



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
Re: Planned FY22 Amended General Fund Budget Adjustments
Date: July 24, 2020

This memo describes the changes planned for the amended FY22 General Fund budget compared to the preliminary budget submitted to the City Council on June 7th. These changes fall into three categories:

1. Corrections and adjustments to the proposed budget
2. Cost-neutral line-item changes
3. Cuts made as part of the FY22 budget process
4. Reinvestment of funding from departmental cuts

Category 1: Corrections and adjustment to the proposed budget

The following adjustments and corrections are applied to the amended budget and were presented at departmental budget hearings and at cut night on June 23rd:

| Department | Budget Line | Description | Amount |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---|------------------|
| City Council | Legal Services | Update to the original proposal. | \$25,000 |
| HHS | Salaries/Wages Temp | The original amount was omitted inadvertently. | \$27,000 |
| HHS | Salaries | Correction to a salary step. | \$14,784 |
| SomerPromise | Salaries | The salary for the SomerBaby home visitor was assigned to a non-existing account. | \$48,710 |
| SomerPromise | Salaries | The Coordinator position was budgeted for twenty hours/week instead of full-time | \$21,308 |
| Inspectional Services | Salaries | Correction based on a revised position regrade. | \$10,737 |
| OSPCD – Housing | Salaries | Correction based on a revised position regrade. | \$(4,480) |
| Net Change | | | \$143,059 |

Category 2: Cost-neutral line-item changes

Two items have been requested by departmental staff to be moved to different expense objects:

| Original Line | New Line | Description | Value |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------|
| DPW Highway OM (529005) | DPW Grounds OM (529005) | Care of Trees was originally allocated in Highway instead of Grounds. | \$230,000 |
| DPW Snow Removal OM (53000,558004, 573000) | DPW Administration OM (530000) | The Auditing Department advised that these types of snow expenses should not be budgeted within the Snow Removal cost center. | \$17,000 |
| Net Change | | | \$0 |

Category 3: Cuts made as part of the FY22 budget process

The City Council voted to approve four cuts to departments totaling \$406,768:

| Department | Line | Description | Amount |
|-------------------|--------|--|--------------------|
| Police | 511000 | Salaries – 4 vacant patrol positions pending hiring. | \$(93,662) |
| Police | 511000 | Salaries – 6 vacant patrol positions reduced to one month. | \$(177,106) |
| Police | 530000 | Removal of staffing study to reallocate. | \$(60,000) |
| Police | 558003 | Public Safety Supplies. | \$(76,000) |
| Net Change | | | \$(406,768) |

Category 4: Reinvestment of funding from departmental cuts

After accounting for cuts voted by the City Council as well as adjustments based on corrections to the original budget proposal, the amended general fund budget is \$263,709 less than the original appropriation. On June 23rd, the Council made a number of resolutions to increase funding using available capacity under the levy limit. The Administration is including two investments in the final proposal in addition to relocating the police staffing study that was cut from the Police Department budget to the RSJ Office budget:

| Department | Line | Description | Amount |
|-----------------------------|--------|---|-----------|
| Transfer to Special Revenue | N/A | Additional appropriation to the Racial & Social Justice Stabilization Fund. | \$250,000 |
| Racial & Social Justice | 530000 | Relocation of police staffing study from Police. | \$60,000 |
| OSPCD - Housing | 511000 | Administrative Assistant (NU12-4 for 10 months). | \$45,511 |

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| Net Change |
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| \$355,511 |
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The Administration also commits to seeking a supplemental appropriation for the RSJ Office to more fully support the Somerville Commission for Women, the Human Rights Commission, and the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities as appropriate in light of the work the Office will undertake with these commissions to establish strategic plans, re-examine and, if appropriate, propose changes to their enabling ordinances, work on creative recruitment strategies, and engage the community and other city departments in their work.

While the Administration recognizes the value of many of the other resolutions voted on by the Council, they require additional consideration and due diligence before we formally request funding for them. We look forward to engaging in future conversations with the Council on these requests.

The proposed reinvestments total \$355,511. The amended budget proposal of \$270,179,919 is, therefore, \$91,802 higher than the original proposal and \$260,970 below the levy limit.