

2019 Adopted and 2020 Endorsed Budget Executive Summary

On November 19, 2018, following nearly two months of intensive review and discussion, the Seattle City Council's Select Budget Committee approved the 2019 Adopted and 2020 Endorsed Budget, [Ordinance 125724](#). The Full City Council voted 8-1 to approve the budget later the same day. As a result of its review and deliberations, the Council made a number of modifications to the Mayor's 2019-2020 Proposed Budget. The purpose of this executive summary is to highlight the most significant elements of these changes. This summary of the changes in the adopted budget must be read in conjunction with the summary of the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget, which describes the major elements of the budget as it was proposed to the Council by the Mayor (and follows this section).

Revenue

The local and regional economy experienced substantial growth in 2018. The 2019-2020 Proposed Budget was balanced against a revenue forecast relying on data available through August 2018. This forecast was revised in November, as it is each year, and the new forecast projected some changes in resources. For the General Fund, 2018 on net was revised downward approximately \$690,000, 2019 and 2020 were revised upward by \$1.57 million and \$1.37 million respectively. For non-General Fund revenues, the forecast for school zone camera enforcement revenue was increased \$2.2 million in 2018, \$2.15 million in 2019 and \$2.37 million in 2020. Vehicle license fee revenue was also increased by approximately \$2.0 million in 2018.

The Council also increased General Fund revenues by transferring \$918,000 in 2018, \$889,000 in 2019 and \$871,000 in 2020 of red light camera fine revenues into the General Fund from the School Safety Traffic and Pedestrian Improvement Fund, and by adding \$400,000 in 2019 and \$500,000 in 2020 of Business & Occupation tax revenues.

Changes in Total Appropriations

The 2019-2020 Proposed Budget included a total of \$5.9 billion in annual appropriations, of which \$1.3 billion was for the General Fund. The Council actions increased General Fund appropriations by approximately \$50 million in 2019 and \$56 million in 2020. The increased appropriations by the Council were made possible by reserves held for labor negotiations, additional General Fund revenue, the use of fund balances made available for general government use, and other funding decisions.

Seattle Police Officer's Guild Contract

The majority of General Fund appropriation increase in the Council changes relates to an open contract with the Seattle Police Officer's Guild being settled. The Council confirmed the contract in November, then add the necessary \$40 million in 2019, and \$50 million in 2020, out of central reserves and into the Seattle Police Department budget.

Reductions to Fund Council Priorities

In the Seattle Police Department's budget, approximately \$1.3 million in 2019 and \$1 million in 2020 was cut to reflect challenges in hiring additional officers at the rate originally budgeted. The Council also

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made an across-the-board reduction to all General Fund departments of 0.07% in 2019, and 0.1% in 2020. This cut resulted in an additional General Fund available of \$900,000 in 2019 and \$1,400,000 in 2020.

Continuing to Address Homelessness, \$1,724,000 in 2019 and \$2,390,000 in 2020

City Council deliberations resulted in several investments along the homeless services continuum, in areas such as homeless prevention, outreach, mental health and system navigation services, and basic shelter. Approximately \$700,000 was added in both 2019 and 2020 for homelessness outreach and services, which includes prevention services, day center operations, and other services. Funding for basic shelter beds was also added by Council for homelessness, with \$378,000 in 2019 and \$756,000 in 2020, in order to keep open beds set to come offline halfway through 2019. Managing public health at encampments also received \$184,000 in funding for both 2019 and 2020.

The Council increased the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program by \$462,000 in 2019 and \$750,000 in 2020. A high percentage of those served by the LEAD program are experiencing homelessness, and LEAD features outreach and case management that support the unique needs of this population.

Treating Substance Abuse Disorders, \$700,000 in 2019 and \$500,000 in 2020

The Council added one-time funding to address substance abuse, including \$500,000 in both years for treatment programming, \$100,000 to support opening a Community Health Engagement location in 2019, and \$100,000 to support the remodel of a Buprenorphine Pathways program in 2019.

Other Significant Changes

- *Inflation Adjustment for Non-General Fund Contracts at Humans Services Department, \$903,000 in both 2019 and 2020* – This action expands on the Mayor’s 2% cost of living adjustment for the General Fund amount in HSD contracts, extending the 2% increase to fund the non-General Fund amounts.
- *Increase for Equitable Development Initiative, \$1 million in 2019* – This increased the amount of Community Development Block Grant funding for this program, supporting additional community-driven projects.
- *Alternatives to the Criminal Justice System, \$1 million in 2020* – This action adds funding to the Office for Civil Rights for community-based organizations providing alternatives to, or addressing harm created by, the criminal justice system.
- *Vacant Building Monitoring Program Expansion, \$457,000 in 2019 and \$483,000 in 2020* – This action enhances this program, including three new inspector zoning positions.