2026 Proposed Budget: Safety and Inspections

Department Mission: To preserve and improve the quality of life in Saint Paul by protecting and promoting public health and safety for all. **Learn More:** stpaul.gov/DSI

Department Facts

- **Total General Fund Budget:** $25,947,629
- **Total Special Fund Budget:** $2,228,776
- **Total FTEs:** 166.00

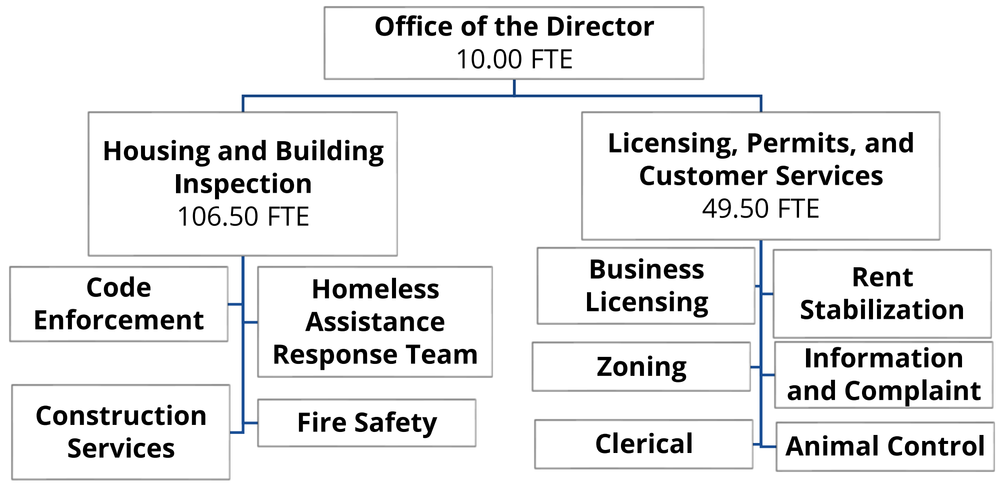
Department Goals

- Prevent life and property loss.
- Promote neighborhood safety and livability.
- Engage communities in effective communication, customer service, and education.
- Promote sustainable and innovative solutions.
- Ensure equity in the delivery of our programs and services.
- Provide seamless services to help individuals operate businesses.

Recent Accomplishments

- Innovation in every aspect of permitting, licensing, proactive and complaint-based inspections, customer service, and payment processing with the decommissioning of two legacy software programs and the implementation of SaaS-based PAULIE.
- Administered and inspected over $1 billion in construction investment.
- Supported recreational cannabis implementation which saw its first state licenses issued.
- Supported a record number of events throughout the City.
- Processed four times as many Rent Increase Stabilization requests as the previous year, while inquiries and complaints decreased.
- Capital project to repurpose an underutilized Parks building for increased space and modernized care of animals in Saint Paul's care.
- Lead response to the impact of at-risk downtown buildings.
- Several employees hired in Fire Safety Inspections who are performing inspections in record time, fully trained and certified.
- In 2023 and 2024 about 29% of the city's vacant buildings become reoccupied.
- Fifty residents living outdoors now have access to housing because the Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) conducted a coordinated entry housing assessment. Six residents have been housed in the last year, as well as two pets.
- Triaged more than 15,500 complaints with the top 5 issues being garbage and rubbish, tall grass, overhanging vegetation, general exterior issues, and abandoned vehicles. These five issues make up more than 96% of complaints made to the city.

Safety and Inspections Organizational Chart



Total FTE 166.00

Department Division Descriptions

The Department of Safety and Inspections is managed by the Director and department support staff. It includes the following divisions:

- **Housing and Building Inspection:** The Housing and Building Inspection division is made up of four main services:
  - Code Enforcement, which handles code compliance, nuisance abatement, Truth in Sale of Housing, and vacant buildings.
  - Homeless Assistant Response Team, which connects people experiencing homelessness with resources.
  - Construction Services, which handles business plan review, building inspections, and issues relating to electrical, elevator, mechanical, warm air and ventilations, plumbing, and energy compliance.
  - Fire Safety, which works with resident, commercial, and case managed properties, in addition to fire engineering issues.
- **Licensing, Permits, and Customer Service:** The Licensing, Permits, and Customer Service division is made up of six main services:
  - Business Licensing, which handles licensing and compliance, skyway management, gambling enforcement, project facilitation, and sound level variances.
  - Rent Stabilization, which handles process appeals and exemptions and customer service.
  - Zoning, which handles zoning and sign regulation, site plan review, zoning compliance.
  - Information and complaint, which handles city-wide information calls, process complaints, and communication.
  - Clerical, which handles processing licenses, payments, and permits and provides clerical administration for hearings.
  - Animal Control, which handles animal licensing and sheltering, along with code compliance.

2026 Proposed Budget

SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fiscal Summary

Spending	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year	FY 2025 Adopted Budget FTE	FY 2026 Proposed Budget FTE
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	22,515,820	24,398,624	25,800,516	25,947,629	147,113	165.00	161.00
200: CITY GRANTS	60,942	268,850	-	-	-	-	-
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	-	-	1,590,000	1,640,002	50,002	-	5.00
215: ASSESSMENT FINANCING	207,378	489,029	488,985	488,774	(211)	-	-
228: CHARITABLE GAMBLING	537,697	-	-	-	-	-	-
645: RECYCLING AND ORGANIZED TRASH	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	-	-
Total	**23,321,837**	**25,156,503**	**27,879,502**	**28,176,405**	**296,903**	**165.00**	**166.00**

Financing	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget	Change From Prior Year
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	21,431,471	19,051,848	22,064,635	22,197,135	132,500
200: CITY GRANTS	51,192	268,850	-	-	-
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	-	-	1,590,000	1,640,002	50,002
215: ASSESSMENT FINANCING	202,851	489,029	488,985	488,774	(211)
228: CHARITABLE GAMBLING	280,254	-	-	-	-
645: RECYCLING AND ORGANIZED TRASH	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total	**21,965,767**	**19,809,727**	**24,143,620**	**24,425,911**	**282,291**

Budget Changes Summary

The 2026 Department of Safety and Inspections proposed General Fund budget recognizes anticipated cannabis registration revenue of $132,500 and adds a DSI Inspector III position to manage registration, zoning, and compliance checks for retail hemp and cannabis locations. The budget also includes targeted reductions totaling $335,060 in computer lease renewals, office supplies, and attrition. Other changes in the DSI General Fund budget reflect current service level adjustments for salaries, benefits, and other ongoing operational costs.

The 2026 budget shifts costs related to the Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) out of the General Fund. Eligible solid waste and recycling costs totaling $100,000 are moved to the Solid Waste and Recycling Fund and 5.0 FTE and remaining HART General Fund expenses totaling $621,910 are moved to the Opioid Settlement Fund.

DSI special fund budgets also reflect the removal of $1,440,000 in one-time investments made in the 2025 budget to advance the City's All-In Housing Framework, the repurposing of $150,000 from the SAC Financial Assistance project, and current service level adjustments for salaries, benefits and other ongoing operational costs.

Safety and Inspections Spending Reports

CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Spending Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND **Budget Year: 2026**

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	19,528,726	21,506,707	22,908,391	23,285,391	377,000
SERVICES	2,711,112	2,573,529	2,591,273	2,389,386	(201,887)
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	214,230	248,202	248,002	220,002	(28,000)
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES	-	250	250	250	-
CAPITAL OUTLAY	54,167	45,000	45,000	45,000	-
DEBT SERVICE	86	100	100	100	-
OTHER FINANCING USES	7,500	24,836	7,500	7,500	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**22,515,820**	**24,398,624**	**25,800,516**	**25,947,629**	**147,113**

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
10024100 - DSI ADMINISTRATION	1,223,500	832,538	1,981,256	1,991,704	10,448
10024200 - PROPERTY CODE ENFOREMENT	1,543,536	1,378,647	944,419	1,076,645	132,226
10024205 - VACANT BLDG CODE ENFORCEMENT	803,393	785,607	779,748	897,708	117,960
10024210 - SUMMARY NUISANCE ABATEMENT	1,088,339	914,245	914,245	914,245	-
10024215 - TRUTH IN SALE OF HOUSING	128,270	136,736	129,686	136,835	7,149
10024225 - DSI UNSHELTERED	488,021	419,060	689,888	-	(689,888)
10024230 - RENT STABILIZATION	232,576	368,766	380,563	315,479	(65,084)
10024300 - CONSTRUCTION SVCS AND PERMITS	9,024,815	10,219,926	11,190,251	11,400,291	210,040
10024400 - FIRE CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY	2,818,230	3,249,528	3,125,527	2,966,252	(159,275)
10024500 - BUSINESS AND TRADE LICENSE	1,583,395	1,837,979	1,499,336	1,777,006	277,670
10024505 - ZONING	1,094,563	1,127,412	1,195,077	1,120,414	(74,663)
10024510 - ANIMAL AND PEST CONTROL	1,124,540	1,336,754	1,291,488	1,318,673	27,185
10024520 - INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS	546,786	717,268	835,992	931,064	95,072
10024525 - DSI CLERICAL SUPPORT	815,856	1,074,160	843,040	1,101,313	258,273
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**22,515,820**	**24,398,624**	**25,800,516**	**25,947,629**	**147,113**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	45,934	-	-	-	-
SERVICES	15,008	268,850	-	-	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**60,942**	**268,850**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
20024800 - DSI FEDERAL GRANTS	9,750	268,850	-	-	-
20024810 - DSI STATE GRANTS	51,192	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**60,942**	**268,850**	**-**	**-**	**-**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
EMPLOYEE EXPENSE	-	-	440,000	611,910	171,910
SERVICES	-	-	150,000	1,020,092	870,092
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	-	-	-	8,000	8,000
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES	-	-	1,000,000	-	(1,000,000)
Total Spending by Major Account	**-**	**-**	**1,590,000**	**1,640,002**	**50,002**

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
21124100 - DSI SPECIAL PROJECTS	-	-	1,440,000	-	(1,440,000)
21124700 - DSI OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	-	1,640,002	1,640,002
21124820 - DSI SAC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	-	-	150,000	-	(150,000)
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**-**	**-**	**1,590,000**	**1,640,002**	**50,002**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 215 - ASSESSMENT FINANCING

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
SERVICES	207,378	489,029	488,985	488,774	(211)
Total Spending by Major Account	**207,378**	**489,029**	**488,985**	**488,774**	**(211)**

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
21524250 - NUISANCE BUILDINGS ABATEMENT	207,378	489,029	488,985	488,774	(211)
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**207,378**	**489,029**	**488,985**	**488,774**	**(211)**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 228 - CHARITABLE GAMBLING

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
SERVICES	20,762	-	-	-	-
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES	506,935	-	-	-	-
OTHER FINANCING USES	10,000	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**537,697**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
22824550 - GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT	537,697	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**537,697**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Spending Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 645 - RECYCLING AND ORGANIZED TRASH

Budget Year: 2026

Spending by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
SERVICES	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total Spending by Major Account	**-**	**-**	**-**	**100,000**	**100,000**

Spending by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
64524490 - DSI RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**-**	**-**	**-**	**100,000**	**100,000**

Safety and Inspections Financing Reports

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION
Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Budget Year: 2026

Financing by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
LICENSE AND PERMIT	13,797,430	10,969,946	12,349,643	12,349,643	-
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	-	35,000	-	-	-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	5,802,508	5,812,881	7,680,971	7,813,471	132,500
FINE AND FORFEITURE	61,660	57,000	57,000	57,000	-
ASSESSMENTS	2,284	26,700	26,700	26,700	-
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	8,090	22,000	22,000	22,000	-
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,759,498	2,128,321	1,928,321	1,928,321	-
Total Financing by Major Account	**21,431,471**	**19,051,848**	**22,064,635**	**22,197,135**	**132,500**

Financing by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
10024100 - DSI ADMINISTRATION	131,692	151,925	151,925	151,925	-
10024200 - PROPERTY CODE ENFOREMENT	26,946	84,840	49,840	49,840	-
10024205 - VACANT BLDG CODE ENFORCEMENT	386,905	414,275	456,075	456,075	-
10024210 - SUMMARY NUISANCE ABATEMENT	1,442,503	1,848,700	1,648,700	1,648,700	-
10024215 - TRUTH IN SALE OF HOUSING	127,847	156,060	156,060	156,060	-
10024300 - CONSTRUCTION SVCS AND PERMITS	15,908,694	13,071,918	16,091,372	16,091,372	-
10024400 - FIRE CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY	1,510,417	1,545,901	1,677,391	1,677,391	-
10024500 - BUSINESS AND TRADE LICENSE	1,251,204	1,056,992	1,112,035	1,112,035	-
10024505 - ZONING	352,150	393,465	393,465	525,965	132,500
10024510 - ANIMAL AND PEST CONTROL	280,368	315,026	315,026	315,026	-
10024520 - INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS	12,746	12,746	12,746	12,746	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**21,431,471**	**19,051,848**	**22,064,635**	**22,197,135**	**132,500**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION
Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Budget Year: 2026

Financing by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	51,192	268,850	-	-	-
Total Financing by Major Account	**51,192**	**268,850**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Financing by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
20024800 - DSI FEDERAL GRANTS	-	268,850	-	-	-
20024810 - DSI STATE GRANTS	51,192	-	-	-	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**51,192**	**268,850**	**-**	**-**	**-**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION
Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Budget Year: 2026

Financing by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	-	-	1,590,000	1,640,002	50,002
Total Financing by Major Account	**-**	**-**	**1,590,000**	**1,640,002**	**50,002**

Financing by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
21124100 - DSI SPECIAL PROJECTS	-	-	1,440,000	-	(1,440,000)
21124700 - DSI OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	-	1,640,002	1,640,002
21124820 - DSI SAC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	-	-	150,000	-	(150,000)
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**-**	**-**	**1,590,000**	**1,640,002**	**50,002**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 215 - ASSESSMENT FINANCING **Budget Year: 2026**

Financing by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	202,851	489,029	488,985	488,774	(211)
Total Financing by Major Account	**202,851**	**489,029**	**488,985**	**488,774**	**(211)**

Financing by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
21524250 - NUISANCE BUILDINGS ABATEMENT	202,851	489,029	488,985	488,774	(211)
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**202,851**	**489,029**	**488,985**	**488,774**	**(211)**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 228 - CHARITABLE GAMBLING

Budget Year: 2026

Financing by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
TAXES	280,254	-	-	-	-
Total Financing by Major Account	**280,254**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Financing by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
22824550 - GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT	280,254	-	-	-	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**280,254**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Financing Plan by Department

Department: SAFETY AND INSPECTION

Fund: 645 - RECYCLING AND ORGANIZED TRASH **Budget Year: 2026**

Financing by Major Account	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total Financing by Major Account	**-**	**-**	**-**	**100,000**	**100,000**

Financing by Accounting Unit	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Adopted Budget	FY 2025 Adopted Budget	FY 2026 Proposed Budget Total	Change From Prior Year
64524490 - DSI RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**-**	**-**	**-**	**100,000**	**100,000**