**STATE OF KANSAS )**
**WYANDOTTE COUNTY )) SS** **SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022**
**CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS )**

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, August 25, 2022, with eleven 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 4:35); Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator; Misty Brown, Chief Legal Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrators; Brett Deichler, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Monica L. Sparks, Acting Unified Government Clerk; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Michael Peterson, Assistant Budget Director; Richard Rocha, Management Analyst in Budget; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Judi Her, Budget Department; Mike Callahan, Fire Chief; Matt Willard, County Appraiser; John Kelly, Director of Buildings & Logistics; Greg Wooton, Building & Logistics Manager; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communications; LaVert Murray, Economic Development Advisor in Mayor's Office; J. J. Summers, President Firefighters Local 64; Bob Wing, President Emeritus of the Firefighters Local Union in Kansas City; and Brent Thompson, Fire Department.

**Mayor Garner** said before I call this meeting to order, I want to announce that we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

**MAYOR GARNER** called the meeting to order.

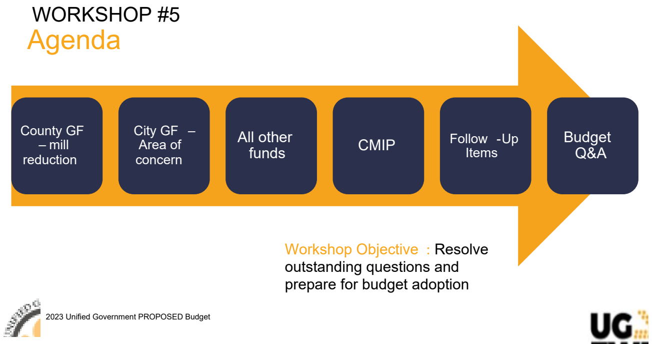
**ROLL CALL:** Kane, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Garner.

**AMENDED NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION** of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in the fifth floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building for a Budget Workshop and a presentation from Fire Command/IAFF.

**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.

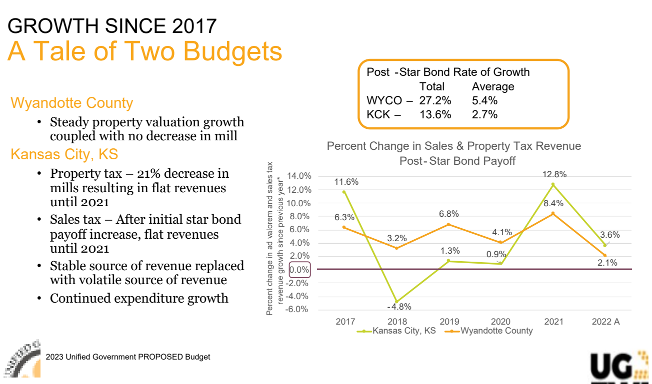
**Mayor Garner** said tonight we have two items on our agenda. Our first item this evening is a Budget Workshop. I will turn it over to Ms. Harrison-Lee, our Interim County Administrator, to lead the presentation.


**Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator,** said tonight we will be having our fifth Budget Workshop as we work to hone in on the Commission priorities and prioritize community needs. Just as a reminder, this will be a transitional budget. We are going to work to try to achieve and close the gap as best we can, but we recognize we are not able to fix everything in this budget season, but we'll start the process for long-term success and sustainability.




The objectives for tonight we will talk about the County General Fund mill reduction, we are going to review some of the areas of concern for the City General Fund as well as the other funds we were asked to provide an update on at the last meeting, a brief overview of our Capital Maintenance Improvement Program, and then a follow-up to some of the questions that you've previously asked. We will look for your consensus on some of the items you've heard and answer questions that might arise as a follow-up to the items we provide tonight.

The overall objective is that we would like to be able to resolve any outstanding questions that you have and prepare for the budget adoption next month. With that, I'll turn it over to the budget team.




**Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director,** said our Assistant Budget Director, Michael Peterson, is going to start us off tonight.

**Michael Peterson, Assistant Budget Director,** said first off, we just wanted to give a brief overview of the difference between where we've seen the revenues in the past for the City and the County General Funds. What we've done, we've went back and looked after the STAR Bond payoff in 2017 and what the impact of the mill reductions was on the City side in comparison with how the County General Fund has performed over the same time period. So, basically, we're trying to identify the different—I guess the circumstances we find ourselves in with the imbalance that we have on the City side and the difference in why we have room to adjust the mill on the County side.

What we've seen is over the four years, after the STAR Bonds paid off, the City—on the City side the sales tax and the property tax make up about 50% of the revenue that's generated into that fund. We've seen—we actually for 2018, 2019, and 2020 we saw completely flat revenues in those categories. So, with the reduction of the mill rate and in sales tax performance there was no additional revenue that was gained in those years in those categories. So through 2022 Budget on the City side, we've only seen a 13.6% growth or an average growth of about 2.7% which hasn't kept pace with the cost of personnel and ongoing operations on the City side.

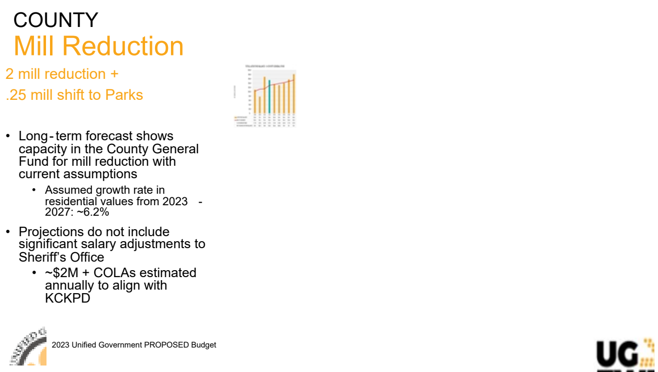
On the Wyandotte County side on the County General Fund in comparison with steady mills and in the same sales tax performance or similar sales tax performance, we've seen a pretty steady growth of about 5.5% a year which has allowed us to be structurally balanced in that fund.

I'm going to pass it to Reggie for the County General Fund.


**Mr. Lindsey** said currently what we have on the screen is the County General Fund and what it reflects is a 2 mill reduction and also a .25 mill shift to the Parks which is a total of 2.25 mill cut to the County General Fund, but on the whole County side is a 2 mill reduction. One of the things that we worked at doing with cutting 2 mills out from the County General Fund is we wanted to get into a 17% fund balance which is within our policy, our rate we like to stay at, so we were able to do that. Then, one of the things not included in the County mill cut for 2 mills for the County

General Fund is we had a little early in the budget process, we had talked about a $350K addition for a Starter Realignment Funding for the Sheriff's Office. That is not within these numbers. I'll just kind of walk you through everything.

So, 2023's revenue is $77M, then we have expenditures $79M, and then we have a $1.8M net change in expenditures and revenues and we can see our fund balance is $13.5M.



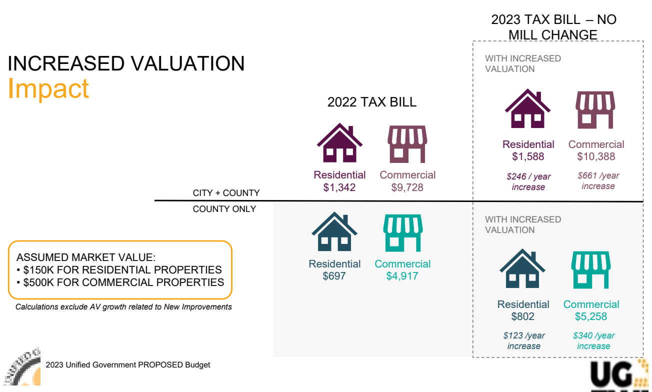

Our view that we have here just to kind of let everybody know what things would look like in the future with cutting these two mills as we have—here we have our fund balance going across here kind of showing from 2019 to 2027. Here is where we have cut the mill at. We see our fund balance of $13.6M and we can see our fund balance is 17% and you see we're going out into the outer years. Next year we won't be at that 17%, so we're definitely going to have to do some work within the County General Fund to get back up to 17% and then also in 2025 we wouldn't be at the 17%. We would have to do some work to get there, but out in 2026 and 2027 we still look to have some growth where we have met the 17% fund balance. In 2027 we are definitely over it.

Just some of the important things, the assumptions we made or the assumptions assume that we have a 6.2% growth rate in residential values. Also, one of the things not in here, Sheriff Soptic did present to us to bring the Sheriff's Department up to standards with the KCKPD and that is a $2M cost with COLA's, so those dollar amounts are not within this budget for the County General Fund.

**Commissioner Stites** said the 17% that you're talking about in the fund balance, what are we statutorily required to have in there? Is it 17, is it 15, what is it? **Mr. Lindsey** said there's not statutory—we have a policy in-house that we have. Statutorily we just have to have a balanced budget and that means—**Commissioner Stites** said so that 17 could be 15, it could be 14, it could be 13. It's just a number that we come up with we say we like.

**Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer,** said no. The 17% is actually a GFOA recommendation. That's a best practice. That's a minimum number. **Commissioner Stites** asked, is that the three months that we had talked about? **Ms. Jonscher** said 17% is two months. Three months would be closer to 25%. **Commissioner Stites** said and that amount of money is what in percentage—in dollars? **Mr. Lindsey** said it's $13.6M. **Commissioner Stites** asked, 13.6 is 17%? **Mr. Lindsey** said yes. **Commissioner Stites** said okay, that's all.

**Commissioner Townsend** said, again Mr. Lindsey, did you say the numbers and the assumptions here did or did not include salary adjustments that the Sheriff's Office had requested? **Mr. Lindsey** said they do not include the salary adjustments that Sheriff Soptic requested.

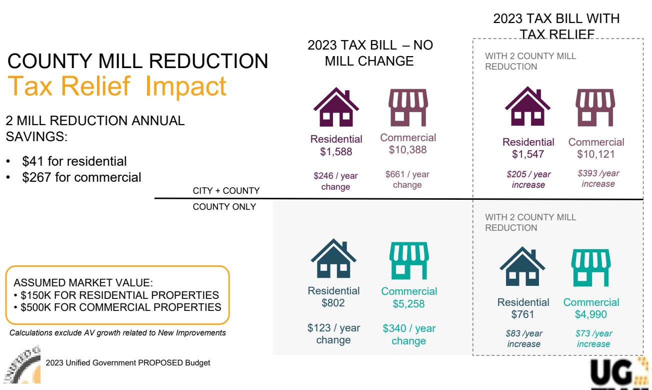



**Mr. Lindsey** said next, I'm going to turn it over to our Assistant CFO, Debbie Jonscher.

**Debbie Jonscher, Deputy Chief Financial Officer,** said we've seen this slide before. We've got two slides for the impact of the increased valuation for a homeowner's tax bill. Previously in the presentation we've shown you the same slide and for the 2023 bill we had included a half mill reduction on the County side, which is what is included in the proposed budget. So that we can show the full impact of the two mill decrease, we went ahead and we started this slide back with the increased valuation with no change in the mill.

As you can see for 2023, if there was no change in the mill, a resident living in both the City and the County would pay in 2023—their residential tax bill would be $1,588, which would be an increase of $246 per year. For a commercial business the value in 2023 would be $10,388, which would be a $661 increase per year and that was based on—for residential we are using the $150K value for residential property and $500K for commercial.

On the County side, if you lived only in the county with just an increased valuation, a residential home would pay $802 which is a $123 increase per year and a commercial business would pay $5,258, which is a $340 increase per year.




This next slide shows these same values with a two mill reduction, so I'm just going to look at the 2023—oh—this is showing the 2023 tax bill with no mill change and then also with the two mill reduction, so you can see that a residential property with no mill was $1,588. With the two mill reduction, their tax bill would be $1,547, which would be a $205 increase per year versus the 246 with no mill reduction. A commercial building would be $10,121, so a $393 increase as opposed to a $661 increase with no mill change. On the County only, the residential is $761 so the increase with the two mill reduction would be $83 a year and for the commercial it's $4,990 which would be a $73 increase versus a $340 increase with no mill reduction.

**Mayor Garner** said I have a question. If you could go back to the last slide, we're looking at the increased valuation, correct? What is that total dollar amount? When you talk about the nine—I think it's over nine mills that you mentioned at our last budget hearing, correct, what does that equate to in actual dollars that the Unified Government would be bringing in? **Ms. Jonscher** said the total valuation for the increase for all property tax funds, the total was around $15M. **Mayor**

**Garner** said $15M, okay. Actually the residents are seeing a tax increase on this slide, correct? **Ms. Jonscher** said it would be a tax increase due to the increase in valuation, not an increase in the mill rate.

**Mayor Garner** said okay, so if you go to the next slide, maybe it's a play on words in my mind, but there's a two mill reduction as an annual saving and that's $41, correct, on a residential? **Ms. Jonscher** said yes. **Mayor Garner** said but theoretically if they're getting tax increases, I don't really see that as being a savings because their taxes still go up, correct? **Ms. Jonscher** said well yeah, we look at it as a savings because we didn't change the mill, if we kept the mill constant, just the increase in valuation alone would cause a larger increase to their tax bill. So, if we reduce the mill, that's where we're looking at the savings. If we reduce the mill, there is a savings as opposed to us not reducing the mill at all. **Mayor Garner** asked, is that annual. Is that an annual savings of $41, so if you break that down divide it by 12, what is that? **Ms. Jonscher** said like $3 and something. **Mayor Garner** said so a $3 a month savings.

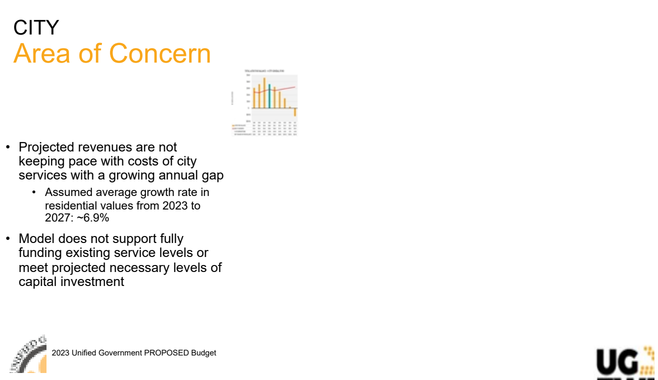
The other question is, I know we talk about residentials and commercials, what other—if you go back to the last slide, just a question, what other properties, vehicle—I mean what does that generate? When you talk about—when I go get my tags and my vehicle is assessed, are there any other properties that will be impacted as a result of this other than just residential and commercial. **Ms. Jonscher** said this was just on the residential impact to a homeowner. I don't think this included—now, built within the valuation there might be new improvements, things like that, but it doesn't include the—I don't believe it includes the motor vehicle piece of it for the homeowner. **Mayor Garner** said I get that, so what have we left out. I mean when you talk about a holistic vision of other impacts of this, what would we generate from the motor vehicle taxes? **Ms. Jonscher** said I don't have that information tonight. I could certainly try to pull that. **Mayor Garner** said outside of motor vehicle taxes and residential and commercials, are there any other impacts where we would generate revenue as a result of the valuation increases? **Ms. Jonscher** said I don't think so, no.

**Commissioner Stites** said if you would go back, I think it's one slide, I just want to clarify it and I think—so on 2021 where it says our fund balance was 25, I'm just rounding it to 25, and then next year, which is this year '22, it's 20. How come we were not at that 17% that we say we like to be at for the last two years? Why would we have more money in reserve than we say we need?

**Mr. Lindsey** said well, at points of times we do like to try to build the fund balance up just to protect ourselves in case a recession comes. **Commissioner Stites** asked, who's determining that. Is it just—I'm not being critical, I'm just asking. How is that number—I mean does some—how is that formulated that somebody says well, we like to have 20 this year and 25. I mean last year was 25 and then the year before it was 11.

**Ms. Jonscher** said '22 is the current year that we're in, so we're estimating based on the budget that we've already approved what our trend is, what we're spending at and what we need projected through the end of the year. **Commissioner Stites** said so that money, that 25% fund balance in 2021, which is higher than 17, where did that money go. Where did it get spent down at? **Ms. Jonscher** said probably a portion of it is being spent down in 2022 because our fund balance is dropping to 19% in 2022. **Commissioner Stites** said some of that came down in 2022. **Ms. Jonscher** said right. **Commissioner Stites** said okay.

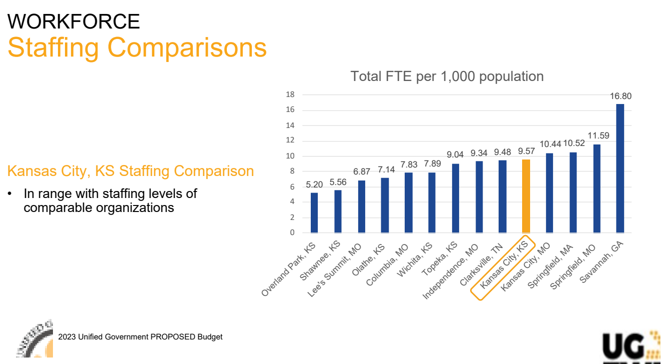
**Mr. Lindsey** said also, Commissioner Stites, in 2021 this is an actual number and I can't say what the fund balance was when we did the budget, but sometimes what we do have happen is, we don't spend as much money as we have planned and then sometimes we have some more money to come in. So that could have been a result of us getting more money in and spending less money. **Commissioner Stites** said okay.



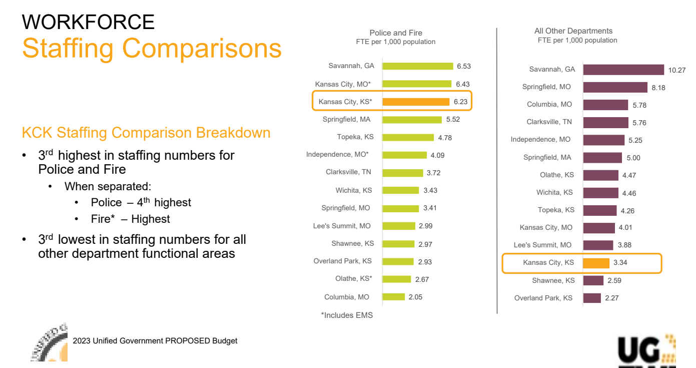

**Mr. Lindsey** said the current slide gives us a long-range view of the City General Fund and one of the things that this—assumptions that we're making with this view is that we'll have like a 6.9% average growth rate in residential values, but looking here at the chart and looking at some of the numbers down here and we start looking at 2023, we can see that we are planning to end 2023's proposed budget with a 20% fund balance. Then as we move into 2024, we're looking to forecasting that we may drop to a 15% fund balance and then as we look at 2025 and 2026 through 2027, we can see that fund balance starts to drop-off dramatically. One of the things going on here is our revenues are not keeping pace with our expenditures that we have.

**Mayor Garner** said I have a question. That's a very disturbing picture for everybody that calls Wyandotte County home, at least for me. I guess where we're at today because—it just seems like it's a slow progression every year and I know future Mayors and future commissioners at some point, and even this Commission and Mayor, I mean we need to take a hard look at this. Just from your knowledge, experience, and expertise, what's causing this primarily and then is there anybody in our financial team that can really tell us what we need to do to at least stabilize that or reverse that negative trend that 2027 looks like we're bankrupt? I just—you know you don't have it in red, it looks like negative which says to me we're broke by 2030. I don't know what that picture is going to look like if we keep doing these things, so are there any suggestions on just where we're at today and as we move towards that 2027 number, which is a critical number, or year I should say, what's impacting this and what do we need to take a hard look at and then what type of decisions should this Commission really consider as far as trying to stabilize our financial health here in Wyandotte County? **Mr. Lindsey** said, Mayor Garner, we have some slides to follow this that may explain some of that, so some of the questions you asked. Is it okay if we move through the presentation? **Mayor Garner** said alright.

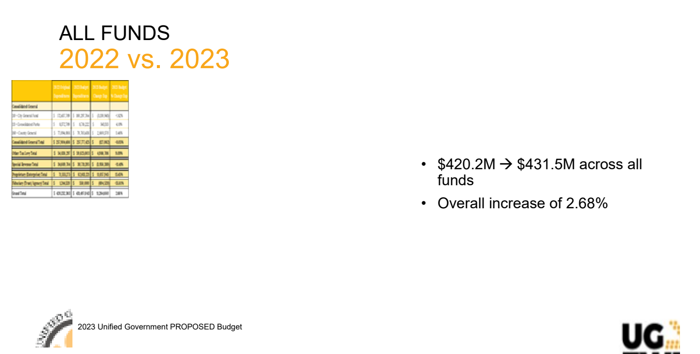
**Mr. Lindsey** said next, I'm going to turn it over to our Assistant Budget Director, Michael Peterson, and he's going to talk about some of our Workforce Staffing Comparisons.



**Mr. Peterson** said one of the questions we've been asked is how we compare with other organizations as far as staffing levels go. Staffing makes up a significant portion of the City General Fund. It's our primary cost driver at the UG as we're a service orientated organization and so comparatively speaking we did see that our staffing is in line with many other organizations of a similar size or similar demographic that we've looked at.




It does change when you start getting into the details. If we look at the categories of budget and this is just because these are some of the easiest categories to pick out in other entities budget documents, but you can see that we're actually very low. We have a very—one of the lowest staffing levels among comparable organizations and departments that function outside of Public Safety and we're the third highest when we looked at comparable organizations for Public Safety staffing. The fourth highest for Police specifically and the highest staffing level for Fire and EMS overall in the Consolidated General Fund, so this is actually the City General Fund, just looking at the City.



**Mr. Lindsey** said to kind of drill down into some of your questions Mayor Garner. This is a view of all funds and basically what we have in our $420M budget and we can see what it's doing, is comparing 2022 to 2023. You kind of see where our Consolidated General Funds, we had like a 5% increase, but also within here we do have where we moved $8M out of the City General Fund for the Solid Waste Fund and that included revenues and expenditures, so it kind of cancelled itself out. It's just one of the things that you can see here is that, as a government, we haven't really had that much growth expenditure wise, we're at like a 3% growth for all our 30+ funds and we do have a $431M budget as compared to we had a $420M budget last year. We really did not have a lot of growth within our budget and some of the growth here, we do have in Proprietary Enterprise Funds, the Solid Waste Fund did move here, so most of the growth that is there, that's what that is. Then, in our other Tax Levy Funds we do have a couple funds where the budget did increase because they had the fund balance for that.

CONSOLIDATED GENERAL
Budget Impacts

Department Functional Areas Impacts

- Largest increases occurring in Public Safety with new Fire and Sheriff labor agreement impacts & personnel shift from EMS Fund
- Community Services increases are primarily due to funding enhancement to Parks & Rec and additional URBN Transit service impacts

Account Type Impacts

- Higher vacancy rates and reduced budget projections for out -of- contract labor agreements assist with offsetting 4% COLA and 7% health increases
- Capital and Commodities increasing with increasing funding towards deferred needs and market inflationary increases

| Department Function | 2022 Original | 2023 Proposed | Change | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Safety | $ 144,834,029 | $158,892,376 | $14,058,347 | 9.71% |
| Community Services | $ 33,951,141 | $ 37,194,341 | $ 3,243,201 | 9.55% |
| General Government | $ 31,278,268 | $ 33,331,631 | $ 2,053,363 | 6.56% |
| Judicial Services | $ 11,403,344 | $ 11,800,110 | $ 396,766 | 3.48% |
| Mayor and Commission | $ 1,103,907 | $ 1,206,026 | $ 102,119 | 9.25% |
| Other Programs | $ 1,467,407 | $ 1,527,001 | $ 59,594 | 4.06% |
| Public Works | $ 22,572,916 | $ 15,216,721 | $ (7,356,194 | -32.59% |
| Internal Service | $ 11,293,474 | $ (924,783) | $(12,218,257 | -108.19% |
| Grand Total | $257,904,486 | $258,243,425 | $ 338,939 | 0.13% |

| Account Type | 2022 Original | 2023 Proposed | Change | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51- Personnel Costs | $ 177,916,412 | $ 181,700,000 | $ 3,783,588 | 2.13% |
| 54 - Capital Outlay | $ 6,308,852 | $ 8,690,963 | $ 2,382,111 | 37.76% |
| 53 - Commodities | $ 6,043,270 | $ 7,040,473 | $ 997,203 | 16.50% |
| 58 - Reserves | $ 630,051 | $ 775,051 | $ 145,000 | 23.01% |
| 55 - Grants, Claims, Shared Revenue | $ 7,219,093 | $ 6,996,168 | $ (222,925) | -3.09% |
| 56 - Debt Service | $ 11,046,623 | $ 10,479,824 | $ (566,799) | -5.13% |
| 57 - Nonexpense Items | $ 3,075,289 | $ 2,338,608 | $ (736,681) | -23.95% |
| 52 - Contractual Services | $ 45,664,897 | $ 40,222,338 | $ (5,442,559) | -11.92% |
| Grand Total | $ 257,904,486 | $ 258,243,425 | $ 338,939 | 0.13% |

2023 Unified Government PROPOSED Budget

ALL FUNDS
Reserves

| | CASH 2023 Projected Ending Balance | ACFR 2023 Projected Ending Balance | % OF EXP BUDGET |
|---|---|---|---|
| Consolidated General | | | |
| [illegible] – City General Fund | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] – Consolidated Parks | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] – County General | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Consolidated General Total | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Other Tax Levy Total | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Special Revenue Total | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Proprietary (Enterprise) Total | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Fiduciary (Trust/Agency) Total | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Grand Total | $ [illegible] | $ [illegible] | [illegible] |

Fund Balances

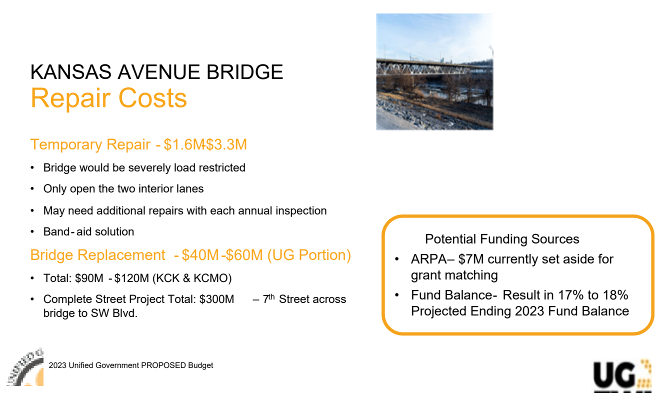
- Consolidated General Funds – between 17%20%, meeting minimum reserve policy
- Special Revenue– Dedicated Sales Tax, Street and Highway and Tourism funds have substantial ACFR fund balance differences from cash balances with carried forward encumbrances and receivables included. Budget is only able to budget at a positive cash balance for the year
- Fiduciary – Environmental Trust Fund set up to hold funding for potential issues that may arise needing environmental clean up

2023 Unified Government PROPOSED Budget

The next slide here gives us a view of all of our funds in the reserves, so we were looking at the view of Consolidated General Funds. So, basically, what we have is the projected ending fund balance for 2023 for our cash and then also our ACFR fund balance, which is our Annual Comprehensive Financial Statement, so we could see that our fund balances are in line with the 17% that we try to keep and then also we do have some fund balances that do have higher fund balances. One of the things going on here, this fund balance is being figured off of our ACFR Fund Balance, which does include encumbrances from prior years so here we do have like a 43% fund balance and that is mostly in our Dedicated Sales Tax and that is for money that is encumbered from prior years. This kind of touches—this bullet right here kind of touches on Special Revenue Funds that are there and carrying it forward fund balances and encumbrances, so those are some of the things going on with the fund balances across the organization.

One of the ways to look at these different funds is looking at us as a business with multi-divisions that have different purposes. So each fund has a different purpose when you move outside the City General Fund and Consolidated General Fund. So when you move into these Special Revenue Funds and you have like the Dedicated Sales Tax, it has a special purpose and its money can't be used for everything and then you also have the Special Street & Highway Fund that's there and this funding can't always be used for any and everything.

Then, we also have a Tourism Fund over in the Special Revenue category where we have to concentrate on things that are related to tourism.




One of the things that we need to figure out how to do some spending on is the Kansas Avenue Bridge which right now has a repair cost estimate for a temporary repair of about $1.6M to $3.3M. Right now the bridge is definitely shutdown, which I know everyone knows, but this would only open up two lanes on the bridge if we were to repair this bridge and it would only be a band-aid solution. The long-term bridge needs to be replaced and it would be up to $60M for the Unified Government to pay for it. Some of the potential funding sources that we have right now within the budget, we have $7M set-aside for ARPA grant matching and then there is also the option for us to pay for fund balance from the City General Fund, which would drop our fund balance to a 17-18% fund balance for 2023.

One of the things we would like to do tonight is get you all's opinion on where you think that potential funding should come from or is it possible that it could come from fund balance or from the ARPA funding.

**Mayor Garner** said I can say, and I'll let Commissioner Kane lead that conversation, we had a meeting with some state officials from KDOT and Commissioner Kane brought them in. Commissioner Stites was at the meeting as well as Commissioner Bynum. We had a really robust meeting, a lot of good information came out really looking at some grant opportunities that are there that, hopefully, we can secure. I know that the Administrator's Office as well as folks in the Mayor's Office has all been reaching out to our federal and state representatives as well to see what emergency type of funding or support we could get to address these and not just the Kansas Avenue Bridge, but also the Central Avenue Bridge and some other infrastructure projects as well.

I'm going to turn it over real quick to Commissioner Kane who is the Chair of a newly formed Infrastructure Task Force and Commissioner Stites is the Co-Chair.

**Commissioner Kane** said when KDOT was here we asked them if they would go ahead and fix the Kansas Avenue Bridge and what they asked for us to do is dream bigger, so we got the NFL draft, we got the soccer coming up pretty quick, so the temporary fix is somewhere on Kansas Avenue somewhere between $1.6M and $3.3M which has to be done as soon as possible so we can accommodate what's going on. What's happening now is sometimes the railroad is blocking people even from their work, their houses, so they can't get across to Missouri.

The thing about the Central Avenue Bridge is when she said you need to dream big, there's a perfect example of the money that we can go get where they can pay for at least half. Once we get the half, then there's a grant that you can apply for to cover even more of that. The unique part about both bridges, it's over water and so it takes more time to build, it's a little bit more dangerous, but it is certainly something and Emmanuel Clever is onboard, Sharice Davids is onboard, Gwen's onboard, our Mayor's onboard. Central Avenue Bridge is used one heck of a lot more than what I thought it was. We've cut out the businesses that are down there, the UPS and a bunch of the other places and we affected them immediately. I think we need to do something to get that open as soon as possible and use as much of that fed money as we can.

**Commissioner Bynum** said I just want to add as far as finding the 1.6 to 3.3 for Kansas Avenue, I'm favoring a mixture. You know maybe not all ARPA matching funds, maybe partly ARPA matching funds, and partly fund balance, in my opinion, because what we had kind of agreed to that day in the smaller meeting was that we wanted to find the money locally to get Kansas Avenue Bridge open. The Central Avenue and Kansas Avenue both are larger projects. We know that. They're going to take multiple partners, but we kind of all agreed we need this bridge open, so that became good, then you get to find the money yourselves to fix it for the temporary. So, I'm just suggesting, Mayor, that we look at some combination of funding to get it open. Jeff Fisher is here, what I can't remember is if we committed the combination of approximately $3M, how long would it be. I can't remember that, but Jeff might be able to tell us, but the point right now is how to pay for it.

**Mayor Garner** said I think the consensus is, and I'll get to you Commissioner Stites, here shortly, oh you're good, okay. (**Someone** was inaudible due to mic not being on). **Mayor Garner** asked, Mr. Fisher, can you come address that question for us?

**Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works,** said the $3M or somewhere between 1.6 to 3.3M might get us one year, it might get us three years. We're not clear on that. (**Commissioner Bynum** was inaudible). **Mr. Fisher** said to replace it or—okay, to make the repair to get it open? **Commissioner Bynum** said yes. **Mr. Fisher** said we are not clear on that yet. It could be three months, could be six months. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay.

**Mayor Garner** said, Ms. Harrison-Lee, is there anything you can weigh in on this as far as ARPA funds and I know we looked at—I've talked to the Administrator about looking at some of our other projects just so the full disclosure for the Commission because we've had this conversation about these bridges and some of these other infrastructure projects and I know there's CMIP projects that have been approved by past Commissions and I know that there's also projects that have been funded that haven't been completed. I'm talking to the Administrator based on that meeting we had that Commissioner Kane put together for us with KDOT. I've asked her to start working with staff to identify what projects that may have been priority initially, but now we have a bridge out and we've got two bridges and some recommendations to the Commission to maybe reallocate funds from what may have been a priority in the past to these new priorities and what that would look like from a funding standpoint so we can get our bridges open because these are key arteries that really have a profound impact. I mean you're talking about commercial, you're talking about jobs. I mean it just really has a profound impact on Wyandotte County, so, Ms. Harrison-Lee.

**Ms. Harrison-Lee** said a couple of things for consideration by the Commission would be that you advise of your desire to have staff go back and look at projects that you have in the CMIP to see if you would like to perhaps delay—have us bring you some projects that could be delayed that you allocated funding for that we can allocate funding to the bridge. As Commissioner Bynum said, perhaps looking at some ARPA dollars, some General Fund, but also you have the opportunity to really go back and reevaluate some of the projects that are in your CMIP and we could bring you some recommendations if that is the desire of the Commission, for us to go back and look at some other projects to delay to come up with the amount of funding that you have.

We could look at park projects, we could look at road projects, we can bring you some options of things to consider. Trying to figure out how to get you to the 3M, I will tell you from an economic development perspective, with the things that are happening in the state of Kansas now and that are coming to the metro area, it is really vital that we are positioned for every economic development opportunity.

Commissioner Davis talked about we spend a lot of time talking about expenditures, but it is important to talk about revenue and in order for us to talk about revenue, we need to be positioned and open for business so this is critical. So, the delay of a project could mean that we have some enhanced economic development opportunities that will allow the organization to move forward at a later point with additional revenue.

**Commissioner Ramirez** said we have to do what we have to do. You know I, Commissioner Bynum and all the other commissioners are part of the Infrastructure Committee, you know, we spent a lot of time with staff. A lot of many months having conversations about how we can create these outcomes and strategies to fix our infrastructure, but I agree, unfortunately, because we have the World Cup, we have the draft, we have Panasonic, especially with stuff that's happening in KCMO we need to have, as the Mayor said, those are two arteries to our city—between our two cities. If those arteries are cut off, we're not going to be able to capture as much of that growth, that residual growth as we can.

I would begrudgingly agree to have a mixture of funding sources for this, not just one, but multiple different so that we can come up with it. I would hate to delay projects. I know our infrastructure needs it, but you know, this is—I feel like everything is an emergency at this point, but I would agree with some type of mixture.

(Mayor Garner was out of the room at 4:41 and returned at 4:43 p.m. Commissioner Bynum was Mayor Pro Tem in his absence).

**Commissioner Davis** said just so I have this clear, Cheryl, $3.3M is not going to break the bank. For the bridge replacement of $40M to 60M that's obviously much more. Are we not discussing financing this? Are we trying to find this for cash because if I'm not mistaken, that's almost all of our projects for the CMIP for next year, so I don't think—I'm not amenable to robbing Peter to pay Paul because we can fix the bridge here and then have failing stormwater infrastructure somewhere else and then that becomes more expensive. I think the best course of action would be temporarily I know for ARPA, at least on the city side, we have over $10M and I'm not talking about the revenue replacement, the $7M that's on the screen, so we have the money that's there. We can take a chunk that's currently left over that's unallocated from the city portion for ARPA that we haven't done anything with and then we could look at debt financing the rest of it, but it would not behoove us to put all of our eggs in one basket on one bridge when we have other failing infrastructure. That will absolutely cripple us.

The other thing I would add is I think within this conversation, you know, the Ameresco Study that is—you know myself, Commissioner Ramirez shares and Commissioner Markley is a part of, we've identified quite a few UG buildings that are absolutely failing right now. I mean we need to probably do a sweep in the CMIP to look and see if it's worth a continued investment or we can kind of stop some of that funding going into failing infrastructure and put it into these projects that we need to get done until we have come up with a plan on what to do. A lot of them were fire stations and some other UG-owned buildings. All of that to say I would hope that we would also consider debt financing, not just taking away from other projects that probably we need to get done and if we don't do them now, will be more expensive just like the Central Avenue Bridge.

(Mayor Garner had returned).

**Commissioner Stites** said I would agree with Commissioner Davis. I don't think that projects that were identified by a previous Commission prior to me, that you guys have deemed that were of high importance need to so swiftly be taken off of the table. I think that we do have money that we can locate. There is also, like he had said, I am in favor of getting the bridge repaired so that we can get it open and take advantage of all of the up and coming events, but I don't think that I am in favor of scratching any of the previous CMIP projects.

**Commissioner Townsend** said I had a question about—assuming we go forward with the bridge repair even on a temporary basis, which is infrastructure, so it's not like we're off track with that as a particular area of expense and maybe Commissioner Kane or someone who was at that meeting could explain that a little bit better just to clarify for me. If we proceed with the temporary repair, which I believe we should, does that open the door more quickly to the other federal dollars. I was a little bit confused. (**Someone** was in audible). **Commissioner Townsend** said so that has nothing to do with it at all. **Commissioner Kane** said it had nothing to do with—the problem that we have with at least the Kansas Avenue Bridge, we have to get Missouri to agree with us to spend the money on that bridge. (**Someone** was inaudible). **Commissioner Kane** said well, that's just it. You got to remember they get one bridge, so do we do one big bridge. (**Someone** was inaudible). **Commissioner Kane** said right, so that's something we have to keep in mind when we're doing this.

**Commissioner Townsend** said then all we can really depend on is our temporary. That doesn't automatically open the door to more federal money. **Commissioner Kane** said right.

**Commissioner Bynum** said just a quick question. Are we looking at the '23 budget for this because I would look at the '22. I mean I think we need to be working on the bridge right now and so I'm just asking it as a question. **Mayor Garner** said this is for now. The goal is to get it open as quick as we can temporarily and not for the $40M, but just temporarily as we seek out working with Commissioner Kane and Commissioner Stites working with our state and federal officials seeking out grants that hopefully we can win and get full bridge replacements. The goal is just to get it open temporarily to at least get some traffic flow moving back to these key areas.

**Commissioner Johnson** said I think everybody knows this. You know we already have a lot of debt, we already have highly leveraged. I trust in the capacity of our Interim County Administrator, our CFO, and Finance Department to know about how much more debt we really need to take because we're at the tipping point right now highly leveraged as a municipality. So, you know, I don't like going into fund balance and I don't like getting debt, but at some point you got to do one or the other to make things work. I trust, and I'm saying this more for the audience, but I do trust in the ability and capacity of our staff to be able to know just about how much debt we really need to bear in addition to what we already have.

**Mayor Garner** said, Mr. Fisher, I've got a quick question to you to kind of just maybe give some insight and this kind of goes in line with Commissioner Johnson and I'll just give one example because Commissioner Johnson is right and Commissioner Davis is right and Commissioner Ramirez as well. These are real good questions, real good debate. Do we finance it, do you—and Commissioner Stites brought this up in his opposition as well, do you look at existing projects and reallocate that due to this being the number one priority and this is something the Commission is going to have to really consider, but Commissioner Johnson really hit on something. What does that look like, where do we go and where does this Commission decide as a body, a majority to give direction to our Administrator to draw from.

I'll give one example, there is a park just west of the jail, it's really small. My experience working on the Police Department it has ever been rarely used, but it floods every year. I can't think of the name of it right off hand, but I believe there's $6M allocated for that park. It's probably as big as this room and so when you talk about priorities, I don't know and that's something for this Commission, is that a key priority. I've asked the question and I know there's flooding issues that may impact some of the residentials and possible businesses in areas and that's why that was put high on the priority list. Okay, that's something where we need to have $6M there, but is that $6M that is going to be well spent for a park that is rarely used at that location and then what's that impact on those residentials and things of that nature because that's an opportunity.

For Finance, if we take $3M, what's the budgetary impact if we totally finance. Like Commissioner Johnson mentioned, over time if we were to float, what's the interest going, you know, with these bonds, what's that going to look like, how much are we going to pay over time, so when you talk about a combination of ARPA, bond financing, or reallocating existing projects because we've identified this is a priority, which is really an emergency when you're talking about bridges being out that are really necessary, I just want to give this Commission enough information so they can make an informed decision to give to our Administrator and staff on really the direction they need to go on. So, if you can just maybe describe that park if you know what I' talking about.

**Mr. Fisher** said I do. **Mayor Garner** said and the amount and why it's needed and could that money be reallocated to the bridge project and, if from your opinion and your experience, which one would be more of a priority, this bridge or that park.

**Mr. Fisher** said well, they are apples and oranges. I will address—a couple of the commissioners were exactly right and the commissioners that were on the Infrastructure Subcommittees, I would not recommend putting off projects. I would not recommend putting off projects to fund this if we can avoid it. Lack of investment over the decades is why we're here and so we need to figure out how to increase that investment and sustain it.

The 8th Street Park is what you're referencing. That is not a park project, it is a stormwater project, so that work is proposed to be done on the Stormwater Fund, so not General Fund dollars. The bridges should be repaired and replaced with General Fund dollars. Are there any other questions I missed?

**Commissioner Bynum** said, Mr. Fisher and Budget team, could we name that project something else please? Maybe 8th Street Stormwater Project. It's not a park project and I just feel like it gives a complete misnomer. You know anybody would look at that and say well, why would you put $6M in that little square. It's not a park project and we need to put it where it belongs, we need to call it something else so that we can understand it for what it really is. If I'm not mistaken, it's impacting our brand new Justice Building. Is that a fact? **Mr. Fisher** said it's actually—the plans for the stormwater project are also including the Juvenile Center that we built two years ago. **Mayor Garner** said so that's a key project.

**Commissioner Ramirez** said going back to what Commissioner Johnson was talking about, our ability to hold debt. My question to our Budget team and our Finance team, do we know how much more we can take before we're—I don't even know what to call it, tapped out, before we can't sustain it any longer? I'm just curious. **Ms. Jonscher** said we had, I think, in previous projections that we had shown when we talked about the mill levy, we talked that several years out we were looking at we could potentially look at taking that mill if we needed to. I think it was maybe, I can't remember if it was 2024, 2025, somewhere in there when we looked at that. Probably we need to go back and look at that and put this projection in there.

If we were to just look at debt financing the $3M, you're probably looking at—if we did that over 20 years, you know, which is what we typically finance a capital project over, you're looking at $2K, maybe $250K a year in annual debt service. But, you know, obviously for the full replacement at $40-$60M, that's going to be a much bigger piece that would probably be an impact, I believe. I think we need to go back and look and put that into our forecast and see what that does.

**Commissioner Ramirez** said I think if we could do that and have that information presented maybe as a possibility. I would just like to see what it's like. I wouldn't, as of right now, support it because we already have enough debt on our—under our belt, but just to see the options that are out there. Again, as the Mayor always said, so that we have the full picture so that we can make a better, more informed decision. I think having that forecast just to see what it looks like.

**Commissioner Stites** asked, is the 8$^{th}$ Street Stormwater Project, are those ARPA dollars County or City? (**Someone** was inaudible) **Commissioner Stites** said the ARPA dollars are—(**Someone** was inaudible). **Commissioner Stites** said I don't know, I'm asking. I believe they are in ARPA. I was under the impression that they are under ARPA. Am I right? **Mr. Lindsey** said yeah they are out of the—**Commissioner Stites** asked, are they out of the County side or out of the City side? (**Someone** was inaudible.) **Commissioner Stites** said so it's a City—**Mr. Lindsey** said I don't know if it's City or—so, we have the ARPA combined, so I don't know if it's City or County. **Commissioner Stites** said the $6M that we are saying that is allocated to go to the 8th Street Park, renamed 8th Street Stormwater Project, how are we paying for it? Is it out of the ARPA, which I believe that it is, I just got confirmation that it is and then is it out of the ARPA County dollars or out of the City ARPA dollars? **Ms. Jonscher** said I think that should be the ARPA City dollars. We'll confirm that.

**Commissioner Burroughs** said, staff, we have a 17% ending balance in our two-month reserves. Didn't we make a policy change here, a handful of years back, to have a one-month emergency reserve also? **Ms. Jonscher** said that's included in the policy, yes. The 17% is the two-month minimum and then the emergency reserve was an additional month. It wasn't—I don't think it was set that was going to be a new minimum, but we were working toward trying to get to that 25%, but 17 is the minimum. **Commissioner Burroughs** asked, how much by dollars are we talking about in the emergency reserves? Do we know how much money is in that additional 30 days or is the 17% counting the additional 30 days? I'm trying to find a separation here because we have a 17% ending balance, but I thought I heard you state that was two-month reserves, but if I remember correctly, this Commission has pushed for an additional 30-day emergency reserve. **Ms. Jonscher** said right now what we have built in there is we had 13—we were showing a $13M fund balance and that was the 17%. Let me see what that would be. **Commissioner Burroughs** said we don't have a 90-day reserve then.

**Mr. Lindsey** said it will be an additional $6.5M. **Commissioner Burroughs** said $6.5M and I guess maybe I'm not posing my question properly. It was my understanding as a commissioner that we had reserves for two-months funding and we were building a third month. Have we not completed that third month funding and classified it as an emergency fund? **Ms. Jonscher** said no, we have not. **Commissioner Burroughs** said okay.

**Mayor Garner** asked, do any other commissioners want to weigh in on this topic? I guess my takeaway, I don't want to speak for Commissioner Kane, but the takeaway is that going along with Commissioner Ramirez, the Commission would like to see what these options look like so they can make a better informed decision with that information.

**Commissioner Kane** said let's try that and see what we come up with. If we can't live with it, we'll do something else. We just need to know we need to fix the bridge.

**Mayor Garner** asked, Administrator Harrison-Lee, how soon can we get something back to the Commission so they can at least digest this information and then come back and give some clear direction on where this Commission would like to go? **Ms. Harrison-Lee** said we'll start to pull together some options for you tomorrow. We'll probably want to send those to you ahead of waiting for the next meeting so that you can look at them. Ideally, I'm thinking that I would like to probably get feedback from the Commission before we get to our next meeting on what you would like to do with those. We'll get you something next week and then arrange to get your feedback and instead of replying all if you could just reply directly to me. I want to keep our Council happy. **Mayor Garner** said I'll turn it back over to our presenters.

CONSOLIDATED GENERAL
Budget Impacts

Department Functional Areas Impacts

- Largest increases occurring in Public Safety with new Fire and Sheriff labor agreement impacts & personnel shift from EMS Fund
- Community Services increases are primarily due to funding enhancement to Parks & Rec and additional URBN Transit service impacts

Account Type Impacts

- Higher vacancy rates and reduced budget projections for out -of-contract labor agreements assist with offsetting 4% COLA and 7% health increases
- Capital and Commodities increasing with increasing funding towards deferred needs and market inflationary increases

| Department Function | 2022 Original | 2023 Proposed | Change | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Safety | $ 144,834,029 | $158,892,376 | $14,058,347 | 9.71% |
| Community Services | $ 33,951,141 | $ 37,194,341 | $ 3,243,201 | 9.55% |
| General Government | $ 31,278,268 | $ 33,331,631 | $ 2,053,363 | 6.56% |
| Judicial Services | $ 11,403,344 | $ 11,800,110 | $ 396,766 | 3.48% |
| Mayor and Commission | $ 1,103,907 | $ 1,206,026 | $ 102,119 | 9.25% |
| Other Programs | $ 1,467,407 | $ 1,527,001 | $ 59,594 | 4.06% |
| Public Works | $ 22,572,916 | $ 15,216,721 | $ (7,356,194 | -32.59% |
| Internal Service | $ 11,293,474 | $ (924,783) | $(12,218,257 | -108.19% |
| Grand Total | $257,904,486 | $258,243,425 | $ 338,939 | 0.13% |

| Account Type | 2022 Original | 2023 Proposed | Change | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 51- Personnel Costs | $ 177,916,412 | $ 181,700,000 | $ 3,783,588 | 2.13% |
| 54 - Capital Outlay | $ 6,308,852 | $ 8,690,963 | $ 2,382,111 | 37.76% |
| 53 - Commodities | $ 6,043,270 | $ 7,040,473 | $ 997,203 | 16.50% |
| 58 - Reserves | $ 630,051 | $ 775,051 | $ 145,000 | 23.01% |
| 55 - Grants, Claims, Shared Revenue | $ 7,219,093 | $ 6,996,168 | $ (222,925) | -3.09% |
| 56 - Debt Service | $ 11,046,623 | $ 10,479,824 | $ (566,799) | -5.13% |
| 57 - Nonexpense Items | $ 3,075,289 | $ 2,338,608 | $ (736,681) | -23.95% |
| 52 - Contractual Services | $ 45,664,897 | $ 40,222,338 | $ (5,442,559) | -11.92% |
| Grand Total | $ 257,904,486 | $ 258,243,425 | $ 338,939 | 0.13% |

2023 Unified Government PROPOSED Budget

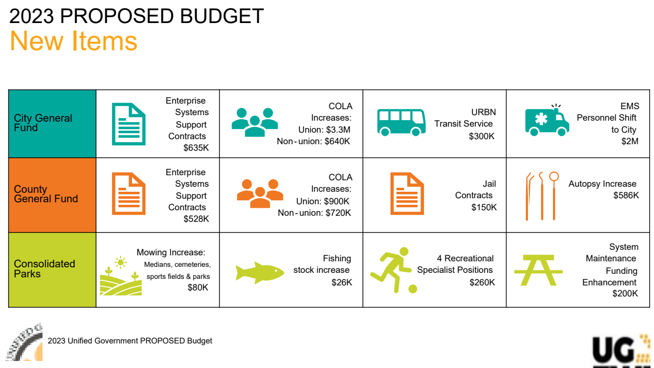
**Mr. Lindsey** said the current view on the screen is our Consolidated General Fund. What we're displaying here are budget impacts by department functional areas and also account type impacts. One of the things I'll zone in on, this is for the Consolidated General Fund and our 2023 Proposed Budget is a $258M budget and last year it was a $257M budget, so we can see we have a 13th of a percent increase in that budget. But that also does include that we moved the Solid Waste Fund out of there to just kind of give you all that we really haven't had a whole lot of growth here and what we've done is by department function shown where the growth that we have, we're showing where it's at so we can see—we almost have like 10% in Public Safety and also Community Services. Then, our General Government had almost a 7% growth, but then we did have some departments that did have some drop-offs and this drop-off here is where we moved out the Solid Waste Fund.

Next, down here at the bottom, we have our account type impacts and we see we have a personnel cost that just grew at 2%. One of the reasons we are able to get away with that is because of the vacancy rate we're running. We do have higher personnel costs within—our COLA is a 4% increase and our health insurance, like a 7% increase, but with the vacancy rates that we've been running, we have been able to keep those in check and have not much growth, but we do see where our Capital Outlay, we have increased there. Also, Commodities, just due to fuel and utility costs being more for us. We do have increases there, but all the other categories have been lower.

One thing we thought it was important just to show here, they've been questioned, like where some of our funding is going and we just kind of wanted to show that you see 0.13% increase, so we don't have much of an increase in our County General Fund and our City General Fund and also our Consolidated Parks Fund. Then, this breaks out just our categories, our cost categories aren't really growing that much and so you see some of them are actually going down.

**Commissioner Burroughs** said, Reggie, I'm looking at line number 53, Commodities. I see an increase of almost a million dollars in commodity costs. What kind of commodity costs are we including in there that would increase for a million dollar increase in one year? **Mr. Lindsey** said we have fuel that we have to pay for and then we also have natural gas costs for our buildings that we have to pay for. Then, not all of our buildings are serviced by BPU, so we do have to pay some electricity in some of our buildings and the costs have definitely gone up a lot. So, those are what we're reflecting there. **Commissioner Burroughs** said okay.

**Commissioner Johnson** said I just wanted to follow up on Commissioner Burroughs, can you tell us by how much in terms of dollars and what percent fueling and things of that nature have gone up? I'm thinking I heard somebody say somewhere around 25-30%. Is that a myth or is that something that's true? **Mr. Lindsey** said I think for fuel we have like a 35% increase and then natural gas costs have spiked and it's maybe somewhere around 40% or so.




**Mr. Lindsey** said here we have just some of the new items that are in our 2023 Proposed Budget for our Consolidated General Fund. The top row we have the City General Fund. Middle, we have County General Fund and then Consolidated Parks. Some of the new funding we have is an amount of $630K for Enterprise Systems Support Contracts. We also have COLA increases, $3.3M for Union and Non-union $640K. We also have new Transit Service that we'll be providing that the new Urban Outfitters is going to open, but we did have an offset for revenue for this. Also, we did shift EMS Personnel over into the City General Fund in the amount of $2M.

Going down into the County General Fund, we did also have the Enterprise System Support Contracts on the County side also in the amount of $528K. We also had COLA impacts, Union $900K and Non-union $720K. Also, Jail Contracts are increasing $150K and then our Autopsy increased for 2022 and 2023 for $586K.

Related to increases because of like fuel going up, our mowing contracts have increased $80K. Also, fishing, increasing the stocks, $26K. We're hiring four new positions in the Consolidated Parks Fund which amounted to $260K and then we have System Maintenance Funding, just across the board that'll allow for more programming and also for more features within our Parks & Rec system and then also community centers will be open more hours.

The next thing that we had planned to do was go through changes in the Capital Projects from when we first presented it to the Commission back in May. Before we move on, I know, Mayor Garner, you had a question about what was causing the issues within the City General Fund. I'll just kind of go back to the first slide that Michael Peterson, our Assistant Budget Director, covered when we first started out and it's the Tale of Two Different Budgets.

One of the real things just going on in the City General Fund is that the revenue growth is not there. We do have revenue growth on the County side of the books, but as far as revenue growth on the City side, the revenue growth is not there and just our cost increases that we are experiencing are not keeping pace with the expense side. I would say that is the main problem or the main issue that we have over the City General Fund.

**Mayor Garner** asked, is that personnel cost? Is that what's driving that? **Mr. Lindsey** said personnel cost is definitely a part of it, but we have had where we have had cost increases. Also, we've had a number of projects just across the board, construction projects that we've had to shift funding around for, but the steady growth in just maintaining personnel, it does impact it. You have COLAs that we need to give employees and then also health insurance benefits that we provide every year. Those are a constant growth that are definitely outpacing the revenues that we have coming in.

**Mr. Peterson** said one of the other big factors that we saw on this slide is the increase in Capital, so historically we have not budgeted Capital at the level that we need to fund our infrastructure, so we've been trying to gradually increase that level of Capital investment and part of that is in the trend, not the 25%, but part of that increase is in the trend. So, if we're really going to commit to adequately funding our Capital needs, then that is not going to keep pace with our current revenue structure.

**Commissioner Townsend** asked, Mr. Lindsey, what is the—under KCK, what is meant by the stable source of revenue replaced with volatile source of revenue. I mean I know what the language means, but where is that coming from? What is the instability here and what's the stability that is going on the downward track. What does that involve? **Mr. Lindsey** said I'll let Michael Peterson take that. He put this slide together.

**Mr. Peterson** said typically property values, they're valued on an annual basis based on whatever the market does that year and so the value growth tends to be fairly consistent over time with the exception of something like the 2008 recession, which was a much bigger impact. What you can see on the County side is we typically have hovered around a 3-6% growth each year, so we did not adjust property tax mill rates in the County General Fund, so that's just purely the impact of valuation increases and sales tax increases and the sales tax is only about 10% of the County General Fund.

On the City side we dropped our mill rate by 20% with the 6 mill reduction for the City General Fund and so what that did is it put much more of an emphasis on sales tax and sales tax is much more volatile in that as soon as the economy changes for the good or for the bad, we'll immediately see an impact on the sales tax revenue that comes in and we can't really plan for that.

**Commissioner Townsend** said I hear you, but I guess it's all the up and down and the colors that are throwing me off. So, basically, we're still reliant for the most part on property taxes. **Mr. Peterson** said on the City General Fund side, if I remember correctly, I think the property taxes is only about 18 or 20%, so sales tax is about 30% of that revenue now. On the County side we're 60%, 60% property tax, 10% sales tax. On the City side we're 30% sales tax, 20% property tax, so it's swapped.

**Ms. Jonscher** said if you have a larger change in the sales tax, it's going to—revenue it's going to affect the City General Fund more than it's going to affect the County General Fund. **Commissioner Townsend** said yeah, and then with COVID over the last couple of years, that certainly decreased people's incentive and ability to go out and buy whatever and that's going to decrease sales tax. So I see that, but considering what we heard this past Monday meeting, you know dollars are going up because the property values are going up.

**Commissioner Johnson** said it's kind of a dance there between valuations and mill levy decisions, so we looked at, and I think you said it right, I know you said it right, the 21% decrease was based on the fact that we did 6 mills over three years. The thing that we have to realize is the decisions we make today are not going—we won't see that today. We won't see it for the next year or two or three and that's kind of where saying 21% decrease in mills resulting in flat revenues until 2021 and I think that's amazing even in light of that because we had COVID.

The fact that we were able to see an increase in 2021, I think, you know now we're dealing with the fact that we are seeing some property rate increases and that's what the citizens are not happy about that. The reality is that they did see some decreases, they did see some flattening in years when we don't—nobody's going to come up here and say I thank you for keeping my property taxes stable over the past year or two, but you know it is what it is.

As we look at decision relative to this budget, I say the same thing. If we make a decision to lower the mill, you have to understand that the budget may not reflect that until the next year or two depending on the economy. I don't think that property value is going to continue to go up as much as they are right now, but that would be speculating on my end, so I think I'm going to get back into my skis from way out there. I'm just saying we have to be mindful of the decisions that we make. We don't see immediate response in the market or on the financial statements because there's so many factors involved in that and I really appreciate that screen right there.

**Mayor Garner** said, Mr. Lindsey, if you can take us to the slide that shows up to 2027, that bar chart that's what my final question was based on. **Mr. Lindsey** asked, the City General Fund. **Mayor Garner** said no. It was the one where we basically—the bar chart by 2027 we were negative. Yes, that one. The three of you that are there and I'm not trying to put you on the spot, but I know that we all got to make some hard decisions, that downward trend, based on you all's expertise, and looking at these financials, what are some of the hard decisions that you all would recommend this Commission take in regards to that to maybe stabilize that trend so we don't end up below that line in 2027?

**Mr. Lindsey** said we definitely would have to reduce services somehow. Just to kind of give you a background, one of the things that we have been doing with the City General Fund, we have had to make room to have increases for employees and deal with health insurance costs and things like that. We have had to have cuts only in the City General Fund for five to seven years and also move funding out as it relates to other funds that actually had a function for the services that were being offered. I mean it definitely would have to be like reducing some services. I'll let Michael and Debbie also provide their input.

**Ms. Jonscher** said I agree with Reggie that if the revenues are not going to grow, we don't continue to grow our revenues, if we don't have any other revenue to cut, doesn't come in the only other option is to cut services or cut expenses to be able to get us into balance so that our revenues and our expenses are not exceeding our revenues.

**Mr. Lindsey** said it doesn't necessarily mean we have to wholly cut out a service, it may just be a service reduction in some areas. **Ms. Jonscher** said or possibly even look at finding efficiencies. Is there a way to do something—is the way we're doing it the best way to do it, is it costing us more to provide the service ourself versus contracting it out. Those are all different things. I know those things have been looked at before.

**Mr. Lindsey** said also long-range intermediate. I mean some of the things that Commissioner Davis and County Administrator Cheryl talked about finding ways to increase revenue through economic development and other means. That is definitely something we have room to concentrate on also.

**Commissioner Johnson** said when you talk about economic development, how is that reflected in the budget or the forecast going forward. Is there a certain percentage that we're putting out there for economic development. How are we kind of building that into the overall forecast for the years going out? **Mr. Lindsey** said currently we don't have—I mean we do have growth that we're expecting from sales tax, things like that. Also, we do have revenue growth from residential appraisals and commercial appraisals that we currently have, but just new economic development growth, I don't know Debbie, what are you thinking? **Ms. Jonscher** said if we know that a new project is coming on, we can build that in, but if we don't know of any new project that's going to come on for next year, we wouldn't build it in. If we had something right now that we knew was going to happen in two or three years, we might build it into the long-range forecast, but we would not build it in if we weren't sure that it was going to come online.

**Commissioner Johnson** said County Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee has already said, and we've talked around the table economic development, economic development, economic development and if we're really serious about economic development, you know, I'm trying to tiptoe through here, but you got to be competitive. You've got to be competitive with the marketplace if you want to get economic development projects in Wyandotte County. I mean, with all due respect, Mayor, incentives is the way by which we do that. I think we have to be strategic and wise about how we do it.

We need to be mindful that we want to leverage that if it's out west towards the east side and there are other things that can be done that are above my pay grade, so to speak. We are going to have to present ourselves very competitive, in some cases overly competitive in order to bring the level of business that we need in to be able to pay the higher that's going to actually cause this model to shift. I know Interim Administrator Harrison-Lee is working on a strategic plan for that, I'm excited about that, but I think that is something that's going to help us around the table because if we're just going to be talking about what can we cut, you can only cut so far. You know we can only go into the fund balance so far, we can only borrow so much and I think we're already there right now, so economic development is our way forward. I better stop before I get in trouble.

**Commissioner Stites** said I'm going to back up and kind of piggyback off what Commissioner Johnson just said. I will tell you that when these developers, I deal with them every single day, when they look at our mill levy and they see our mill levy, it's a direct turnoff. I talk to them and they're like man we can't go there. We can head south. Your taxes are too high. So, as we sit here and talk about how we're moving forward with our—I mean we can throw incentives out there, but at the end of the day that mill levy directly affects development in our city, county.

One of the things—I go back to this bridge thinking about how we fund this bridge. I know we've got to figure it out. We had talked, and I went back to my notes, about the funded positions that we carry within the Police Department and the Fire Department, well through the County and the City side and we have funded positions right now, and I'm not saying that I'm looking here to cut any positions. I'm just talking temporarily how many we carry on the books, is there money in that area that would allow us to do this bridge repair in the tune of 1.6 to 3.3 and I'm looking back at my notes and I'm trying to make sense of it right now, but it looks like we had 124 unfunded positions—or open positions on the County side and we're funding 37 of them, so we're carrying 37. What I'm saying is, I'm not saying we get rid of them all because we are going to hire some and I'm thinking that there was 124 on the City side also, which is kind of ironic that they match, and 69 of them are on the Police Department. We're not going to hire 69 policemen in this next year, I promise you, we're not. So, is it possible for us and I don't know what those dollars look like, but could we and I'm not saying I'm advocating for reduction in our Police or our Fire or any positions. I'm just saying the amount that we carry on the books today to fund this bridge repair, what would that look like? If we cut the 37 in half and the 69 in half, because that's probably more realistic as to what we think that we could probably get hired in the next year. I don't know if we have ever hired 69 policemen in one year, so maybe we can use that and I don't know what that reduction in number looks like as far as a dollar amount.

**Mayor Garner** asked, was that a question? **Commissioner Stites** said I'm trying to find out what that looks like in a dollar amount. What would that look like on those funded positions cut in half, what kind of dollars are we talking about? **Mr. Lindsey** said the Police positions is 69—I know we had an in-depth conversation about a couple weeks ago, but I want to say that the whole 69 they weren't funded, but they were. There are 124 vacants within the City General Fund and then there was an amount that we do have funded and I can't remember. **Commissioner Stites** said I think I have maybe found it. I think it's 56 on the City side, 37 on the County side, which is what I think I've just identified which looks like on the City side 2.3 mills and on the County side 2.6 mills. I know we're not talking about mills today, we're talking about dollars, but if you just talk about 2.6 and what that equates to in a mill, a mill on the City side is what, $1.7M okay times two, just doing a little short math, that's $3.4M. We've kind of just identified some money to get our bridge repaired.

**Commissioner Townsend** said I like the way my colleague is thinking about that, but I'm looking at the $4.3M deficit we have in the City fund right now. My point is, I would like to see as the Commission has charged Madam Administrator and staff to come back and look at some other funding sources too because I don't know how else we could decrease that red in the City funds. I like the idea about the project and getting it funded. I'm also cautious when staff comes back with options. I hear in my head what—is he gone, no, there's Mr. Fisher, his recommendation that we not look at some of the CMIPs. That's what's got us to the situation before. We can put them in, but I guess I'm not favoring that, but if we're looking at funded, but vacant positions, and I give the visual that the money is there in the budget, but the seats are not filled yet. I see that as a way to decrease our $4.3M deficit that we have.

That's the other part to the equation that since Commissioner Johnson was tiptoeing, to use his term, that's the other part of it, you know, taking those expenses and looking at where we're really expending money right now and that's in personnel services.

**Commissioner Burroughs** said this is something that was brought up early on during our budget discussion and I think it's morphed into that we were looking at cutting personnel and that's not what this was about. I appreciate my fellow colleague bringing it up and you're absolutely right, it was 124 in each, City and County, 42 of those were in Police, 25 were in Fire, but it wasn't broke out as—we had 56 funded as you stated on the KCK side, 37 funded on the County side. If we were to take half of those and I believe the average salary was figured at $95K that was presented to us is $4.3M in savings. If we took and just cut half of those vacant positions that are presently funded, if we're going to hire 37 people or 56 people within the next three months, then it would be a moot point to do this, but if we're not going to be able to, there's additional dollars moving forward. We're not eliminating all the positions, we're not telling people where we need to go within the budget and have it brought to us as to what positions are being funding in what departments and make a decision as to which half we are going to pull back for a year or two to meet the funding necessary to meet the bridge and to keep from taking out of our ending balance for long-term stability.

I still say that is the less painful way to go. These are individuals that haven't been hired yet, we're not impacting present personnel and I really am remiss to think that when this subject got brought up it was going around that we were looking to cut personnel. Whoever started that rumor, you're doing a great disservice to the employees here because that is not what the Commission stated. We were looking at the vacant positions that haven't been hired, positions that are out there. That's what we were looking at, not to come in and start cutting employees because that's the last thing we want to see happen. It serves none of us to do that.

So, I like this and if it's in form of a motion, I would even advance it even a little further that we take action on at least remedying some of the financial situations we are in tonight in reference to the bridge and additional dollars needed to balance the budget.

**Commissioner Townsend** said I would prefer to see that we go on as recommended earlier and let staff, through the Interim Administrator, come back with the multiple options that have been discussed tonight and maybe some others without taking immediate action right here, act in haste repent at leisure. I am for finding money to get the bridge done, you know, the temporary repair, but I would like to see those options explored and let staff come back with that.

**Ms. Harrison-Lee** said I want to provide some clarity on the vacancy and how these vacant positions and the funding and what's really available in terms of funding, so I'm going to turn to our Assistant County Administrator Alan Howze to kind of speak to that component and provide some clarity on funding that is available with vacancies.

**Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator,** said I think as we talked about at our last budget workshop in terms of the vacancy rate the budget is built on an assumed vacancy rate that follows the trends in the organization. That doesn't move necessarily all that much, but over time it can move depending on how the economy and how easy it is to get employees or how challenging it is in the market. So, our vacancy rate in our budget assumes a vacancy rate that is already built in and it's around, say, 8%, 10%. So, we assume in the budget that there are 10% of positions that won't get filled during the course of the year, so we have more positions on the books than we actually have dollars to fund them all because we know that we're never going to be fully employed for 365 days a year.

I think what we're hearing perhaps from the Commission is, can you push up on the vacancy rate in order to kind of hold back on positions in order to free up sort of additional cash to fund the bridge or other priorities and the answer is we can. As management we can kind of turn that dial to a degree. We did it, for example, during COVID when we kind of really clamped down on hiring and that does show up in the bottom line. It kind of shows up in some of those numbers that we were seeing earlier tonight, but it does also have organizational and work impacts because if somebody's not in that position, ultimately that work is not going to get done. We can adjust the vacancy rate. We can use that as a tool to kind of manage within the organization, but also just knowing that it has other medium-term impacts within the community.

**Mayor Garner** said just circle back on the original topic and I'll let our Administrator weigh in as well. I appreciate the comments by Commissioner Johnson and I do agree we have to be intentional with economic development. That's one thing I've been saying. I think that's the partial way out of our financial situation is really focusing on economic development and I know you all have heard me say it and I just hate to keep repeating myself, but when you talk about being intentional with incentives, I believe we do need incentives to attract developers here. They just have to be responsible and that's just my opinion.

When you look at some of the agreements that have been done, I asked our Economic Development Advisor to just provide what's the return on investment and what's the cost of benefit analysis for our residents in Wyandotte County. That's something that we really need to pay attention to when we talk about these types of development incentives to some of these developers, especially the larger ones that may not need as much, especially in areas where we have a lot more leverage because the land may be valuable by its geographic location as opposed to areas that may not be as desirable. And we may want to offer enhanced incentives to get the types of growth opportunities that we know we need to expand our tax base bringing the residentials, the brick and mortar businesses, the big and small that can provide jobs as well as anchor residents right here in Wyandotte County and, hopefully, attract new residents and business opportunities to Wyandotte

County because that's really part of this conversation and I know staff somewhat hit on it, our revenues are stagnant and we're not bringing in a lot of money. How do we bring in money, we bring it in with economic development. So, if I had a call to action for all of us is that we really focus on economic development for Wyandotte County and not just east of—not just west of 55th but east as well and bring that balance and look at some of these great opportunities.

I can tell you just talking to LaVert Murray, Mr. Murray is really taking a hard look at this along with staff, Katherine Carttar, Gunnar Hand and trying to work with them. I've been having conversations with our Administrator and some of you as well on really trying to ramp up identifying some of these bright spots for opportunities for economic development and we've identified a few of those. For example, tomorrow Mr. Murray has put together a coalition or delegation, I should say, of individuals that are trying to court a developer over to Commission McKiernan's district to, hopefully, enhance possibly, at least have that conversation how we can enhance and grow the Rock Island Bridge development in that entire area.

Looking in Commissioner Davis's district with Indian Springs, a valuable opportunity there. Commissioner Johnson's district, when you talk about downtown, as well as opportunities that we know exist from certain developers' interests in Argentine, Rosedale, and Armourdale and then the continued interests that we get outside in Village West. I think we just need to really have a strategic plan countywide when it comes to economic development and I know our Administrator has talked about that, she's pushed that, I support that. I think our way out of this long-term has to be a hard look at how best to bring in a type of good services, resources, and economic development opportunities that are going to expand our tax dollars and also provide, not just providing goods and service, but the jobs that can really cause a resurge in Wyandotte County. Administrator, do you want to piggyback off that?

**Ms. Harrison-Lee** said if there's any recommendation, the recommendation would be that you can't cut your way out of this, you have to grow your way out. We talked about previously in one of the presentations that residential doesn't pay its way. It doesn't pay its way when the homes are a million dollars, so it doesn't pay its way at $150K. The value of the mill that we presented earlier, we saw the value of the mill in various counties and so when you look at the value of the mill, what we're seeing is the value of the mill is higher in those counties in Kansas that has an appropriate balance of residential and non-residential growth, mainly commercial, so that we're getting that high dollar value type of economic development work.

In order to be competitive, we have to look at the ease of development and look at how timely developers can get through our process, look at our mill, look at our incentives, and looking at projects that can serve or a project that can serve as a catalyst for additional development. The strategic plan will absolutely be a start in that direction. The second part of that will be kind of the implementation action plan that looks at incentives and that's looking beyond just the state incentives, but looking at what we can do with local dollars to be able to generate development, but this is not cutting your way, this is growing your way.

**Commissioner Stites** said, County Administrator Lee, I appreciate what you said and I agree that we're not going to be able to cut our way out of this, but just like a cut, you have to stop the bleeding before you start putting stitches in. I agree with you and I will tell you, again, I'm going to go back to what I said about development and developers, I deal with them every single day. I'm not wanting to talk negatively about a single department, but our process of getting through from application to permit is terrible. I mean terrible. There are developers I know firsthand that have walked away from Wyandotte County because they said of the slow process that it takes and that they're being told, well, we can get—we can schedule a meeting in three to four months. Well, you know what, developers don't have that kind of time to wait.

If we want to sit and talk about how we increase economic development, which equates to sales tax dollars, which equates to bailing ourselves out of this, we cannot have departments slowing us down and slowing that process down. We have to streamline it. I have said for many years, back when I was on the Schlitterbahn Development Team and making recommendations to commissioners back then, at the end of a project we should have a checklist that's handed out to those developers, what did you like, what did you not like, how did it go, where was it fast, where was it slow, what would you change, how would you address this because there's a grading system there. That's how we take it. Just like you all, you all get evaluations at your jobs, our employees get evaluations. Well, where's the evaluations on a project. To answer the question, there's not one.

If we would take that information and we would—I'm not saying cut jobs or fire people, but maybe it's just education or how do we streamline it to make it where development is that people want to come here. We can't have a high mill levy and bad customer service and think that we're going to attract economic development.

**Mayor Garner** said thank you commissioners and that's a good comment and I know that Commissioner Johnson is actually the Chair of a committee or task force that's looking at that and working and they're doing some hard work and some good work. I've been following what they're doing to see how we can remove a lot of the bureaucracy, streamline the process that will allow for ideas to shovel ready to happen pretty quick. The goal I know they're working on is really to try and be the leader in the metro of being the place to do business because it is easy to do business and I agree with you, we don't talk a lot of it, but Commissioner Stites said you know customer service has to be a part of that because you can streamline the process, but if your customer service is raggedy, I'm still not going to want to do business. Some of that is accountability as well and so I think those three components coming together along with the strategic plan and really courting the right developers to our Economic Development Director.

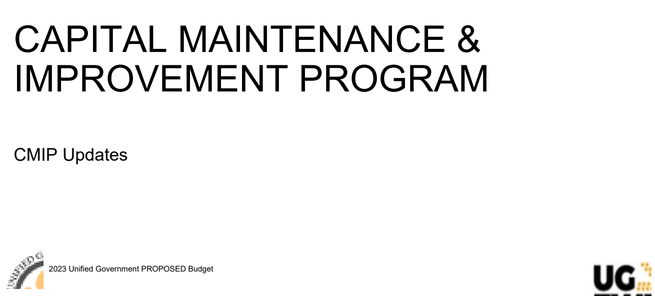
I think the future is bright in that regard because Wyandotte County, how we're positioned just in the metro, and we've heard this before, we're centrally located, we've got great access to just anywhere in the metropolitan area. We've got an international airport that's going to come online and when you look at what's going on south, especially in Lenexa, up north, they're pretty much landlocked downtown in Kansas City, Missouri. I believe right now Wyandotte County is well positioned with the value that you get with land to really become the place to do business and I envision just a resurge in Wyandotte County at some point if we can get all these components and work together as a team, all of us, staff, community, Commission, Mayor's Office. I don't need the credit because really we all just want better for folks in Wyandotte County. We want Wyandotte County to be the best place and the first place people consider when they want to think about having a place to live, work and raise a family.

**Commissioner Ramirez** said maybe the Administrator or maybe Commissioner Johnson can answer this. What is another municipality that we could look at so that we can look at on our own personal time study the development process. What other cities are pretty efficient so that I can see—because I know our development process and I would like to see other cities, so I didn't know if you had any suggestions of which cities we could look at or I could personally look at on my own personal time and just review their process? **Commissioner Johnson** said similar size though. **Commissioner Ramirez** said similar size. **Ms. Harrison-Lee** said we can get you something on that. **Commissioner Johnson** said I would say I just was hearing something about like Austin. Austin, Texas, Nashville, Tennessee that are similar sized cities like ours that seem to be very progressive right now and growing. Those are just two that were right off the bat when you asked that question. I was just hearing that a couple days ago, so might look at them to start with and maybe the County Administrator can give you some more clarity on that.

(Mayor Garner was out of the room at 5:48 p.m.)

**Mayor Pro Tem Bynum** asked where are we. Are we moving to the next item because if so, I'm going to give us a 10 minute break. I don't think we made it all the way through your slides, so I want to ask if we are trying to continue? We never even talked about the CMIP pages. (**Someone** was inaudible due to mic not being on). **Mayor Pro Tem Bynum** said okay. Yeah, why don't we do that. We still have another presentation. We just need to be mindful of our time. Come back at three till six.

(**Mayor Garner** reconvened the meeting at 5:57 p.m.)




**Mayor Garner** said if our Finance team, on your presentation, if you can kind of just work through it in the interest of time. You've got a hard 15 minutes, so if you can just walk with us into it, so we can get to our next presentation. I know we have other individuals that need to get on deck to make their presentations as well, so thank you.

**Mr. Lindsey** said what we're going to go through is a Capital Maintenance and Improvement Program, CMIP Updates. We had a CMIP as a whole Commission meeting back in May and so there have been some changes to the CMIP since then and we want to highlight those changes.

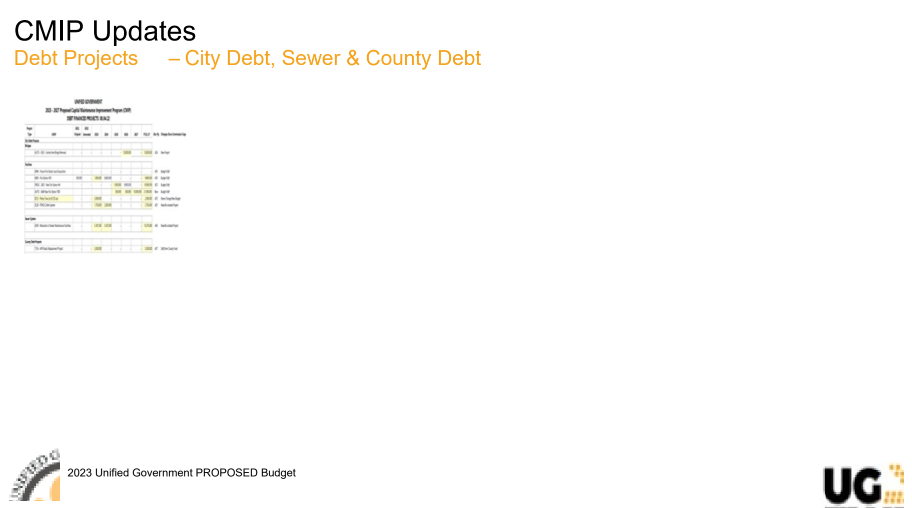

We can see here on the screen we have a CMIP schedule as it kind of looks in the budget document and kind of what you have going across the top, you have the fund and the department and the CMIP project's name and then you have the 5-Year CMIP schedule. So, I'll just kind of talk through over here, we have the changes and the pages that they're on. The first thing that we have is we have \$7M that was not in the budget document or not in the CMIP we presented you back in May. This is the \$7M that we have set-aside for ARPA funding and it is in the City General Fund. All these projects right here in this area are in the City General Fund and that \$7M being one of them.

Also, we have this project down here, which is E-Citation, which is in the Technology Department. The dollar amount had dropped on this particular CMIP project and then here we have \$600K that was set-aside for the Turner Fire Station. The cost on the Turner Fire Station increased by \$2.1M and we have funding in the amount of \$600K in the City General Fund and there's funding in other funds that don't exactly show up here that we will end up seeing. We also have the Annual Pavement Preservation. We have an additional \$1.2M in the City General Fund. This is part of the 25% increase that we have in Pavement Preservation across the budget. It ends up being like \$2.1M just across the board. The other portion is in Special Street & Highway Fund.

Here we have some park projects that did not get captured, so this section right here starts the Parks section and basically what we have are about three new projects being the Park Sidewalk & Trail Improvements, Pickleball Courts out in Wyandotte Lake, and then Neighborhood Park Improvements.

**Commissioner Johnson** said just quickly, where's the column for 2023. I thought it was a stupid question, but never mind, astute, I'm sorry. You need to enunciate. **Mr. Lindsey** said somehow it has disappeared. Sorry. **Ms. Jonscher** said we can send out revised ones when we unhide the column.

**Mayor Garner** said we need to move on. If you can get that information back. **Mr. Lindsey** said I will do that. **Mayor Garner** said that would be great. If you could go to page 22 and start there and just go from there. **Ms. Jonscher** said we're having a little trouble with the slides.




**Mr. Lindsey** said this particular slide is our Debt Projects. The first one we have is $10M that was not in the schedule when we first presented it to you all. When we put this in the budget document back when we presented the budget on August 4th we had an estimate of $10M, so now that estimate has definitely changed, but what was in there on August 4th was a different change from when it was presented to you back in May. Some of the other changes include—one of the things we had to do with building new fire stations with our debt authority, we had to combine land purchases and so you see up here all the land purchases. Lines are vacant, so we had like a half million dollars in land purchases for 2023 and it was combined into this line right here and then we had another million dollars that was for land purchases for future fire stations and it actually got rolled into the project. It was just something we had to do as a technicality, so that was the change there. It was also the case here for this fire station, the third one.

We also have the Police Tow Lot which had a $2M cost increase and we were able to find funding from another project that the Police Department had and that original project was like $3.7M with the chiller system at the Police Headquarters. We took $2M from there, it was like $3.7M project at first and we moved $2M of it to 2024.

We also have the Sewer Maintenance Facility where cost went up $10.3M and we built that cost into—across two years in 2023 and 2024. Then, also down here at the bottom we have our Radio Project that is going across the county. Originally, it was in the County General Fund. It spread across five years for $3M, so we found a way to value engineer it and the cost is going to be $7M now and we're going to pay for it up front and we'll use funding in the County Debt Fund and then also we have funding in our Capital Projects Fund. Then we also have funding in our County General Fund still. That kind of wraps up the debt (inaudible)—the debt for the sewer in the County.

**Ms. Jonscher** said the next two items are just—I wanted to let you know there are some items that we are following up—**Mayor Garner** said we've got a question.

**Commissioner Davis** said my apologies. I didn't want to interrupt. This question either could be for you Reggie, Finance, or Public Works. Has there been any cross-examining between the information that we were given and we paid good money for Ameresco as far as facilities that were like—they were graded at an F meaning either we get rid of them, we off-load them, or we totally renovate them. Has there been any cross-examine between that and our CMIP? **Mr. Lindsey** said when we do go through our CMIP process we do touch on buildings and where they are functionality and things like that, but we have not touched on if we're getting rid of any buildings or anything like that within our CMIP. I know John Kelly, our Buildings & Logistics Director, is here. I don't know if there's anything he may want to say to that. **Commissioner Davis** said that would be helpful.

**John Kelley, Director of Buildings & Logistics,** asked, Commissioner, are you referring to what we just saw here with the few slides on the CMIP for the fire stations and the water maintenance facility and the CSI/tow lot? **Commissioner Davis** said not—I mean that, but just kind of the overall CMIP. I just wondered if there was kind of a cross-examining of what we were told. You know it may not be good to put money towards that. **Mr. Kelly** said those will be being built in the out years to come. We still plan on presenting that to you guys as a full commission, the Tiering Study, that will kind of show as that study is wrapping up more what we're going to be able to do with some of our square footage and analyzing space that we don't need and such. The things that you saw here today, the water maintenance facility, for example, the Water Pollution Plant now is in horrible condition and that was one that was showing to be replaced, so that is one of the spots. CSIs currently at the Police Headquarters facility and it's not adequate for what they do so that's another reason you see them. Their space will be able to be used in other ways at Police Headquarters, but in the future years you will start seeing some of those things that come out of the Ameresco project showing reduce cost.

**Commissioner Davis** said it would be my recommendation that you all kind of look at it now just so that we can kind of get things moving. I just want to make sure we're not throwing money at buildings that we're never going to have the funding to be adequate for and for us to get that information as soon as possible so that can be proven with our dollars.

**Mayor Garner** said I've got a quick question too. I just noticed that the Central Avenue Bridge Removal, I know that—I think the consensus tonight and even in the infrastructure meeting is that we wanted to preserve Central Avenue Bridge or at least look at ways we could do that. I'm seeing that there's $10M and I see removal, removal to me means tear down and I believe that there were some other options there. Mr. Fisher? **Mr. Fisher** said we're hearing loud and clear. I think the best way to look at this is if the UG can't find enough funding to replace that bridge, it will have to come down and it will have to come down in a few years. The liability increases each year, so if the UG does find the funds to replace it, then we replace it, but if not, we got to take it down.

**Mayor Garner** said well, I think that contradicts some of the information out there that we've gotten. Is Mr. Murray still here? I think there are other options out there and, Mr. Fisher, hopefully, if you're not aware, maybe Mr. Murray could bring you up to speed on just as far as some options that Mr. Murray discovered in his research.

**LaVert Murray, Economic Development Advisor in Mayor's Office,** said yes, Mayor, certainly Mr. Fisher is aware. The Benesch Study shows that there are several options for the Central Avenue Bridge and, of course, one option increases or gives you a 10-year life span for about a $6M repair. Of course, that would give you time to pursue other federal funding for complete rebuild, but there are options in that Benesch Study and Mr. Fisher certainly is aware of those.

**Mayor Garner** asked, can you talk about the value. I mean just some of the things you've talked to me about. If we're going to tear a bridge down for $10M, but you can get 10 years out of it for six, just kind of your thoughts on that. **Mr. Murray** said as you know, Mayor, we have met with part of our federal delegation, our legislative team, on this. We know that, for example, Congressman Cleaver, Congresswoman Davids, supports saving that bridge and that's why we looked at that $6M ten-year option because Congressman Cleaver has committed to do everything he can to help the UG and the City save that bridge considering it vital to the CID and to the city of KCK and KCMO. We believe that there are developments in the CID area coming and the Central Avenue area that would also put a greater value on that bridge.

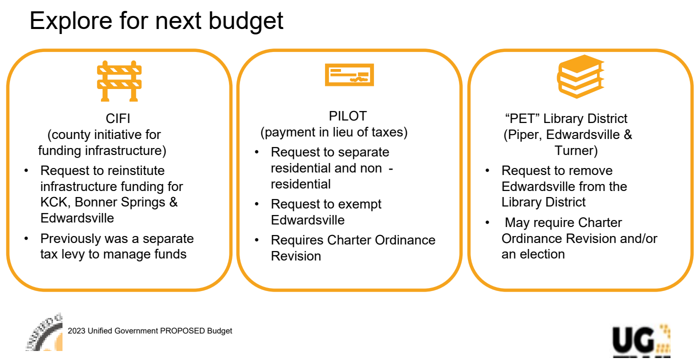
It's certainly my belief that it's worth it to try to salvage it if there is a credible option and, of course, $10M to tear it down, that's fairly expensive if we can save it for 10 years.

COMMISSION FOLLOW -UP

Next Budget & Future Topics

2023 Unified Government PROPOSED Budget

**Ms. Jonscher** said just the follow-up items.




These next two slides are items that have been previously brought up or discussed, so just wanted to let you know that they are not included in this year's budget; however, we are still looking at these items. CIFI was the County Initiative For Funding Infrastructure. That was—we have not included—**Mayor Garner** said we've got a quick question.

**Commissioner Stites** said I'll make it quick. I do want to see them included in this year's budget. **Mayor Garner** said with that, and maybe it's a question better for our Administrator, is that a viable option? Can you include the CIFI responsibly in this year's budget? If so, what does that look like and if not, why not. I think that's a question that really I know the Mayors of Bonner and Edwardsville are interested in and I'm sure that Commissioner Stites and Commissioner Burroughs would be interested in as well.

**Commissioner Stites** said, Mayor, I just want to add to this. I want to be clear on this, the CIFI. It says County, it's KCK also. It's not just Bonner and Edwardsville. It was broken up in lane miles for all three cities, so all three cities received funding out of this one percent County mill that was allocated per lane mile, so this isn't just Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. I want to make that clear. This will benefit all three cities and for street preservation.

Also, we can talk about the PILOT when we get to the PILOT, but that was a program that was in place that was pulled, and I believe that we said in 2008, with no discussion to the other two cities that I'm aware of and I would like to see that put back in place.

**Ms. Harrison-Lee** said we were going to actually speak to the PILOT and the Library District component. **Mayor Garner** said the question about the CIFI, is that a viable option from the Commissioner's request to get in this year's budget and if so, what does that look like and if not, is there a reason as to why just to clear up some curiosity. **Ms. Harrison-Lee** said yes, I'll defer that to our Assistant Finance Director, Debbie.

**Ms. Jonscher** said when this program was previously set up, there was a separate levy set aside for the CIFI Program so that it could be tracked. Currently, right now, with the fact that we've published our budget, we cannot add an additional levy. That would be an increase to—even though it's a set-aside—well, let me think about this. It wasn't—I believe it was a different fund so it was taken out of the County General Fund Levy and it was set up as a new fund. Now that we have published the levies which includes publishing the levy for each individual fund we cannot add another fund at this point based on what we currently published. **Mayor Garner** asked is that mandated by statute or what's causing that limitation? **Ms. Jonscher** said for the approval of the budget because we held the public hearing and we had to publish all the funds and their levies 10 days prior to the public hearing that was held on Monday.

**Ms. Jonscher** said I did also want to note that did include not only the three cities, but it also included Lake Quivira getting a portion of that.

**Commissioner Burroughs** said in reference to Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, was Loring Drive included in that? **Ms. Jonscher** said the payments were issued to the city, so it was the four cities. It was KCK, Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, and Lake Quivira. **Commissioner Burroughs** said I know we had a contractual obligation with Bonner Springs to take care of Loring and last year, if I remember correctly, it is now our responsibility, so I would want to ensure that we give consideration to ensuring that Loring is included in either the—probably the KCK portion now that it's back in our wheelhouse. I just want to make sure that we don't forget that part of our community even though it's really far out west.

**Commissioner Stites** said $1,000 allocated to go towards Loring, that's what I'm reading.

**Mayor Garner** said I hate to prolong this conversation, but this is for our Chief Legal Counsel, some of the questions that I know have been brought up about the legalities of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department providing services to Loring. Normally you have those interlocal agreements. I believe the city of Kansas City, Kansas, the city portion of the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, but this is a County function. I know the Sheriff has jurisdiction. Have we looked and determined the legalities of that as to these city agencies?

Just my concern is, especially for our Public Safety officials, not being invited into that location and it not being in their statutory jurisdictional areas of authority. The big question is, how does that work from a legal standpoint and does that provide legal jeopardy, especially our police officers, they may have to take some type of legal action in that area if they're summoned outside of the Sheriff's Department and what that exposes them to when they're outside of the geographical lines of the city of Kansas City, Kansas.

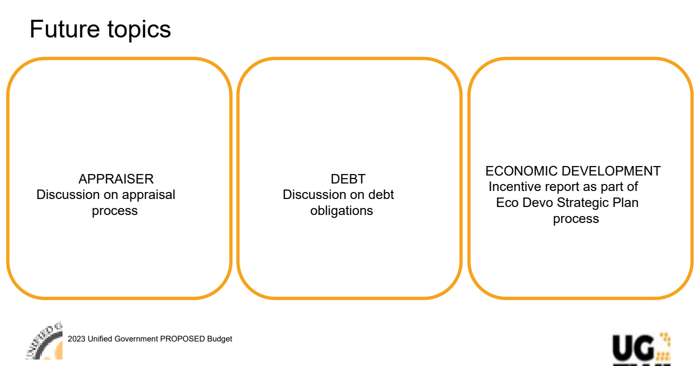
**Misty Brown, Chief Legal Counsel,** said to make sure I understand the question, you're wanting to know about potential legal liability if KCK police officers went into the area of Loring in the right environment, okay. In the past, we had an agreement with Bonner Springs to provide services to Loring. We had an interlocal agreement that has since dissolved. It's a little bit complicated being a Unified Government in that we can't really form a contract with ourselves for a mutual aid agreement since we are one entity. So, as we have—like speaking with the law enforcement piece of it, my understanding is the Sheriff's Department is the one providing the law enforcement services there, but they could request aid from the Police Department as a form of a mutual aid. When we're coming to liability, it could be slightly, you know, we know we would have to explain the relationship if something happened, but I wouldn't think our liability increases one or the other since we are still Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

The Fire Department is the one providing services there. Also, with—you know it's not formally a mutual aid agreement since again it would be contracting with ourselves, but we could also—so they're the ones providing the service since Bonner didn't wish to, so it would be the same as having a contract with the city of Kansas City, Kansas to provide those services. While it's not ideal, I think we are still under the confines of the law in providing these services to Loring, but it is something we should continue to look at and finalize.

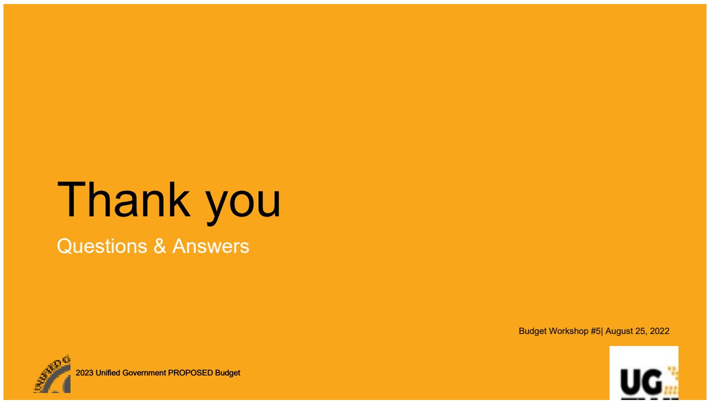
**Mayor Garner** said on that, I just—because we ran into that issue with the Police Department back in the 90's and you just get into these jurisdictional questions. I know of several court cases that came as a result of that, one being criminal. When you don't have those agreements or something from the Attorney General that can at least give us some guidance, maybe that's something we need to look at our State Representative, but you're talking about KCK funds being used for County function and KCK services being used for a County function and that's kind of one of those consolidated unification things where you still have Kansas City, Kansas proper. I just haven't seen that until recently and I think we've kind of opened a pandora box with that. So, if we can get some type of legal guidance or just disposition on it, I think that would be great and I'm just looking out for our Public Safety officials. The legal implications and potential jeopardy that could be there, I just want to make sure that's cleared up. That question is clear because it's just a question right now.

**Ms. Brown** said I think it's a great question, Mayor, and I wasn't speaking to the budgetary impacts of it. I was just merely speaking to the actual folk like law enforcement's provided by the Sheriff. If they ask KCKPD to come and back it up, I think they can certainly come and do that as a Unified Government to provide assistance just like we could provide some temporary assistance across county lines if need be. But I think we can certainly look into it further.

**Ms. Harrison-Lee** said I just wanted to touch base quickly on the PILOT and the Library District that will be—they require Charter Ordinance revisions. I know that you have the subcommittee that's looking at that, so this is something we would anticipate providing some support to those subcommittees to look at those in the future and then I would like to go to the next slide, Future Topics.




There was discussion at the last meeting about the appraisal process, looking at our debt obligations as well as a report of all of the economic development projects. That was one of the items that our consultant also recommended that we look at. So, I just wanted to put those back in front of you and let you know that we will be looking at these items, not as part of this budget, but we will be looking at them to get information to you in a future work session.




Mayor, that concludes the report on the budget and we would like to move to the Station 15 proposal at this time.

**Commissioner Stites** said I have a question. I understand on the CIFI, well, I'm going to back up. I go—I'll start with CIFI. I don't know how much more clear it could have been when we had both Mayors from Bonner Springs and from Edwardsville come in and give a presentation to us and everybody in this room I'm pretty sure was there, and said their needs, their thoughts, what they would like to see in this budget. I said it multiple times and for us to act like it never even happened. I mean I would have liked to know, well hey, Commissioner, you're coming up on the deadline if we want to include this. I wasn't given that opportunity. I think we just, once again, to Bonner Springs and Edwardsville showed how much we really value them and treat them as a partner, Unified Government, I think it's disgraceful.

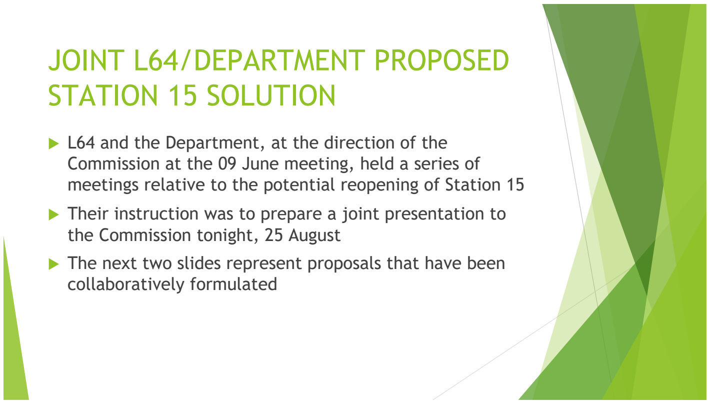
Anyway, when we go to the PILOT, I know that does take a Charter Ordinance change. What I'm asking is that if we could do an intergovernmental transfer of those dollars at the end of the year until this PILOT gets resolved and that doesn't take a Charter Ordinance review. So, I'm requesting that in this budget we do an intergovernmental transfer of the PILOT dollars that Edwardsville and Bonner Springs pay at the end of the year that goes back to them.

**Commissioner Davis** said I won't be long because I know we have other stuff we need to get to. When are we voting on this budget? **Ms. Harrison-Lee** said September 7th, is what we've been asking. **Mr. Lindsey** said 15th. **Commissioner Davis** said September 15th we're voting. Okay, that's ample time. I think we're not all going to agree on what should go in this budget and so for us to land this plane, Cheryl, my request is that you try to meet with us maybe individually and just see what can get six votes to pass, seven probably preferable, because we need to land this plane and we need to get some consensus to see where the majority is at. I don't say that to discredit anything else, but I am slightly worried that we're making some dramatic changes to the budget this late in the game.

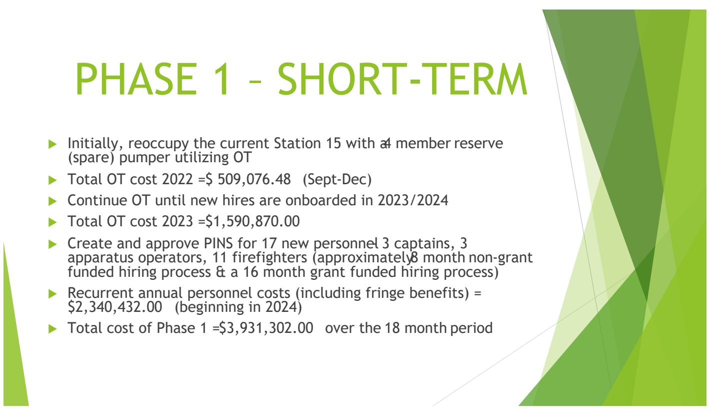
I would also add for next year's budget if we can consider some new revenue in the Transient Guest Sales Tax. That would be amazing because a lot of this is money that's going to be taken out, not a lot of it is going to be money coming in.

**Mayor Garner** said we're going to move on from this. Thank you for the presentation, appreciate you all.

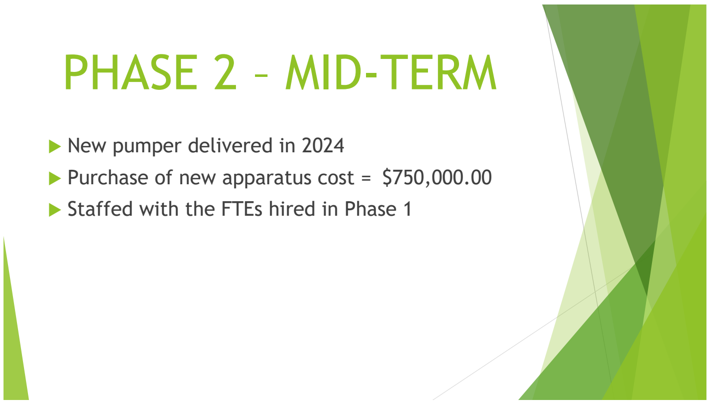

We're going to ask the Fire Command to come forward and the IAFF representative to talk about the proposal for the Fairfax Fire Station which is Station 15. Going back, I know some of the commissioners had gotten together with myself and some staff due to recommendations that we would like to explore, options that this Commission could consider to hopefully, responsibly open this fire station. So, I think we were right at this point and really the call to action was for both the union and management to come together and present those recommendations. You all can take it from here.



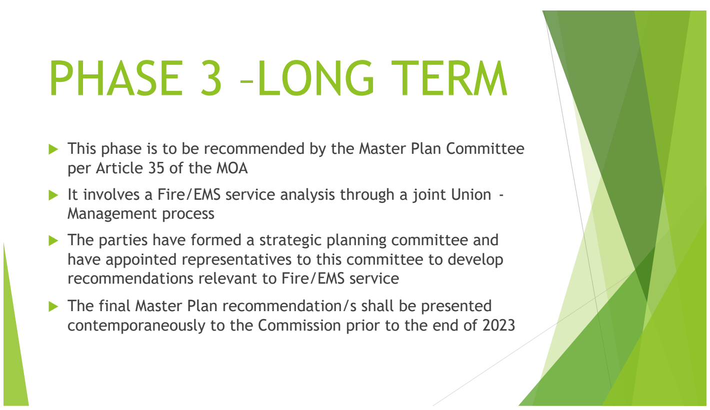

**Mike Callahan, Chief of the Fire Department,** said so on Local 64 in the department at the direction of the Commission on the 09 June meeting, we held a series of meetings relative to the potential reopening of Station 15. The instruction from the Commission was to prepare a joint presentation for tonight, 25 August. The next slide, it says two, but it's more than two, it's three represent proposals that have been collaboratively formulated.




Phase 1, Short-Term, we initially reoccupy the current Station 15 in Fairfax with a four member reserve or spare pumper utilizing overtime. The total overtime cost for 2022 would be $509K and that's for four months. That was just put in there because I didn't know if the Commission had the appetite to begin September 1st or January 1st, but that's the overtime cost for four months. We would continue overtime until new hires are on board in 2023/2024. Total overtime costs for 2023 for the full year is $1.6M--$1.59M. We would need approval to create and the Commission would have to approve PINS for 17 new personnel, 3 Captains, 3 apparatus operators, and 11 firefighters. That hiring process takes approximately 8 months if it's non-grant funded and 16 months if it is grant funded. The recurrent annual personnel costs, once these people are on board including fringe benefits, is $2.34M a year. The total cost of Phase 1 is just under $4M and that's not counting the overtime for the first four months because that was just put in there, but the overtime costs are $127,269 for 2022 a month for overtime. Then, 2023 it's $132,572 a month for overtime.




The Phase 2 – Mid-Term, would be the purchase of a new pumper to be delivered in 2024 because the spare pumper is not going to work forever. We have a weak spare fleet as it is and that's going to remove one of the better rigs from the spare fleet and become a frontline pumper, which it shouldn't be. That new apparatus would be staffed with the FTEs hired in Phase 1.




Phase 3 – Long -Term, this is also part of the MOA. This phase is to be recommended by the Master Plan Committee per Article 35 of the new MOA. It involves a Fire/EMS service analysis through a joint Union-Management process. The parties have formed a Strategic Planning Committee and have appointed representatives to this committee to develop recommendations relevant to the Fire/EMS service. The final Master Plan recommendation or recommendations shall be presented contemporaneously to the Commission prior to the end of 2023. That's it.

**Commissioner Kane** said we have somebody from Labor Council, Bob Wing, here and I would like him to speak as well.

**Bob Wing, President Emeritus of the Firefighters Local Union in Kansas City,** but I'm here representing the Central Labor Council tonight. I think as all of you are aware through the history of this labor council has membership in the Fairfax District and all that business down there. The better part of—highest percentage of 10K employees per day come into Fairfax and the highest percentage of those are members of local unions that are members of the Labor Council also, so we have a vested in that and specifically the safety of the employees in Fairfax down there as well as the firefighters.

We appreciate the Fire Department and Fire Union working with us on this issue. I would—and I'm not going to blindside these gentlemen. They've done a good job of preparing the presentation, but being a retired firefighter and negotiating a majority of the contracts over a long period of years, there are several points that the Labor Council would like to make. One is still our position that the measurement of the Fire/EMS service in Fairfax should be based on the potential down there. Not only the potential of the volatility, volatility of that area, but the potential of the problems within the infrastructure and by that I mean the street problems and more specifically the railroads and ironically—I mean I'd rather be lucky than good and this is not a good situation, but it couldn't be illustrated better than what happened this afternoon in Fairfax.

We advised this Commission over a period of months that the railroads were a problem down there and this afternoon I was forwarded a report from the Fire Department, a run report, where there was a multi-vehicle accident at Fairfax & Quindaro. The station at Fairfax & Quindaro responded with the ambulance and fire truck. Almost three minutes into that call, they reported back to headquarters that they were blocked by a train and couldn't make the alarm. Now, for those of you who can picture that area, they were probably a half to a three-quarters of a block in that alarm and couldn't make it. The only way that the station at Quindaro could have made that alarm is go back up to 7th Street and come around. They called for the pumper out of headquarters to make the alarm. I hope everything worked out today for those people that were involved in that, but that's another piece of the potential that we're talking about. That area has problems with as it pertains to opening that firehouse down there, reactivating that firehouse. That would not have been an issue if 15 was open down there today and they were in. There are a lot of unknown variables when it comes to fire protection and building your Fire Department, but you certainly build it off the potential, not off the history.

I hope that fire station never runs another fire alarm again if you open it back up and we all should hope that, but with everything that we've discussed over a long period of time we think it's time to take another long look at that for the protection of that area and the firefighters.

One added issue that I would like to bring up, as the Chief spoke to the MOA, and I did call the department and the union both, and I listened to the budget presentation this evening and I know there are some budget constraints as there's always been within this government. The MOA that was just negotiated and signed between the Fire Department and the Fire Union and executed and approved by this Commission allows for the staffing of the apparatus down there with a minimum of three. I know the Fire Department and Fire Union wants four and they have good reason to want that, it's not a want, it's a mandate by the National Fire Protection Safety Standard. Every pumper in this county should be staffed with four and that's my hope that Master Plan and those people on that committee this time get that sold over here because this Fire Department is underfunded and it's understaffed.

But to get that station open for the good of the workers down there, the property owners, and the firefighters who are responding to those alarms, if money is truly the object that's standing in the way, I would suggest from the Central Labor Council that the Commission look at for a short-term staffing that pursuant to the MOA with three people. We think a three-person response, specifically with today's incident, would have been better than no response from Station 15. I'm just trying to offer you a financial out, if you will, for the short term to allow these gentlemen here to come up with a better plan to get four-man staffing not only in Fairfax, but in every firehouse in this city. Mayor, I would stand for questions.

**Commissioner Kane** said you know they took a guy out of 8 which is out by my house and put him down in 5 to put four people on the truck because they decommissioned 15. One of the men are already right there, we're already paying him, so take that guy from 5, put him down in 15 and if we went down there with three, we would save $127,294.12 if we went down to a three person place. A lot of you saw the presentation that Melissa Clark gave, and I don't know, I wasn't there, but one of the meetings that they had, the Mayor told them—they asked about what happens if the train is there—I'm sorry, not the Mayor, the Chief said we have equipment that identifies and tells us where the trains are at. I called multiple firemen and that is not true.

You got to think about some things that happen. You know August 18, 1859, we lost five firefighters and one civilian down on Southwest Blvd. in a petroleum deal—I don't remember how many people were killed. In the 1980s Phillips Petroleum caught on fire and burnt down to the ground. A lot of you remember that. Eleven or twelve years ago when I was in Ohio one of the closest tankers down there at Fairfax caught on fire, 12K people, all the fuel that goes up to the airport is up there. It comes right through Fairfax and all the way up there. When I left General Motors 11 years ago, Fairfax was almost empty. Look how many more businesses we have now and these businesses have volatile, flammable, all kinds of stuff down there that would catch on fire.

Now, your family's down there, there's an ambulance running down there and there's a train in the way and your family member doesn't make it because they were 7 minute or 20 minutes and the only time they made their times that they said they made was during COVID.

I think it's important that we open it back up with three and we get it going now and the next time, Mayor, if at all possible, I would like to sit down with union and management and give them my words of encouragement in private. I worked in a joint program for 21 years at General Motors. I never ever let my management counterpart give a presentation without me doing it with him. You know you got to think about some things that happen in this Fire Department. We buy brand new vehicles, but yet our houses, our firehouses, are terrible.

Then, you have to question how much our budget has went up since 2018. I don't know, can I make a motion, Mayor, or I don't know how—a straw poll or what? **Mayor Garner** said we'll get a straw poll. **Commissioner Kane** said what I would like to do is open this with the three folks and then he talks about the fire truck. When I talked to FEMA, they'll buy—they'll give us fire trucks. If they would have asked for fire trucks when they built 12, we would have got every one of them and we'd got the manpower to go along with them. Then, they didn't apply for the SAFER Grant and then one of them they did. We could have got more people. I called up there and I asked them and they said yep, you can get them. The former Administrator and the Fire Chief opted not to. If I'd have been a union, I would have went nuts because we need to make sure that our union members, our firefighters are safe and so are the people that live here and the people that work here.

So, Mayor, I would like to make a straw poll motion that we open 15s. They have to come back 6-8 months from now and tell us what their long-range plans are. This is a very short-range plan. They've got to come back and tell us what they're going to do and the next time they need to do it together.

**Commissioner Ramirez** said I second everything Commissioner Kane said and I agree with just going to opening to what it was before. There's no need to have more than what it is. They can have a long-term plan. The union and the fire administration can work to create that long-term plan. I do have a couple questions and they're for Chief Callahan. How many apparatuses are staffed with four men, four firefighters? **Chief Callahan** said all of the trucks are Quints and one of the pumpers. **Commissioner Ramirez** said so all of our trucks are staffed with four. **Chief Callahan** said all of the trucks are Quints, which it's not a pumper. There's a difference, so— **Commissioner Kane** asked, J.J., is that true?

**J. J. Simma, President of Firefighters Local 64,** said to clarify, we've got three basic type of apparatus; aerial ladder trucks, Quints which are also ladder trucks with water, and pumper trucks carrying water hose. Our ladder and Quint apparatus are staffed with four. Only one of the 15 pumpers is staffed with four. The other 14 are running with a minimum of three, which as discussed, does not meet or is not compliant within a 1710 Standard, but that's the minimum recognized in the MOA and that's how we operate on a day-to-day basis.

**Commissioner Ramirez** said okay. The reason I asked the question is because I remember specifically when we had applied for the SAFER Grant, one of the reasons we applied was to get those pumpers up to four men, to four firefighters, sorry, to equip them with four. Where did those—the ones that we had applied for the SAFER, where did they go? **Chief Callahan** said we hired all of the 18 that were authorized by the Commission to be hired under the SAFER Grant. They are hired and they are in place, but as people come and go, we're still short. We're 14 people short now. When we're fully staffed, it's a different story than when we're not fully staffed. The 18 people that the Commission authorized us to hire under the SAFER Grant have been hired and they're on the department. **Commissioner Ramirez** said okay and I hope that next year whenever this grant is reopened that we apply for it and apply for more firefighters so that we can meet that standard.

My second and last question pertains to the 15. It's a lot of overtime we're going to be paying to operate this station if we were to go to four, a four-member reserve pumper using OT. If we, you, promote positions of Captain and Driver rather than fill the overtime, would it save significant money? **Chief Callahan** said well yeah, we want to do that, but we still have to open up PINS to promote those people. So, yes, we can promote them. We still have to hire people. The four firefighter overtime figure I gave you for a year was $1.59M, three firefighters for a year is $1.317M.

**Commissioner Ramirez** said okay. I originally—everyone in the room knows I supported not closing Station 15. I was strongly against it. I'm still strongly against that we did it and so I support that we reopen it. Fairfax—we received from the assistants in our Commission Office sent us an email of over 200 emails in our Commission inbox asking us to reopen Station 15. Two Hundred people took time out of their day to tell us to open Station 15. I know we say a lot here that we need to listen to our community, so let's listen. They have asked and I support doing so.

**Commissioner Bynum** said in the summer of 2020 we were right in the middle of COVID. We were making the decision to close 15. I asked Mayor Alvey if I could convene a group of folks to talk about finding ways to keep it open and most of you were in those meetings. Your numbers are higher now than they were two years ago, but that's understandable. They're not terribly out of line with what we saw two years ago in terms of these same kinds of ways that we were going to keep the station open. At budget time, right about now, two years ago we couldn't bring the Commission to consensus. At that time we were looking at whether there was another fund that we could borrow from with repayment later, but again it was a really uncertain time with our budget due to the pandemic and I have some understanding of why we couldn't bring the Commission to a consensus at that time. Financially it was wise.

As you stated, Mr. Wing, we still find ourselves in financial uncertainty if you will. You know we're looking at $500K for the balance of this year and $1.5M for '23, so a couple million dollars in overtime to operate for approximately a year and a half. I, at a very minimum, support that while we try to find the grants, find the ways to continue trying to pay for the rest of your plan if that makes any sense, but that takes us—that gets us a Station 15 that's open. If you and Commissioner Kane are in agreement that for now it'll be a three-member team, then so be it.

I don't remember what you said a minute ago about that cost savings from three off of the 509. **Commissioner Kane** said they always had four to five assigned down there, but they operated with three. **Commissioner Bynum** said I gotcha. I'm saying all of this to say that my position hasn't changed. Again, we haven't had the in-depth look this time at where we would find that money like we spent time on two summers ago, but in general I'm supportive, especially like I said, rest of '22, all of '23, while we work out the rest of the details for all the various ways where we might find dollars that aren't local to help pay for it. So, I just want to express my support.

**Commissioner Townsend** said I want to thank the Chief and union representatives who are involved in looking at this. The promise to Fairfax was that we would continue to look and evaluate. We have a pretty short time. What I would like is a little bit more information on—I guess the Phase 1 that you're talking about right now, what would be done right now? Phase 2 is what? In 2024 there's an additional piece of equipment. What would happen—well, let me ask this question. What would happen with the equipment in Phase 1? Where is that coming from? **Chief Callahan** said we would use what's termed a spare—right now it's a spare apparatus, but it would be put in the station as a frontline apparatus for now until we could get the new equipment to replace it.

**Commissioner Townsend** said so on Phase 1 at the bottom, that 3.9M plus, is that—that's personnel only, that's not the cost of equipment. **Chief Callahan** said that's correct. **Commissioner Townsend** said Phase 2 would bring in the cost of equipment, another 750K. I almost got happy for a moment. I thought Mr. Wing was saying his group was coming with some money. That was going to make me joyful, but that's not where he went with that. (**Someone** was inaudible.) **Commissioner Townsend** said I know. That's what I'm saying. I wasn't as joyful as I thought I was going to be. That's exactly my point, you didn't say that.

I have to say while I want the fire station open, I am still looking at a 4.4, almost $5M deficit currently in our budget, proposed for 2023 and the significance of that, as I understand, our spending out of the General Fund is the Police and Fire expenses are paid out of that. That's part of what comes out of the General Fund. About 56M we're already spending, that's 34% of the expenses allocated to Fire, 36% or approximately $59M.

So, when we talk about listening to our constituents, if you heard, saw, and were in attendance Monday night, people were concerned about increase in taxes and that reminds me even though we control as a Commission a portion of that equation, mill rate, times, assessed value and we control mill rate whether that comes up or goes down. It reminds me how painfully cautious we have to be with the money that we do have and cautious about adding more to a burden we've already got a death sentence. That concerns me and while I want to see Fairfax reopen, I question that now is the time to do that.

I don't doubt a thing that Commissioner Kane says in terms of how Fairfax has grown, but I'm concerned about all of District 1, all of Wyandotte County and services that we're looking at cutting now or positions we're looking at cutting now, then we turn around and talk about adding some. That is just, at this point, doesn't seem to make good financial sense.

I would like, since we're going to undertake a review sometime within the next week, the other things that we discussed earlier tonight, the time to review this and ask some more questions. It's unfortunate that I know you all have been here since 4:00 as we have, that your time to present was so short, but that's what happens in budget season. I'm sure there are some other things I would like to look at, but this based on the numbers, grieves me deeply and it's worth not going into something quick and dirty just tonight for that. Those are my comments.

**Mayor Garner** said I would like to let the public know that's watching and anybody that's waiting on us to wrap this conversation up, but we're going to be a little more distinct and I know that staff has to optimize our camera systems for the Chambers as well and due to where we need to go with this conversation so this Commission can make an informed decision tonight as far as a straw poll, we will wrap this up no later than 7:15 and, hopefully, can start our Commission meeting no later than 7:30.

**Commissioner Stites** said I'm in favor of opening up not only now, but six hours ago and I wish we had it open yesterday before the accident occurred I think today. One thing that I want to make sure that we look into is the efficiencies throughout the Fire Department. There's a committee that's set up for government efficiencies and I think that before we go—I put my stuff up because I thought we were wrapping up at 7:00, but three new Captains, I'm sure that comes with three more new Denali's or Yukon's or something with a cost of who knows what. I want to make sure that we're looking at how maybe we can staff with what we've already got and not hiring more.

That's my recommendation that on the efficiencies that we look at that to see if we can't—because the flyer that I received, that we all had earlier in the presentation, the workforce showed that we were already the highest. We were already the highest staffed for a Fire Department, to maybe there needs to be some shifting throughout personnel to accommodate what we need.

**Commissioner Kane** said I want to do a straw poll right now. You know we've hashed this out. We've talked about it umpteen times. This is a temporary situation until they come back with a full-blown this is what they're going to do. The more we delay this, I don't know how many times we have to talk about Station 15. We've been talking about it since the day it closed. I'd like to make a motion that we open Station 15 as soon as we can. (**Someone** was inaudible). **Commissioner Kane** said okay, straw poll.

**Mr. Simma** said I'll try to be brief, but giving our position, the position of the local on this and as Commissioner Bynum spoke, two years ago when we set the Task Force that I was a part of, in all likelihood had we managed to keep 15 open at that time, it would have remained a three-man staffed pumper and the new apparatus at 12 very well may have been another three-man staffed pumper because that's the minimum we operate in. That being said, we were tasked with putting together a joint proposal which we did. There were numerous ideas discussed, three man was one of them. Local 64 is and always will be, it's going to be our objective to be compliant with safety standards requiring four-man minimums.

That being said, our position at this time, we've had discussions amongst ourselves as well for your information is that a three-man pumper, three firefighter staffed pumper would be compliant with the Memorandum of Agreement. It would restore service to the Fairfax area as it was July 23, 2020, when it closed and Local 64 is agreeable to that method of staffing at least in the short term and, again, as has been discussed, consistent with the memorandum, the committee going to work and developing a Master Plan for the fire service in Kansas City, Kansas going forward with recommendations towards compliance with 1710.

**Commissioner Burroughs** said I know it's been stated, the gratitude that has been expressed here this evening with the proposals you brought forward. I just want to say I commend the Fire Department and the fire staff to come together looking at the public safety of not only our community and your firefighters, but those that come into our community to work. We had talked about what ifs and we had one of them and it kept response from occurring in a timely manner. We were fortunate it wasn't bigger than what it was and I don't know if we've had loss of life that hasn't been reported yet, but I will state that many of us were very supportive of keeping the fire station open down there. I mean even to the point that we were still fighting to keep it open when they'd already changed the number on the front of the vehicle if I remember correctly. We hadn't even made this formal decision yet, but it was already in motion.

I commend you all for not only protecting our community, but looking after your firefighters. Please know that we respect the sacrifices that our Public Safety officials are dealing with. The stations, the conditions they are in, some of the older equipment, and the three-man manning system that you have in place right now, but I commend you for coming forward and asking to go to a three-man to protect those areas of our community that are right now underserved.

**Mayor Garner** said before we do that, so the Commission can make an informed decision, I believe, Debbie, are you still here? Can you answer this question? This amount and I know that part of the recommendation that I've heard is to offset some of the personnel costs with the SAFER Grant moving forward, which we've had before, but budgetary what would that look like short-term, long-term. Is that something short-term that as we go through this budget cycle you can absorb into the budget before it's finalized by this Commission? **Ms. Jonscher** said I don't remember exactly what were the amounts that we were talking about. Do we have an actual amount? **Mayor Garner** asked, Chief, can you compare that amount? **Chief Callahan** asked, for overtime, for FTEs? For this year, for three firefighters $105K a month for whenever we start in overtime. **Ms. Jonscher** said, I'm sorry, would you say that again, $105K? **Chief Callahan** said that's correct for the balance of the year.

**Mr. Lindsey** said I will currently add that right now for 2023's budget we are $4.2M to the negative where we have more expenses going out than revenues, so whatever we add to it would add to that deficit unless we're looking to make some cuts someplace or add some revenue somehow.

**Ms. Jonscher** said it does look like 105 per month, yeah, would be about $1.2M for the next year, but we would be starting that in 2022. **Chief Callahan** said, Debbie, the dollars change at the beginning of 2023 because there's a pay increase, so they go up a little bit to $109,750 a month at the beginning of 2023 for three firefighters.

**Mayor Garner** said so as part of the budget process moving, if the straw poll tonight is the majority consensus of this Commission for the Administrator to be given the direction to move forward, if it's agreed upon or not, is that something that you all would put into the budgetary considerations for this Commission when they consider this budget? **Ms. Jonscher** said yes, if it's voted on and that's the directive, then yes, we would build it in.

**Mayor Garner** said in the interest of time, I'll just wrap up real quick before we do the straw poll. I know that Fairfax Industrial, they have been a strong proponent of reopening the fire station. I went to a meeting that they had. They reiterated, I believe, it's over 90% of the unleaded fuel runs through Fairfax in the Kansas City metropolitan area as well as several other businesses that I'm sure that over the 200 requests that have been sent to some of our commissioners, I'm sure that they're in support as well. To wrap this up, if we could just with a thumb show those that are interested or approve of opening the fire station. I know our Administrator isn't here and I believe that Deputy Administrator Cobbins is the one that oversees these, the fire apparatus, so I would ask that she share that information with our Administrator in her absence of what this is going to be. We can just take a count, everybody just raise your hand so we can just see.

**Commissioner Townsend** said I have a question. Refresh my recollection Chief. Was there before the closing an ambulance, maybe I'm not calling the right thing, down there? **Chief Callahan** said not at that station, no. **Commissioner Townsend** said okay, so the ambulance services were always provided by—**Chief Callahan** said Quindaro.

**Mayor Garner** said, Clerk, you want to help me out. **Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk,** said it looks like we have five. **Mayor Garner** said we have five.

**Commissioner Markley** said this will not be shocking to anyone who's been through a budget with me, but I don't see how we authorize—you're nodding your head, you know what I'm going to say, how do we make this decision without seeing what it looks like in the larger budget. So I guess I'm trying to say I'm not opposed to seeing what it looks like, but how do we make a decision of this magnitude without seeing how it's going to impact the budget that we just haggled over where we were going to get money for all these different things. I guess for what it's worth, like my hand's not up, but it's not down. We can't make this big of a decision without seeing what the impact is.

**Commissioner Stites** said I don't know how we not make this decision. If one of those folks would have died today, God forbid had it been one of your family members, you would have been authorizing this thing 10 times over.

**Commissioner Bynum** said I was just going to say earlier tonight I was wishing the fire presentation had been first because we were having a big, long budget discussion and we spent a long time on a $3M bridge repair, which we need and knowing that this request was coming, I mean the paper was sitting right in front of us. So, Commissioner Markley's not wrong. I'm going to remain willing to straw poll yes and perhaps the middle of the road is that we bring back how on earth could we pay for it. I mean I think we're split half and half right now anyway.

**Mayor Garner** said it's not a vote, it's a straw poll.

**Commissioner Townsend** said I think Commissioner Markley was getting to the issue. I thought that was whether to open or not and as I said a few minutes ago, we're looking at numbers that do not make sense for that to happen as much as we want to. We're looking at numbers that do not make sense. The next step would be if you wanted to roll them in, but it looks like the $5M is going to increase. That's not going away. If the straw poll is just to open it right now, that needs to be clear or if the issue is to come back with more numbers that needs to be clear, that's your goal.

**Commissioner Kane** said that straw poll is to open it right now. They know how to do it. They got their stuff together. We've talked about this a thousand times. That incident today just magnifies what happened down there and as I said before, if that was your family—and remember, I'm the one that greeted the folks from the Fire Department when one of our individuals got hurt. I saw this hundreds and hundreds of times and we've been jacking around with this a long time. So, Mayor, five. You have the opportunity for the other part of the straw poll.

**Mayor Garner** said well, now that we got this new information, I'm going to go with the straw poll again. We've got our Administrator here so she can be in clear direction and the direction we're doing a straw poll to move forward with the recommendation as presented by the Fire Chief and President of the Fire Union on how best to open with their recommendation. Fire Station 15 in Fairfax and before you do that, I just want to say thank you all for the hard work, coming together, management and union and bringing forth this recommendation for consideration.

Again, straw poll based on the recommendation or the motion by, not technically a motion—we've got a question.

**Commissioner McKiernan** said if we take a straw poll today and let's say the straw poll says yes, when does this body take official action because the straw poll doesn't compel us to take official action on this. So, when would we actually take action and take a formal vote as a Commission to encumber or to spend that money. **Mayor Garner** said correct me if I'm wrong, Administrator. I believe you can move this administratively off the straw poll direction or does there have to—are you recommending—are you moving that to a full Commission vote for consideration at some point?

**Ms. Harrison-Lee** said a straw vote would not give us an official vote because in a work session you're not voting, so we would want to bring this back with the budgetary impacts and have you vote this officially in a full commission meeting. Council, since you have the straw number, you're welcome to weigh in on that. **Mitzi Brown, Chief Legal Counsel,** said you said it completely accurately, Administrator.

**Mayor Garner** said so that's the clarity and we've got—**Commissioner Burroughs** said if I remember correctly, I had just come on to the Commission, but it was never our intent not to fund the Fire Department, close that Fire Department down in Fairfax. We had a new fire station due to the expansion of our residential areas in Wyandotte County, which went into Commissioner Kane's area. We knew we were going to have to man a station and somehow or another through whatever process occurred, that did not happen and the decision was made to close 15 and because of that we are where we are today. Closing 15 should have never occurred to begin with. We knew we were going to have to hire new firefighters to man that station and for whatever reason something changed and we're still dealing with the issues because as Commissioner Kane stated today. I'm for opening the station. I was absolutely opposed to closing it because it is one of the more volatile areas of our community that needs to be a fire presence, needs to be available.

**Commissioner Kane** said the former Administrator, the former two Mayors, didn't want that fire station built out west. That's exactly why they moved the folks down there from 15 out to 12.

**Commissioner McKiernan** said given the fact that we would need to bring this back with data, with budget numbers for an official vote in a Commission meeting downstairs, I'm fine with moving forward to accomplish that.

**Commissioner Townsend** said to follow up on Commissioner McKiernan's proposal or question, would those numbers come back at our next work session. We have other things to look at. (**Someone** was inaudible.) **Commissioner Townsend** said not a work session. **(Someone** was inaudible.) **Commissioner Townsend** said let me say loss of life anywhere is terrible. That is terrible and I hope that didn't happen today; however, I am concerned with every aspect of the constituency in District 1 and wherever fire would have to show up or our police. So, again, I'm looking at the numbers remembering what a lot of my constituents were talking about Monday and looking at the numbers that we've got here that shows us we've already got a $5M deficit almost.

**Mayor Garner** said Commissioner Kane had a request earlier for a straw poll to open it. It seems like we've kind of transitioned to a straw poll to basically, based off the recommendation of our Legal Counsel and our Administrator, to basically move to explore opening it based on the budgetary implications going into next year. Are you good with that Commissioner Kane? (**Commissioner Kane** was inaudible.) **Mayor Garner** said okay, so if we and just get our hands raised, all those that are in favor of exploring that potential and ready for a full vote once the numbers come back and you all can make that decision at that time to actually open it. Okay, it looks like we have a majority.

Just for the record, I do also, as the Mayor, support opening Fire Station 15 just because of the volatility of that area and the need to have protection there.

This brings us to the end of our presentation. I would like to say before I take a motion to adjourn is that we are going to adjourn in the full Commission Chambers or reconvene in the full Commission Chambers for the regular commission meeting at 7:45 p.m. The reason for that is staff has to optimize the camera system to the Chambers and they have to have time to be able to do that.

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

**MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED**
**THE MEETING AT 7:25 p.m.**

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Monica L. Sparks
Acting Unified Government Clerk

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