



FY25 Budget Process Review

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

November 19, 2024

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Budget Review Process Overview

- Review FY25 budget process and identify opportunities for input
- Collect feedback
 - Commissioner of Finance and team members
 - BFEDC Chair
 - Council Members and staff
 - Council Core Staff
- Analyze feedback
- Provide recommendations to Budget, Finance, & Economic Development Committee





Topics Addressed in Budget Review Meetings

- Council Budget Retreat
- Joint Budget Retreat
- Mayor's Budget Hearings (MBH)
- Mayor's Proposed Budget (MPB)
- Council Budget Link Meetings
- Budget Committee of the Whole (COW)
- Budgeting Materials
- Communication
- Overall Process





Joint Budget Retreat

- Desire for more group interaction
 - Exercises and goal sharing
 - Current model is challenging for collaboration
- Clarify purpose and goals of the retreat
- Receive budget materials in advance of meeting
- Consider review of capital projects in progress





Mayor's Budget Hearings (MBH)

- Council Members prefer to know link assignment prior to the start of MBH
- Council Members appreciate opportunity to attend and ask questions
- Provides understanding and context for funding requests
- Strongly support format and ability to watch recordings





Link Meetings

- Challenging to accurately review funding priorities
 - Narrative inconsistencies
 - Timeline parameters for funding requests
- Consider defining roles and expectations
- Interest in restructuring links
 - Less links, more members
- Outline process for adjusting or amending budget





Budget Committee of the Whole (COW)

- Overall process has been efficient and consistent
 - Link report-out templates
 - Individual council member requests
- Clarify scope of individual council member budget requests





Materials

- Overall impression was positive
- Success with storing all budget materials in one place
- Desire additional documentation on future capital projects
- Prefer ability to opt in to receiving MPB and adopted budget books
- Want budget in brief book





Communication

- Repetitive date sharing and reminders were helpful
- Consider providing an annual budget training for council members and staff
- Schedule link Chair check-in meetings
- Break down the budget and process better for the public





Suggestions and Considerations for FY26

- Preparation
 - Provide budget overview training
 - Host budget process workshop
- Joint retreat
 - Plan and implement group exercises for joint budget retreat
 - Define purpose and goals
- Mayor's budget hearings
 - Assign links prior to MBH
 - Encourage attendance of MBH
- Links
 - Define roles and expectations
 - Schedule link Chair check-in meetings throughout process





Notes for the Administration

- Provide capital project update at joint budget retreat
- Continue to host MBH virtually
- Consider timeline parameters for funding requests
- Provide actuals for fund balances in MPB
- Provide ability to opt in to receiving MPB and adopted budget book
- Provide budget in brief books





Next Steps

- Explore new links structure
- Develop and outline plan for FY2026 budget process
- Review plan with Vice Mayor and BFEDC Chair



Questions?



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