



Agenda Bill

City Council Special Meeting - 06 May 2024

Department

City Manager

Staff Contact

Adolfo Bailon, City Manager

Agenda Placement

Business Agenda

Agenda Bill Title

Discussion on Ballot Initiative Effort

Summary

Council directed the City Manager to investigate a potential ballot initiative in support of Public Safety. City staff worked with FCS Group to investigate needs within all departments and identify amounts of new revenue needed to pay for the potential additional expenditures.

Current estimates indicate that Burien is operating with 39 fewer full time employees (FTEs) than are needed to fulfill the level of service requested by Burien residents. By 2026, it is estimated that Burien will operate with 44 fewer FTEs than are needed to operate the city. By 2029, it is estimated that Burien will operate with 50 fewer FTEs than are needed to operate the city.

Burien would need an additional \$8 million in revenue in order to increase its total number of personnel by 44 FTEs. Burien will need an additional \$10 million in revenue in 2026 to increase its total number of personnel by 50 FTEs.

The ballot initiative process is challenging to complete as it relies on residents to agree to an increase in property tax. Additional challenges include competing ballot initiatives that are/may occur in 2025 (King County EMS/Medic One, King County Parks, King County Library Service) and a levy capacity cap of \$1.60.

Burien has never sought additional revenue through a ballot initiative. City staff will seek the assistance of a skilled and qualified consulting firm to guide Burien through the process and help to educate residents in Burien about the importance of increasing the city's total number of personnel. An RFP should be released this month, following a review from department directors and appropriate existing city consultants.

Fiscal Impact

Overall impact is unknown at this time. Initial impact will be for cost of consultant. Funds for a

consultant contract were budgeted and available for use through existing City Manager's Department budget.

Attachments

[Information from FCS and Ballot Initiative](#)

[2024-2033 Financial Forecast Improvement List](#)

Highlights from Figure A:

- City can tax up to \$1.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value of real estate in Burien.
 - o **City's currently tax rate: \$0.82429**
- Accessed value of property in Burien: \$10,349,069,623
- Amount of Burien's revenue from property tax: \$8,530,589
 - o tax rate (0.82429) x accessed value (\$10,349,069,623) = property tax revenue
- Information below grey highlight
 - o Additional Levy (left side of table): this is the amount (in millions) that can be raised through a ballot initiative.
 - o "Annual Property Taxes on...": This column represents the median property tax for residences in Burien.
 - Note: this is for the city's portion of annual property tax only.
 - A homeowner may pay \$3,500 per year in property tax, but only \$392.36 of that would go to Burien
 - o Increase From Current PT: This column represents the increase in property tax when adding funds through a ballot initiative.
 - Note: property tax increases with each additional increase of \$1 million from Additional Levy column.
- **\$8 million ballot initiative will increase the city property tax by 100%.**

Figure A

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What is the existing City property levy rate rate?	\$0.82429	per \$1,000 dollars of assessed valuation
The 2023 property levy is	\$ 8,530,589	
The 2023 assessed valuation for the City is:	\$ 10,349,069,623	

What is the amount available for new tax?*	\$ 8,027,922	in 2023
	9,059,200	in 2025 (estimated)

* Note: Figures represent maximum "safe" levies. These rates would not be subject to prorationing if the overall local government rate exceeded \$5.90 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

What amount is available and realistic/feasible for new tax?	Increasing levy by \$8M would double annual property taxes from \$392 to \$760 for a median residence value.	
2022 Median Residence Value in Burien	\$ 476,000	
2022 City Regular Property Taxes	\$392.36	

Additional Levy	Annual Property Taxes on Median Residence	Increase from Current Property Taxes	City Property Taxes as % of Median Household Income**
\$0	\$ 392.36	\$ -	0.49%
\$1,000,000	438.35	45.99	0.55%
\$2,000,000	484.35	91.99	0.61%
\$3,000,000	530.34	137.98	0.66%
\$4,000,000	576.34	183.98	0.72%
\$5,000,000	622.33	229.97	0.78%
\$6,000,000	668.33	275.97	0.84%
\$7,000,000	714.32	321.96	0.90%
\$8,000,000	760.32	367.96	0.95%

Highlights from Figure B:

- Projection was created in 2023 and meant to identify our total immediate need for staff/funding, as identified by department directors and managers.
- Description of info within Citywide Summary
 - o New FTEs: this represents the total number of full-time employees that department directors and managers identified as being needed in that year so that we are at full strength.
 - 39 FTEs needed in 2024 to meet needs in all departments.
 - 3 additional FTEs in 2025 for a total of 42 new personnel.
 - 2 additional FTEs in 2026 for a total of 44 new personnel.
 - Etc.
 - o Personnel Cost (in current dollars): total amount needed to meet financial obligations for new personnel (salary, benefits, etc).
 - o Non-Personnel Costs (in current dollars): additional funding for other needs that support personnel and work.
 - o Total Cost (in current dollars): Total additional revenue needed in each passing year to meet additional needs of operation.

Figure B

Citywide Summary	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
New FTEs	-	39.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	-	-	-	-
Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 4,097,879	\$ 4,287,851	\$ 4,383,536	\$ 4,479,221	\$ 4,574,905	\$ 4,670,590	\$ 4,670,590	\$ 4,670,590	\$ 4,670,590	\$ 4,670,590
Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	2,933,854	3,092,708	3,650,562	4,208,416	4,766,270	5,324,124	5,879,978	6,435,832	6,991,686	7,547,540
Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 7,031,733	\$ 7,380,559	\$ 8,034,098	\$ 8,687,637	\$ 9,341,175	\$ 9,994,714	\$ 10,550,568	\$ 11,106,422	\$ 11,662,276	\$ 12,218,130

City of Burien
General Fund Financial Forecast
Department Service Improvement Summary

Citywide Summary	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
New FTEs	-	39.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	-	-	-	-
Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 4,097,879	\$ 4,287,851	\$ 4,383,536	\$ 4,479,221	\$ 4,574,905	\$ 4,670,590	\$ 4,670,590	\$ 4,670,590	\$ 4,670,590	\$ 4,670,590
Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	2,933,854	3,092,708	3,650,562	4,208,416	4,766,270	5,324,124	5,879,978	6,435,832	6,991,686	7,547,540
Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 7,031,733	\$ 7,380,559	\$ 8,034,098	\$ 8,687,637	\$ 9,341,175	\$ 9,994,714	\$ 10,550,568	\$ 11,106,422	\$ 11,662,276	\$ 12,218,130

Decision Package ID	Description	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
1	2 Additional Police Officers per Year											
	New FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	555,854	1,111,708	1,667,562	2,223,416	2,779,270	3,335,124	3,890,978	4,446,832	5,002,686	5,558,540
	Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 555,854	\$ 1,111,708	\$ 1,667,562	\$ 2,223,416	\$ 2,779,270	\$ 3,335,124	\$ 3,890,978	\$ 4,446,832	\$ 5,002,686	\$ 5,558,540
2	Sign Replacement Program											
	New FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000	140,000
	Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000
3	Solid Waste Coordinator											
	New FTEs	-	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268	\$ 106,268
	Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268	\$ 107,268
4	Two Add'l PW Maintenance Crews											
	New FTEs	-	12.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189	\$ 1,341,189
	Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	109,500	29,500	29,500	29,500	29,500	29,500	29,500	29,500	29,500	29,500
	Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 1,450,689	\$ 1,370,689	\$ 1,370,689	\$ 1,370,689	\$ 1,370,689	\$ 1,370,689	\$ 1,370,689	\$ 1,370,689	\$ 1,370,689	\$ 1,370,689
5	Sidewalk Maintenance Program											
	New FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
	Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
6	Street Maintenance Program											
	New FTEs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000
	Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000
7	Development & Traffic Engineers											
	New FTEs	-	2.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318	\$ 270,318
	Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	89,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500
	Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 359,818	\$ 279,818	\$ 279,818	\$ 279,818	\$ 279,818	\$ 279,818	\$ 279,818	\$ 279,818	\$ 279,818	\$ 279,818
8	Additional Park Maintenance Crew											
	New FTEs	-	6.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115	\$ 554,115
	Non-Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	-	140,250	20,250	20,250	20,250	20,250	20,250	20,250	20,250	20,250	20,250
	Total Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 694,365	\$ 574,365	\$ 574,365	\$ 574,365	\$ 574,365	\$ 574,365	\$ 574,365	\$ 574,365	\$ 574,365	\$ 574,365
9	Recreation Marketing Coordinator											
	New FTEs	-	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Personnel Cost (in current dollars)	\$ -	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287	\$ 94,287

