2027 Proposed Budget: Safety and Inspections

SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & 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:** $28,982,809
- **Total Special Fund Budget** $1,279,151
- **Total FTEs:** 165.50

Department Goals

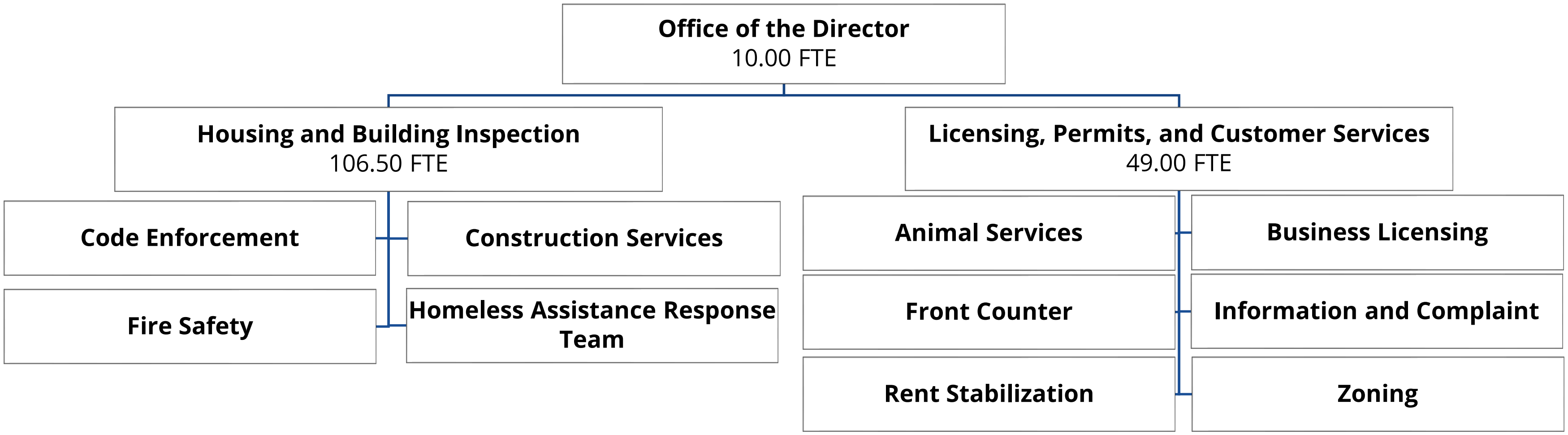
- Prevent life and property loss.
- Promote neighborhood safety and livability.
- Engage communities in effective communication, customer service, and education.
- Promote sustainable and innovative solutions.
- Ensure equity in the delivery of our programs and services.
- Provide seamless services to 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. Highlights from the first month of the accelerated roll-out:
  - 6,500 permit applications submitted/entered with 5,000 permits issued
  - 300 license applications processed
  - More than $2.84 million in online payments processed
  - Average time from application submission to issuance of permits: 5 days
- Administered and inspected over $1 billion in construction investment.
- Supported recreational cannabis implementation which saw its first state licenses, cannabis event, and Saint Paul registrations issued.
- Supported a record number of events throughout the city, including large events with daily attendance of 12,000-30,000 people.
- Implemented new tenant protections for renters throughout the city.
- Capital project to repurpose an underutilized Parks building for increased space and modernized care of animals in Saint Paul's care. Secured grant funding.
- Stabilized the impact of at-risk downtown buildings.
- From January 2025 to date there have been 168 (40%) of the city's vacant buildings reoccupied.
- Triaged about 7,500 complaints in the first 6 months of 2026 with the top 5 issues being garbage and rubbish, tall grass, overhanging vegetation, general exterior issues, and abandoned vehicles.
- HART helped 30 individuals transition from unsheltered homelessness into housing by conducting coordinated entry housing assessments and providing individualized support every step of the way—from initial engagement and assessment through move-in and successful housing placement.
- For the third consecutive year, DSI has been awarded the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI) Building Official Training (BOT) Grant. The program has proven to be an outstanding workforce development tool, with DSI hiring both graduates from the training each year.

Safety and Inspections Organizational Chart

SAINT PAUL
SAFETY & INSPECTIONS



Total FTE 165.50

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.
    - Construction Services, which handles business plan review, building inspections, and issues relating to electrical, elevator, mechanical, warm air and ventilation, plumbing, and energy compliance.
    - Homeless Assistance Response Team, which connects people experiencing homelessness with resources.
    - 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:
    - Animal Services, which handles animal licensing and sheltering, along with code compliance.
    - Business Licensing, which handles licensing and compliance, skyway management, gambling enforcement, project facilitation, and sound level variances.
    - Front Counter, which handles processing licenses, payments, and permits and provides clerical administration for hearings.
    - Information and Complaint, which handles citywide information calls, process complaints, and communication.
    - Rent Stabilization, which handles process appeals and exemptions and customer service.
    - Zoning, which handles zoning and sign regulation, site plan review, zoning compliance.

Fiscal Summary: Safety And Inspection

2027 Proposed Budget

Spending	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year	2026 Adopted FTE	2027 Proposed FTE
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	25,314,350	25,800,516	25,947,629	28,982,809	3,035,180	161.00	160.50
200: CITY GRANTS	63,829	-	-	-	-	-	-
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	42,577	1,590,000	1,640,002	690,377	(949,625)	5.00	5.00
215: ASSESSMENT FINANCING	232,491	488,985	488,774	488,774	-	-	-
228: CHARITABLE GAMBLING	487,964	-	-	-	-	-	-
645: RECYCLING AND ORGANIZED TRASH	-	-	100,000	100,000	-	-	-
Total	**26,141,212**	**27,879,502**	**28,176,405**	**30,261,960**	**2,085,555**	**166.00**	**165.50**

Financing	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
100: CITY GENERAL FUND	22,844,474	22,064,635	22,197,135	23,570,280	1,373,145
200: CITY GRANTS	40,129	-	-	-	-
211: GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS	383,660	1,590,000	1,640,002	690,377	(949,625)
215: ASSESSMENT FINANCING	130,997	488,985	488,774	488,774	-
228: CHARITABLE GAMBLING	-	-	-	-	-
645: RECYCLING AND ORGANIZED TRASH	-	-	100,000	100,000	-
Total	**23,399,260**	**24,143,620**	**24,425,911**	**24,849,431**	**423,520**

Budget Changes Summary

The 2027 Department of Safety and Inspections proposed General Fund budget reflects a partial continuation of the 2026 midyear investment to Tenant Protections, which added materials and supplies budgets as well as two Customer Service Representatives and a Management Assistant III position. The 2027 proposed budget retains $56,303 of the materials and supplies increase and one Customer Service Representative. The remaining positions have been removed from the budget.

The General Fund also includes increases in anticipated construction permit revenue and summary abatement revenue and expenses to align with projected activity. Staffing changes include the reclassification of a vacant Accountant position the elimination of a part-time Customer Service Representative and one DSI Inspector I position. Other changes in the DSI General Fund budget reflect current service level adjustments for salaries, benefits, and other ongoing operational costs.

The 2027 special fund budget shows employee salary and benefit growth as well as the reduction of one-time carry forward funding for Opioid Settlement budgets.

Current Service Level Adjustments

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE

Current service level adjustments include inflationary increases due to salary and benefit costs, adjustments to department contributions to citywide services such as property insurance and enterprise technology initiatives, and other revenue and expense adjustments. In mid-2026, the City Council passed a resolution amending the 2026 budget to fund tenant protections work, including materials and supplies and three positions. This funding is included in the 2027 base budget.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Tenant protections - materials and supplies	127,233	-	-
Tenant protections - Management Assistant III	118,384	-	1.00
Tenant protections - Customer Service Representatives	172,536	-	2.00
Other current service level adjustments	1,976,882	300,000	-
Subtotal:	2,395,035	300,000	3.00

Mayor's Proposed Changes

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE

Summary Abatement

The 2027 budget reflects increased spending and revenue for summary abatement work.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Summary abatement	1,094,307	1,073,145	-
Subtotal:	1,094,307	1,073,145	-

Personnel Reductions

The 2027 Safety and Inspection budget reflects reductions and conversions of vacant positions to reduce costs and align staffing with department operations.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Conversion of Accountant IV to Accountant III	(47,165)	-	-
Reduction of vacant Customer Service Representative position	(33,507)	-	(0.50)
Reduction of vacant DSI Inspector I in Code Enforcement	(97,908)	-	(1.00)
Subtotal:	(178,580)	-	(1.50)

Tenant Protections Reductions

The 2027 proposed budget backs out some the mid-year investments made to support tenant protections work in 2026, reducing the total increase from 3.0 to 1.0 FTE. Materials and supplies funding is also reduced to reflect a net increase of $56,303 compared to the 2026 Adopted Budget.

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Reduction of vacant Customer Service Representative	(86,268)	-	(1.00)
Reduction of vacant Management Assistant III	(118,384)	-	(1.00)
Reduction of materials and supplies budgets	(70,930)	-	-
Subtotal:	(275,582)	-	(2.00)

	Spending	Financing	FTE
Fund 100 Budget Changes Total	**3,035,180**	**1,373,145**	**(0.50)**

200: City Grants

Budgets for grants administered by the department of Safety and Inspection are included in the City Grants Fund.

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
No changes from 2026 Adopted Budget	-	-	-
Subtotal:	-	-	-
Fund 200 Budget Changes Total	**-**	**-**	**-**

211: General Government Special Projects

The DSI Special Projects Fund includes opioid settlement funding for the Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART)

Current Service Level Adjustments

Current service level adjustments include inflationary increases due to salary and benefit costs, adjustments to department contributions to citywide services such as property insurance and telephone monthly charges, and other revenue and expense adjustments. The 2027 budget removes one-time carryforward included in the 2026 Adopted Budget.

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
Remove one-time carryforward	(1,018,092)	(1,018,092)	-
Other current service level adjustments	68,467	68,467	-
Subtotal:	(949,625)	(949,625)	-
Fund 211 Budget Changes Total	**(949,625)**	**(949,625)**	**-**

215: Assessment Fund

Safety and Inspections

The Assessment Fund includes revenues from abatement activities.

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
No changes from 2026 Adopted Budget	-	-	-
Subtotal:	-	-	-
Fund 215 Budget Changes Total	**-**	**-**	**-**

228: Charitable Gambling Fund

Safety and Inspections

The Charitable Gambling Fund was discontinued in the 2024 Adopted Budget

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
No changes from 2026 Adopted Budget	-	-	-
Subtotal:	-	-	-
Fund 228 Budget Changes Total	**-**	**-**	**-**

645: Recycling and Solid Waste

Safety and Inspections

The Recycling and Solid Waste Fund includes the budget for the City's recycling contract and the Organized Trash Collection program.

	Change from 2026 Adopted		
	Spending	Financing	FTE
No changes from 2026 Adopted Budget	-	-	-
Subtotal:	-	-	-
Fund 645 Budget Changes Total	**-**	**-**	**-**

Safety and Inspections Spending Reports

Spending Plan by Department: Safety And Inspection

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	20,909,144	22,908,391	23,285,391	25,160,598	1,875,207
Services	3,959,785	2,591,273	2,391,386	3,529,563	1,138,177
Materials And Supplies	299,255	248,002	218,002	239,798	21,796
Additional Expenses	56,724	250	250	250	-
Capital Outlay	81,870	45,000	45,000	45,000	-
Debt Service	73	100	100	100	-
Other Financing Uses	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**25,314,350**	**25,800,516**	**25,947,629**	**28,982,809**	**3,035,180**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
10024100 - DSI ADMINISTRATION	1,418,118	1,981,256	1,991,704	2,004,623	12,919
10024200 - PROPERTY CODE ENFOREMENT	1,252,154	944,419	1,072,645	1,165,608	92,963
10024205 - VACANT BLDG CODE ENFORCEMENT	836,880	779,748	897,708	814,492	(83,216)
10024210 - SUMMARY NUISANCE ABATEMENT	2,544,162	914,245	918,245	2,022,552	1,104,307
10024215 - TRUTH IN SALE OF HOUSING	136,932	129,686	136,835	154,827	17,992
10024225 - DSI UNSHELTERED	503,994	689,888	-	-	-
10024230 - TENANT PROTECTIONS	244,391	380,563	315,479	390,631	75,152
10024300 - CONSTRUCTION SVCS AND PERMITS	9,859,427	11,190,251	11,400,291	12,219,514	819,223
10024400 - FIRE CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY	2,790,626	3,125,527	2,966,252	3,500,112	533,860
10024500 - BUSINESS AND TRADE LICENSE	1,574,159	1,499,336	1,777,006	1,770,430	(6,576)
10024505 - ZONING	1,066,496	1,195,077	1,120,414	1,323,920	203,506
10024510 - ANIMAL AND PEST CONTROL	1,441,779	1,291,488	1,318,673	1,400,033	81,360
10024520 - INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS	778,224	835,992	931,064	1,048,225	117,161
10024525 - DSI CLERICAL SUPPORT	867,007	843,040	1,101,313	1,167,842	66,529
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**25,314,350**	**25,800,516**	**25,947,629**	**28,982,809**	**3,035,180**

Spending Plan by Department: Safety And Inspection

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	57,995	-	-	-	-
Services	5,677	-	-	-	-
Materials And Supplies	156	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**63,829**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
20024800 - DSI FEDERAL GRANTS	8,835	-	-	-	-
20024810 - DSI STATE GRANTS	54,994	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**63,829**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Employee Expense	3,758	440,000	611,910	680,377	68,467
Services	38,819	150,000	1,020,092	2,000	(1,018,092)
Materials And Supplies	-	-	8,000	8,000	-
Additional Expenses	-	1,000,000	-	-	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**42,577**	**1,590,000**	**1,640,002**	**690,377**	**(949,625)**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
21124100 - DSI SPECIAL PROJECTS	36,382	1,440,000	-	-	-
21124700 - DSI OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	1,640,002	690,377	(949,625)
21124820 - DSI SAC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	6,195	150,000	-	-	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**42,577**	**1,590,000**	**1,640,002**	**690,377**	**(949,625)**

Spending Plan by Department: Safety And Inspection

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 215 - ASSESSMENT FINANCING

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Services	232,491	488,985	488,774	488,774	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**232,491**	**488,985**	**488,774**	**488,774**	**-**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
21524250 - NUISANCE BUILDINGS ABATEMENT	232,491	488,985	488,774	488,774	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**232,491**	**488,985**	**488,774**	**488,774**	**-**

Fund: 228 - CHARITABLE GAMBLING

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Additional Expenses	487,964	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**487,964**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
22824550 - GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT	487,964	-	-	-	-
Total Spending by Accounting Unit	**487,964**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Spending Plan by Department: Safety And Inspection

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 645 - RECYCLING AND ORGANIZED TRASH

Spending by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Services	-	-	100,000	100,000	-
Total Spending by Major Account	**-**	**-**	**100,000**	**100,000**	**-**

Spending by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	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

Financing Plan by Department: Safety And Inspection

Fund: 100 - CITY GENERAL FUND

Budget Year: 2027

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
License And Permit	14,240,172	12,349,643	12,482,143	18,544,478	6,062,335
Charges For Services	6,143,149	7,680,971	7,680,971	1,950,936	(5,730,035)
Fine And Forfeiture	76,212	57,000	57,000	57,000	-
Assessments	-	26,700	26,700	26,700	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	9	22,000	22,000	22,000	-
Other Financing Sources	2,384,932	1,928,321	1,928,321	2,969,166	1,040,845
Total Financing by Major Account	**22,844,474**	**22,064,635**	**22,197,135**	**23,570,280**	**1,373,145**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
10024100 - DSI ADMINISTRATION	92,366	151,925	151,925	119,625	(32,300)
10024200 - PROPERTY CODE ENFOREMENT	44,756	49,840	49,840	49,840	-
10024205 - VACANT BLDG CODE ENFORCEMENT	489,920	456,075	456,075	456,075	-
10024210 - SUMMARY NUISANCE ABATEMENT	1,806,576	1,648,700	1,648,700	2,521,845	873,145
10024215 - TRUTH IN SALE OF HOUSING	128,947	156,060	156,060	156,060	-
10024300 - CONSTRUCTION SVCS AND PERMITS	16,746,167	16,091,372	16,091,372	17,356,000	1,264,628
10024400 - FIRE CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY	1,534,157	1,677,391	1,677,391	1,249,723	(427,668)
10024500 - BUSINESS AND TRADE LICENSE	1,376,923	1,112,035	1,112,035	939,875	(172,160)
10024505 - ZONING	336,863	393,465	525,965	393,465	(132,500)
10024510 - ANIMAL AND PEST CONTROL	275,054	315,026	315,026	315,026	-
10024520 - INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS	12,746	12,746	12,746	12,746	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**22,844,474**	**22,064,635**	**22,197,135**	**23,570,280**	**1,373,145**

Financing Plan by Department: Safety And Inspection

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 200 - CITY GRANTS

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Intergovernmental Revenue	40,129	-	-	-	-
Total Financing by Major Account	**40,129**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
20024800 - DSI FEDERAL GRANTS	7,313	-	-	-	-
20024810 - DSI STATE GRANTS	32,816	-	-	-	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**40,129**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Fund: 211 - GENERAL GOVT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Other Financing Sources	383,660	1,590,000	1,640,002	690,377	(949,625)
Total Financing by Major Account	**383,660**	**1,590,000**	**1,640,002**	**690,377**	**(949,625)**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
21124100 - DSI SPECIAL PROJECTS	-	1,440,000	-	-	-
21124700 - DSI OPIOID SETTLEMENT	-	-	1,640,002	690,377	(949,625)
21124820 - DSI SAC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	383,660	150,000	-	-	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**383,660**	**1,590,000**	**1,640,002**	**690,377**	**(949,625)**

Financing Plan by Department: Safety And Inspection

Budget Year: 2027

Fund: 215 - ASSESSMENT FINANCING

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Other Financing Sources	130,997	488,985	488,774	488,774	-
Total Financing by Major Account	**130,997**	**488,985**	**488,774**	**488,774**	**-**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
21524250 - NUISANCE BUILDINGS ABATEMENT	130,997	488,985	488,774	488,774	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**130,997**	**488,985**	**488,774**	**488,774**	**-**

Fund: 645 - RECYCLING AND ORGANIZED TRASH

Financing by Major Account	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
Other Financing Sources	-	-	100,000	100,000	-
Total Financing by Major Account	**-**	**-**	**100,000**	**100,000**	**-**

Financing by Accounting Unit	2024 Actuals	2025 Adopted	2026 Adopted	2027 Proposed	Change From Prior Year
64524490 - DSI RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE	-	-	100,000	100,000	-
Total Financing by Accounting Unit	**-**	**-**	**100,000**	**100,000**	**-**