



TO: Budget Committee
CC: City Department Directors
FROM: Robert Strobe, City/District Manager/Budget Officer
DATE: May 13, 2024
RE: Budget Questions and Answers Second Memo

The following additional questions were received from members of the Budget Committee:

Urban Renewal Agency/Economic Development

1. **QUESTION:** 201-001-640008 – What is the URA Initiated CBZ Project with a budget of \$500,000? Is this just funding set aside for TBD agency-initiated projects if the opportunity arose?
 - a. **Answer:** Currently there is not a specific project for this program. Here is the portion of the Agency/City Council Retreat regarding this program for more clarification:

Agency Initiated Funding Program

- Funding (\$500,000 of one-time funding in current year’s budget)
- The program is designed for the Agency to identify a project to fund on their own initiative and consideration of the funding would include a transparent, public process. In past years the Agency has considered leveraging these dollars for significantly more grant dollars to help renovate the historic firehouse building and provide gap funding to facilitate the acquisition of an elevator for the Bohnenkamp building. The Agency chose not to expend these funds on either project. Looking ahead these funds could be leveraged for additional grant funding for implementation of the Jefferson Avenue Redevelopment Plan or potentially towards a new Police facility.

The Agency briefly discussed this program. It was noted that the funds could be used for a variety of projects including but not limited to capital projects in conjunction with the Jefferson Avenue Redevelopment Plan, a new police facility as described below, or for future streetscape work. The funds could also be used to fund other projects to allow for a larger Under Levy. The Finance Director confirmed all the Agency’s unused funds were invested and receiving interest. The Agency ultimately reached consensus on retaining the dollars and the program for flexibility.

Water Fund

2. **QUESTION:** 004-162-629-800 – What are these franchise fees that get paid out?
 - a. **Answer:** Franchise Fees are paid to the City for the use of the City’s Rights of Way by utility providers, including the City’s water and sewer utilities. The revenues are shown in the General Fund under Franchise Collections and are based on gross revenues.

General

3. **QUESTION:** What is the average med/dental/vision insurance cost per FTE? Looking at the cost under personal services in each department.

a. **Answer:** Our full-time employees are the only employees to receive medical/dental/vision insurance. The City has two different medical/vision insurance plans. Below are the insurance rates. Please keep in mind that our medical/vision insurance plan rates change every January (mid fiscal year).

All full-time employee except Firefighter Association Employees

	Employee	Emp + Child	Emp + Children	Emp + Spouse	Emp + Family
Co-Pay F Plan 2024 & Dental	\$794.06/month	\$1,369.85/month	\$1,789.51/month	\$1,548.39/month	\$1,924.68/month
Co-Pay F Plan 2025 & Dental	\$861.38/month	\$1,494.75/month	\$1,956.38/month	\$1,691.14/month	\$2,237.99/month

Firefighter Association Employees

	Employee	Emp + Child/Children	Emp + Spouse	Emp + Family
IAFF Plan 2024 & Dental	\$623.95/month	\$1,001.29/month	\$1,227.68/month	\$1,605.01/month
IAFF Plan 2025 & Dental	\$674.26/month	\$1,089.34/month	\$1,338.36/month	\$1,781.18/month

b. Also included in the medical, dental & vision insurance line are contributions to Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)/Voluntary Employees’ Beneficiary Association (VEBA), Health Savings Account (HSA) and/or Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP) accounts. These contributions go into an account that employees can use for unreimbursed medical/dental/vision expenses.