

# 2026 Adopted Budget: City Council

**Department Mission:** The City Council makes legislative, policy, budget approval, and performance auditing decisions for the City of Saint Paul. The seven Councilmembers also serve as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the Board of Health, and the Library Board.

**Learn More:** [stpaul.gov/city-council](http://stpaul.gov/city-council)

## Department Facts

- **Total General Fund Budget:** \$4,850,600
- **Total Special Fund Budget:** \$1,860,133
- **Total FTEs:** 31.50
  
- There are seven part-time Councilmembers representing the seven wards of the City.
- Councilmembers are elected to serve four-year terms.
- The current term ends on December 31, 2028.

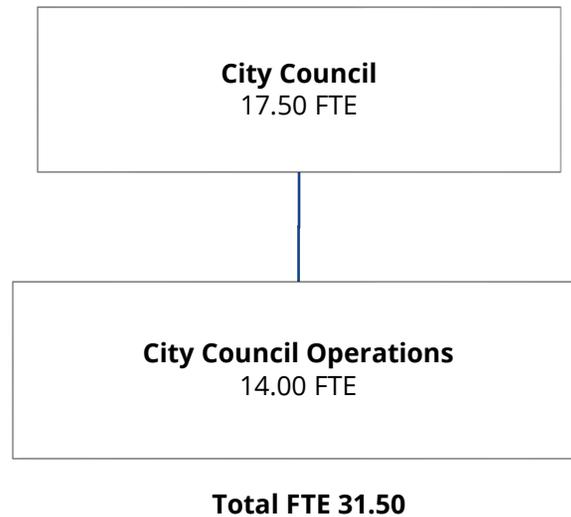
## Department Goals

- Support transparent, efficient, and accountable council operations.
- Set legislative priorities and enact policies that reflect community needs and values.
- Ensure responsible budgeting, transparent financial decisions, and long-term fiscal health.
- Strengthen relationships with residents through outreach, accessibility, and responsive communication.

## Recent Accomplishments

- Supported recruitment for key leadership positions within the Council, strengthening overall capacity and expertise.
- Considered over 3,000 legislative items as part of weekly City Council meetings.
- Conducted approximately 850 legislative hearings on assessments, license applications, nuisance issues, water services, rent stabilization, and organized garbage collection appeals.
- Completed a study of the Capital Improvement Budget process through the Audit Committee in partnership with Wilder Research and the Office of Financial Services.
- Expanded community engagement outreach on the city budget, reparations, development projects, and other critical city initiatives.
- Established a Public Safety Committee to provide focused oversight and policy development in this area.
- Strengthened internal operations by establishing clearer norms and processes for collaboration between Councilmembers, legislative aides, and central staff.
- Planned and facilitated two City Council retreats, using input from members to align sessions with strategic priorities.
- Expanded interdepartmental engagement through regular check-ins with department leadership, improving information flow and collaboration.

## City Council Organizational Chart



### Department Division Descriptions

The City Council is elected by constituents. It includes the following divisions:

- **City Council:** The City Council is responsible for setting City policy through ordinances and resolutions. The Council also has sole responsibility for adopting the City's budget. The Council legislates by passing Ordinances which become City laws.
- **City Council Operations:** The operations staff conducts research and policy development and council support. This staff also organizes legislative hearings and community engagement. It also includes the City Clerk and elections operations staff.

# Fiscal Summary: City Council

## 2026 Adopted Budget

Spending	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year	2025 Adopted FTE	2026 Adopted FTE
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	3,622,649	4,595,666	4,835,575	4,850,600	15,025	31.50	31.50
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	143	50,000	250,000	1,860,133	1,610,133	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,622,792</b>	<b>4,645,666</b>	<b>5,085,575</b>	<b>6,710,733</b>	<b>1,625,158</b>	<b>31.50</b>	<b>31.50</b>

Financing	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	398,927	403,281	405,271	459,806	54,535
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	14,000	50,000	250,000	1,860,133	1,610,133
<b>Total</b>	<b>412,927</b>	<b>453,281</b>	<b>655,271</b>	<b>2,319,939</b>	<b>1,664,668</b>

## Budget Changes Summary

The 2026 budget for the City Council includes additional funding for the office modernization project, employee staffing, and the Audit Committee.

General Fund changes include the removal of a one-time transfer to the General Government Special Projects Fund for the creation of a Repairs Committee (\$250,000). It also reflects current service level adjustments for salaries and benefits, and higher anticipated regulatory fee revenue. In the adopted budget an additional \$104,000 was added to support a communications position and a \$50,000 transfer from the HRA was added to support the Audit Committee.

The General Government Special Projects Fund removes one-time spending and revenue for the creation of a Repairs Committee and adds \$1.86 million in funding for the office modernization project.

# 100: General Fund

# City Council

## Current Service Level Adjustments

Current service level adjustments include inflationary increases due to salary and benefit costs and an increase in regulatory fee revenue. Starting in 2026, the State of Minnesota will begin offering Paid Leave benefits funded by payroll contributions. The budget reflects this premium. Finally, the 2025 budget included a one-time transfer out of the General Fund to support the work of the Reparations Committee. This has been removed in the 2026 budget.

	Change from 2025 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
State of Minnesota Paid Leave	13,963	-	-
Remove one-time transfer to Special Projects Fund for Reparations Committee	(250,000)	-	-
Other current service level adjustments	97,062	4,535	-
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>(138,975)</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>-</b>

## Adopted Changes

### Communication Staffing

The 2026 budget increases the employee expense budget to support a communications position.

	Change from 2025 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Communications staffing	104,000	-	-
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Audit Committee

The 2026 budget adds a \$50,000 transfer for the City Council Audit Committee from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Audit Committee	50,000	50,000	-
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>

## Fund 100 Budget Changes Total

<b>15,025</b>	<b>54,535</b>	<b>-</b>
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## 211: General Government Special Projects

City Council

The City Council administers an audit committee and is home to the Council Office Modernization Project.

### Current Service Level Adjustments

#### Reparations Committee

Current service level adjustments include the planned removal of a one-time transfer from the General Fund to support the work of the Reparations Committee.

Remove one-time spending and revenue for Reparations Committee

	Change from 2025 Adopted		FTE
	Spending	Financing	
	(250,000)	(250,000)	-
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>(250,000)</b>	<b>(250,000)</b>	<b>-</b>

### Mayor's Proposed Changes

#### Office Modernization Project

Due to changes in the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds guidance around obligating funds, the City made the decision in 2024 to change the funding source for several projects formerly supported with ARP. To ensure that the projects and initiatives included in the Global Agreement between the Mayor and Council on the use of ARP funds are completed as planned, the City created a new Special Fund for each former ARP project included in this change. These funds will continue to be spent according to the uses that were included in the Global Agreement, and all funds must be spent by 2026 in alignment with the original ARP guidelines. City staff will continue to collect quarterly and annual reporting from each project and provide corresponding reports to Council. The City Council special fund budget includes the Council Office Modernization Project.

Carry forward of City Council Office Modernization funding

One-time funding for City Council Office Modernization

	Change from 2025 Adopted		FTE
	Spending	Financing	
	50,000	50,000	-
	200,000	200,000	-
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>-</b>

### Adopted Changes

#### Office Modernization Project

The 2026 adopted budget adds additional funding for the Office Modernization Project.

Additional carry forward of City Council Office Modernization funding

Additional one-time funding for City Council Office Modernization

	Change from 2025 Adopted		FTE
	Spending	Financing	
	61,498	61,498	-
	1,548,635	1,548,635	-
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>1,610,133</b>	<b>1,610,133</b>	<b>-</b>

**Fund 211 Budget Changes Total**

**1,610,133**

**1,610,133**

**-**

## **City Council Spending Reports**

# Spending Plan by Department: City Council

Budget Year: 2026

## Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Spending by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	3,515,474	4,200,624	4,320,533	4,548,590	228,057
Services	72,023	276,048	196,048	233,016	36,968
Materials And Supplies	35,152	68,294	68,294	68,294	-
Additional Expenses	-	700	700	700	-
Other Financing Uses	-	50,000	250,000	-	(250,000)
<b>Total Spending by Major Account</b>	<b>3,622,649</b>	<b>4,595,666</b>	<b>4,835,575</b>	<b>4,850,600</b>	<b>15,025</b>

Spending by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
10010100 - CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE	3,448,542	4,435,222	4,835,575	4,850,600	15,025
10010105 - RECORDS MANAGEMENT	174,107	160,443	-	-	-
<b>Total Spending by Accounting Unit</b>	<b>3,622,649</b>	<b>4,595,666</b>	<b>4,835,575</b>	<b>4,850,600</b>	<b>15,025</b>

## Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Spending by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Services	-	50,000	250,000	1,860,133	1,610,133
Materials And Supplies	143	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Spending by Major Account</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>1,860,133</b>	<b>1,610,133</b>

Spending by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
21110225 - COUNCIL SPECIAL PROJECTS	143	50,000	250,000	-	(250,000)
21110820 - CITY COUNCIL MODERNIZATION	-	-	-	1,860,133	1,860,133
<b>Total Spending by Accounting Unit</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>1,860,133</b>	<b>1,610,133</b>

## **City Council Financing Reports**

# Financing Plan by Department: City Council

Budget Year: 2026

## Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Financing by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
License And Permit	1,100	-	-	-	-
Charges For Services	130,272	135,726	137,716	142,251	4,535
Other Financing Sources	267,555	267,555	267,555	317,555	50,000
<b>Total Financing by Major Account</b>	<b>398,927</b>	<b>403,281</b>	<b>405,271</b>	<b>459,806</b>	<b>54,535</b>

Financing by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
10010100 - CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE	398,927	403,281	405,271	459,806	54,535
<b>Total Financing by Accounting Unit</b>	<b>398,927</b>	<b>403,281</b>	<b>405,271</b>	<b>459,806</b>	<b>54,535</b>

## Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Financing by Major Account	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
Miscellaneous Revenue	14,000	-	-	-	-
Other Financing Sources	-	50,000	250,000	1,860,133	1,610,133
<b>Total Financing by Major Account</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>1,860,133</b>	<b>1,610,133</b>

Financing by Accounting Unit	2023 Actuals	2024 Adopted	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	Change From Prior Year
21110225 - COUNCIL SPECIAL PROJECTS	14,000	50,000	250,000	-	(250,000)
21110820 - CITY COUNCIL MODERNIZATION	-	-	-	1,860,133	1,860,133
<b>Total Financing by Accounting Unit</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>1,860,133</b>	<b>1,610,133</b>