. We just updated the marina restroom, kept that in mind and also restored it back to more of its natural looking state. It is just a little bit more costly to do so.

Commissioner Burroughs said I would assume that the hill would need to be scarfed back in order to allow the turn to be softened, but also to allow for a wingwall to be built that would support the concrete wall that you all are proposing. As you stated, stamped concrete or even a façade, an artificial façade to be put on the front later on, but we do need to stabilize that wall. I would hope that it softens that curve there a little more. It might be necessary to even go back a little further and give a little bit more of a shoulder there on that turn. That's been a tight corner for decades. **Ms. Ferrara** said yeah and I would have to go back and look, I haven't gotten the official scope, I've just been talking preliminary. I wanted to come to this meeting with more hard numbers just to have a more accurate picture of what we're looking like, but we can make sure we consider that too. I know that will be a piece. We've talked a little bit about just how much dirt work needs to be done here, removing of the dirt and also a lot of the trees that have kind of grown over the top.

Mayor Garner said I think, if I'm hearing the Commissioner right, I don't know how much more it would be, but while you're in the phase of getting estimates, Administrator, if you could just maybe have staff work with Commissioner Bynum, the District Commissioner, and allow them the opportunity to see what the cost and the schematics and kind of weigh-in as you all make that final decision. I think that would be appropriate to allow the Commission to have some type of input because what I'm picking up is that Commissioner Bynum would like, as much as we can, to maintain the historic nature of the park. **Ms. Ferrara** said sure, yes.

Ms. Ferrara said our next need, which is also a priority, we're most likely requesting \$175K for electric heating at Wyandotte County Lake facilities. What this means is Atmos has basically told us our infrastructure is failing out there as far as gas pipes. We actually already have some that have been shut down, decommissioned, so we spent last winter using propane to heat the shop and so we are anticipating more of this down the road. We've worked really closely with John Kelly and his team to get an assessment on what needs to be done to at least address the west shop, the west office, and then also the marina converting to electric.

Next on the list, again, that Annual Shelter Repair Maintenance. That was one of our highlights and also again one of our priorities. With the number of shelters that we have in our system, which is roughly about 50, and we know that they are rented often and does generate some of that revenue for our department, we want to make sure that we're upkeeping the maintenance on those.



Also a high priority need would be the continued program of replacing our playground equipment. We're starting to get through a lot of these and getting some updated structures. We've done a good job at working with Kaboom and utilizing grant funds to do some of those in some of our parks, but also some of our equipment. If you've been out to Wyandotte County Lake or even Wyandotte County Park, is that old metal equipment so we are trying to take an intentional approach on addressing those issues and removing some of that for safety concerns and also, again, just being intentional about where we're putting equipment back and what that looks like.

Lastly on the needs is the Neighborhood Park Improvements. We're requesting this amount of funding again just to be able to continue to do needed maintenance on our park amenities as it relates to sport courts. The funding that we did receive this year will be going to renovate a few of our tennis courts in the city. So, that wraps it up for our needs.

Commissioner Burroughs said the entrance to Wyandotte County Lake has a—I'll call it a guard shack, that sits there. The entrance of Wyandotte County Lake is very rustic to say the very least and it leads into a memorial, a Veterans Memorial, that needs some tender loving care. Is there anything within the budget to enhance the entrance to the lake to make it more inviting and welcoming as we go forward? **Ms. Ferrara** said I know we had previously been trying to restore that guard shack. We've done some improvements on the inside. I just don't think we've gone into a place where it could be open again as maybe like an info booth, but I can certainly check into that. As far as funds currently identified, we don't have any projects slated, but it's something we can certainly consider and see where that could fit in.

Commissioner Burroughs said would it be necessary that we keep that rustic charm or would it be necessary to put a functional facility there that would allow security and/or—I know when I was a young man they used to do license checks there for license plates and run your tag number and everything as you came through. **Someone** was inaudible. **Commissioner Burroughs** said yeah, just mine. All the cars I had they probably wondered which one I was driving. Just the entrance to the lake, it's not as welcoming as it could be. I would like to—I think many of us in the community would like to see a nicer entrance to our lake besides just a sign that sits out there and a shack that kind of looks like it's a little cattywampus and the windows are all smoked over and it just kind of sends a wrong message. I would hope that we could look into something like that for our park. **Ms. Ferrara** said yeah, I'll make note of that and see what that could look like.

Commissioner Johnson said I just wanted to get a sense on how much the Parks Department has received in terms of grants either for this current year or the years that are coming. **Ms. Ferrara** asked, would you like to know included like the CARES Act dollars and the ARPA dollars that we've received—no. Okay, so I would say—your question was, Commissioner Johnson, this year and years to come? **Commissioner Johnson** said yes, anthropic dollars. **Ms. Ferrara** asked, would that include—would you—like the Aramark funding that we're receiving through Representative Sharice Davids fund? **Commissioner Johnson** said yeah, absolutely. **Ms. Ferrara** said okay, I would say probably, just guessing off the top of my head, probably \$2.5M or at least \$2M. Well, over the next two years. **Commissioner Johnson** said okay, great, appreciate it.

Commissioner Stites asked, what is the purpose of the guard shack if we're not using that anymore? I know that you said we've done some inside maintenance and upkeep. If we're not using it, I'm just wondering why do we put any dollars into it if we're not using it. **Ms. Ferrara** said the intent behind that was to do the improvements so we could reopen it to the public as kind of an information booth kiosk and have some historic memorabilia of the lake in there and so we tried to get it to a place where we could do so. We hadn't quite finished the repairs. We had it open for one day and I believe a window was busted open, so we're just trying to rethink what that could look like. **Commissioner Stites** said I think that would be the problem. It's secluded, it's by itself, you know we've had at the memorial—how many times have we had the statue stolen from there, many.

I would think that maybe the location that we have, once you go in the park and to the left were the Sheriff's Department, the other things that are going on there, and I think that—is that where the Noxious Weed Department is at? **Ms. Ferrara** said the Noxious Weed Office is right around the corner from the Park's main office. **Commissioner Stites** said maybe that would be—it's more visible. Maybe that's the location for information, that type of thing and then maybe that building doesn't need to be maintained and it can go towards kind of, I guess, beautifying that entrance. I think a lot of folks whenever they turn down 91st Street, they know they're heading to the lake, right? It's not like they're driving down the road and then they're all of a sudden deciding you know what, there's a nice entrance, we'll go to the lake. They already know they're going there, but I do agree that there could be a little bit more at the entrance.

Speaking about the noxious weed, and this may be getting a little bit off topic, but I had somebody reach out to me just this last week, where does the funding out of the sales of our—chemical sales, where does that go into. Is that going to General, just kind of give me a little information on how the whole Noxious Weed Department works. **Mr. Lindsey** said it goes back into the Consolidated Parks Fund. **Commissioner Stites** said tell me the process of somebody, a Wyandotte County resident, what happens, how do they go about utilizing the Noxious Weed Department? **Ms. Ferrara** said we sell chemicals a few times a year and it's housed right there at the Noxious Weed Office. They would basically go to the office, I think there's some paperwork and ID, verification that would need to be shown, purchase the sprays and the applicators and that's pretty much the process.

Commissioner Stites asked, do you know what the cost of the chemical is off the top of your head? **Ms. Ferrara** said I do not know off the top of my head. I know it increased a little bit from last year, but I could follow up with you on that. **Commissioner Stites** said I think it's about three times the cost for the exact same product that Leavenworth County charges for the exact same product. I had a constituent reach out to me and they were able to go to Leavenworth County and buy the exact same product, exact same container as a non-resident of Leavenworth County for a third of the cost. They couldn't even go to Wyandotte County where the county that they live and pay high taxes in and buy chemicals at a reasonable cost.

So, I don't know if we might need to look into where we're getting that supply from or why the margins are so high. It seems like that ought to be a cost that there's no markup on at all if we can pass that on to our Wyandotte County residents.

Mayor Garner left the room at 5:51 and returned at 6:11.

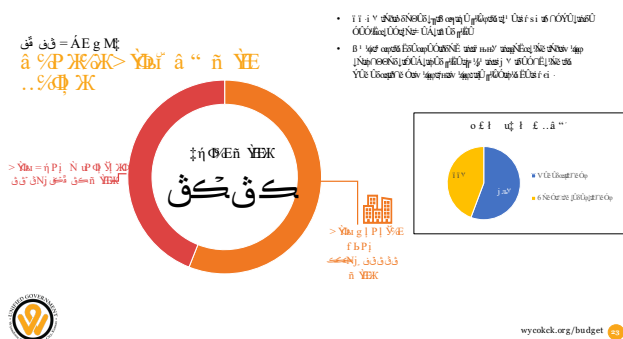
Mayor ProTem Bynum said, Angel, the Mayor had to leave the room, but he has a couple of questions that he would like you to address. One item is a question and a suggestion, I guess, combined because the entrance sign to the lake, he feels like is somewhat weathered and maybe could be a simple upgrade that kind of helps with this welcoming effort entry into the lake. Then, he just wanted to jump over to, and you may be getting to these, I don't know, but he wanted to jump over to Big Eleven and Kaw Point for like what kinds of improvements might be planned there and also the issue at Big Eleven with the algae. Is that actually something that's ongoing with the EPA or is there an EPA remedy available for that issue at Big Eleven. Those were kind of the questions he wanted me to pose.

Ms. Ferrara said let me try to tackle Kaw Point Park first. We are currently working to repair one of the boat ramps there. We've been working on it for a while. That project is just—didn't see it up here. I was only given so many to put up here, but that project is slated to take place in August. It's a \$145K repair and investment to Kaw Point Park. We did also last year address the building that was there. I think you might remember some vandalism, a car slammed into it. That was in the amount of \$50K. We did have to wait a couple years on that repair for lumber to come down and we were able to do it at what we thought was a good price.

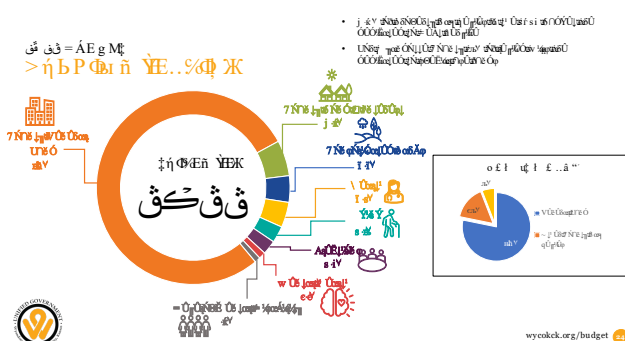
Big Eleven Lake, every year we see an issue with the blue/green algae so this year we are working with KDHE. They came to us and wanted to pilot this peroxide treatment program and just to see if it could kind of help address some of the issues we have there. So, we do work really closely with KDHE to monitor that situation. I know that I'm also working with Mr. Fisher's team and Sarah Shafer in Stormwater and also trying to see how we can address some of the issues there just with the water quality. **Mayor ProTem Bynum** said thank you.



Mr. Lindsey said during this part of the presentation Interim CFO Debbie Jonscher and myself we're going to talk about how CIP is funded across the organization.



The first slide we're going to look at here is Kansas City, Kansas and the mill rates within Kansas City, Kansas. The reason we're looking at this is because we have two mill rates for the city of Kansas City, Kansas. One is the City General Fund and one is the City Bond & Interest Fund and between these two funds this is where most of our Capital projects are funded from. I wanted to just talk about the percentage of the mills and where they go, so 44% of the mills actually go to the City Bond & Interest Fund and this is where a bulk of our projects are paid from, so just wanted to update the public on that. The City General Fund is 57% of that.

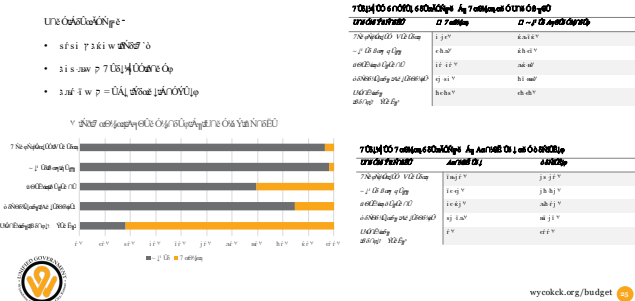


On the County side, the County General Fund does fund a good portion of the projects over there and then we also have the County Bond & Interest Fund that funds a good amount of the projects. We can see that the County General Fund funds 78% of the budget over there and then on the County Bond & Interest Fund funds 6% of the budget just out of total mill levy budgets, so the County Bond & Interest is 6% and so we compare that to the City side of the house where we have 44% of our mills going towards debt. On the County side, we're more in line like where we should be, where 6% is going to County Bond & Interest, but also the contrast on the City side we do have to take care of more streets and there are a lot more street miles and a lot more infrastructure that we have to take care of over there. That is something that does not happen on the County Bond & Interest Fund and it's not mandatory.

Commissioner Stites asked, what does that 4.4 equate to in dollars on the Consolidated Parks that's paid out of the County? **Mr. Lindsey** said about \$7M. **Commissioner Stites** said it comes out of the County side, \$7M. **Mr. Lindsey** said yeah, that is the mill levy for—so Parks & Rec's budget is about \$7M and \$4.4M of it comes from the City General Fund and then the other portion comes from the Consolidated Parks, so I guess we're talking about \$3M that comes from the

County portion. **Commissioner Stites** said gotcha, \$3M. How many county facilities, how many parks are there that are addressed? **Mr. Lindsey** said I believe there's three. Three county parks Angel? **Ms. Ferrara** said correct. **Commissioner Stites** asked, what are those? **Ms. Ferrara** said Wyandotte County Park, Wyandotte County Lake Park, and Pierson Park. **Commissioner Stites** said so roughly about a million dollars a year to maintain each of those parks out of the County side. Would that be accurate? **Mr. Lindsey** said I can't say. Is there other things that may be funded County side wise? **Ms. Ferrara** said I can follow up with more information on that. **Commissioner Stites** said okay. That's all I have for now.

2023 CIP Overview



Mr. Lindsey said the current slide we're reviewing is the CIP Overview of total breakdown across the Unified Government. We can see in 2023 we have \$93M for CIP out of that Certified Funds, which are cash paid projects or \$32M. Then we have Debt which is about \$60M. As we break those down we see the Certified Budget breakdown by Capital and Fund type. As a percentage of like total budget in a Consolidated General Fund, Capital is about 3.5% of the total budget while 96% of the budget goes toward like operating and personnel. Other Tax Levies, we're almost at 2% that funds Capital. Special Revenue Funds, we do have like 30% of the expenditures there that are funded by Special Revenues for Capital. We get into Enterprise Funds, 15% of Enterprise Funds Budget does go towards Capital and then our Fiduciary and Trust Agencies, which is basically our Bond & Interest Fund, funds the cost of both the City and the County, pay for 81% of Capital coming from those funds.

Also, the chart at the bottom of Certified Capital Breakdown by Equipment and Projects, so part of our Capital Plan also includes equipment and mostly today we're talking about projects, but we can see we're looking at Consolidated General Fund equipment is 47% of the Capital budget and Capital projects are 52% of that. Then, as we get into Other Tax Levy Funds, 41% is



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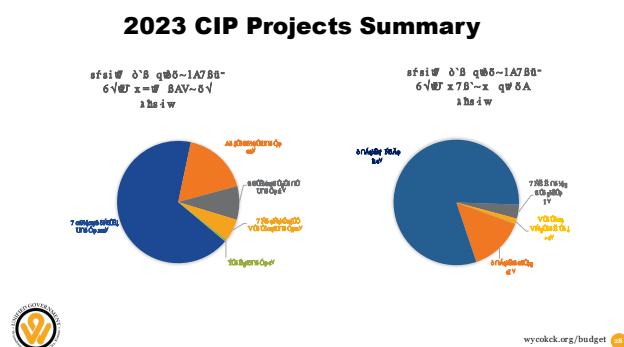
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This current slide is a view of Capital Projects by fund. Basically, what we have is just going out five years looking at projects and how they're funded. We can see the Consolidated General Fund. We also have Other Tax Levy Funds, which in this current schedule the only other Tax Levy Fund that has some Capital was the Health Department. We also have Agency Funds like Special Revenue Funds, which includes Community Development, Tourism, Convention, and also the Dedicated Sales Tax, also ARPA money, that's where it was. Then, we have our Enterprise Fund which are funds that fund themselves where we have funding of \$11M for Capital Projects in 2022 is what we had and then we have our Capital Projects Fund. We see in 2023 a total there was like \$82M that we will be funding this year.

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The current slide is a breakout of looking at the Capital by a functional area. This provides a view to show where Capital is being spent across the organization as for as departments. We can see in 2023 we were planning to spend \$82M on Capital.

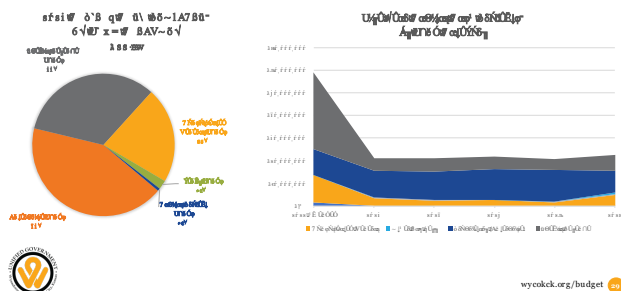


Here is a breakout for 2023, \$82M, how it looks as far as was spent by funds and we can see our Capital Projects Fund, that's where a majority of the funding goes out of—or goes to, to fund Capital Projects and that includes our Bond & Interest Funds and then we also have our Enterprise Funds which are 17% of the total. We also have Consolidated General Funds which are about 6% of what's funded by Capital.

The other pie chart breaks down the functional areas that are funded for 2023, \$82M. We see Public Works 81% of the funding goes to Public Works and that's because they're over most of the projects that are related like streets and infrastructure across the city. We have Public Safety at 14%.

Commissioner Johnson said can you tell me why the amounts—I know there's a reason to tell us this issue every year, but why the amounts go down for CIP over the respective years after 2023? We go from 82 to 76 to 60 and then it jumps back up to 80 and then it goes back down to 58. I mean I can look at the actual numbers and say, well, this is, but I don't understand the dynamics of the assumptions. **Mr. Lindsey** said this particular budget that we're looking at here, this is how the budget was built for the 2023 Budget that we approved last year, so when we built the funding out, those were our needs at that point in time. When we bring the budget back to you, a proposed budget back to you on August 10th, those numbers are going to be different because they will have more needs because our needs have changed since then. That is one of the reasons why you see that type of change.

2023 CIP Cash Projects Summary



Mr. Lindsey said the current slide, what we're looking at is the 2023 CIP Cash Projects Summary and basically what we're illustrating here is Cash Projects and our Cash Projects are \$22M and they're about 27% of that total \$82M that I spoke about. We see a majority of cash is spent from Enterprise Funds and some are Special Revenue Funds and they come in a close second and then our Consolidated General Funds do pay a good amount of Capital from those.

The other chart to the side shows a Five Year Plan and how Capital is spent for cash across those five years.

2023 CIP Debt Projects Summary

Five Year Capital Debt Projects: by Funding Source										
Category	2022 Amended	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027				
City Debt Projects										
Bridges	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000				
Community Projects	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000				
Facilities	\$ 6,200,000	\$ 7,400,000	\$ 11,400,000	\$ 5,300,000	\$ 20,400,000	\$ 10,900,000				
Parks and Recreation	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000				
Storms	\$ 9,800,000	\$ 10,700,000	\$ 7,800,000	\$ 7,800,000	\$ 7,300,000	\$ 7,200,000				
Traffic Engineering	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000				
City Debt Projects Total	\$ 17,800,000	\$ 19,500,000	\$ 20,280,000	\$ 14,350,000	\$ 38,950,000	\$ 19,300,000				
Grants										
Grants	\$ -	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Grants Total	\$ -	\$ 800,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Public Building Commission										
Public Building Commission	\$ -	\$ 2,425,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ -	\$ -				
Public Building Commission Total	\$ -	\$ 2,425,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ -	\$ -				
Sewer System										
Sewer System	\$ 32,500,000	\$ 21,687,500	\$ 21,787,500	\$ 19,700,000	\$ 17,200,000	\$ 16,700,000				
Sewer System Total	\$ 32,500,000	\$ 21,687,500	\$ 21,787,500	\$ 19,700,000	\$ 17,200,000	\$ 16,700,000				
Special Revenue Projects										
Special Revenue Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
Special Revenue Projects Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
State Revolving Loan Fund										
State Revolving Loan Fund	\$ -	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 2,441,000	\$ 736,000	\$ 1,344,000	\$ 754,000				
State Revolving Loan Fund Total	\$ -	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 2,441,000	\$ 736,000	\$ 1,344,000	\$ 754,000				
Storm Water Utility										
Storm Water Utility	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 200,000				
Storm Water Utility Total	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 200,000				
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)										
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act	\$ -	\$ 2,145,000	\$ 2,145,000	\$ 698,000	\$ 1,291,000	\$ 726,000				
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Total	\$ -	\$ 2,145,000	\$ 2,145,000	\$ 698,000	\$ 1,291,000	\$ 726,000				
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 50,900,000	\$ 54,298,500	\$ 55,654,500	\$ 39,334,000	\$ 59,385,000	\$ 37,582,000				

The current slide is a view of a 2023 CIP Debt Projects and basically what we're doing is giving a summary of projects as they breakdown by Debt and Enterprise Funds. We can see City Debt Projects for 2023 were \$19.5M. As we go into our Public Building Commission we had \$2.4M of projects for 2023. In our Sewer System we had projects of \$21M and within our State Revolving Loan Fund we had \$4.8M, Stormwater Utility of \$200K.

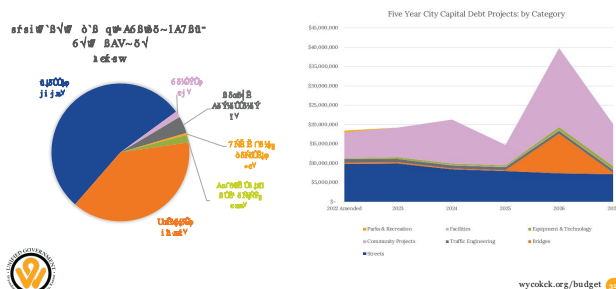
2023 CIP City Debt Projects Summary

Capital Type	2022 Amended	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Bridges						
Bridges	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 10,300,000	\$ 300,000
Bridges Total	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 10,300,000	\$ 300,000
Community Projects						
Community Projects	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Community Projects Total	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Facilities						
Buildings and Logistics	\$ 3,800,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 900,000
Fire	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 8,800,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 10,400,000	\$ 10,000,000
Other Departments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Police	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 8,500,000	\$ -
Facilities Total	\$ 6,300,000	\$ 7,600,000	\$ 11,400,000	\$ 9,800,000	\$ 20,400,000	\$ 10,900,000
Parks and Recreation						
Parks and Recreation	\$ 550,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Parks and Recreation Total	\$ 550,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Streets						
Maintenance	\$ 9,150,000	\$ 9,300,000	\$ 7,200,000	\$ 7,200,000	\$ 7,350,000	\$ 7,200,000
Asphalt and Reconstruction	\$ 700,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000	\$ -	\$ -
Streets Total	\$ 9,850,000	\$ 10,750,000	\$ 7,650,000	\$ 7,650,000	\$ 7,350,000	\$ 7,200,000
Traffic Engineering						
Traffic Engineering	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000
Traffic Engineering Total	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 800,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 17,800,000	\$ 19,580,000	\$ 20,280,000	\$ 14,130,000	\$ 38,950,000	\$ 19,300,000

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This particular slide kind of drills down into our Debt Projects for the city. We see in 2023 we have \$19.5M that we had planned to spend this year. One of the things here like in the past, we have issued like \$18M to \$20M worth of debt. One of the things that we're looking here to do is cut this back somehow and not issue the \$19M to \$20M worth of debt each year. We would like to move things that are related to maintenance that we have been debting over to cash so we can free more funding up to allow Public Works to move faster on projects in the future and just not pay for maintenance and lock our maintenance costs up in debt, so that we can pay for more operating things out of our budget and reduce the 44% that we're spending on debt on the City General side.

2023 CIP Debt Projects Summary



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The current slide is a view of the Debt Projects that we did just look at on the prior page and basically what we're doing is have a view of a pie chart to show Streets is 53% of that cost. We also have Facilities that are 38% of that cost. The next chart, what it does is give a breakout of different projects across a five year span. You see the top line, which is Facilities, does spike up in 2026 and that's related to some facilities that we have planned to build. We see Streets in blue

is a pretty steady number and then we do have the orange spike that's related to bridges that we're planning out in the future.

Debt Policy Guidance

- Debt financing serves as a tool to finance large capital investments that cannot be funded on a pay-as-you-go basis.
- Annual debt service payments, excluding Enterprise Funds, are targeted at 10% - 12% of total budget authority of tax levied funds.
- The Unified Government will follow Kansas Statutes setting financial debt limitations. The amount of outstanding debt cannot exceed 30% of the County's assessed valuation.
- The target for general obligation support for new debt is established during the budget process. Historically the level of support has been \$1520 million.
- General obligation backing should be used for essential government services or projects with an asset life of 5 years or greater.



wyandotte.org/budget

Now I'm going to turn it over to our Interim CFO Debbie Jonscher. She's going to talk more about the debt.

Debbie Jonscher, Interim CFO, said I just wanted to start out and give you some information on the next couple slides over what goes into—what funds go into the Bond & Interest Fund and what it's paying for. I wanted to start out here with this slide maybe some points that we pulled out from our Debt Policy and kind of review it as we discuss funding the Capital. This is not the entire policy, but these are some points that we're kind of using as a guide when we look at options to consider. One of the points in our policy is debt financing serves as a tool to finance large capital investments that cannot be funded as pay-as-you-go. One of the things that we want to look at is—our policy doesn't really define what is a large capital investment, so we're debt financing things as, you know, as small as \$100K all the way up to several million dollars. We definitely want to look at, in addition to, some of that could have been maintenance, but we definitely want to look at what really should we be financing with debt and what should we be paying for with cash.

Another point we have in our policy is that annual debt service payments, excluding Enterprise Funds, are targeted at 10%-12% of total budget authority of the tax levied funds. For 2023 we are actually a little bit above that target, so I think that's one of the things we need to look at is getting our annual debt service payments back into that target area and I'll have some more information on what our payments are here on the next couple slides.

We will follow Kansas Statutes setting the financial debt limitations. The amount of outstanding debt cannot exceed 30% of the County's assessed valuation. We are in compliance with this policy. Currently the debt limit that we've spent is about 51%. This number goes up as the assessed value continues to go up, so we're not anywhere near our—you know being restricted by our debt limit; however, we feel like we still need to review what we're funding with debt given our current situation and what should be funded with debt versus cash.

Mayor Garner said we have a question.

Commissioner Johnson said this Debt Service Fund, I was just wondering, do we have any type of debt service coverage that we are obligated to meet by policy or by ordinance? **Ms. Jonscher** said no, I don't think with the General Obligation, I'll have to look and see, but I don't think we have any restrictions. I know when we used to issue the Sewer Debt, Sewer Revenue Bonds, there were covenants on those that required, I believe, it was like maybe 1.2 or 1.3 coverage. With the General Obligation backing, we don't have those restrictions. **Commissioner Johnson** said it's not defined in our policy either. **Ms. Jonscher** said no.

Commissioner Johnson asked, is there anything that kind of serves as a guard rail for us a barrier so we don't drop below one to one. **Ms. Jonscher** said no. I think that one of the things that we look at, you know, obviously we've talked about before, what can our mill levy—what the current mill levy that we have set, how much can we afford in issuing new debt and that's kind of where we came up with that target and that's actually moving right into my next point there, is that in the past at one point we were at \$15M based on what we thought the mill levy—based on the valuation, how much we were collecting off the mill levy and as the assessed valuation has grown. Even though we haven't changed the mill levy to the Debt Service Fund in many years, we've collected more revenue due to that growth on the assessed value. That's what has allowed us to issue more than the \$15M, we're up closer to the \$18M to \$20M now. **Commissioner Johnson** said so that in itself serves as that kind of—**Ms. Jonscher** said right. **Commissioner Johnson** said got it. **Ms. Jonscher** said yeah and that was kind of my point, was that mill levy is—I'll have kind of a reconciliation on what we get in the fund and what that pays for to kind of show you that it is covering the General Obligation Debt.

The last point is just General Obligation backing should be used for essential government services or projects with an asset life of five years or greater and we do keep that in mind when we look at what projects we're funding with debt.

Mayor Garner said I have a question for maybe you and Reggie. I know before I became Mayor, and then when I became Mayor, we had some residual that wasn't anticipated as far as revenues from a variety of sources. Is that something that's been consistent or is that kind of something that's unusual and what are all those amounts and then on the tail end of that, what did we do with that residual unanticipated increases in revenue streams that came in from a variety of sources? Did you just go on General Fund or were they applied to some specific debt or what did that look like? **Ms. Jonscher** asked, are you talking about just the increased revenue from valuation increases that goes in or—**Mayor Garner** said no, I know that last year you had mentioned it or Ms. VonAchen. I know the year before I became Mayor, it was mentioned that what you budgeted for and then what was actually brought in from all the different sources allowed for a small increase in revenues that weren't anticipated, just kind of carryover. I can't remember what those amounts were, but on the tail end of that I was just wondering where those funds went and what were they applied to. **Ms. Jonscher** said if we bring in additional—say, for instance, in the General Fund we budget property tax revenue and we collect more than we budgeted, it falls to the fund balance so then that would be the reserve that carries over to the next year. Say, for instance, I think with the General Fund we did take in more sales tax revenue than we budgeted, but if we don't have additional budget authority on the expense side, you can't spend that. You have to have the budget authority in order to be able expend the additional revenue that you take in. So, if you don't have that authority, then it just falls to the fund balance and it's carried over into the next year and you can allocate it in the budget the following year. **Mayor Garner** said okay.

Ms. Jonscher said the money that goes into all the individual funds, rather its General Fund, the Special Revenues, Enterprise, that money stays within that fund so then it just falls to the fund balance. **Mayor Garner** asked, do we know what that has been, the additional revenues from the sales taxes that were brought in. What would that look like, that amount and then are we projecting that as well going into this budget here? **Ms. Jonscher** said I don't have that exact amount. I know I think the sales tax revenue from last year was maybe several million, maybe \$3M-\$4M, something like that, so that would be in our General Fund estimate that we've

presented, I think, in a previous budget workshop. We would have had that built into the fund balance that carried over into the next year.

Commissioner Bynum said part of what we follow here is Kansas Statute that says our debt cannot be more than 30% of our total county valuation. We just looked it up when—we think we looked it up when Matt Willard brought his annual report to us a couple of months ago, The county evaluation is at \$15B and 30% of that would be \$4.5B, that's—**Ms. Jonscher** said I think maybe you might be looking at the—are you looking at the estimated actual valuation? **Commissioner Bynum** said yeah, are you referencing—**Ms. Jonscher** said we're referencing the assessed valuation right—**Commissioner Bynum** asked, what is that? **Commissioner McKiernan** said we don't have the adjusted. All he gave us was the total, so we don't have the adjusted. **Commissioner Bynum** asked, what would the adjusted be between—adjusted for what, delinquencies and exemptions? **Ms. Jonscher** said yeah, I think it's the assess—this is the assessed value, which I have—because every year when we do a bond issue we update our official statement and that calculation is part—we have to present that calculation. I believe our total assessed value that's available—it seems like it was like \$550M or something like that. **Commissioner Bynum** said assessed value—**Ms. Jonscher** said oh no, I'm sorry, that's the—our total assessed equalized assess tangible valuation is \$1.8B and then you take 30% of that and it brings us to about \$560M.

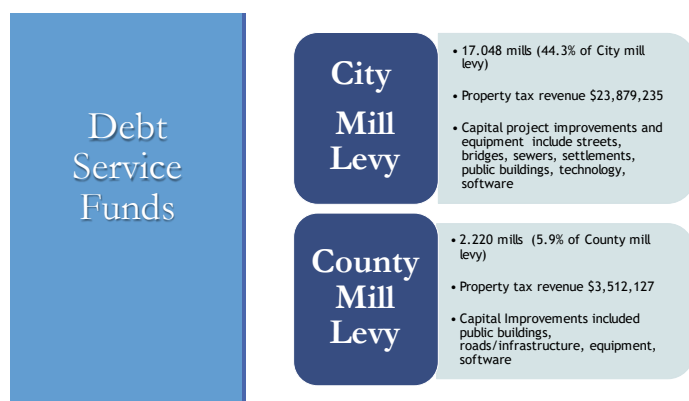
Commissioner Bynum said that makes a lot more sense and then part of the reason I'm asking, Mr. Administrator, is two things. When we talk here about the policy page that we're looking at, I do not know, I cannot remember if these are policies that were, for example, brought to Economic Development & Finance approved and then moved it forward, are they policies we voted on to adopt or are they policies set within the department or maybe a combination of both? **Ms. Jonscher** said this would be a policy that was brought—in 2018 we brought—we updated a lot of our policies and brought those, not only to the ED&F, but then they were forwarded on to the Commission for approval. **Commissioner Bynum** said I knew you had done a lot of work in that arena, so these are adopted Commission policies. **Ms. Jonscher** said yes.

Commissioner Bynum said I think at some point, at a future conversation, I would like to talk more about the debt and get a real handle on how much is it, where is it, how does it fall off

like certain portions of it. I would just like a little bit deeper dive on debt, so I'll leave it at that for now.

I'm sorry, could you clarify again, so total assess value \$1.8B and you said that 30% was around—**Ms. Jonscher** said just under \$560M. **Commissioner Bynum** said five, six, zero million at 30%. Thank you, that's it.

Commissioner Ramirez said I have a suggestion to our CFO Budget Director and to our Administrator because I know that Commissioner Bynum touched on it, that these policies go through ED&F and then eventually to the full Commission, but a suggestion I would like is have a policy 101 lesson on all of our financial policies. I know we can go online and read them, but I think for us, as a governing body, it would be good for us to review them and to know what's in them. I know when we go through budget, we hear about all the policies, but I think it would be a good idea if we go through and read and digest all of our financial policies. I think that would be very beneficial for us moving forward. I'm sure other commissioners and colleagues would agree. It would just be very beneficial for us so that we know what's in—when we're talking about the fund balance policy, we know what exactly is in there and everything, so I just thought it would be a good suggestion.



Ms. Jonscher said this next slide we've just kind of broke out the City and County mill levy and what's collected. On the City side we have 17.048 mills. As Reggie pointed out earlier, it's 44% of the City mill levy. The property tax revenue that's brought in is about \$23.8M and that is a net of the delinquency percentage. For the 2023 Budget we did have a 7% delinquency built in there so that 23 is net of that. We are looking at that to review because I think when we went through

Commissioner Ramirez asked, was that the delinquency rate? **Ms. Jonscher** said that was the delinquency rate, yes. For 2023, we were at 7%.

Ms. Jonscher said on the County side, the mill levy is 2.220 mills and 5.9% of the County mill levy and the property tax revenue that's generated from that is about \$3.5M and then I just kind of listed out the different things that we can fund when we do debt financing, which would include all of our infrastructure as well as equipment and software.

(Enterprise Fund Debt Activity not included)

[illegible]

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This slide is where I kind of pulled out, and this is for 2023, this goes into information that I mentioned that we update in our official statement. We have to update all of our outstanding debt each year and so I kind of pulled some of this information together. What I have done is excluded all the Enterprise Fund debt activity because the Enterprise Funds do pay for their debt. Even though it's paid for out of the Debt Service Fund, Enterprise Funds do pay for that debt, so I've taken them out.

On the top here, the first one I have is city of Kansas City, Kansas and I've listed out the General Obligation Bonds. We have a small PBC Bond on the City side as well as the temp notes that were issued for 2023, so our total is \$298M in debt on the City side.

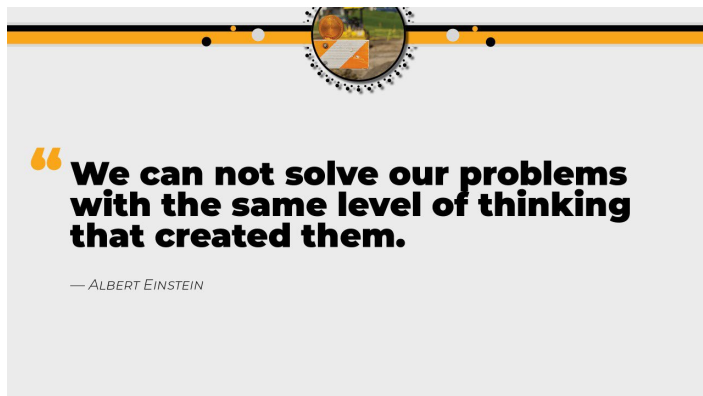
The annual debt service payments are \$30.2M and you'll notice that there's no annual payment on the temp notes and that's because we issue a one-year temp note, we pay that off and

we either issue another temp note or we issue a permanent bond. When we issue the permanent bond, that's when the debt service hits the Debt Service Fund, when that permanent bond is issued.

Over to the right, I'm showing the revenue that's collected. Based on the mill levy the current revenue that's collected is the \$23.8M. We also receive Other Tax revenue. Into that fund we have a delinquent tax that's collected. We have Motor Vehicle Tax that's collected and Other Sales Tax revenue that's related to the economic development projects that we have debt funded, so total on the City side we're collecting \$30.5M and none of this revenue is associated with Enterprise Fund debt. This is all to go toward the General Fund debt. The current mill levy is covering the debt service payments that we currently have; however, if there were any adjustment to the mill or increases in debt, you know all of that goes in and can affect that amount each year.

On the County side we have the same information. The total outstanding debt for the County is \$60.1M and the annual debt service payments are \$5.4M. We're collecting mill levy revenue of \$3.5 and then the other tax revenue about \$700K and I did want to note in the Other Revenue you'll see \$1.5M. The \$1.5M is a transfer from the General Fund that goes to pay for the Juvenile Center facility debt. When we built that facility the idea was that we would have savings from farmouts moving the juveniles to the other building and so it was decided we would do a transfer of General Fund revenues—or General Fund savings over to the debt service rather than adjusting the mill levy. As you can see, there's \$5.4M in debt and \$5.7M in revenue, so there is a little bit—for both funds it's about \$300K more than what we're—revenue coming in and what we're paying out.

Commissioner Ramirez said just for clarification, I think I'm following along, but making sure. The 30.5 and the 5.7 are what is allocated to the Debt Service Fund, correct? **Ms. Jonscher** said that's correct. That's revenue coming into those funds.



I'll just end, we put a quote in here from Albert Einstein that "We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them." That's where we're actually trying to think of ways where we can change the situation we're in and looking at what we should be financing, what we need to be paying with cash, and how we correct that deficit.

With that, I'm going to turn it over to the County Administrator to talk about our last slide.

Mayor Garner said I believe BPU may have raised their rates. How does that affect the PILOT that we get from BPU? If they raise their rates, I believe it was 6% or so, how does that affect the revenues projected coming in on our PILOT that we collect from BPU? **Ms. Jonscher** said if they increase their rates, with usage staying the same, we would see an increase to the PILOT off that. I don't know if they've approved that yet. I know they were talking about it. I think their Board was reviewing an increase, but yes, that could affect the PILOT.

Angela Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel, said the hearing portion has ended. It will go to the Board July 5th is the anticipated date for them to make a decision and I think that, I don't have the exact amount, but that would be split over two years implementation and water is a little bit different.

Mayor Garner said I guess the question is, would any rate increase from BPU affect the Unified Government's PILOT? **Ms. Jonscher** said yes it would. It would increase the amount of revenue we receive.

Options to Consider

- No new debt issuance for 3 years for any projects not contractually obligated (city projects only)
 - Shift mills from City Bond & Interest Fund to City General Fund
 - Use for deficit reduction
 - Fund capital with cash
- Reduce amount of debt financing starting in 2024
 - Shift mills from City Bond & Interest Fund to City General Fund
 - Use for deficit reduction
 - Fund capital with cash
- Identify capital improvements that should be debt financed
- Use reserve balance to fund short-term notes



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Mr. Johnston said as we talked in a previous budget session that our City side of the budget has significant challenges that we've got to face, but also as we were looking at our budget as a whole, it became alarming how we rely so much on debt to get things done around here. When I looked at one proposed Capital Improvement schedule, it was an anticipated huge increase in the future of debt and that means the property tax bill will go up to pay that debt. I don't think that was in the spirit of the discussion that I heard from the Commission the last two months when it comes to that, so we charged all the departments in looking at—that are funded by the City's General Fund to take a hard look at where they can contribute savings. One, to erase the \$10M anticipated deficit next year that will allow us to take the next year or two to really take a look at how we do business, should we be providing certain services and all that as we continue to get our fiscal house in order.

When I saw this reliance on increasing, and some of it's sizable, to do the work that has been talked with this Council and previous Councils—or Commissions, it's alarming to me particularly when 44% of the mills that you collect on the County side goes to debt. That restricts how much we can adjust the other side to provide the services that our public relies—now, we're going to Capital Project, which they rely on that too, but we also have other departments that provide vital services to our public. So, any time we start looking at increasing the amount of debt, it's further constricting the amount available for us to provide the other responsibilities of our government. That's what's prompted us to add maybe a larger presentation of debt in a CIP discussion than you've had in the past.

Departments have taken a look at what type of options could we throw on the table for discussions and one is that we issue no debt for three years and do nothing. The problem with that is that those projects that you're going to fund don't go away. Three years later they are going to be more expensive to do and, therefore, but you know you have to look at all options, so that's there.

Start looking at ways to reduce the amount of debt financing starting in 2024. Maybe shift the mills from the Bond & Interest Fund to the General Fund and what that is if you saw the \$10M balance in the City & Bond Interest Fund, is to move that over—some of that over to the City to help out the structural deficit. The problem is, you can do that once, so you see how this is going.

At least we're identifying options and then really take a hard look at what Capital Improvements should be debt financed. We do have a challenge. Every other community I managed, when we got the State Gas Tax revenue, that was our maintenance fund for streets. Repayment Program came out of that, certain small equipment came out of that, you would do some other small projects. As Debbie said, we're now financing \$100K—\$300K Capital Improvements each year. Those are considered small, but we're financed—using debt to that.

When I looked at working with the team at the Road Fund—I call it that, that's my background, is that we actually fund people out of that and to me that's an operation cost that should actually be in the General Fund. This is how—you talk about it's tough to deal with. Because we've taken the capacity of that fund to fund those small projects or the repaving projects, we're issuing debt. If we move those people funded into the General Fund and freeze up projects to be paid for out of cash, then our mill rate has to go up on the General Fund to pay for those people. So, somewhere in the history of Unified Government there was a decision, I'm thinking, to keep the mill rates from going up, it's legal to do that so let's do that, but you lose the capacity and you're using debt and that means we're paying more than we would with cash because we're paying interest. We do that with, I know, the EMS Fund as well. That should be an equipment purchase fund, but how it was marketed, it was to cover all costs of EMS, but we have like 24 firefighters in there and it still doesn't cover the cost, we subsidize it from the General Fund.

There are some interesting things that have gone on over the years that we would like over the next few years neaten up, tightened up, get more commonsense into it and all that. Then,

reserve balance, I think that's the short-term notes, is that the one I mentioned, use the \$10M to deal with that to pay off your short-term debts earlier than later.

These are just four ideas that have come from staff that we're mulling, you know, we take into consideration and we'll outline what ideas that came from staff when I present my budget. We have a complicated situation here, and I guess for lack of a better term, I'll use that word, complicated, because in a previous slide it said that we have \$72M that we have to allocate to the Bridge Project, it's not in this. We're going to finance it through debt, but it's not in there yet.

The other one is you've said you wanted to increase your infrastructure funding 25% each year over the next year, it's a compounding effect and that's when I said at a previous meeting, ain't going to happen. We have to take a hard look at how we use debt and I can't make promises today on that. The other issue is what Jeff and his team articulated, we've got challenges out there. We're not going to ignore that, but how we can pay for all you want to do is next to impossible and we have to be careful what we promise because we can't increase the debt and also increase commitments from the General Fund to other programs and all that. You can see how this is a fascinating complicated balancing act.

Tonight, I think what you're used to is that in the past you would have a CIP and this is what's going in the budget. I can't tell you this is going in the budget until we take a hard look at the whole umbrella of services.

The other thing is in my budget presentation I'll tell you one thing I'm going to commit to and that is we are going—we are the Unified Government, but you're really going to have three budgets. We have a County budget that is only going to pay for County services. Then you have a City budget, which has its challenges, but we will only have a budget for City services and those services are well defined.

The third budget is what I consider the efficiencies of a Unified Government, those services that are shared like one HR Department, one Finance Department, one Legal Department, one Planning & Zoning Department where we have a cost split because each government pays a share of those expenses. We need—and why I say that is we have people in the public that think we have county subsidized city when times warrant that and/or we subsidize—have the city subsidize the county. We can't do that anymore and we really can't ask—we can't really transfer mill rates from the county to the city in this time of need basically because the county government, as we presented it here, is at a stable 20% reserve. You cannot compromise another government

to help out another government. I don't want two suffering governments to deal with in a year or two.

We have to take a hard look at how we use debt. You know also it's amazing, we just rely on it. Someone told me well, this is how we got through the great recession at the end of the first decade, but if that was the case, we should have weaned ourselves off of it and we didn't. It could predate us, predate that. I don't know the historical issues, but the fact is I'm dealing with today.

The other thing that we have to balance in all our budget, including Capital, is what I've heard from the public in the last three weeks, they feel that the Unified Government historically in its 26-year history has not lived up to the promises to the public. We need to have an honest conversation to start regaining the public trust of our people. I talk in truth, admit our mistakes and say we will not have that happen again, and if we have to codify those promises in ordinance, we will do that. Right now you have a sizable lot of the population, particularly in the northeast, that feels slighted by the activities of the early STAR Bond stuff that started the Legends. When they got off it, it was supposed to go to property tax reduction, but it didn't happen and our citizens have long memories. The only way you deal with that is with truthful action and commitment and overt steps to say okay, we're not going to open ourselves to those mistakes again.

I just want to say that this is going to be an interesting month exercise to have something to present to you before August 10th, but it's manageable. I will promise you, all three budgets, well, the Unified Government Budget, will because state law mandates it will be balanced. And on the use of debt, we will continue to have these discussions, as Commissioner Bynum have, because you can't just say we're going to continue to bond, bond, bond, bond and have it increase, increase, increase because two things will happen, mill rates will go up to pay for it and number two, bond agencies will see do you have the coverage and we may see our bond ratings go down. You don't want to see that because then borrowing costs go up.

Commissioner Markley said two things, first is with the STAR Bonds. The public doesn't feel that it happened because they didn't maybe feel the impact as much as they wanted to on the STAR Bond situation, but we did lower the mill rate eight mills over the four years immediately after payoff. So, just to clarify, we did something. They didn't feel it because the property values went up accordingly, so that's one thing.

Budget wise, I will say once again I think that it would help our CMIP if we got rid of some stuff and we've had that discussion about buildings and we keep saying yes, we should do that, that would be really smart, but we haven't done it. It would really help if we got rid of some stuff we need to maintain and didn't have to maintain it anymore, so I'll continue to say that until someday we get rid of some buildings.

Commissioner Ramirez said I don't know if you're seeking direction Mr. Administrator, but for me personally, yes, to everything that's on that screen at the moment, yes everything. We already made the decision as a body, within this budget cycle, we're making tough decisions. We're making tough decisions on what we have to do. We're going to have—like the quote that Debbie said, we're having to change our thinking and how we do things.

It's funny, Mr. Johnston, you mentioned about there's a City budget, there's a County budget. That's the conversation Commissioner Stites and I were just having. When we get our budget book, it's all together, it's all conglomerated. I can't tell what's City, what's County, so that was a request I was going to make tonight was we have a separate city budget book and a separate county budget book so that we can see what goes where and it's more easier to read and more manageable for us to go through and digest.

I 100% support the way in the path you're wanting us to take, we need to. We've had, in my opinion, and I'm sure some colleagues will agree, past administrations didn't allow us to have these conversations. I am happy that we're making these tough decisions and I hope our community, our residents, we can educate them and, hopefully, they'll understand the reason why we need to make these decisions.

I agree I think we need to be upfront and say, yep, we made mistakes, we made wrong decisions in the past, but we're going to do it differently now. We're going to change our thinking on how to fix it and how to put everything together and make sure we're able to provide those services to our community. We always keep saying Wyandotte County is the best place to live, let's continue that.

Commissioner Davis said I haven't really said much colleagues, and you're welcome. I haven't said much, just kind of listening and gathering sense and insight and I think what we need to be very honest about and what we need to be ambassadors of is the truth. We have an election coming

up and I hope to God that candidates that are running are doing what I did. When these meetings happened two years ago, I made it a point to watch and be informed. We need to make it politically acceptable and politically sexy to be financially responsible.

If we keep playing the game in choosing, choosing the seat and choosing incumbency, choosing power over what the right thing is to do, we will never get out of this situation. We see it happen in Washington, DC all the time where there are promises that are made, get in office and you just kind of walk those promises back and you just kick the problem down the road, down the road, down the road. DC can print money, we can't and we cannot take notes from national politics or politicians to fix local problems because our problems are real and people feel it.

This is hard to stomach because it does mean that some of the things that we all said we wanted, may not happen and that's a hard conversation to have with our constituents to say, yes, this is very important and I would rather us be financially stable in five years than for us to go bankrupt. It's hard to have those conversations, but it's conversations that we all will have to have and we will have to have the courage to say maybe not this year, maybe at another time, but without that courage, we will repeat the same thing over and over and over again.

Mr. Johnston, thank you so much. I am absolutely for not only finding out what those promises are, but how to find them and holding ourselves accountable because we just cannot let this fall. This cannot fall on our watch and I wasn't here in Wyandotte County when some of these decisions were made, but I'm here now and it's my responsibility to own whatever decisions are made and to say I'm going to lead and I'm not going to kick it down again. I'm not going to kick it down the road. I'm going to say let's make the hard decisions now so that we can prosper in the future.

I agree with my colleague Commissioner Markley. Absolutely I think we really need for staff to dig in, what do we need to stop doing. We have a lot of conversations about other added amenities and things, which is great. Personally, I think we have too many parks. I would love to see some of those parks in the Land Bank. I think we own too much property as a Unified Government. I would love to see us get rid of some of those thing. We own too many darn bridges, just too many, so we have to have conversations on what is the responsible way to say, you know what, that's not going to be our responsibility anymore. Somebody else needs to own it, somebody else needs to maintain it, but we can't hoard everything and try to restore it to its former glory

because that just is not a future that is real. I would love for us to do more work on that and stand ready to support those efforts.

Commissioner Burroughs said I'm excited to hear the dialogue I'm hearing this evening. What a difference a year makes in reference to really looking at what our issues are here with this budget. Some of us have been advocating for the last couple of years that we need to cut debt, we need to identify inefficiencies, we need to eliminate duplication, we need to become more efficient and that is what happens when you start having those tough discussions about revenue neutral because that helps identify the financial situation we're in. We had to be mandated by law to do that and so now we've done that and here we are tonight and, Mr. Johnston, thank you for a refreshing approach of how we want to look at things and how we should look at things, but more importantly, what we need to do to right this ship.

I don't disagree with any of the comments that were made this evening. I am just a little befuddled, I guess, as to how this ship has turned from 1.5 years ago, two years ago, when we didn't want to discuss cutting budgets, we didn't want to discuss identifying efficiencies, we wanted to fund and continue to fund. I stand ready to do my part, whatever is necessary to put us in a financial, fiscal, sound position to enhance our bond rating, to cut our debt, to provide an efficient government for the citizens of Wyandotte County and by all means, to stabilize the evaluation and taxation within this community that is forcing out migration.

Thank you, colleagues, for giving me an opportunity to speak. Mr. Johnston, I appreciate your staff. Thank you for the presentation.

Commissioner Bynum said, Mr. Johnston, I'm very pleased with what you bring forward to us for consideration. I have a couple of questions. We have a massive grant request, a Bi-State Bridge Grant request. I think you may have alluded to this in your remarks, so if the federal government—I can't remember if it's a Raise Grant, they have a bunch of acronyms. **Mr. Fisher** said Mega Grant. **Commissioner Bynum** said Mega Grant and it's mega and would replace the Kansas Avenue Bridge in a Bi-State cooperation with Kansas City, Missouri and we've made an obligation there to participate with our local match, so that would be a place where this—I appreciate what you bring, but I don't think we're turning down that grant if the feds call tomorrow and say congratulations. I just think that's a reality we must also look at because we will finance

that bridge replacement unless you all decide you don't want to receive that Mega Federal Grant for that bridge. I think that's really important that we keep those kinds of realities in front of us as well.

I am unaware of Kansas City, Kansas budget items that were paid for with our County dollars, so if that has occurred in the past, I would be interested in what those were. I've been here eight years and I simply don't know if that has occurred in a way that was not openly shared with the public and the Commission, I simply don't know the answer. If it has occurred, I would like to know it.

So, yes, do I support a County budget that pays for county things, absolutely. Do I support a City budget that pays for city things, absolutely. I think that's what we've been doing. If there's evidence otherwise, I would truly like to know it. Every single thing here is not broken and I do not subscribe to that mentality period. We have a ton of wonderful people who live here, a ton of wonderful staff who live and work here, who've been working—and frankly, we're all fairly high quality individuals and I just don't think—I really want you to understand that I appreciate this conversation. I simply don't subscribe to the notion that everything has been broken up till now. I just don't, so if we could have our conversations based around making sure that we're also recognizing the good things that have been done such as what Commissioner Markley points out, we did try to bring tax relief from the STAR Bond payoff as an example. We did try to bring budget money to the places where we knew we needed it.

In my humble opinion, funding our Public Works Division after everything we've been told about the critical nature of the infrastructure that we face, that's not a want in my opinion, it's a need. Maybe we have to go a year without, I don't know and I'm, you know, semi-joking when I proffer to you, well if we can't have 25%, can we have 10. I know we don't know the answer to that right now, but it's not a want. Infrastructure, pavement preservation, bridges, street lights, these things are what make a city. Without them, you don't have a city.

I had to throw my two cents on the table, but overarching, my comment to you and the rest of my fellow commissioners is I'm really glad you're here and I appreciate the difficult conversation.

Commissioner Ramirez said I say this, speaking for myself and I hope I can speak for myself, it wasn't a state law or administration of this past year that forced me to have this conversation. It's

the red on the paper and us having a fresh new Administrator who's allowing us to have these discussions, not because of the state—I don't want to be out there that I'm forced because of the state law, it was not, or the past year administration. I just want to say that out there, but I can speak for myself and I hope I can.

Mr. Johnston said I guess I just want to add I appreciate all the commissioners comments. If I intimated that I thought everything was broken, that's not what the message is. The message is we have a dire situation that we have to deal with. Does that mean that road projects, bridge projects don't get done, maybe not at the level that people want it. You also have to remember we have other departments that have Capital needs. We have a schedule that's been part of a firehouse replacement program. Those things cost \$10+M a unit. It's amazing and so that's competing with bridges, competing with roads, competing with other infrastructure needs facing our city, but you only got this much money to work with, not like this and saying bonding is going to give us that capacity. That means the taxpayers are going to pay for it.

We have to be very judicious in how we use debt. That's the only message that I have. We do have a higher debt load. We've talked with our bond counsel, they're saying you better think about doing some debt management. We've had our financial consultant, Baker Tilly, tell us, yeah, you have higher debt than a community your size should have, but I also want to say I don't want to say I was, in my commentary, disrespecting any previous elected officials. Decisions were made with the situations they were facing, but then as we know, the world changes. New things happen and government budgets need to adapt to those changes and I think we got in a rut. That's all I can think of because of the magnitude of the situation that we're at, is that we didn't pay attention to the changes that we should have reacted to.

We do have challenges and it's going to be an interesting two, three years as we really get a handle and get Kansas City, Kansas budget where it really needs to be. I apologize if anybody thought I was negative. Like I said, this is reality and that's all it is.

Commissioner Davis said I'll also add, and I do agree with what you're saying Commissioner Bynum, these issues that we are seeing didn't come out of nowhere, so on one hand you want to deliver for—we want to deliver for our constituents. We all want to go back to our respective districts or areas and say look what I did. Finding that balance between saying look what I did,

look what we did together, you asked for it, we delivered and also being financially responsible is really where the rubber meets the road.

Mr. Johnston, again thank you, and thank you staff, for bringing this conversation to us. I think one of the things we probably want to consider is, particularly within the CIP, maybe a district by district breakdown or something that gives each commissioner something that everyone can say this year this is what's getting done in that district. It's not everything, but it is something year by year that can say to people here's the progress that we are making. Here's what wasn't done last year is being done this year and then here's the other things that we want to do.

I think with our CIP, and I know there's a lot of work that goes into it, and there could be a little bit more information on just making it constituent friendly and saying in your neighborhood here are the things that are happening, but we have to find that balance. A dystopian future is not going to be—none of us are going to be here in a few years if we just sell bloom and gloom and nothing good is happening.

We can still work on ourselves and deliver on some of these key projects, which leads me to the other two points. It's super important, I think, for us as elected officials to be educated and to ensure that the information that we are giving out to the public is accurate. I had one constituent come up to me at my last Town Hall almost a month ago saying, you know, for Homefield, we aren't getting anything in taxes. We aren't getting anything from the project and I'm like where did you—I sit on the committee—where did you hear that. We have to be the biggest ambassadors of truth in our community.

To the candidates that are running, I pray that we are getting ambassadors for truth. It is easy to take information and twist it and go with what makes people angry. That gets the likes, that gets the shares. That doesn't get the Unified Government anywhere. I would hope that we would take the higher road and say let's think about where we want our community to be in a decade and for our community to be prosperous.

Commissioner Burroughs said, Mayor, I want to respond to my colleague. I spoke over that individual while they were speaking. I want to apologize to the body. I know better. It's just the response. I should have waited till my turn. Commissioner Ramirez, I apologize for stepping on your conversation.

Commissioner Stites said, Mr. Johnston, clearly we made the right decision and I want to commend the search firm for bringing you to us. The people have asked and they've asked us for help and finally—I don't really care how we got to this point, I don't care if we felt like we were forced to or not, but the people have asked and we are having this hard conversation right now. We're being responsive.

I look at this a lot like just having a cut or a bleed on your body. We've got to just stop the bleeding right now. It doesn't mean we've got to cut off our leg or cut off the arm. You know we're not done. We've got to stop our current process. We've got to continue to live. We've got to stop the bleeding and I think that's where we're at right now. That's what we're doing.

We know, we've identified that we're on a crash course for bankruptcy if we continue the direction that we're going. I agree with Commissioner Davis. I believe we have too many city parks, we've got them all over the place, little, small ones, things that really don't even get used in my opinion. There are some things that we can get rid of, building structures that would really get that number down.

I look forward to hearing this budget and I appreciate the conversation that we've had. Staff, thank you for what you guys brought forward to us tonight.

Mayor Garner said thank you staff, thank you Administrator, thank you Commission. I think what we're hearing tonight, for those that may be in sight and sound of this meeting, is a commitment from this Commission to make sure that your Unified Government moving forward is operating fiscally responsible. That this Unified Government and this elected body is going to deliver on a promise of a commitment that I know each one of these commissioners has made to meet your reasonable, and I'd like to point out reasonable expectations, and I have to say reasonable because we are faced with some challenges when you talk about our budget situation and hard decisions are going to be made. What you are seeing is a realization that these challenges have to be taken head on and that's the leadership that you see around this table, so it is refreshing that we are facing the hard truth as we move forward and looking at these hard truths and trying to find real solutions to some of these problems that we know impact the lives of real people every single day.

Again, hard decisions are going to be made, but it's shared. I firmly believe that because we're having discussions now and this Commission has made a commitment to avoid the 2026

red—you can call it bankruptcy, whatever you want to call it that's there, that commitment is made and I'd like to reassure the public because of this commitment that you're seeing from this Commission today, that I'm highly optimistic that the 2026 bankruptcy will not occur here in Wyandotte County because you have this type of leadership around the table that is committed to making sure that Wyandotte County is that great place to live, work and raise a family.

I think one of the things that I've realized is that we cannot continue to tax, spend and borrow in the manner that we've been doing it because it is detrimental to the economy health, stability of our community. We have to find ways to streamline, to cut responsibly if we can do so, and to find new and inventive ways to operate a government in a way that still provides essential services that our residents come to expect.

I don't want our public to see these meetings as anything like the sky is falling because I know that we have a staff and an Administrator of professionals that are here. They're going to make sure that they do everything they can cooperating with this Commission, and you, the public to make sure that Wyandotte County is solvent and will be just as strong as it's been in the past well into the future.

I know when we talk about efficiencies and where we could cut and things of that nature, some of those questions have come up. I offer, this Mayor and my team—when I came into office I have eight task force and I don't care who gets the credit. I'm not here for kudos, credit to be a long-term Mayor to say look what I did. I don't care and I just want what's best for Wyandotte County and what's best for the people.

I came to this Commission with a olive branch saying let's work together because we have to. It's not about me, never was, never will be. I've served 32 years here and I've spent my entire adult life in public service. I don't need any attaboy's. I don't want them. I want Wyandotte County to be the winner and for this body of staff, community and Commission to share in any successes that can come, but again, I'm offering and saying we've got to work together and we've got to communicate as professionals, as leaders, as adults and your Mayor's Office is still willing to do that. I challenge those that may struggle in thinking otherwise. I don't need any power. I've heard that, oh, the Mayor wants his power hungry. I don't have any power. I don't vote, I have very limited authority over agenda. This is a weak Mayor form of government. It's not New York where I can hire and fire and fix potholes and do any of those things. It requires that we work together, that we leverage the common good of this community to come together, to work together

and find solutions and that's what our public expects us to do. That's why they elect us, to work together as professionals, as leaders, they don't expect anything less.

I have to say that there are eight task force and one of them is the Efficiencies Committee to look at those various things on do we cut buildings, do we cut projects, do we cut—and they should be led by a commissioner working with the community to find those and then bringing those recommendations to the Mayor's Office because I do have the ability to push things through to Standing Committee and to full Commission for you all to decide whether that's something that you want.

So, if any commissioners are willing, I still got a task force so maybe we're on those task force and thank you for staying in there and doing the things that are necessary, but I don't want anybody thinking this is about me. I'm not going to be your Mayor forever. This is about Wyandotte County and what's best. I'm not a politician. You've heard me say that. I don't have—Chester Owens said it best. I'm an elected official. I don't have to be here. I was asked to be here. I'm not going to be a career politician, so if you think I am, think again, that's not my motivation. I'm not here for book deals, I'm not here for upping on my come up. I've serve this community honorably in a variety of ways. I'm only here because I came back to Wyandotte County. I was one of those disgruntled people that moved out of Wyandotte County. I came back because people asked me to and they said they wanted better and I know that I share that same sentiment as every commissioner at this table. We want what's best for Wyandotte County. I cannot stress it enough.

We've got to work together to face these hard challenges and solutions. Whatever political differences that may be there, I just ask, as your Mayor, let's set them aside. Let's find common ground, lets work on the things that we know we can work on. There should be no divisions between your Mayor's Office and this Commission or this community or staff. There's too much at stake. People's lives rely on us and depend on us working together. I don't know what caused this, but if I'm wrong, if I caused it at the very beginning, if I came out too strong and maybe airing things and maybe not communicating, I'm man enough to say I'm sorry. I think we all have the ability to do better for our constituents. We all ran, we all got elected and I think now is the time to say let's come to the table and work together on these hard issues and we all need to be at the table working together.

I want to thank those commissioners that are still on these task force and the ones that have volunteered to take up other issues, but these issues and these task force aren't to highlight what Mayor Garner did. I could care less about any type of attaboy's, I don't want them. I was like that when I was a police officer. I don't need them. I'm not in public service because I want people to say look what the Mayor did. I want us to work together so we can say what we did for this community and this community can be happy of the choices they made of this elected body, so I challenge us to work together in that regard.

I also challenge anyone that would like to get on the Efficiency Committee as we walk through this budget process, there's a chair position open that requires a commissioner to take the lead on that to have that conversation that Commissioner Markley brought forward, that Commissioner Davis brought forward. If anybody wants to work with community members that are there that are ready on this task force, to work with our staff and work with our community on that, that's still available.

I don't know what else to say other than thank you Commission for entertaining and having these hard conversations and having a deep dive look at how we can do better as a governing body and a Commission. I really do think it's refreshing and for the public, I just want to say that the best is yet to come for Wyandotte County and I don't want anybody to be discouraged about our challenges today because we're facing them and we will get through them. We will continue to ensure that Wyandotte County is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Commissioner Johnson said I appreciate the statements. I think you answered what I was going to ask because I wanted to see if there was a will of this Commission to look at our parks, look at our buildings that could be better utilized or to be sold. I'm certainly not saying I want to lead that committee, but I do agree with what you're saying. I do agree with both Commissioner Markley and Mr. Davis, we need to look at how we can move some property and some assets that are not as useful as they ought to be.

Commissioner Markley said we had that committee four years ago and we did that Ameresco Study and we talked about what we were going to do with that study and we didn't follow through, so as far as I'm concern the work has been done. We had the study, we were ranking things we thought we might be able to get rid of. We all said let's get rid of some stuff and then we just

didn't move forward with it. I guess we can have another committee, but we don't really need another committee. We just need to it. We need to do what we said we were going to do and use the information we gathered when the committee met last time.

Commissioner Bynum said, Mayor, maybe we can have that study brought forward again so maybe we can look at that again with fresh eyes and see if there are efficiencies to find that way like she said. If there's work that's done, that's going to be part of this hard work, right. **Mayor Garner** said that preceded me, so if staff has that information on that study, I'd love to get that to the Administrator to get to the Commission. I think that would help in these conversations as we move through the budget process.

Administrator, I think you'll find that and if we can get that from staff, that would be great. **Mr. Johnston** said we'll unearth it somehow.

Mayor Garner said thank you so much Commission, staff, great work. Thank you Administrator and thank you to the public that's been watching. At this time I'll adjourn this Special Session. Do I have a motion?

Commissioner Stites made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez.

**MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 7:35 p.m.**

Brett Deichler
Unified Government Clerk

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June 15, 2023