

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

JUNE 11, 2026

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 7:05 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and duly noticed in two places, including the City's website, in accordance with the requirements of RSA 91-A:2 II.

Chairman Richard A. Dowd presided.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance.

Members of Committee present: Alderswoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
 Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
 Alderman Derek Thibeault
 Alderman Paula Johnson
 Alderman Tim Sennott, Vice-Chairman
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire (voting member)

Members not in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Clerk

Also in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman James Ravan
 Dawn Enwright, CFO
 Diane Mulholland, Treasurer/Tax Collector
 Jim Donchess, Mayor
 Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel
 Steve Buxton, Nashua Fire Chief
 Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police
 Karen Smith, Nashua Police Business Manager

ROLL CALL

Chairman Dowd

Alderman O'Brien has a medical issue and is not here this evening and in accordance with the rules of the Board of Aldermen, Alderman Wilshire is going to be sitting in as a voting member tonight of this Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Keating

This says anything on the budget.

Chairman Dowd

On the budget, yes. That's on the agenda.

Bob Keating

Yeah, so I'm speaking about ..

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

Bob Keating

.. putting something into the budget.

My name is Bob Keating. I live at 5 Coburn Woods Drive here in Nashua. On Tuesday night, I spoke about the ending homeless plan and I wanted to start with that again, and Kris Conus, that some of you I know from (inaudible) worked in the Mayor's office to coordinate that with some leadership at the House of Representatives, and was also the President of

the Board of Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter, and was an incredible human being. We had a meeting at her house which became the launching of the idea of ending homelessness in our community. One of the many things that Kris said and did that has stayed with me and one of the things she said, I'm concerned. So this is back in 2003. She said there will be people soon that will not know that homelessness is not normal and for those people who grew up in from maybe the early 60s and down were in communities that was very few homelessness, the larger cities. It just didn't exist and I think her prophecy, if you will, has really come through that we have reached the point in time that we see this as a normal thing. As my sister-in-law would say at various times at family events, it's just not normal and I hope we just keep that in perspective.

So what I'm speaking here is that our budget of \$383 million - it's an impressive document - has no new monies despite all of the efforts that we have discussed, the multitudinous of people who have spoken, including people who have been homeless ..

Alderman Thibeault

One minute.

Bob Keating

.. and there is no new money there. And the budget certainly reflects our values and as many people have said, a budget is a moral document.

So with that, I continue to say there's still time here that for no cost as it was stated yesterday, Elm Street could offset the ordinance by having people not have to be living out in the woods or hiding between buildings. So I'm hoping that that would be the first thing that we do here and secondly, having to walk in and see that we're looking at the infrastructure and it was \$17 million for the hydroelectric plant and the fishways, which are good things but I think we could at least pursue having that kind of money that's available for housing people here in our community.

Alderman Thibeault

Time.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Anyone else for Public Comment? Seeing none, moving on.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE R-26-028
MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Dowd

Okay, so last evening we made some motion - I think everybody got a copy of what was approved last night and before we get started, the Mayor is asked to address the Budget Committee.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So I just wanted to briefly report on something we found today. So last night, we were talking about the city's economic development efforts and got into the issue of how our department, and its size, and its cost compared to other cities of similar size in this area. I had the general idea as I said at the time that ours is significantly smaller than other communities, but we looked at the issue or investigated the issue in detail.

So down the road in Lowell, they have 5.5 people in economic development and 4.5 in city events. So they have a staff of ten compared to our 1.5. So they put forth 6 or 7 times as much effort as we do.

Up the river in Manchester, 4.5 people in economic development, plus they have an annual budget of \$300,000 for City events. So they have 3 times as many people, plus they spend that money on city events, plus they spend a \$1 million on a city marketing campaign compared to our 1.5 people.

So we looked at a smaller community like Dover, New Hampshire - 1/3 our size. Three people in economic development. A city 1/3 our size, 3 people, they have a department twice as large. So the statement that we are smaller and expending less resources on economic development as other communities is very, very true. Now sometimes various Aldermen at various times have suggested that we should be doing more and they point to these other cities. Well, they're doing this and we're not. You know, the whole Manchester marketing plan. If you want us to do more, we need a lot more resources not less. So if you want us to do less, cut economic development. But if you want to get anywhere close to what our competing cities - I mean even to begin to approach the cities on which we do compete, you would need to add money, and I'm not really suggesting that we should add money but you should understand that we are considerably more lean in this area than communities right around us, and that's my report for the night.

Chairman Dowd

Does anybody have any questions for the Mayor before we get - Alderman Sennott?

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know through this process of discovery and how we compare it to other municipalities and a lot of different aspects, it's come up that certain things that we'd like to see like whether it was a marketing plan or something like that for the city, it's just something that's never been in place. I guess my question would be in regard to how lean our Economic Development Department is - how long has our department been at 1.5 people or less? Is that sort of been the story all along?

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Alderman Sennott

Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions?

Mayor Donchess

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Dowd

At the end of the evening, hopefully, we'll address a motion to approve our budget going forward to the full Board on the 23rd of this month. Any other motions?

R-26-028

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA
GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, SPECIAL REVENUE AND GRANT FUNDS**

Alderman Kelly

Thank you and thank you for my colleagues for doing some great work last night. I tracked everything so I have fewer motions to make but I will start with a motion in Department 152, Line 51100. I'd like to increase that by \$9,743 and I'd like to speak to it.

Alderman Thibeault

Can you say the department once again, please?

Alderman Kelly

Department 152.

Chairman Dowd

And the amount?

Alderman Kelly

\$9,743 to Salary and Wages.

Alderman Thibeault

Line item again, sorry? Sorry, I gotta write all this down.

Alderman Kelly

Okay.

Alderman Thibeault

You know, I'm trying. What was the line item?

Alderman Kelly

51100.

Alderman Thibeault

Page number?

Alderman Kelly

Irrelevant, we got 4 different ..

Alderman Thibeault

I don't know. I'm just going by the script. I don't know what to tell you. Okay, forget the page number.

Alderman Kelly

It's changed. We've had so many different books.

Alderman Thibeault

Alright, alright. That's fine.

Chairman Dowd

I'm sure that Ms. Enwright will find it.

Alderman Thibeault

Yup.

Alderman Klee

Yeah, what is the description?

Alderwoman Kelly

Are we done with logistics? I'll speak to it.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, I mean I had to write it down. What do you want me to do?

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO INCREASE DEPT. 152, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 51100 – SALARIES AND WAGES, THE AMOUNT OF \$9,743 RETURNING UNAFFILIATED WAGES FIREFIGHTERS

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

So this is to reinstate the unaffiliated wage increases that this Board has worked through for a number of years. I think that we have as a Board approved this multiple times and I'd like to see it returned.

Chairman Dowd

Go ahead, speak to it.

Alderwoman Kelly

Huh?

Chairman Dowd

Are you speaking to it? Do you want to add something?

Chairman Dowd

Do you want to add something?

Alderwoman Kelly

That's what I just.. what? What is happening?

Chairman Dowd

I thought you just said at the end you wanted to again speak to it so I didn't know if you had ..

Alderwoman Kelly

No, no, that's it.

Chairman Dowd

Alright.

Alderman Kelly

That was my statement.

Chairman Dowd

Alright. Discussion? Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, I'm just gonna say the Mayor had a reason to do it. I don't want to add this back in at this time. We're trying to add less to the budget not more.

Chairman Dowd

So it's \$9,743?

Alderman Kelly

Hmm mm.

Chairman Dowd

And what specifically on the wages - which wages for?

Alderman Kelly

That would be returning the wages that the City.. I'm sorry. The Board of Aldermen agreed on for the unaffiliated class of Firefighters.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh, just the Firefighter ones?

Alderman Kelly

Correct.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, that ..

Alderman Kelly

Fire is 152.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh. That's a huge ..

Alderman Kelly

Do you want me to say the name of the department? I'm happy to do that too.

Multiple – unidentified speakers

Yes, please.

Alderman Gregg

Could you say the name of the department?

Alderman Kelly

Okay.

Chairman Dowd

That's about to go to Ms. Enwright because I didn't think that number was right.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, that's different. I take back my words.

Alderman Kelly

I was thinking – what? Sorry.

Alderman Wilshire

No, I'm good.

Chairman Dowd

You're good?

Alderman Wilshire

Yeah, thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

I do have questions though.

Chairman Dowd

Questions? Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Kelly

Now, that's a clarification.

Alderman Thibeault

So this is the money that it seems like every year we put back in. I know we did last year. I know Alderman O'Brien pushed it back in. We all voted to put it back in and yet it never goes back into their pockets. So what will voting for this again will it allow it to go to them this time? Like how? I don't know - I'm just trying to figure out if they're going to actually get this because didn't they not get it last year or am I wrong on that? Am I getting this confused with something else?

Alderman Kelly

I would ask the Chief that. But it has definitely gone back and forth a few times.

Alderman Thibeault

Chief Buxton is it possible that you could come up and speak to that? I just want to make sure that we're not just voting yes on this and you guys don't get what you're supposed to be getting. I know something was supposed to happen. I don't know if it ever did.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

What drives this reduction is in the Resolution itself toward the end of it. It talks about how specifically the firefighters will be treated and that the prior ordinance will be modified. So if you want to undo that, it might be that you strike that language from the Resolution itself.

Alderwoman Kelly

Ugh, I was not ready for that.

Alderman Thibeault

So that's probably not something we're doing tonight in the budget though, right? We can approve this and then have to fix that later?

Chairman Dowd

Doesn't it amount to the same thing or should we do it the way you suggested?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

If you don't take it out of the ..

Chairman Dowd

Resolution.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

.. body of the Resolution ..

Chairman Dowd

Alright.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

...the law will be changed and whether you have it in the budget or not, they can't get that salary because the ordinance provides for what salary they will get.

Chairman Dowd

So ..

Alderwoman Kelly

Can I ask a question – through you to Corporation?

Chairman Dowd

Go ahead.

Alderwoman Kelly

Can we pass this and then make amendments to the full budget Resolution at the end?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

You can do it in any order you want but ..

Alderman Kelly

Okay. That's what I would like because I think it's..

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

As I say if you don't get it done right, you may not accomplish what you're trying to accomplish.

Alderman Kelly

I see. Understood.

Alderman Thibeault

I don't know if I need that question answered as much as I think. So I guess my question to you would be has that money gotten to the unaffiliated over the last year?

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief. So yes, the ordinance we passed last year, we did receive the money for that. We have received the compensation. When we built our budget this year, the numbers that were submitted by my staff reflected those increases according to the Resolution and then an adjustment was made in the Mayor's proposed budget.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, but we still have to do what Legal has said. Does that sound right?

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

I didn't comprehend everything that Attorney Bolton said.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay. I just want to make sure we're doing the right thing.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, there's a line in the original Mayor's ordinance for the budget that strikes the money from the budget. So in addition to what the motion is ..

Alderman Kelly

Invalidates the ..

Chairman Dowd

.. the overall budget, they have to strike that line to make it effective.

Alderman Thibeault

I gotcha.

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

Understood.

Alderman Thibeault

I understand now. I gotcha.

Chairman Dowd

Are we on the same page?

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

Oh, yes Ms. Enwright.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

I would just like to make an amendment to that amount. Schedule B that was passed out last evening has the amounts for each department for the unaffiliated and the amount was \$11,009.

Alderwoman Kelly

Chief, is that correct?

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

I would guess ..

Alderwoman Kelly

A different number than I got.

Steve Buxton, Nashua Fire Chief

.. that she has the most up to information.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay.

Alderman Thibeault

I will change that to \$11,009.

Alderwoman Kelly

I amend to – what was that number?

Chairman Dowd

\$11,009.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

\$11,009.

Alderwoman Kelly

\$11,009.

Alderman Thibeault

\$11,009.

Alderman Kelly

Okay.

Alderman Thibeault

You got it?

Chairman Dowd

I assume I would make of the motion is agreeable to that?

Alderman Kelly

I would like to amend it to the appropriate amount. Thank you.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO AMEND TO INCREASE DEPT. 152, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 51100 – SALARIES AND WAGES, THE AMOUNT OF \$11,009 RETURNING UNAFFILIATED WAGES FIREFIGHTERS

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

All right. Thank you, Chief.

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions on this? I'll go out to the Board but when we make motions do we want to do it by roll call or do we want to do it just yeas and nays? But we don't know the count, we can ..

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, I would do it afterwards.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

May I speak to this one more time, please. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Go ahead.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Dawn Enwright, CFO. When you are looking at reinstating the unaffiliated if you look at Schedule B, there are FICA, Medi, and pension costs that do associate with them. So you may want to consider adding those into the amount.

Alderman Kelly

Okay. Can you calculate that or shall I do it as a separate motion?

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Yes, I can do it. The total is \$14,417.

Alderman Kelly

Okay. I see that now. \$14,000 ..

Dawn Enwright, CFO

\$417.

Alderman Thibeault

That includes the \$11,000?

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, that includes the wages ..

Dawn Enwright, CFO

It's the total.

Alderman Kelly

.. FICA and ..

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Oh, I apologize. We have to do it by lines.

Alderman Kelly

Oh, so we do have to do it in separately. Okay.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

I apologize, yes.

Alderman Kelly

Okay, so the motion is to change 51100 by increasing it \$11,009.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO INCREASE DEPT. 152, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 51100 – SALARIES AND WAGES, THE AMOUNT OF \$11,009

Chairman Dowd

Okay, any further discussion? Did we decide how we want to vote?

Alderman Kelly

I think we said unless it was unclear, we could just do straight up.

MOTION CARRIED (Alderman Johnson in opposition)

Alderman Kelly

Okay, so then if I'm right ..

Chairman Dowd

Do you want to do the FICO one?

Alderman Kelly

So if I'm right, then the next motion is I would like to increase under Fire Department 152, line 52100, and I want to increase it by \$121? Is that correct?

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO INCREASE DEPT. 152 FIRE DEPARTMENT, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52100 THE AMOUNT OF \$121.00

Alderman Klee

No.

Chairman Dowd

That's probably the smallest amount of budget motion I've ever heard.

Alderman Kelly

We have to do them separately.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, I know.

Alderman Kelly

They're separate line items.

Chairman Dowd

Any discussion?

Alderman Thibeault

You said 121, right?

Alderman Kelly

Hmm mm.

Chairman Dowd

Yup.

MOTION CARRIED (Alderman Johnson in opposition)

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Excuse me, I apologize. That total was \$160.00 not \$121.00. \$121.00 is Police.

Alderman Kelly

Oh, \$160.00.

Chairman Dowd

So, we'll have to vote on that again since it's \$160.00 versus the \$121.00.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, \$160.00.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO AMEND TO INCREASE DEPT. 152 FIRE DEPARTMENT, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52100 THE AMOUNT OF \$160.00
MOTION CARRIED (Alderman Johnson in opposition)

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ADD TO DEPT. 152 FIRE DEPARTMENT, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52150, THE AMOUNT OF \$3,248

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

What does that do?

Alderman Kelly

I'm sorry, that is to increase the pension cost to match the unaffiliated salary increase.

Chairman Dowd

You have the info?

Alderman Thibeault

Yup.

Chairman Dowd

Does everybody understand the motion or have any questions?

MOTION CARRIED (Alderman Johnson in opposition)

Alderman Kelly

I thought I started with my easy one.

Alderman Gregg

Well, then we're in trouble.

Alderman Kelly

I know. Okay. I don't want to take up all the time if other people have motions but I have a few more.

Chairman Dowd

You want to see if anybody else has a motion? Anyone else have a motion?

Alderman Thibeault

Well I got a question about these motions here. So is that all we need to add cause it seemed like it went from \$11,000 to \$14,000 but we only put like \$192 back in. Do we need more? Like Dawn had said \$14,000 and I said does that include \$11,000? The delta would be \$3,000, right or?

Alderman Kelly

Do you have this? I didn't have it until just now but I was just following ..

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, so we're good. I just want to make sure we're good on those ones.

Alderman Sennott

\$14,417.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

The total is \$14,417.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah.

Alderman Thibeault

The delta though is \$3,000. So did we put that \$3,000 back in somewhere?

Dawn Enwright, CFO

The pension.

Alderman Kelly

The pension.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

The last one was \$3,000 ..

Alderman Thibeault

Oh, \$3,248. Oh my god.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, that was the pension. Yup.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh my god. Okay. When you said \$3,248, I was thinking \$32.48. Alright, we're good.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else with a motion?

Alderman Kelly

I have many.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, we'll go back to ..

Alderman Lopez

You weren't here.

Alderman Kelly

Okay. So my next motion is under Risk, Department 128, Line Item 53130. I'd like to reduce that item by \$110,000 and I'd like to speak to it.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO REDUCE DEPT. 128, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 53130 (ENCAMPMENTS), THE AMOUNT OF \$110,000

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Thibeault

I got it.

Chairman Dowd

You got all the info?

Alderman Thibeault

Yup.

Chairman Dowd

Alright. Speak to it.

Alderman Kelly

So this line item appears to be for encampments. We put a ban on encampments so I think that the budget doesn't make sense to me.

Chairman Dowd

Would you bring your mic up? Okay.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, I've got the budget book right in front of me. Sorry. I'll put it a little closer. Do you want me to say it again?

Chairman Dowd

You have a delicate voice.

Alderman Kelly

I do but unless I lean right in. So my explanation is that this is a line item in Risk under encampments and my understanding is if our camping ban is doing what it should be doing, we shouldn't need to have money for encampments.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, would anyone from the..

Alderman Thibeault

I was gonna ask that exact question.

Chairman Dowd

Would anyone from the City like to address this? Anyone from Risk or Director Cummings?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Uh, happy to answer any questions if there's a question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

Well the motion is to reduce \$110,000 from Risk because it's for encampment and since we've passed the legislation that doesn't allow it, does that money need to be in the budget?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Well, that is certainly a decision for you to make. Again, Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services. I will note that just because there's the camping prohibition out there, that does not negate the fact that we still have to go out and clean and whatnot certain areas of the City and certainly we wouldn't have the resources to be able to do that. I will tell you that I was with Director Bagley this morning actually on an unhoused meeting where we were talking about hot spots within the City that we know that we need to watch, and we will potentially need to clean up based on the activity that's occurring there. It's these monies here that would actually be available to us to be able to undertake such actions. Absent these monies, we wouldn't be able to do that. We certainly could come back before you and do a supplemental appropriation if that's what you so desire to do, but we wouldn't be so responsive or be able to react if we were to get phone calls from you all because we would have to go through a certain process. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, I got a question Director Cummings. Don't walk away. So, why would this fall under Risk and not maybe another department that seems like cleaning up would be more, I don't know, apt to be another department.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

I can't answer that question. I can tell you that over the years this is where it's been and we've just been consistent over the years in terms of its funding source. I certainly could see an argument being made that it be in DPW but for whatever reason, many years ago it was placed in the Risk Department, and we've kept it there over the years, and we're happy to have it there.

Chairman Dowd

So do other departments when they get involved whether it's DPW, Police, or Fire, then take - go to Risk and get reimbursed? Is that the way it's been working?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Not reimbursed but what happens is lots of times – again - Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services - and I'll use DPW as an example and we work as a coordinated team here. So Police may be the first front line that brings it to the attention; DPW does as much as they can. We try to contain costs as much as possible and provide the services in house but when it gets to a certain point and it can't be done, DPW works very closely with Risk, and then we coordinate it, and it becomes a contracted service type vendor situation.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up?

Chairman Dowd

Follow up.

Alderman Thibeault

Just to follow up. So without me looking because I'm trying to clerk at the same time, do you know how much you've used this year of this particular line item? How much?

Alderman Sennott

\$3,000.

Alderman Thibeault

\$3,000?

Alderman Sennott

Up to 331.

Alderwoman Kelly

And if I could – sorry. Could I have a word?

Alderman Thibeault

Is that accurate or do you know more stuff coming in?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

I'm gonna have to get back on that because I know we've done some cleanup, so I'm not 100% sure. So let me check on that.

Alderman Thibeault

Only because I mean, I don't want to wipe this out completely but if you haven't used it, you know, I'd be like, "Oh, why are we putting it on there? But if you're saying \$95,000, maybe we reduce it to \$95,000.

Unidentified Speaker

This one seems secret.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Johnson, you had a comment.

Alderwoman Kelly

I had a point of order that I've been trying to ask. Can I say it, please?

Chairman Dowd

Point of order? Okay.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Nope, so I ..

Alderwoman Kelly

Tim said that it's been in the budget book. I'm looking at 2025. It was not line itemed in the 2025 Risk – I'm sorry – 2026 Risk Budget as Encampments. So it lives somewhere else or I'm missing it.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

If I may?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

I'll address both questions. It wasn't at the FY25 budget. I believe it might have just been rolled up so it's not being displayed.

And then secondly, I just confirmed. Yes, it sounds like we've only spent about \$3,000 this year. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

So just one thing. The motion that you're making completely takes that to zero?

Alderman Kelly

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Johnson.

Alderman Johnson

Well, I was just - before we have a point of order - because I remember sitting here. We talked about DPW with Economic Development Director, and also Director Fauteux, and I had questioned about the cleanup with these encampments, and the waste on the streets, and I kept worrying that we were going to have to do hazmat because of the encampments. So if - yes I did say that because we were talking about human feces and my concern was how are we going to do all this cleanup? So we have it in the budget and if we're not using it, so the money had to come from elsewhere when we had Director Fauteux and the Director of Economic Development. We talked about that. Because we were talking about the area where it was first Main Street, and then we were going up West Pearl Street, and we were going all over the City, and a lot of us were concerned with what specific area were we going to clean up.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, that money that we approved for that cleanup was for a small area for the - till the end of the year.

Alderman Johnson

Right.

Chairman Dowd

So.

Alderman Johnson

But that's what we're talking about that. We're talking about the encampment money too. So this is not going to be used at all. So we have money elsewhere if we needed to do any of the cleanup.

Unidentified Speaker

Yeah, I think that's fair.

Alderman Johnson

I just want to make sure before we vote to remove this from the budget. That's all because we ..

Chairman Dowd

Follow up?

Alderman Johnson

..went around the world on this.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up, Director Cummings?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Yes, thank you. I think that's fair to say. I'm not exactly sure how those monies were appropriated and if they were limited to be in a certain area but absent that. So I think you might want to check on that before you go too far.

I also just wanted to add - I wanted to just check this. When we do do a cleanup, there's a chance that it gets prohibitively expensive because we are removing hazardous material at certain points, and times, and that's one of the reasons why we use a vendor. It's not uncommon for if we're doing a cleanup for it to run in the \$25,000 range. So I just want you to be aware of that as well. So, you know, it sounds as though last year we didn't necessarily go in that direction because we're able to do it in house. As I said, we try to do it in house as much as possible but when we have had to contract out, it can go from a 10 to a \$30,000 type expenditure for a single clean up. So we're doing - when we have done it, we've done 2 or 3 a year. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Okay. I got Alderman Gregg, and then Alderman Kelly, then Alderman Klee.

Alderman Gregg

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, you know, in looking at this too for 6 months of this, we did not have a camping ban and if half a year, they only used like \$3,000 of this, I think this is a wise cut for us.

Chairman Dowd

Okay. Alderman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm good.

Chairman Dowd

You're good. Yes, Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

I'm not commenting on the 110. That's not my comment but to the query about the money that was used for the cleanup if I remember correctly, we had a very specific area, including the streets, Main Street, and so on. So that money cannot be used for - because it was very specific location. That's the only comment that I want to make. I'm not commenting on this 110, one other.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah and that wasn't for cleanup for encampments. It was cleanup for just the riverfront and Main Street. So that to me, that was different than this. I mean I guess we can risk supplemental appropriation if we need the money but I think we have to - if we vote to take off this money - so part of the encampment that was cleaned up, the Mine Falls Committee did a lot of that cleanup themselves, which again takes away the money that the City has to spend on that, right? If an encampment is somewhere else, it's not maybe Greeley Park or Mine Falls, that's when the City might have to step in and do the cleanup. We're lucky to have such great committees and community people that come out and help us clean those two areas, right?

So I think that's probably one of the reasons why we barely used any money because I think the Mine Falls people really came out and did a great job there. But that being said, there could be another time. I'm okay with voting with this if we're okay that sometime in the year we need to make a supplemental appropriation because something has happened that's been out of our control and we need to clean it up that we're okay doing that. And if we're okay doing that, I'm fine with this cut. I'll vote for it but I just want to make sure that we're thinking about that if it comes up and we're making sure that we do what's necessary if that happens and we don't just say, "Well, we're not going to make supplemental

appropriations, just push that aside". We want to make sure - maybe it's only \$25,000 and we've saved ourselves still \$80 - \$90,000 - \$100,000, right? So I think I will support this if that's the mindset we have going into it.

Chairman Dowd

I have a question for Director Bagley. If there's hazardous material somewhere in the City that needs to be addressed does that fall under your Division, and do you have funding to do that, and if not, who cleans that up?

Bobbie Bagley, Director of Division of Public Health and Community Services

Bobbie Bagley, Director of Division of Public Health and Community Services. No, we don't have money in our budget for cleaning up hazardous materials. We have to work with DPW.

I also want to speak to, I think, that that amount that we were looking at for the cleanup wasn't just for debris. It also included campers and those things as well. I think that is why that number was higher because the impounding and the movement of those campers was also included in that amount. Is that correct?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

You are 100% correct.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, thank you. Did you have something Director?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Well I just wanted to echo or follow along with what Director Bagley said to make sure everyone understands that we get asked from time to time to remove campers/abandoned vehicles from the roadway and that was the monies we had identified to use to tow and then if they're campers in particular, we have to remove them and dispose of them as well. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, that brings up another question for you, Director Cummings. So if we only used \$3,000 last year when it was, you know, camping world out there with the campers and there was a lot of them that were, you know, a good amount that we had to move. If we only used \$3,000 and we're pretty much for the most part, cleaned up now. There might be one somewhere here and there throughout the City. Wouldn't we say we still wouldn't need a ton of money to do that, like?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

So I just want to be clear. The reason why we were able to avoid using some of the money is because we actually were able to have the owners move the vehicles or charge them for the vehicles being moved because they weren't abandoned, but there was a couple that we did have to move and I believe we ended up having to pay for it, yes.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you.

Alderman Sennott

That was the same question I had.

Chairman Dowd

All set? Okay, any other questions on this?

I'm inclined to go along with this but I think we ought to keep in mind that if we do have issues during the year, we may have to do a supplemental appropriation to cover some of the expense. I think we've significantly reduced because of the legislation we passed. I probably would have preferred that we - instead of cutting like \$110 that we cut \$100 but I'll go along. Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

I, too, am of the - I'd hate to cut that line - that 110 completely. I'd be okay with a lesser amount, but I'm not going to support the 110.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, I think I may lean that way.

Alderman Kelly

I can support amending it to cutting it by \$100,000 leaving \$10,000 in there for rapid response.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO AMEND TO REDUCE DEPT. 128, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 53130 (ENCAMPMENTS), THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000

Chairman Dowd

All right. So the amount is reduced from \$110 to \$100,000 in the motion. Any other discussion? Seeing none. All in favor signify by saying aye. Aye

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Dowd

Any other motions? Alderman Johnson.

Alderman Johnson

I'd like to ..

Alderman Kelly

I'll take a break. I have a couple more.

Alderman Johnson

...make a motion to cut the Administrative Services, which is on page 60 – the bottom line, by \$1.5 million

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JOHNSON TO REDUCE ON PAGE 60, DEPT. 42 - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION – BOTTOM LINE, THE AMOUNT OF \$1.5 MILLION

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Thibeault

What's the line number please?

Alderman Johnson

It's not a line number.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh, it's just bottom line.

Alderman Johnson

Just the total expenditures.

Alderman Klee

For which, I'm sorry?

Alderman Johnson

Administrative Services.

Chairman Dowd

Department?

Alderman Thibeault

The whole thing.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, but what department number?

Alderman Johnson

Administrative Services, Department 42.

Chairman Dowd

Would you like to speak to the intent of your motion?

Alderman Johnson

I'm trying to reduce the budget and to reduce it by \$1.5 million because we need to bring the budget more in line, because right now it has increased by 6.34%, and we're looking at a possible 8% increase, and I think that's way too much for all the citizens of the City to be able to handle. So we need to bring the budget down.

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Enwright?

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dawn Enwright, CFO. What department are we talking about? Are you speaking of onto a division?

Alderman Johnson

Just Administrative Services Division

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Division, not department?

Alderman Johnson

Yeah, Administrative Services Division.

Alderwoman Kelly

Bottom line for Administrative Services 1.5. Got it.

Chairman Dowd

Could someone from the City staff come up and explain all of the areas that will be eliminated from Administrative Services?

Alderman Klee

The department.

Alderman Thibeault

This is department 106, right?

Dawn Enwright, CFO

There's no department. She is saying the whole division.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh, the whole thing? Oh boy.

Alderman Wilshire

It's all of the division.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

If I may, Mr. Chair?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services. I'm not 100% clear on the amendment being offered but I think I understand it and I am seeking clarity first. It sounds as though this is a bottom line cut to the entire Division?

Alderman Johnson

The entire Division, yup.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

And it sounds like it's at \$1.5 million.

Alderman Johnson

\$1.5 million.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Okay. So with that being said, I'll just speak generically. I think what this body needs to be prepared for is there would be a significant reduction in services within the Division of Admin. Services and you just need to be aware of that as just a general comment. I can't begin to tell you right now what exact items we would cut to be able to make the number because the Division of Admin. Services, in particular, has statutory requirements where we have to provide a certain amount of funding to be in compliance with State law and so we would have to look to see where we would have areas available to us to cut. We can certainly undertake that but because of that, I would note that - and I'll give this as an

example - one of the biggest drivers of the Admin. Services budget is insurance, and particularly the Workers Comp insurance, which is covered in Admin. Services, and I would suggest we would have an obligation to continue to fund that, and that's at a \$3 million increase. So we would have to offset it in other departments to be able to make this work if that's your desire. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Comments? Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, I just – I mean I think I have trouble supporting something that's just a bottom line. I would prefer if we're going to cut things that we know where we're cutting them from because I don't want to let it up to - I mean that's the problem we have with education, right? So I would prefer to look at it and I said the same thing to Alderman Sullivan today. I said can you break that out into pieces because I'm more apt to vote for something if it's a piece of something that I think maybe we don't need it but to just say cut 1.5 in your department and let it go, that's what I kind of like, I struggle with that piece of it. I would much rather see it from places so that it's easier to figure out. If we're leaving it in other hands, it's like then we're not doing the work, then we're letting them do it, so.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Johnson.

Alderman Johnson

Yes, thank you very much. First of all, I didn't create their budget. So I don't know which real area I'm going to be able to cut. They know their budget. I'm not an accountant. They've done the whole thing. But here's the issue. If the Mayor did his work and he kept every department to 3%, which was his directive, we wouldn't be sitting here have to figure out how we're going to really reduce this budget for the taxpayers of this City this year and I spoke about that last night, too, with the Mayor. He gave every department or directive 3%. How many came in at 3%? Maybe 1 or 2 and that was it. And we're sitting here and I made small motions last night to see if they would even pass. In the library, \$14,000 and that didn't even pass last night. I don't expect any of my motions to pass tonight even if they were a small motion, but I'm not in their department. It is their job to figure out what line item would need to be reduced - not me, them. That's their job. They created the budget and they created it over the Mayor's directive so it's their responsibility to correct their budget.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

It's absolutely our job to do a budget.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Mr. Chairman, can I make an observation?

Chairman Dowd

Hmm mm.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

In Department 106, the total expenditure is \$765,000 and change. A bottom line cut of \$1.5 million gives you a negative number.

Alderman Thibeault

It's \$22 million. It's a whole Division.

Alderwoman Kelly

She's trying to cut the whole Division.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I thought I heard someone talk about the bottom line of Department 106.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, page 56, at the bottom.

Chairman Dowd

The motion is for the whole Division of Admin. Services.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Oh, but just so you know, you can't have a negative ..

Alderman Johnson

The whole Division.

Alderman Thibeault

I mean it is absolutely our job to cut line items. That's what we're being tasked with. Just like the BOE, it's their task to cut line items on their budget.

And so, you could make a motion that would pass. Alderman Kelly did it and we cut \$100,000 out of a department. So you can absolutely make a motion. Cutting Library days open, that wasn't necessarily – or just saying cut \$400,000 out of education. Those aren't serious requests. If you have specific things that we can actually talk about, maybe we could pass one of your motions. I absolutely I think we could.

To say just cut 1.5, why don't I just say I'm gonna make a motion to cut 1.5 out of the Police. Guys, figure it out. Figure out how you're gonna do that. I mean that's not really what we should be doing. We should be looking at the line items and say, we don't think like the encampment – we don't think that money can be used so let's cut it back. I don't know why that isn't our job. If you really want to cut to 3%, put a motion to cut the School Department by 3% and if we approve that, you'll see what kind of chaos that would create. It would be bad. So if you think that every department should really be at 3%, I mean we got people from the Board of Ed, they'll tell ya. That would – absolute chaos. We cut the Police to 3%, Fire to 3%, DPW by 3%, or 2-3% you know what that would be for our City? It wouldn't be a good - the services would not be happening like they should be and then you'd be getting calls all day saying why isn't my street being plowed, why aren't there any cops on my street, why is this not happening – you would get it. That's just the facts. I don't know, you know.

Chairman Dowd

So I think our job tonight is to look at motions. If we want to make reductions or additions, there should be specific line items and there should be specific reasons for doing it. I don't think a cut just to say we're reducing the overall City budget is a valid reason because you're not taking into account what's being reduced and cut. So to me, I'm not gonna support that type of cut. Alderman Sennott then Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to at least first assure my colleague from Ward 5 that any vote that I make on any of the motions I'm intending to make fully on the merit and the strength of them. I myself moved \$137,000 out of the budget last night. Again, small – we call them drop in the bucket motions but I can certainly be in favor of those. I can be in favor of more but I struggle because I am an accountant with bottom line cuts because our biggest lament every year – this is my 3rd budget. Every year, we lament the fact that we don't have this line item authority over the School Department's budget and that's our biggest pain point in doing this.

The rest of the budget, we do have line item authority on and I know everything that I have here is line item. I know many of my colleagues have brought forward line items. That's where we think we should – that's where I think we should be

making these cuts, especially with Administrative Services who is a department I'll fully cop that I pick on - a lot. You know, there's a lot within Administrative Services that if we just did a blanket cut and left them to adjust, we put at risk. One of the things that pops up, and I know people say it's just because it's in your Ward, but we're the Arlington Street Community Center that falls under the Administrative Services Division and a couple of years ago, we accepted a grant for that, that was essentially to be forgiven so long as we continue to use that facility as a community center for the next 5 - 10 years. If we were to make a blanket cut, left it to the will of what we can and can't do to distribute those cuts and then that winds up shut down because of other things that we have to, we're on the hook for that x million amount of dollars that we were granted. We have to pay it back. Those were the terms of the grant and so this is why I feel like we need to be really cautious, and really careful, and really deliberate about the motions that we're making. I'm happy to make cuts because I agree that this budget is huge. We just need to do it the correct way. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I had a little - wow, I can't speak - logistical question through you to Corporation Counsel. I don't know where I stand here but if we were to make a bottom line cut, then the budget's not finished. So what happens then? Does that Division have to come up with what they would cut and then we have to approve it at the full Board?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

They would have to allocate the money. I don't think it would necessarily require further action by the Board of Aldermen.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. So the bottom line would be enough. They would just have to abide by that?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Well, you can't create a situation where you're forced to do something that contradicts State or local law. So for example, obvious things are you've got some bargaining unit employees that are covered by collective bargaining agreements; you've got unaffiliated employees that are covered by the ordinance that you folks passed that is to be modified by language in this budget resolution, but it's not being modified to take those people down to no salary at all. It's being modified to take them down to some extent. You have to pay those. That's the law. It's the law you passed. It's the law of the State Statutes concerning collective bargaining agreements. So you can't take it down so much that that can't happen.

I can't speak directly to this Division but there may be other federal and State mandates that have to be adhered to. So if you don't allocate enough money to take care of all of those things, the City could end up in violation of the law. I don't think you want to be in that situation. So it does seem like you risk that when you're pulling out big numbers without knowing exactly if the obligations can be met with what's left.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs. I was in fiscal and finance. I dealt with budgets. I worked for them for 20 plus years and when we made department budget cuts, we made them line item by line item. And the reason for it was I worked very closely with the Director. I worked with the Chief Fiscal Officer, and so on, and the reason why we didn't just tell them cut 1.5 off the bottom line is because we wanted to ensure that we - because we would look at all the line items of the budget and we would say we want to cut this. Tell me why we can't cut it. We would make them justify each item. If they couldn't - so to what Attorney Bolton said, you know, we're telling them 1.5 but do we really know that they have 1.5 in applicable cuts that would not create the problem that was just brought to us.

So I don't think that we should be doing bottom lines. I'm not on your Committee. I'm just telling you that, you know, it was mentioned that we do this to the School Department but that's because of another type of agreement with it. We should do each line item. We should look at their budget, and I know you all have done that as have I, and look at each line item, and then question, and say I want to cut this, and make them justify it, and then the Board can – I mean the Committee can determine it. So, thank you.

Alderman Johnson

Yes. Question through the Chair to Attorney Bolton. When does this budget have to be passed by?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

August 1st.

Alderman Johnson

August 1st. And you can extend it if you need to past August 1st?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

It's been done before - it violates the law.

Alderman Johnson

But it was done before?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

It's in violation of the law.

Alderman Johnson

But we were on the Board together when that happened. That was - we didn't pass it until October.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I kept voting to pass the budget but ..

Alderman Johnson

But we did.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

.. other people who voted against it were willing to let it violate the law.

Alderman Johnson

So the reason I'm asking that is that there's no rush that we have to pass it tonight because Mr. Chairman, you said that hopefully we pass it tonight. So we have up until August 1st that we could sit down and go through the budget even more and work on it. So there's no rush tonight.

Chairman Dowd

It'll depend on the vote of this Committee what we do tonight.

Alderman Johnson

Right. I got it but there is no rush if it doesn't get passed tonight to send it to the full Board. We have up until August 1st.

Chairman Dowd

Well then you're at - then it goes to the full Board and it gets extended even further. You're still in violation of the law. I don't think we want to go there. So that's a hypothetical so we'll see what happens, but. Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you to Attorney Bolton as well. I apologize for putting you on the spot tonight. So in consideration of this motion, the Mayor's proposed for the total Division is \$22,627,326. Suppose this passes and suppose at the end of this meeting that the Board or this Committee elects to send this budget to the Board for final consideration. With that in mind, without the breakout of what that \$1.5 million cut looks like is the division on the hook to have that breakout prepared by the full Board meeting at which this would be voted on?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

There's no requirement. I mean if you ask for that, I'm sure they would endeavor to do so but there's no law that requires that.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you for that answer and the reason I asked that is just because the other concern that this brings up and again, I don't have a crystal ball. I don't know what's going to happen at the end of this meeting but if this were to pass and then if we sent this budget to the full Board as is and those \$1.5 million adjustments aren't made, then in my opinion at least, we have a very nontransparent budget because we have a bottom line number but no clarity and no information to share with our constituents or the folks out there who watch this budget process how that breaks out. How much of that money that's left now, that \$21 million, that it will be allocated to Assessing, would be allocated to Human Resources, and so I think that's a concern, especially with how hot of a topic transparency is in the City and all the discussions that we have in and around that. For that reason, again, I would just like to see cuts proposed be detail oriented. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any further discussion on this motion? Seeing none.

MOTION FAILED

Alderman Kelly

At the risk of being ironic, my next motion is to the Mayor's Office - 101. I would like to propose a bottom line reduction of \$12,947.49 and I'd like to speak to it.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO REDUCE DEPT. 101 – MAYOR'S OFFICE, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION – BOTTOM LINE, THE AMOUNT OF \$12,947.49

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Thibeault

Let me just make sure that's right. \$12, 947 and 47 cents.

Alderman Kelly

.49. I think I did my math right. I'll ask.

Alderman Thibeault

Alright.

Alderman Kelly

So this - after having that whole discussion about bottom line - the Mayor's budget is a tight budget. It is \$605,194 all in and it was suggested that if the Mayor's 3% cut is there, then the Mayor as the Leader of the City should also follow the same rules. So I wanted to entertain what that would look like. So I think I predicated it correctly. I took that 605, I removed Fringe Benefits because that was pre-Fringe Benefits is that is the goal, right, and then I just took the 3%.

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Enwright, does that track? While she's looking it up, Alderman Gregg.

Alderman Gregg

While she's looking that up, I just wanted to ask my colleague. I can talk directly to my colleague or do I have to do it through you?

Chairman Dowd

Go ahead.

Alderwoman Kelly

Maker of the motion.

Alderman Gregg

Would you - because he set this goal before we knew what inflation rates were going to be, would you consider changing that instead to like 4.2% because that's what the inflation rate was - is now that we're looking at. Because right now what we're looking at is with the budget that we have and taking into consideration the 4.2%, we're really only 2% higher than that overall, which is like \$5.8 million or something. So I just wondered if we were going to consider a cut if we would make it a little more reasonable and match the inflation.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'd entertain that but you'd have to do the math.

Chairman Dowd

One of one other thing. When you have the total budget of the Mayor's office, his salary isn't involved because he's an elected official. So I'm assuming that a cut like this is going to mean somebody would have to be released.

Alderwoman Kelly

I don't - if I could respond to that?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, go ahead.

Alderwoman Kelly

This is why the bottom line conversation was very interesting, right, because the Mayor's budget beyond salary and wages is really only \$15,850. So if this motion were something we wanted to pass, they would have to make decisions on where that comes from and saying it has to come from salaries because they're unaffiliated, then that's a \$15,000 reduction. That's not a full-time person but that's a whole thing they have to look at, and then it gets into FICA, and pension, and all that fun stuff.

Chairman Dowd

You want to talk before?

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, cause I might actually a question to Megan.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay.

Alderman Thibeault

In my question, it may end of being she has to answer it.

First, I'm not going to support, again, any overall line item. I like, I need to know where it's going to come from. We're having the same situation we had in the last one even though this is smaller.

Alderwoman Kelly

That's why I said it was ironic.

Alderman Thibeault

What?

Alderwoman Kelly

That's why I said it was ironic.

Alderman Thibeault

I don't get it. I don't know why we're making - we are allowed to make line items. That's what we should be doing.

But my question to Ms. Caron is these interns. We haven't had them before or in a while. Is that something – that's 4 interns – right?

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

So for the record, Megan Caron, Chief of Staff. I had explained during our budget meeting on the April 16th that the money you see in the Intern line is actually supposed to be under Wages, Elected Officials.

Alderman Thibeault

Gotcha. Sorry about that. That was a while ago.

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

That's okay but you are correct. Last year, we cut – I think it was last year – we cut interns. We no longer have interns. We cut that by \$10,000.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, thank you. So with this potential cut, what would you be looking at cutting because – so how would this impact the Mayor's Office?

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

So I mean obviously as Alderwoman Kelly said, the Mayor's Office is one of the smallest budgets. I can say that in preparation for this proposed budget, we did cut 12.4% of the non-salary and benefit expenses, which is \$2,250. So that's not a lot but it is 12.4% of our total non-salary expenses. So I mean yes, you're kind of hamstringing our office to be honest. It's very hard to run the day-to-day operations of an office with but .. I mean I'll certainly speak to any line item cuts that the Budget Committee would like to see.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up?

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, so again, I think, again, this is an easy way out. I can just say – hey, Matt Sullivan cut \$50,000 out of your budget right now - like line item. Instead of actually looking at it and going is this what we need? Is this what we not need? So I probably no line items tonight whether it's small or big, I'm probably gonna – I mean no totals, bottom lines – am I gonna

probably support.

I mean we got rid of the StratComm even though and I said it last night. Alderman Kelly advised you to go with contractors – you did. We still denied it. So I mean the Mayor's Office, I mean that was a small offices. So are we at this point talking like getting rid of your supply budget. Are you going to Donna to try to get a highlighter cause you don't have one or a pen? Like is that where we are with that kind of money without going into salaries?

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Well for the record, Donna is always welcome to share highlighters or I actually learned a few weeks ago that she still has a typewriter. So we are always learning something new and our office does have 11 x 17 paper, which I've also learned is kind of a hot commodity around City Hall. So just a little glimpse into daily operations. Yeah it's tight. I mean a cut like that to our office is not the same to PD, or Fire, or DPW. So yeah again, I'd be happy to speak to any line item cuts.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. I did consider taking it out of line item 5100. If that's where it came from, how would you accommodate that?

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

511 ..

Alderman Kelly

That's your wages – full time.

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Well, we'd have to reduce staff.

Alderman Kelly

But nobody's salary is \$12,000.

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

No but we wouldn't have enough to pay the staff. So I mean, I guess, we would have to look at a part-time position but ..

Alderman Kelly

Could I follow up, please?

Chairman Dowd

Follow up.

Alderman Kelly

I did not follow your intern conversation. Are you saying that the interns went away completely or they moved to the Elected Officials?

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Yup, so if you look at 51403 Wages - Interns and then you look below 51500 - Wages Elected Officials and you see that

flip flop ..

Alderman Kelly

What? Can you be just clear, sorry. I don't understand.

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

51403 is proposed for \$149,013. It's actually the Mayor's salary which should be in 51500. If you look at FY2026, that was his salary last year. So we did not carry any funds for interns for last year. We didn't have any.

Alderman Kelly

I see. Okay.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Short of cutting staff or reducing hours or something, I was kind of looking through the even the line items and trying to come up with \$12,000. I mean there's \$7,000 in Other Services which is telephone, cellular, dues, memberships, mileage, reimbursement, conferences, and seminars, and then looking at supplies, which is \$4,300 of office supplies, miscellaneous supplies, subscriptions, you know, and so on. So truly looking at this if you did cut almost \$13,000, it would have to come from staff and it would mean reducing staff hours. Not necessarily a full FTE but you'd have to take someone from a 40 hour job to maybe 30 hours or something. Am I correct with that?

Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Correct.

Alderman Klee

Yeah.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Gregg.

Alderman Gregg

Thank you. As much as I agree with and appreciate the accountability piece on this, looking, hearing what Ms. Caron said and then also looking kind of at the budget and seeing I was doing the same thing, where could we cut this or where - I just don't think, unfortunately, we can do this. I think it's something to have a conversation about maybe but I don't think that we can do this. There's no way to bring it down unfortunately. Prices have just gone up so much.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two points. First to Ms. Caron while you're still at the podium there. Considering the, I guess it would be an error with the Mayor's salary being reported in Interns - I don't have it on hand. Is that something that we corrected in the goldenrod copy or is that an adjustment that still needs to be made?

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Enwright.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Dawn Enwright, CFO. That is not in the goldenrod copy because it fell within the two digits, so we felt that it was an immaterial correction to be made and it can be done after the budget is passed.

Alderman Sennott

This is a transfer between accounts within the department.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Correct.

Alderman Sennott

Okay, understood on that point.

My second point is simply, I suppose with respect to both colleagues to my right, I have to be consistent in my rationale. So for the multitude of reasons I expressed on the previous motion, I have to follow suit on this motion as well.

Chairman Dowd

Any other discussion? Ms. Enwright.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Dawn Enwright, CFO, thank you. In doing the calculation, a 5% increase over the 26 there should be a reduction to this \$605,194 of \$5,415.35 if that is the motion at hand. Not the \$12,000.

Alderwoman Kelly

How did you calculate that?

Dawn Enwright, CFO

I calculated 3% off of the 26 subtracting the Fringe Benefits. So you calculate the 3% from that, add it to the total of the \$573,916, and that is the amount of 3% increase. Then if you take - if you subtract that from the \$605,194, you come up with the \$5,415.

Alderwoman Kelly

\$5,400 ..

Dawn Enwright, CFO

\$5,415.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay.

Chairman Dowd

Are you changing your motion or leaving it as is?

Alderwoman Kelly

It's not gonna pass. Just call the call to vote.

MOTION FAILED

Alderman Johnson

I'd like to make a motion and no one is going to support this. I'd like to make a motion with the School Department to cut the bottom line by \$4 million.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JOHNSON TO REDUCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BOTTOM LINE BY \$4 MILLION

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Klee

Oh God.

Alderman Johnson

I'd like to, if possible, to have Dr. Andrade come up? I see he's in there – in the audience.

Krystal De Gray, Chief Operating Officer

I'm here as well.

Alderman Johnson

Okay.

Chairman Dowd

I'll let Dr. Andrade - you want Krystal or when the question comes up, you decide who to answer.

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools.

Alderman Johnson

Good evening. I guess what bothers me here with the School District – when was it was it in the fall that you got \$3 million because for future with Special Ed.?

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

That's correct.

Alderman Johnson

Okay. And the Board never had any kind of restrictions asking you or any guidelines asking you also to please inform - keep us informed how the money was going to be spent and how long did you think it was going to take to spend the money – the \$3 million. Because I thought when the \$3 million – and I was not happy with that because I felt that we were just giving them \$3 million with open ended and how long was it going take to be spent. How long did it take for this \$3 million for Special Ed to be spent?

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

This school year – within a year.

Alderman Johnson

Within a year. And what is you plan now to make sure this doesn't happen again with all the money you are getting in this budget to ensure?

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

So ensuring - I want to be clear. So this is students who have IEP's that we're supporting. So once an IEP is signed, we are legally obligated to provide those services. So and what was happening, and continues to happen, and we need to be clear is that a lot of the money is spent on contracted services on positions or people that we don't have. So we're hoping

this year coming forward is that we're recruiting and retaining more special educators and para educators. We're also looking at in the last month, you heard about our reconfiguration of our classrooms so that we're able to put students in different classrooms so that we're able to provide better services. But again, this is all special education related that we're mandated to provide those services.

Alderman Johnson

And I get that because I've sat on the Board twice. And the reason I'm asking all this is because – and last night I spoke about the \$400,000 that was given for that second study. And in the process of Study 1 and Study 2, nothing has been done to change anything with the school basically. You still have a school that we have to do maintenance on the school that's open, that's falling apart basically. We all know which school it is – Mount Pleasant. We've talked about that extensively when I was on the Board and we keep doing studies after studies and nothing is – I don't see anything being done and people ask about this. Our student population is down to 9,500, plus they're looking by 2030 there's gonna be maybe 8,200 students. What is our plan?

We keep giving more and more money and the population is dropping, and people say how can you need more money - and I get it with Special Ed - because I've been on the Board, and I've heard everything all along with Special Ed, and I went along with a lot on the Board. I was excited about this study that came through – the first redistricting study because we had to redistrict for the middle school and we held back on the Elementary School because we felt it was too much at one time. But yet when your population is dropping and your costs keep rising, where are we looking to control the cost outside of Special Ed? That's a given because the federal government, and I said it the other night to Mr. Hoffman, I talked to him and I said, you know, the federal government was supposed to pay us 100%. They never did – we're at what about 30 - 40% that the government pays. We've got to ex-Governors that are in Washington. Why haven't they been fighting for Special Ed to get them more money because it would take the burden off of us – the taxpayers – if you go the federal end of this ..

Alderman Klee

The residents said no.

Alderman Johnson

.. even if you got 70% of it, it's still better than what we're getting now.

So I have a hard time with this and I know with the Special Needs kids, that's a whole different ball game. But what is being done in the District to make the adjustments for the declining population because in another – we're in 2026 – in another 4 years, we could be down to 8,200 kids and we should be starting to make that adjustment now to prepare ourselves. We've got a middle school that doesn't have most of the kids in it.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Johnson, can we get a specific question?

Alderman Johnson

So that's basically my question, you know, because you see it. A lot of people haven't been on the Board and seen it first hand and so that's what I am trying figure out here. I am making a motion to reduce the budget by \$4 million. I see the declining population. What are we doing keeping all the schools open that we can't afford it anymore because the declining population here. That would help.

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

If I may, Mr. Chair?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

So a couple quick points. We are doing work and we have a changing population. So in a couple weeks, I'm going to be proud to actually present some of our academic data showing that we're making progress over the last four years. We

also know over the last four years, we settled a DOJ settlement because we have a change in our ELL population. So over the last three years, we added about 30 ELL teachers, which was needed.

This year in this budget, we're reducing approximately 52 positions. So we are changing and what's gonna end up changing this year and moving forward is that the reduction in our teaching force will come from regular ed. teachers. So specifically at the high school. We'll start looking at do we have a comprehensive high school moving forward. Our elective, our arts, our CTE programs – we are obligated to provide a minimum basic education. Your English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and so forth but we're really proud of the comprehensive programs that we have and we want maintain that.

This year if we made no cuts to our budget, we'd be at a 8%. We've already cut millions of dollars to come in at the 6%. We, again, eliminated about 52 positions. Another \$4 million, we need to have those teachers in front of our students. We have about an average class size going into September of about 20 students per every teacher. If we eliminate another \$4 million, that is going to come from other areas and it will be extra curriculars. It will be our sports, before and after school programs, administrators, custodians, technology, plan ops but they will not come from teachers because we need teachers in front of students. We will decimate our program. But I want to be clear, we are making progress and we are moving forward with our student achievement and again this year we already eliminated 52 positions.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you madam – Mr. President, man I'm sorry, I'm bad. So I just want to say to the people raising their hands, Alderman Dowd's writing a list. He has an order of everyone on there. So don't worry, you guys are going to be - everybody will be called.

So I will give mad props to Alderman Johnson because I said make a big cut. She made a big cut, so I'll give her credit. I mean, I respect her for doing that. I don't agree with it and I won't vote for it because, it's again - I mean, it's a bottom line where we actually don't have bottom line. So, you know, this is more appropriate, I think, than some of the other cuts so. But I want you to tell me what would losing \$4 million look like in the school system next year? Because obviously we can't really close a school tomorrow or let go more teachers because they probably already signed on for the fall, right? You know, I was at the school today for a presentation on AP history from the history of Nashua, Volume 3, and I thought the kids did a great job but I talked to a parent there that said, you know, my kids are upset because they lost their favorite social studies teacher because she was on the young side, right? So she was only been there a couple years - I don't mean young in age but young in term and so, you know, it's terrible to hear, right? So what would \$4 million look like if we just took that out of your budget right now?

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

So to be clear, we will not eliminate any teachers because by contract and by law, we need to notify teachers that they're going to be not returning by the 2nd Tuesday in May. It's like the second week in May. So we already reduced. We laid off teachers and then based on our schedule and our enrollment, we called some teachers back because we need a 3rd grade teacher. We need a high school teacher. So we looked at our master schedules at the high school, middle school, in our elementary schools, and we come up with a ratio ensuring that every 20 or 24 students has a teacher in front of them all the time. Again at the high school, we eliminated about 17 teachers in each building and that was mostly your electives, your social studies classes, some of your art classes, your math, ELA. We changed their schedule at the high school to ensure that we still can offer a comprehensive program of studies. Again, we're really proud of our schools and our offerings so we didn't want to change too much there.

So the cuts are going to come from things that are not teaching staff. We would have to look at the number of administrators and I think we're pretty lean on administrators right now. We will look at our plan ops, our custodians. Again, I don't want to say this, because this would be horrible, our sports programs. That's over a million dollars. Do we offer sports at the high school that's not contractually obligated to run? That's not my recommendation. I don't want that in Facebook. I'm not saying we're cutting sports but that's something that you would have to look at. But our plant ops, you know, we will look at our any maintenance programs going on. We would stop any kind of technology programs but the following year, we're going to be asking to make up those gaps. So it would not be teachers. It would be all the other areas but \$4 million would be really difficult.

I thought, again, when we presented our budget, we were trying to be responsible in saying this is our minimum. We didn't come in any higher but we went in with a number of cuts already. To Ms. Johnson's point, I think a conversation

about closing a school is going to come up. It's about a \$1.7 million savings but again, I think that's a community kind of conversation. We're hoping to have a lot more community conversations between now and September/October so that the community is prepared if we should do so. But that's why we did not eliminate a building this year because we would think we would possibly use that savings next year.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up?

Chairman Dowd

Dr. Andrade in the end though, the final decision on what gets cut if the \$4 million were to pass would be strictly up to the Board of Education.

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

That's correct.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up to that?

Chairman Dowd

Follow up.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up comment. So, again, I mean I don't want you to cut sports. My kid's got one more year but ..

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

I'm not saying that. I'm just – those are the things that you would have to be drastic on.

Alderman Thibeault

That's exactly what I want you to say because I want you to tell us how the impact - so you're up there, you're fighting for this \$4 million now, right? So you're up there saying why it's important that you have that \$4 million in your budget. If you have trouble saying it, then people might think oh, okay we don't need that. We can give the \$4 million. You're up there. You're selling it, right? You're selling it to us and if those things are in jeopardy of getting cut, we need to know that and that's why I asked that question. I wanted to know what the impact would be and I think you said up here at one point if you had - I think I asked this question to you - if you had to go to the 3% what would it look like and you said "nuclear". That's what you said.

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

Absolutely crazy.

Alderman Thibeault

So thank you for that. I appreciate that answer.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, I have Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you and I want to thank the School Department for all the work they did - I'm struggling with the conversation around this because they have done a ton of work to communicate to us what they're going to do and they were one of the few departments that said we're going to reduce our staff to do what's right for this budget season. So I understand that, you know, they are the biggest budget and we were telling our colleagues like make a bold move but I think that

they've reiterated multiple times why they did this the way they did this. They've talked about what would happen to their budget. They have a study going on right now. They actually just in the Ad Hoc explained to us when they're going to make some decisions on what school buildings they're going to close. So I think we should vote on this and stop making them dance.

Alderman Johnson

Yeah, they did present the study. We had a study back in 2023, and we knew what had to be done back then, and now we're at this point now that even back then we knew where we were going to be with the student population, and I'm not asking to cut teachers but administrators. How many administrators do we have to the student population at this point?

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

We have about 50 school-based administrators, about 10 Directors, 2 Assistant Superintendents, 1 Superintendent. So in total, about 70 administrators which, again, I think it's a lean staff.

Chairman Dowd

All set?

Alderman Johnson

Yes, I'm all set.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember at one of the meetings yourself or Ms. Gray spoke about the type of students that you have or while the numbers are going down, the needs of the students presently within the school system are more costly and have a greater need. So even trying to put more students per teacher and so on is going to be devastating to these students. Am I correct in remembering that?

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

You are absolutely correct.

Alderman Klee

Okay.

The other thing is you mentioned the \$1.7 million savings to eliminate a school building, and this is something I reiterate, and I'm not talking about any particular school. I'm just saying that if you were to do that, I just want the rest of the world to hear that that just gets transferred from the School Department to the City so the taxpayers are still on the hook for maybe not a \$1.7 million - maybe it's only \$700,000, but we're still on the hook for that amount until we get rid of it. So and again, I'm not saying don't eliminate. I saw the plan, I respect every - all work that's been done.

And the other thing I want to ask you is did you not say at the Ad Hoc Committee meeting that the study won't be complete until this summer? Is that correct?

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

That's correct.

Alderman Klee

So we're still in the preliminary portion of that study or I think the majority of it is done but we're still waiting to get the final numbers.

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Chairman, if I may?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, go ahead.

Mario Andrade, Superintendent of Schools

So yes, the study is not complete and there's two different studies. The one a couple years ago was more a demographic redistricting. The Harriman Facility Study is over 2,000 pages long. It's going into the mechanical, electrical, plumbing - really giving us a really a detailed plan of what the buildings need going forward.

One of the reasons why we held off from making a recommendation on this year of closing a school is why would we spend \$300,000 on a plan and then make recommendations before the plan is done and then secondly, whether it's Mount Pleasant or a different school - and I remember a couple years ago with Mr. Teeboom called me out on it. He's like - don't pass the buck. This is a school decision if we're closing a school. But I also think it's a one Nashua conversation, right, because if we close a school, what happens to that building? So I think we need to be planning together as a community on what does the vision of Nashua look like so if we do close a school, there is a plan behind it. So because at the end of the day, it's only one budget and we're one department of this one budget. So however the money is split, I think it's really we need to be proud of the plan going forward no matter if we're closing a school, keeping a school open but we all need to be in agreement because it is at the end of the day one budget.

Chairman Dowd

All set?

Alderman Klee

Yup, thank you. Yes I am, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Gregg.

Alderman Gregg

I just wanted to point out I, too, think that the school did a great job at really cutting things. They gave up staff and they really worked very hard before they presented our budget, which I think was incredibly respectable. What I don't want to get lost in these conversations is the fact that while needs continue to rise, health care costs are at an all-time high that we're covering, special needs have gone up. Not even just Special Education but kids that have greater needs just impacts from the last half a dozen years.

We have a State and a federal government majority that continue to pay less than what they even promised. When the Special Education laws were passed federally, they promised a 40% funding and they're funding less than 12%. When that happens when we have State and federal governments that are not paying what they are either legally required to or said they were going to, that then falls on all of the taxpayers. So I think the school has done a great job educating our next generation with very, very little and I just want to make sure that we're not saying - pointing the blame at some administrative bloat or anything else. They're really working with very, very little and doing a very good job.

Chairman Dowd

Any other discussion?

MOTION FAILED

Chairman Dowd

Any other motions? Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Sennott can go. I've been doing all of the work tonight.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Oh come on, I've done some.

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm not saying – I'm sorry I didn't mean it that way. Talking.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you.

Alderman Sennott

I would like to make a motion. I am in Administrative Services. I'll start with 51100 – Wages Full time. I would like to make a reduction of \$55,000. I'm just going to look to the Clerk for my cues.

Alderman Thibeault

Department - is that 106?

Alderman Sennott

129 - I'm sorry – City Buildings.

Chairman Dowd

So that's the entirety of your motion or you have something else?

Alderman Sennott

No, I've got four lines here within that.

Alderwoman Kelly

Oh, to go with FICA. You did it right.

Alderman Sennott

What's that?

Alderman Thibeault

Four separate lines?

Alderman Sennott

Yes.

Alderman Thibeault

You're starting with one though, right?

Alderman Sennott

Yes I did. Are you good?

Alderman Thibeault

Yup, I'm good.

Alderman Sennott

Okay. The next would be 52100...

Alderman Thibeault

So this is all in one motion?

Alderman Sennott

Yes, Sir.

52100 I would reduce by \$3,886.

Alderman Kelly

What is the explanation?

Alderman Sennott

FICA/Medicare.

Alderman Kelly

I got it. Thank you.

Alderman Sennott

The next would be 52150 – Pension Expense. I would reduce by \$7,013 and then 52300, which is Benefits – I would reduce by \$20,000.

Chairman Dowd

Do you want to speak to why?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPT., 129 CITY BUILDINGS, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 51100 – WAGES FULL TIME, REDUCE THE AMOUNT BY \$55,000; LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52100 \$3,886; LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52150 - PENSION EXPENSE REDUCE THE AMOUNT BY \$7,013; LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52300 – BENEFITS THE AMOUNT BY \$20,000

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Sennott

Yes. So the four lines that I just suggested - a reduction on are representative of a full time position that is being contemplated being created for the City Buildings Department. It is funded at a half year at a total of \$85,899. I believe the job title is "Facilities Manager". Given the constraints of the FY27 budget and where we are trying to make lean cuts, I'm concerned with this particular department - the City Buildings. I feel there's not a complete amount of clarity yet as to where this division or department – sorry, stands today and I'm concerned about a redundancy by creating another management position given the fact that the City already has a Buildings Manager. So for that reason, I am proposing that we cut this from the FY27 proposed budget and perhaps reconsider in FY28.

Chairman Dowd

So that's one position and all the lines that are affected by reducing one position.

Alderman Sennott

That's correct. Yes.

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

Alderman Sennott

And it is funded at half a year. I believe the expectation would be that this position would not be filled for at least six months.

Chairman Dowd

Director Cummings do you want to address this because I think this falls under you.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Correct. So again, Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services. I understand the motion at hand is to reduce the proposed new Facilities Manager position, which was only funded at half. I originally had proposed it a full year in recognition of all the constraints and in working with the Mayor. It was understood it was going to be reduced down to a half year proposal of funding and then it's the correlating FICA, Medi, and benefit costs that go along with it is what is being represented in the motion here at hand.

I believe I have laid out to this body on a couple different occasions the plan and the work to try to build a Facilities Department here. I would suggest to you that this is probably Admin. Services #1 priority. I think it's a little bit of a misconception to believe we have a duplication of effort with a "Building Manager" and a "Facilities Manager". I had gone before the Personnel Administration Committee on 2 different occasions. I have outlined the plan. I presented what would be the Buildings Manager would actually be transformed and it would report to the Facilities Manager. That Building Manager would be act more like a Foreman if you will and have a crew underneath them, but then there would be a Facilities Manager to oversee the buildings within general government. Right now, we do not have a Facilities Manager in the City and we don't have it managed in a successful way.

It's been, as I understand it, there was an initiative that was started 20 years ago to try to do this under previous administrations and so what happened was is that the department got housed and put alongside the Risk Department and then it never moved forward from there. I would respectfully submit to you all that the City of Nashua now needs to do this more than ever with the amount of deferred capital maintenance that you have. This is small money that you're going to be putting out to potentially stop and do a cost containment for larger dollars that you would have to put out later on down the road and you need to actively manage your facilities to try to contain those costs. That's what the department would ultimately be charged to do. If this doesn't occur, we will just be slowed in trying to roll out these types of efficiencies and I would encourage you not to move in this direction. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

So if I understand the position - don't go away - we did this because we were experiencing lots of issues with our buildings that had not been tracked like School Department does - the Hunt Building, the Library, fire stations, this building, and we've had to go out and issue bonds to correct because if you don't spend \$35 today, it's \$350,000 later. So you're trying to develop a new department ultimately like the School Department has to oversee all the City buildings, and I think at that meeting you pointed out how many buildings we have, and I don't remember the number but it's more than more than six. So I understand it's funded at a half year and it's a savings to the budget. I certainly understand where we're going with this but it would delay addressing the long-term problem another year and from everything we've been told, next year's budget is not going to even be as good as this one. So anyway. Somebody else have their hand up? Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. So I'm going to support this motion and I hate to say that because I think there's a couple of positions that have been put forward that are smart, including strategic communications. I just can't support telling the School Department to get a reduced staff and then allow - I'm not saying no luxury at all - but every time we have a budget season, we talk about well can you hold on to that fire truck one more year, can you do these things, and I think supporting and maintaining our assets is really important, and we've been talking now for a long time but I think a year to kind of come up with a plan - and I actually think there could be potential to consolidate just like we're doing with IT. We have facilities. Why don't we have a citywide facilities School and City?

Chairman Dowd

It won't work. I'll tell you why later.

Alderman Kelly

Okay. I mean I'm not the expert. I'm just – I'm talking about the realities.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. With all the renovations we've been doing and looking at. – our fire stations, our police station, all of the facilities that we own as a city and we don't do a good job maintaining and upkeeping them. I think what's going on in the Admin. Services Department is trying to get a grip on getting that all in one place, getting one person to oversee it, and this is important. We spend all this money renovating and upkeeping things, and not upkeeping things - renovating but not maintaining, and that's one of our biggest downfalls in this City. We build it, and then we just run it into the ground, and then we rebuild it, especially our schools but this isn't about the schools. But same with all our other buildings - our library and all the buildings that are important to our constituents. I think this is good money. It's short money for what we're going to get. We've been talking about this at least 20 years and I think now is the right time to do it.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to echo the President's words. That's exactly what I had written here was we're playing up – we're playing catchup. One of my biggest complaints, and I've only been here 9 years, and I've been hearing about we need to do this, we need to do this on the School side and on the City side, and even my colleague from Ward 5 is constantly saying, you know, we don't take care of our buildings. Well we need a plan and I think that this position is going to help us to get that plan. I think it will do that.

The Building Manager to me is someone who literally makes sure that they're cleaned and so on. A Facilities Manager is actually going to be looking at the annual maintenance that's needed, create a 30, 50 year plan schedule as to what needs to be done for upkeep. Our buildings should last longer than they do and we have not done a good job in the past. I think we're really working towards it, and I think this is one of those steps forwards, and I don't think we can compare this to cutting teachers. While it breaks my heart that we cut teachers, we can't - they're apples and oranges. So, again, I'm not on this Committee but I really respect it because I think we do need to make cuts but I just don't think this is the one we can do.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could through you to Director Cummings. Just sort of piggybacking off the last point. If the understanding is correct that this position would be the individual making a 10, 20, 30 year plan, evaluating the conditions of all our buildings, and the long term and the short term needs, a lot of this - at least to me - rings similar to the Harriman Study that we just spent a little bit of time discussing and I feel that historically the City has reached outside its bounds to conduct those studies. Is that not what would happen in this case? I feel like that's a lofty goal for one individual with a foreman and then a maintenance crew working beneath them.

Chairman Dowd

Director Cummings.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Thank you. I think you could analogize it very similarly to what Shawn Smith does and you have a Director of Plan Ops who worked with an outside contractor to help develop a plan. I think that is a noble goal and would be something that

this, you know, municipality should look at doing for general government. We have the Fire Department that actually just did it on their own, and I applaud them for that, and I think we have an obligation in general government to also do something of a similar exercise. It's more than that, though. You really need someone to actively manage the buildings and treat them in a certain way and stay on top of it to achieve the efficiencies so you don't have the deferred capital maintenance build up. And so it would be having someone work day in and day out to bring about these efficiencies and this would be the start of moving in that direction. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you. Question for Director Cummings. Sorry. So what does this look like in other similar sized towns and cities? Because, you know, the Mayor earlier was saying in other towns and cities for some of these departments we're less, or more, or whatever. How does this type of position look in other places?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

If I may Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Director Cummings.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Again, Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services. In the PowerPoint presentation that we presented to the Personnel Administration a few months back, we actually did a comparative analysis to show some other municipalities. I can say Nashua is behind compared to how other municipalities manage these assets. They look at these buildings as assets. They want to steward them as best as they can because they know that it is better in the long run to maintain what they have than to build new.

The best example I can give you and it's very wise of this body to spend money on the parking garages in the downtown - maintaining those parking garages, spending \$10 or \$15 million now to keep the life of those buildings, which are already 50 years old, is a lot smarter than trying to build a new construction on a parking garage today. You can - and that's a very similar analogy to construction of vertical buildings throughout the area - and so spending the money now will help us preserve these buildings, and we should start to proactively do that, and that's all that this - this is trying to seed us to start to do. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up?

Chairman Dowd

Follow up.

Alderman Thibeault

So the parking garages would fall under this?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

No.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh, okay.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

I was just using it as an example.

Alderman Thibeault

You're just using that as an example.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

I thought it was very wise that we spent money - \$10 million/\$15 million. I forget the exact number right now. I think it was \$15 million but what I know is to reconstruct a parking garage of that size, that's a \$50 million undertaking and so spending \$15 million to get another 20 years, 30 years out of that building makes a lot more sense than spending \$50 million.

Alderman Thibeault

And putting this under Shawn Smith would just be way too much on someone's plate. That would just be incredible, right?

Chairman Dowd

Yeah.

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

So, again, I wouldn't recommend doing that right now. I think in fairness, the schools have done a great job of building out a program but on the general government side, we haven't done that yet and so we're so far behind. If we were to catch up with them a little bit, then I think you could probably have that conversation but we need to start putting forward a plan that gets us to be able to have that conversation.

Alderman Thibeault

Just so Mr. Smith knows, I didn't advocate for that.

Chairman Dowd

Let's see. Okay. Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you. Through you to Director Cummings. How many buildings would fall under this individual?

Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

I'm going to have to double check the number but I want to say 14 off the top of my head.

Alderman Sennott

Okay, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alright. Thank you. It's like \$85,000 but ..

Alderman Klee

Almost 86.

Chairman Dowd

I think that if you take the amount of money we've had to spend on buildings and that we're going to have to be spending on buildings coming up, I think the long term this saves us money and this is a half a year. The longer we wait, the more issues we're going to have with buildings so, but it's up to everybody on here to vote the way they want to vote. So any other comments? So you want to reiterate the motion?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DEPT., 129 CITY BUILDINGS, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 51100 – WAGES FULL TIME, REDUCE THE AMOUNT BY \$55,000; LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52100 \$3,886; LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52150 - PENSION EXPENSE REDUCE THE AMOUNT BY \$7,013; LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 52300 – BENEFITS THE AMOUNT BY \$20,000

Alderman Sennott

Can we do division?

Chairman Dowd

Division. Those in favor – 2; those against – fails.

MOTION FAILED

Chairman Dowd

Any other motions?

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. Thank you. I would like to make a motion in Department 183, line item 43400 – other contracted services. I'd like to reduce it. I think my number is right but I know you guys changed it last night by \$129,000 and I'd like to speak to that.

Alderman Gregg

What department is that? I'd like the name.

Alderwoman Kelly

Economic Development.

Alderman Gregg

Okay, thanks.

Alderman Sennott

And what was the line item? Sorry.

Alderwoman Kelly

53400. I'm twisting numbers now.

Alderman Klee

53400.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, you said 434.

Alderman Klee

You said 43.

Alderwoman Kelly

Oh, wow. It's getting late, sorry.

Alderman Klee

That's okay.

Alderwoman Kelly

All set?

Chairman Dowd

Okay, you want to speak to it?

Alderman Thibeault

I'm all set.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO REDUCE DEPT. 183 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 55699 – OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES, THE AMOUNT OF \$129,000

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes, please. So this line item is Other Contracted Services. I've made no bones about the end Contracted Services thing that I don't love. It kind of feels like a black box. We don't get a whole lot of information as to what it's going to and I think in a lean budget season I just see this as an appropriate place to try to pull down.

Now I'm just going to also say this. I'm not usually a cut here, cut there person. I am trying to do a larger cut to the budget because I do know it is a rough year for everybody.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, you want to address that then?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director. If I understand the motion, it is to take the newly restored \$129,000 down to zero again?

Alderwoman Kelly

Correct.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Okay. So that would decimate my entire economic development program. That would leave me with just \$25,000 for Consulting Services and then the marketing money to do for the year. So that would mean I would not be able to do any other programming, and I provided everybody with an outline of what was budgeted for that Other Contracted Services, and I don't have another way to make it specific. That's the only line item that I can use to do all of the programming for my budget. So essentially, that \$129,000 would cut my budget from 10% increase to - it would cut my budget to a negative 10%-ish - probably more than that actually. Closer to reducing my budget by 15%. So that would cut 25% of what was restored last night out of my budget.

Chairman Dowd

Discussion?

Alderman Thibeault

Just a question about the motion itself.

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

Alderman Thibeault

So the \$129,000 you said 53400. Is that where we put it in last night? It wasn't 55699?

Alderman Klee

It should be 55699.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay. That's what I thought because that's where I was - okay so it was restored to 55699.

Alderwoman Kelly

Sorry, guys. I did the best I could.

Alderman Thibeault

So let me update the motion.

Alderman Thibeault

55699 – Other Contract Services.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. Okay. Thank you. I fixed it.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you. Okay, that was my only ..

Chairman Dowd

Okay. Any other discussion? Seeing none.

MOTION FAILED

Alderwoman Kelly

Ready for this one. This is my last one. Okay. Department 150 – Police. I want to reduce the Mayoral budget by \$900,000 and I'd like to speak to it.

Alderman Klee

The bottom line.

Chairman Dowd

Go ahead and speak.

Alderman Thibeault

Yup, I'm good.

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO REDUCE DEPT. 150 - POLICE BY THE AMOUNT OF \$900,000

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

You good? You're ready? Okay. So this is for body-worn cameras. I was proponent of them when we did them 5 years

ago. I actually I think it was 6 years ago and I just - I have some concerns around this cost that's going to just keep escalating. We talked about technology changing. So is this going to be a constant subscription model where we're constantly seeing this go up every year? I think there's hidden personnel tax there because they have to redact all of that stuff if somebody requests it through Right to Know and I did a little geeky dig found some statistics around whether there's actually significant effect on reducing officer use of force, those types of things, and so far the statistics are pretty neutral. So in a budget year where I'm trying to find a place to go, the other thing that I considered was that the Police Department said they could do what they needed to do with \$295,000 and then the Mayor restored this. So what that says to me is that the Police Department can figure something out for at least a year.

Chairman Dowd

One of the Deputies want to come up and address that?

Alderman Klee

They just came in front of us and asked for this money.

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police. My best answer to that question is we have is - I want to make sure I understand correctly whether or not we need body cams or whether the ones we have are sufficient enough to go forward?

Alderwoman Kelly

The motion is to remove the money that would allow you to engage to the new contract.

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

Okay. We are in the last year of our contract with our current body worn camera company. I can tell you that since the time we've had these cameras, it's become evident that they are outdated. They are not reliable. They're not sufficient.

We have a vendor that Manchester used. Manchester has already left this vendor. We have a vendor that Hudson used. They have already left this vendor. It's not reliable. I can tell you we've had officer-involved shootings in the past two years that we have no body camera footage of. So at the end of the day, it's really a question to the City on whether they want that transparency of having body-worn cameras because our technology now is very limited. We have on a daily basis we have - I review all the use of force incidents that come into the City or come into the Police Department and on a daily basis, I see reports where body-run cameras are out of battery, they have overheated, and the technology just doesn't work for us. So I think we're at a point where we need to look at additional vendors and they're more expensive. Our own vendor at the end of this year is going to be much more expensive because we're in the last year of our contract.

Alderwoman Kelly

Follow up?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, but one thing Deputy. The reason they're in the budget this year is because these are leased. We're not purchasing, right?

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

Correct.

Chairman Dowd

So that's why it's not a bond to go ahead and buy the cameras and - this is so - it's in the line item because of the way we have to pay for them and the first year is \$900,000 but in the subsequent years less?

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

It would be - I don't know the dollar amount because we haven't signed with a different company as of yet but it would be something similar.

Chairman Dowd

And also we have to have an overlap period to change them out because you can't just call all the officers in to change their body cameras.

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

Correct. That's really the crux of it Alderman. We have - it's not so simple. Knowing what I know now, it's not as simple as leaving one vendor and the next day going to another vendor. There's all the installation, there's the training of the new officers, which is weeks or even months, there's data transfers from one company to the next. It's a super, super complicated process. If we were to go to the end of this lease and start fresh on a new one, there'd be a gap in body camera service to the City to be quite honest. So there would be months, potentially a year where we don't have any body-worn footage to reveal to the court or the public.

Chairman Dowd

And it's also not just the cameras themselves. I think when we talked about it before, it's computers, and this storage of the data, and ..

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

Correct. There's evidence, evidence storage related to this. It comes as a whole package. There's evidence related things. There's one of the vendors that we would like to engage handles all of our tasers. So there's certain savings if you bundle things together, things like that. So there's advantages to going to other vendors than the one we have now. We haven't signed with a particular vendor. The Mayor mentioned the other night one of the vendors we were looking at going to and it's the industry leader. They're the most reliable company there is. The cameras don't fail at least not nearly as much and that there's ways to wear them where if you go to a critical incident where you need the body camera the most that we don't have failures. So we've had two officer involved shootings and unfortunately, we have very limited video of that because officers put on extra gear. If you look at me right now, I'm wearing a body worn camera. It's an internal body worn camera. If I would go into the officer involved shooting, I would probably put additional ballistic protection on and it's going to block my camera.

There are other vendors where I can simply magnet off the camera, put on my additional protection, and put it right back on. There are options to wear on a helmet for the SWAT team. Things like that. So the technology we have now just isn't modern day with what most agencies are going with.

Chairman Dowd

Okay. Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. So the way you just described it sounds like it's pretty pertinent to your budget. So what I'm trying to understand is your proposed budget to us is \$295,000 and some odd dollars, which to me says we could make something - we could figure something out and then that was restored by the Mayor. So why was that decision made?

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

So in order to – yup ..

Chairman Dowd

The numbers person is approaching.

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

In order to finish out our contract with our current vendor, that's the \$295. In order for us to engage a new one, that's the additional money that's been put in.

Alderwoman Kelly

But why wasn't it put in your budget? If you knew you were changing, it should have been in your budget. Am I not right?

Karen Smith, Business Manager

Karen Smith, Business Manager. I prepared the budget and the amount of money that we put in was for our current contract, and the funding that we would need would be from whatever source of funds the City could make available. My understanding was we went to Capital Improvements for this. I was unaware that you could not find an item that is leased through Capital Improvements. So the City was kind enough to make sure that we're going to have funding for something that's important and they put the money in the budget to make sure that we have funding at the time that we're going to need to replace these vests or cameras.

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

Karen Smith, Business Manager

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Additional questions? All set?

Alderman Kelly

I actually have a couple of additional questions if I could. So this \$900,000 is to get the cams or the lease, get the software. Do you have any idea how much of time from existing employees goes into redacting, or pulling current body footage, and is that predicated in the cost of having the cameras?

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

Right now, we have a full-time Body-Worn Camera Manager who handles all that himself. It would be our intention to have this employee do the same with the new vendor.

Alderman Kelly

So nothing would change. It wouldn't be more efficient for that person, it would be the same?

Brian Kenney, Deputy Chief of Police

We estimate it would be about the same, yes.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

All right. Thank you, Deputy. Any other discussion?

MOTION FAILED

Alderman Kelly

I'm done.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the risk of redundancy, I'm going to retread a couple of old motions. Maybe a little more drawn back.

Department 183 – Economic Development, line 55699 – Other Contract Services. I would reduce by \$29,000 and I have one other line in that Division. Can I package or no?

Alderman Thibeault

All right go ahead.

Alderwoman Kelly

That wouldn't...

Alderman Sennott

What's that?

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, go ahead.

Alderman Sennott

The other line would – same department – line 53400 – Marketing and Public Relations. I would reduce by \$23,457.

Chairman Dowd

What's that number again?

Alderman Sennott

\$23,457.

Chairman Dowd

And these aren't people they're ..?

Alderman Sennott

These are not people, no. This is Other Contracted Service and Marketing and Public Relations. If I could just briefly speak to it.

Chairman Dowd

Sure. Go ahead.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO REDUCE DEPT. 183 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 55699 – OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES, THE AMOUNT OF \$29,000; LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 53400 – MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, THE AMOUNT OF \$23,457

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Sennott

I recognize the need to do work in this arena, certainly. It's my understanding that the Other Contracted Services from reviewing previous reviews, review sessions would be going towards the support of the Business Recruitment Plan as well as the Activate Nashua Plan which from my understanding, addresses various walkways downtown - Library Walk. I think the next proposed ones are the Riverwalk to High Street connection, as well as the Richard LaRose Walkway, and then the Marketing and Public Relations is driven towards the business recruitment plan with a skills gap analysis going on that we will at some point during this fiscal year begin to implement.

Again, I think these are lofty goals. I am in general support of them. I would just like to dial back our commitment to them a bit. My intent here is to leave \$100,000 in the budget for the Other Contracted Services. My understanding, at least through March which is the information that we had available to us, was that \$66,900 was spent. So I think \$100,000 is

reasonable, generous. And then - oh my god, I just reduced my window. And then the Marketing and Public Relations, I'm leaving with \$50,000 in the budget, which actually still constitutes a sizable lift from the previous year's adopted budget of \$32,000. My intent here is to trim where we can while still supporting our goals for the downtown.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Thibeault.

Aldermen Thibeault

Thank you. I mean the Mayor said it pretty well when he was talking about what we have for economic development and marketing compared to other similar or even lower like Dover for instance. This seems to be the department we easily - and I don't want to say pick on is not the right word, but the one we go to when we need to cut because when you think of, you know, Fire, Police, and other DPW obviously, this is one that's - I don't want to say close your ears Liz - not as important, I guess. So I get why we always go to it but I think it does serve a purpose and her department is one of the least amount budget wise to begin with.

I would like to have Director Hannum come up. I think I have a question in here. So this doesn't reduce it like early and earlier. So it cuts one a little bit less than before and then it cuts one that we didn't talk about earlier, which was marketing. I've always talked about trying to market Nashua more and try to make it like other cities and towns, but I get why we haven't been able to do it. I know you don't have a lot of staff and a lot of to really promote the City. I mean I think business economics, too, because we want to bring in more businesses here somehow and I know it's hard to bring in a big business but trying to get those little small businesses in here to fill up some of the space. So could you get by with these two cuts, one of the cuts, none of the cuts, and obviously, you know, in a perfect world, you want no cuts but could you get by with these two, or just one of them, and if you could get by with them, what would that impact in your - because before you said I would have nothing to do basically you cut my whole budget but how would these cuts impact you?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Well if I have to choose a sacrificial lamb, I would choose that I had planned the Financial Empowerment Center for \$25,000 out of the Other Contracted Services budget line item and we're kind of in a place where we don't really know what to do with that yet, so I would probably throw that onto the fire - \$25,000 versus the 29 just because I have other stuff. I have it kind of pretty tightly budgeted, but I do think that marketing is a very expensive endeavor and I would fight for that \$73,000 if I could. We have started the Marketing Strategic Plan. We're about two weeks away from finishing the Skills Gap Analysis and while I can get away with pushing off, it just means further and further down the line that we are actually recruiting. So the less money I have in the budget, the farther away we are from actually recruiting businesses, and recruiting bigger businesses, and having that strategy.

So I certainly can get away with whatever, but it's just pushing off the inevitable and leaving me with less to actually accomplish the goal that you've given me. I actually already took a cut from what I proposed to the Mayor. I proposed 100, so that would be half of what I proposed to the Mayor because 1) we have all the materials now to actually do a plan to start recruiting but also physical collateral is very expensive to design. I actually brought Manchester's just in case anyone is .. but their collateral is pretty impressive but they spent a \$1 million dollars on this. So I am hoping that we could restore at least the marketing side of that and I would be okay with the \$25,000 cut from the Other Contracted Services.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay. Follow up?

Chairman Dowd

Follow up.

Alderman Thibeault

So when Alderman Sennott was talking about the current like what you've spent so far, you kind of gave a look. So the question I had there is what has been spent since the budget book was printed with that number like?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

All but \$2,000.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, so ..

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

So I have \$2,000 left to spend over the last next two weeks.

Alderman Thibeault

All right so you did get to what you were basically almost - okay. I just wanted to make sure you ..

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

I have like \$51 left in marketing so.

Alderman Thibeault

Again, don't - to all the departments, don't make me catch you looking funny. Come up and say fight for your department, right? Fight for the money that you're spending because we do get the budget books and the money - some of these departments look like they haven't spent some stuff, right? We know they may have so.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Right, that's - yes, yep. So I have just over \$2,000 left in Other Contracted Services and I think I have \$300 left in Supplies budget right now ..

Alderman Thibeault

Okay.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

And \$51 left in Marketing.

Alderman Thibeault

Great, thank you.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes.

Alderman Thibeault

Appreciate that.

Chairman Dowd

Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes. Forgive me if you've answered this at a different time. So \$25,000 is for saying sacrificial lamb, \$72,000 is for Marketing. Of that \$73,000 what is labor, strategy, etc., and what is production costs?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

So I don't have an exact breakdown yet. So we've started the marketing plan and that was what - I gave them \$100,000 as part of the start and we've cut that down to \$75 now. So we are probably - it's a three month strategy plan and we're

about a month into it. So I won't know for about two months what the breakdown of that is but they are planning to the \$75,000.

Alderman Kelly

Can I follow up?

Chairman Dowd

Follow up.

Alderman Kelly

Someone could ask - not me - because I know the difference but we have a city print shop. Can you not print it at the City print shop?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

We certainly could but it's not going to be - it's going to be on regular paper. We don't print on the glossy paper or anything like that. So it's going to be pretty lackluster if you will if we do it in-house and we certainly can do a lot of the stuff in-house. So I would make sure that anything we can do in-house and looks good, we would do in-house. So I would make sure that as part of the strategy we make sure that we're spending our money wisely and strategically for prints.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up?

Alderman Kelly

Since you don't exactly know because you're still working on the strategy, would you be open to zeroing this for now and then talking about a supplemental when you have a full plan as to how that's going to be?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Knowing how supplementals usually go, I would not recommend that. I would lose the Marketing line item in my budget. So it wouldn't even be - there wouldn't even be a place to go so and then I would never have it again in the future unless you restored it at some point. So once you zero out that line item, then I have no marketing money even to do \$50 on a Facebook ad. So I would caution you against doing that.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Sennott.

Alderman Sennott

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I can follow where we're at so far. I had proposed cutting \$29,000 from Other Contracted Services and \$23,457 from Marketing and Public Relations. You had said that of the two you would prefer if you had to give one up which one?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

The Other Contracted Services.

Alderman Sennott

The \$29,000.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yeah. I would prefer 25 but I can manage with the 29.

Alderman Sennott

Okay. So that is - if again just restricted situation if you had to pick one of the two cuts ..

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yeah.

Alderman Sennott

You would pick the \$29,000 and maintain the \$23,400 in Marketing and Public Relations.

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes, I would.

Alderman Sennott

May I continue?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, continue.

Alderman Sennott

Just to prove that I'm not a completely rotten person. What I would like to do ..

Chairman Dowd

We're not gonna vote on that.

Alderman Sennott

No, no, no no, because that would be unanimous. I would like to amend my motion and I still would like to put both forward but I would like to take them separately. So that rather than voting on the totality, I would give my colleagues the option to juggle it.

So I'm going to amend my motion first to propose a \$29,000 cut in Economic Development to 55699 Other Contracted Services only.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, that was the one that she wanted to keep?

Alderman Kelly

That was the one she said she could live with.

Chairman Dowd

Hmm?

Alderman Kelly

That's the one she said she could live with - was money that was connected to the ..

Chairman Dowd

I just want to be sure.

Alderman Kelly

Economic Mobility Center.

Chairman Dowd

So you're requesting that we cut the \$29,000?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes. I'll just clarify. Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director. That is the one that I could live without if I needed to, yup.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, so ..

Alderman Sennott

Just one's staying .. for now.

Chairman Dowd

One's staying alive and the other one's dropped. Does everybody understand the motion? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Okay, thank you. No, I understand. I just ..

Chairman Dowd

No, I know. I have you on my list.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO REDUCE DEPT. 183 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 55699 – OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES THE AMOUNT OF \$29,000**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Klee

Okay, thank you. I want to thank Director Hannum for being willing to drop that program that she wants and I know this is really a tight budget and so on. But I just want all of us to think about the fact that we have an Economic Development person that we bring in and the entire department, I think, is like a \$400,000 budget. This is 13 - well now that it's separated, it's not 13% but even just cutting the 29 or \$25,000, we're telling her don't continue on with this program which is supposed to help bring business in and is supposed to help us market towards the businesses that we need. That's my concern. This is supposed to help businesses, I believe, find staffing and so on. Could you kind of explain what that program is a little bit?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yeah, Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director. So the Financial Empowerment Center that we're kind of trying to figure out what to do with is one on one financial counseling for individuals and businesses. So it would be a way for entrepreneurs, especially those who do not have financial advisors or not currently bankable with traditional banks. It would give them technical assistance to be able to either increase their credit score so they can be bankable, increase savings, decrease debt. So that was the idea behind that as kind of a building block to an entrepreneurship program.

Alderman Klee

May I ask one more question?

Chairman Dowd

Yes. Go ahead.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. In reality while I think this is a good program and I understand that we need to make cuts, do you believe that this is something that you would be kicking off soon - if you had the money - or do you think it's something that it's six months down the road before you could develop something like that?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

So we actually are ready and we put it out to RFP for an operator already but we didn't get any response. So that's why I'm kind of okay with holding off on that is because we're reevaluating. Do we - the model that we're using through Cities for Financial Empowerment is very restrictive and I think that's probably why we didn't get any bids and so do we reevaluate? Do we partner with another nonprofit? Like we're kind of in the rebuilding phase but if we had a bidder, we probably could have kicked it off in the next two months.

Alderman Klee

Okay but you don't have a bidder so ..

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Correct.

Alderman Klee

.. so by losing this, it's not going to really have a major effect on ..

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

I can always use that money.

Alderman Klee

I know but I'm just saying is that for this particular program. So if you were to lose..

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

Yes for this particular program, I think that's why I feel like I need to re-evaluate and that could take up to a year, I think so.

Alderman Klee

Good. Thank you very much.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Okay. I don't know how many times I've heard that we should be bringing companies into Nashua ..

Alderwoman Kelly

That's not this.

Chairman Dowd

.. repeatedly.

Alderwoman Kelly

That's not this. That's not this. This is Economic Mobility Center. That's what we're talking about.

Chairman Dowd

So ..

Alderman Thibeault

What were we talking about?

Alderman Kelly

Economic Mobility Center. We're still on that line item.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, I'm not done ..

Alderman Kelly

Right? Am I wrong?

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

So just to be clear, the \$25,000 is under Other Contracted Services and so if we decide not to move forward with the Financial Empowerment Center, I could reuse this \$25,000 towards business recruitment, or towards marketing material, or towards the Activate Nashua Program. So you're just cutting - it's basically a bottom line item because I don't have multiple line items in my budget. I have to fit everything into that Other Contracted Services or Consulting Services.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, I ..

Liz Hannum, Economic Development Director

So I could reuse it.

Chairman Dowd

I was directing it to the entire Economic Development not this specific motion. I think we can live with this particular cut because I think at some point because of the fact that we have repeatedly asked to have more companies marketed into the City and of course I think we have a better position - we have more housing but, you know, I think that we can probably live with this particular motion but I think somewhere during the year, we may be in a position where we are going to have things that can bring people into the City, and we may have to do a supplemental appropriation. I just want people to keep that in mind when we get there during the year. Alright. Any other discussion on this motion?

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Dowd

Any other motions?

Alderman Thibeault

Well we split the motions.

Alderman Kelly

He has a second one he split, yeah.

Alderman Sennott

Yeah for the sake of argument, I will slightly die on my hill of proposing a reduction of \$23,457 to Economic Development, Line 53400 Marketing and Public Relations.

Alderman Kelly

\$23,457?

Alderman Sennott

\$23,457. That's correct.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay, thank you.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN SENNOTT TO REDUCE DEPT. 183 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 53400 – MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, THE AMOUNT OF \$23,457
MOTION FAILED**

Chairman Dowd

Any other motions?

Alderman Gregg

Thank you. So since we're struggling with some cuts, I'd actually like to make an increase. So it would be Department 126, Financial Services, Line 41200, the Motor Vehicle Permit Fee. I think we continually - and I've heard the Mayor talk about it, we've had constituents talk about it, we continually budget quite a bit under on this. So in this year where we're struggling to find cuts and struggling with inflation, I think it would be nice to bring this up closer to what we actually get. So I would like to increase that by \$500,000.

Alderwoman Kelly

That's a revenue line. Is that what you're talking about?

Alderman Gregg

Yeah.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay.

Alderman Gregg

Yeah, oh sorry. Line - is it 41200?

Chairman Dowd

Alright, so you said add.

Alderman Gregg

Yeah, because ..

Alderwoman Kelly

But it's a revenue line. That's why I asked.

Alderman Gregg

Because it's a revenue line. So rather than right now we continually, I think, he's budgeting \$3.4 million as revenue on that but we generally get - maybe I'm saying this wrong but we generally take in \$14 to 15 million.

Chairman Dowd

So we've got a line item with a certain number and you want to reduce that number ..

Alderwoman Kelly

She wants to increase the revenue projection.

Alderman Gregg

I want to increase what we're taking from it, yeah.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

This is revenue.

Chairman Dowd

Revenue, okay.

Alderman Gregg

Yeah. Sorry if I didn't - I might be getting tired. I probably didn't word that well.

Chairman Dowd

Do you want to speak to it?

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN GREGG TO ADD/INCREASE DEPT. 126 – FINANCIAL SERVICES,
LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 41200 – MOTOR VEHICLE PERMIT FEE, THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Gregg

Well I think I already spoke to it. I would like to bring this closer to our actual and I understand that there are different reasons why we stay so far below, but I think this is an important year to get a little bit closer and do that gap to kind of help out with the budget.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, is there somebody - thank you, Mr. Chair. Is there somebody that can speak to this because I want to know what happens if we don't get to that number. If we add this \$500,000 and then we don't end up getting to that number is that the Clerk? Is that Alderman?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I can tell you.

Alderman Thibeault

I mean, is that .. oop yeah?

Chairman Dowd

Corporate Counsel?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

You can end up in the red.

Alderman Thibeault

That's what I wanted to hear.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

I will tell you what then generally does happen. What happens is you have a surplus which is what you want, and then you look and see if there are some unmet needs, and you apply some of the surplus to that. But typically, the surplus is enough that most of it you use to reduce the taxes.

So same is true with money that is unspent. So when you have like positions that don't get filled, well you don't spend that money. So that is another place to generate surplus. So you look at the surplus and you say okay, we can buy down the tax rate. We can meet some unmet needs but if you budget everything too close, particularly on your revenue, you're not going to have a surplus and if you have a deficit, that's a real issue.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Gregg you had follow up?

Alderman Gregg

We're consistently. I looked back at the last few years, we're consistently way above this so I actually, you know, I think I could have safely even said a million but I wanted to be a little more cautious with that and said \$500,000 so to get us closer but not take us too close.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. One of the things that I asked for in next year's budget book, which I know is going to be beautiful, was running average instead of a year to date or in addition to because I think knowing what's coming from a revenue perspective or what we've done on salt can go here, here, here, here. So I guess I would ask through you to our CFO does that make more sense and then can we align some of these projections that are maybe a little bit low or any requests by budget so it's like oh, we're never spending that line item.

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Enwright.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Thank you, Mr. Chair. We can consider all the options of presenting the data that is in the book for next year. I'm open to all of the suggestions that are coming forward. I think there's a lot of room for improvement so.

Alderman Kelly

Follow up? Just I want to clarify my question.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up.

Alderman Kelly

Do you recommend adjusting line items like that due to historical data?

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Enwright.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Thank you, Mr. Chair. So changing the revenue line item in that manner would be changing the way that we budget in total and you never want to come close to - you never want to not collect what you budget for and the historical way that we have done it in utilizing the excess that we do collect against the tax rate assures that we are not going to ever be in

the red and still be able to support the tax rate to that capacity without having any true financial crisis on our hands by not by over budgeting the revenue line item.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

All set? Alderman Johnson.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you. When I was Chair of Finance and Ops on the Board of Education, we used to get a monthly report on expenses, and also you can throw revenue on there, and this way you can track it monthly in the Budget Committee whenever you have the meeting so you could see where you are on target, and you could see what your expenses are against the budget so then when you're coming down when we say well where's our actuals from March 31- which is great - but you still have March, April, May, to June. So when I asked - when we didn't get March and I said May, May brought us closer to when the fiscal year was ending so we had a better picture of where we are now.

But that I'll tell you when I was the Chair of that Committee, that helped us a lot every month. We saw the expenses, the credit card, everything. See, I am praising the School District, you know. But it does help you, especially when you're on these committees and also towards the end of the year. You have a clearer picture to see what your revenue is on motor vehicle. You get that clearer picture that you could say okay, so we're above. We're \$3 million more so maybe we can take 1.5 towards the end of the year and apply it towards the revenue end on the budget.

Chairman Dowd

Right.

Alderman Johnson

So that's just my suggestion.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, that's gonna be changes for next year though. Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderman Johnson

I'm saying for ..

Alderwoman Kelly

I just want to comment on that. I think there's nuance to how a budget gets spent that that doesn't necessarily predicate. So a department might know that they're not going to spend all of the budget on conferences until March, so it looks like they're not spending it but they know that it's coming up. So I think there's nuance there that we have to talk about and figure out what we can get to but like just the year to date doesn't necessarily give us a clear picture of what's going on. That is my opinion after being on the Budget Committee for 9 years but I'm wondering if that, you know, CFO Enwright has some suggestions on how we could better keep track of that.

Chairman Dowd

You have anything specific right now or you want to wait?

Alderwoman Kelly

You can talk to it when we talk about the budget debrief. That's fine.

Chairman Dowd

Okay. I've been involved in budgets on the Board of Aldermen for like 16 years now so and I've always been cautioned about cutting to our anticipated revenues because we often need the money at the end of the year. We're applying \$6 million towards the tax rate already this year. So if we don't have the monies available that becomes a problem so. Anyway, my thoughts. Any other thoughts? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Just a comment. We've gotten into this cycle of taking excess funds, excess revenue and so on, and then we apply to the tax rate. We buy down - usually it's been like about \$4 million. When I first started, I think it was like \$1 or \$2 million and in the last couple years, it's been \$4 million. Because we've gotten into this this cycle, which is a concern I think we all had about getting there and continuing to increase doing this, is that when we don't do it the next year because we don't have enough money because we didn't - I hate to say over budget - but we didn't do this what happens is that the taxpayers are going to get hit with a really big tax boost because we do. We take about \$4 million and we've been applying it to it. So I'm not speaking, you know, whether or not we should do this. I don't think it's that significant but when we're playing with the revenues like this, that is my concern is that we won't have enough to buy down the tax rate and then we're going to - I would like us not to buy down the tax rate. I would like the budget to be a little bit more clearer but I also know that a deficit in any form - I remember one year I believe it was the School Department had had a deficit because it, you know, something that hadn't been anticipated or something like that. I mean it was everywhere, and it was catastrophic and so on. So I'd rather have too much money on hand and then do what we're doing and buying down the budget. It's a cycle that we've created and it is what it is, so.

Chairman Dowd

Any other discussion?

Alderman Kelly

Actually, if I could?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

Could potentially have done been done in the wrap up but I do think that there's been discussions around I don't want to always do these supplementals but if we're going to conservatively underfund revenues, we need to be more open to supplementals. Just my thoughts.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Alright, motion? Want to re-iterate the motion?

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN GREGG TO ADD/INCREASE DEPT. 126 – FINANCIAL SERVICES,
LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 41200 – MOTOR VEHICLE PERMIT FEE, THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000
MOTION FAILED**

Chairman Dowd

Yes?

Alderman Kelly

I have more motions. I know I said I was done but I'm a liar.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, that failed.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, yeah you didn't say it so that's why I was like ..

Alderman Kelly

Yeah. I'm trying to move on.

Chairman Dowd

So now you're gonna go for divisions. All right another motion?

Alderman Kelly

I do. So I would like to go to the Mayor's office 101 and I would like to add in line item which is 55699. I know I just said I hate Other Contracted Services but I'm going to explain and I would like to put \$50,000 in that line item and I would like to speak to my motion.

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ADD TO DEPT. 101 – OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
LINE ITEM/DESCRIPTION 55699 – OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES, THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Kelly

So – whenever you're ready. We talked a lot about the Office of Strategic Communication. This is my area of expertise. We had a long discussion about it. The Chief of Staff for the Mayor said that they would go back, and look at it, and see if it could be contracted, and I said I would support that. I know you guys discussed it last night but I think it's a good move and it allows us to get some strategic information in that we can then predicate what the next steps are.

Chairman Dowd

Comments? Alderman Thibeault.

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah to the maker of the motion. Is this what - you said this what we cut last night?

Alderman Kelly

So you guys - if I could? So you guys cut the whole budget of Strategic Communications and then my understanding is that \$50,000 was requested to stay in there. I personally feel like keeping that Department just for the Other Contracted Services is a little clunky so my thinking is we add Other Contracted Services to the Mayor's office with the intention of that being the money to start the study.

Chairman Dowd

Any other discussion?

MOTION FAILED

Alderman Kelly

Can I see the division please?

Chairman Dowd

All those in favor – 3. All those opposed. Did somebody not vote?

Alderman Wilshire

It was 3 to 4.

Alderman Kelly

I thought it was 3 – 3 last night?

Alderman Thibeault

Yeah, it was 3 - 4.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, yeah. It fails.

Chairman Dowd

It failed. Any other motions? Alderman Kelly. We're running out of motion space.

Alderman Kelly

I know, I know. An Alderman that's not on the Committee asked us to entertain a motion. I appreciate that the idea of that is that we would do the work in the Committee. It is quite a lengthy motion so I would like to at least make the motion to discuss it and see if there - I have some questions for Corporation Council around it.

So I will make the Alderman Sullivan motion.

Alderman Thibeault

I don't even know how to put this ..

Alderman Kelly

I don't know how to put it - I don't know either.

Alderman Thibeault

It's multiple departments over - I can put the total line item.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Sennott do you have a ..

Alderman Sennott

I had a thought. I know that there was concern about how that communication was received. We received follow-up from ..

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

It is absolutely an illegal motion - an illegal communication.

Alderman Sennott

With that in mind, would we not be able to accept that communication here at the Committee level?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

You can do it. If you get in the practice of doing things like that, it is going to create problems, and we're going to be in court, and it has the possibility of negating all your work on the budget because violations of the Right to Know Law can cause the court to nullify actions taken.

Alderman Sennott

I appreciate that answer and that's, honestly, just what I was looking for was the implications of doing so. I thought that

accepting that communication here at the Committee level would at least be a prudent first step to get it on the table to discuss but with that in mind, at least I'm going to refrain from making that motion at this time. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

Can I ask a follow up question to Corporation Counsel? So what I'm struggling with is we say do the work in the Committee. So if an Alderman who's not on the Committee would like to ask someone to make a motion, what is the legal way to do that?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Ask one person.

Alderman Kelly

Ask one person not the whole Board. Okay.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

It's out of meeting communications with a majority of the Committee ..

Alderman Kelly

Okay.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

.. is what violates the law.

Alderman Kelly

Okay. With that being said, I would withdraw my motion and recommend Alderman Sullivan makes his own motions at the full Board.

Alderman Kelly withdrew her motion.

Chairman Dowd

He can make the motions at the full Board meeting.

Alderman Kelly

Yep, that's .. I'm withdrawing. Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

And we've already cut some things out of here like the interns were never on there.

Alderman Kelly

Yeah. It's good. I just said I'd do it.

Alderman Johnson

Yes, I'd like to make a motion to move the hydroelectric operations into a special revenue fund. Move it to place Hydroelectric Operations Department 141, pages 180 to 181 in the FY27 proposed budget and all the associated revenues and expenses into the special revenue fund.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN JOHNSON TO MOVE THE HYDROELECTRIC OPERATIONS IN A SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, ON PAGE 188 AND 181, DEPT. 141, IN THE FY27 PROPOSED BUDGET AND ALL THE ASSOCIATED REVENUES AND EXPENSES INTO SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Question of the Corporation Counsel. Is that something we can do in the Budget Committee or does that require something from the full Board of Aldermen?

Alderman Klee

It's legislation.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Well the Budget Committee can recommend just about anything to the full Board of Aldermen that is within the authority of the full Board to do. I think what's being proposed in a simple few sentences is much more complicated than can be analyzed in this forum this evening. I think to be fair, the Department ought to be told to work up what that would look like and give them an opportunity to respond to that. This is a pretty, pretty big undertaking.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah. My suggestion would be it should be done by a resolution through the full Board ..

Alderman Johnson

Okay.

Chairman Dowd

.. and not as part of the budget.

Alderman Johnson

Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I just want to add a comment that this came up - I don't even remember what meeting was. We're on meeting 8 of the week, I don't know, and one of the discussions that I remember - make sure call me if I'm right on this - was that because the hydro dams go up and down, sometimes there's a lot of water, some there's not. Doing an enterprise fund would be very fiscally - they would run in the red some years and not. So it was really - while it's the intent of it seems to make sense because it is so volatile, it would be really hard for them to maintain that.

Chairman Dowd

So there's a lot of details involved in doing that so I suggest we do it differently than in the Budget Committee. Any other motions?

Alderwoman Kelly

Well we have to dispose of this motion. We didn't vote on it.

Alderman Klee

Yeah, she put a motion out there.

Chairman Dowd

Did you want to continue with that motion?

Alderman Johnson

I'll withdraw for right now.

MOTION WITHDRAWN - Alderman Johnson withdrew her motion.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Any other motions? Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I would like to just ask through you to Corporation Counsel if we can make the really weird edit thing at the full Board around the compensation at the beginning of the meeting. There's some update, unless you have it ready for me. That sounded hairy.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

In the resolution itself at the end, there's a line about the Firefighters getting the cost of living this year and the returning next year to the procedure that was adopted by the Board ..

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

.. of Aldermen. So if you ..

Alderwoman Kelly

Alright. So I'll make ..

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

So if you delete that sentence, you accomplish what you want.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. I think I know what the motion is then. Thank you. Thank you for your piece.

Alderman Johnson

You're welcome.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay. So my motion would be to amend R-26-028 by removing Section 2 which reads, "The language in the Unaffiliated Employees Personnel Policies separate compensation structure for Fire Department Chief Officers Section will not apply or be in effect for Fiscal Year 2027 but instead on July 1, 2026, the Fire Department Chief Officers will receive a 2% increase over their current salaries." Is that correct?

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO AMEND R-26-028 BY REMOVING SECTION 2. "THE LANGUAGE IN THE UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEES PERSONNEL POLICIES "SEPARATE COMPENSATION STRUCTURE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OFFICERS" SECTION WILL NOT APPLY OR BE IN THE EFFECT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027, BUT INSTEAD, ON JULY 1, 2026, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OFFICERS WIL RECEIVE A 2% INCREASE OVER THEIR CURRENT SALARIES"

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Yes.

Alderman Thibeault

So, what was the resolution? R-26- what?

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah, it's the whole budget.

Alderman Thibeault

Oh.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah. It's the budget.

Chairman Dowd

It's on the original budget.

Alderman Thibeault

Got it.

Chairman Dowd

Okay. Does everybody understand what the motion is?

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Enwright, can you give us a where we're at type of uh..

Alderwoman Kelly

Oh, I have it I think.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. So at this given moment, we have a total General Fund Budget of \$384 million - \$384,022,842 and that is an increase of 6.36%.

Alderwoman Kelly

Ms. Enwright, if I could?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Could you - have you been tracking? I just want to know for my nerdiness what the effect was from all of our motions? The number I have is negative \$265,473 but I might have missed something.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Yes, it is a negative \$265,473 for the two evenings.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you.

Dawn Enwright, CFO

Yup.

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

Alderman Klee

Finally.

Alderwoman Kelly

So do we need to make a motion to recommend final passage?

Chairman Dowd

I was just going to have Alderman Thibeault do that.

Alderwoman Kelly

He could do it, that's fine.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-028 RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, SPECIAL REVENUE AND GRANT FUNDS AS AMENDED

Chairman Dowd

In the amount ..

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

As amended by the ..

Chairman Dowd

As amended.

Alderman Thibeault

As amended.

Alderwoman Kelly

As amended.

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

..Or proposed amended.

Chairman Dowd

You got the numbers?

Alderman Thibeault

\$384,220, 848 - 6.36%.

Chairman Dowd

Any discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 9:46 p.m.

Alderman Derek Thibeault
Committee Clerk Pro Tem



THE CITY OF NASHUA

"The Gate City"

To: Board of Aldermen

From: D. Enwright, CFO
T. Cummings, Director of Administrative Services

Cc: J. Donchess, Mayor

Date: June 9, 2026

Re: R-26-028 - Relative to the Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget for the City of Nashua – Budget committee- Action Items

Attached to this communication is a spreadsheet that provides additional information in relation to the technical amendment to R-26-028 and is as follows:

- Proposed budget book page numbers,
- department total adjustment amount,
- FICA/MEDI & Pension amounts in relation to the "Golden Rode" amendments to the respective salary line items. (not included in the amendment). *Schedule A*
- total amount of FICA/MEDI & Pension for the unaffiliated adjustment made by the Mayor (not included in the Mayor's proposed budget). *Schedule B*

Other information request by the budget review committee during the department budget discussion over the past several weeks are as follows:

Recreation – actual field rental revenue as of June 3, 2026

Facility Rental Fees	\$4,495
Field Rental Fees	\$39,821
Bandstand Rental Fees	<u>\$5,250</u>

Total: _____ \$49,566

Fire Department – Building/Grounds Maintenance (54280) request of \$225,000 (pg 119) - moved to the capital budget (pg 240) in the amount of \$150,000. Being in the capital budget it will not laps to surplus at year end if not fully expended. Funds have no accessibility restrictions.

City of Nashua Spending Cap History:

November 2, 1993 – Charter Sections 56-c, d, e, and f adopted.

Charter 56-c - Limitation on Budget Increases - combined annual municipal budget expenditures with a 3-year average index calculation for the maximum increase. (This Charter section was amended in 2015 to change specific index used.)

Charter 56-d – Exception to Budget Limitation – allows for supermajority exemption votes for bond payments and/or capital expenditures.

November 8, 2005 – Charter 56-d Exception to budget limitation – amended to read “at least ten aldermen” in lieu of “two-thirds of the members of the board” for both possible types of exemptions.

July 2, 2019 – New Hampshire Supreme Court decision affirmed Superior Court decision that Nashua’s spending cap was unenforceable because it didn’t contain an override provision as required by state law.

August 20, 2021 – SB52 passed – Nashua spending cap grandfathered in – spending cap language in Charter sections 56-c and 56-d is valid and enforceable going forward.

City of Nashua NH
FY 2027 Proposed Budget
Budget committee - Workbook

										Schedule A	
										52100	52150
"Golden Rod" - General Fund Adjustments										Budget book Page #	
										7.65%	12.75%
Dept #	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT	Location		Proposed Budget	Adjusted Budget	Budget Increase(decrease)	Dept Tech Adj Total		FICA/MEDI Adjustment	Pension Adjustment
1	102	Board of Alderman	51500		Wages Elected Officials	\$ 117,000	\$ 145,870	\$ 28,870	PG 30		
2			51300		Overtime	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 30,370	\$ 2,323	\$ 3,872
3	183	Economic Development	55699		Contracted Services	\$ -	\$ 129,000	\$ 129,000	PG 52		
4	104	Strategic Communications	51100		Wages Full Time	\$ 85,000	\$ 50,000	\$ (35,000)	PG 57	\$ (2,678)	\$ (4,463)
5	110	Arlington St	52100		FICA/Medicare	\$ 28,201	\$ 8,501	\$ (19,700)	PG 63		
6	112	Payroll	51300		Overtime	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	PG 69	\$ 765	\$ 1,275
7	128	Risk	89600		Interfund Transfers Out	\$ 10,467,905	\$ 10,287,905	\$ (180,000)	PG 81		
8	129	City Buildings	51300	Administration	Overtime	\$ 25,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 50,000	PG 86	\$ 3,825	\$ 6,375
9			53999	Resource Centr	Professional Services	\$ 335,000	\$ 235,000	\$ (100,000)			
10			54100	Library	Electricity	\$ 450,000	\$ 526,000	\$ 125,000			
11			54100	Resource Centr	Electricity			\$ (49,000)			
12			54114	Library	Heating Gas	\$ 161,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 20,000			
13			54114	Resource Centr	Heating Gas			\$ (6,000)			
14			54141	Library	Water	\$ 81,500	\$ 83,500	\$ 7,500			
15			54141	Resource Centr	Water			\$ (5,500)			
16			54228	Resource Centr	Pest Control Services	\$ 5,300	\$ 3,300	\$ (2,000)			
17			54243	Resource Centr	HVAC Maint.	\$ 114,500	\$ 111,500	\$ (3,000)			
18			54280	All Others	Buildings/Grounds Maint.	\$ 211,500	\$ 217,000	\$ 13,500			
19			54280	Resource Centr	Building/Grounds Maint.			\$ (8,000)			
20			54487	All Others	Equip Repair & Maint.	\$ 28,000	\$ 18,000	\$ (10,000)			
21			61428	Resource Centr	Cleaning & Janitorial Supplies	\$ 54,000	\$ 50,000	\$ (4,000)	\$ 28,500		
22	132	Assessing	51100		Wages Full Time	\$ 320,993	\$ 420,993	\$ 100,000	PG 92	\$ 7,650	\$ 12,750
23	2505	PEG Access/Community Tel	51200		Wages Part Time	\$ 471	\$ 72,000	\$ 71,529	PG 98	\$ 5,472	\$ 9,120
24	156	Emergency Management	51100		Wages Full Time	\$ 232,676	\$ 233,608	\$ 932	PG 125	\$ 71	\$ 119
25	142	Woodlawn	51100		Wages Full Time	\$ 327,349	\$ 329,349	\$ 2,000	PG 158	\$ 153	\$ 255
26	144	Edgewood	51100		Wages Full Time	\$ 327,439	\$ 329,349	\$ 1,910	PG 162	\$ 146	\$ 244
27	179	Library	54100		Electricity	\$ 189,420	\$ -	\$ (189,420)	PG 166		
28			54114		Heating Gas	\$ 23,800	\$ -	\$ (23,800)			
29			54141		Water	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	\$ (218,220)		
30	181	Community Development	51100		Wages Full Time	\$ 233,357	\$ 223,357	\$ (10,000)	PG 172	\$ (765)	\$ (1,275)

City of Nashua NH
FY 2027 Proposed Budget
Budget committee - Workbook

										Schedule A	
										52100	52150
"Golden Rod" - General Fund Adjustments										Budget book Page #	
										7.65%	12.75%
Dept #	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT	Location		Proposed Budget	Adjusted Budget	Budget Increase(decrease)	Dept Tech Adj Total		FICA/MEDI Adjustment	Pension Adjustment
31	155	Code Enforcement	51100	Wages Full Time	\$ 255,491	\$ 328,831	\$ 73,340	PG 178		\$ 5,611	\$ 9,351
32			51200	Wages Part Time	\$ 23,340	\$ -	\$ (23,340)			\$ (1,786)	\$ (2,976)
33			81100	Capital Outlay/Improv.	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ (50,000)	\$ -			
34	141	Hydroelectric Operations	81100	Capital Outlay/Improv.	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ (200,000)	PG 193			
Total Adjustments							\$ (288,679)			\$ 20,788	\$ 34,647
Resolution Adjustment for GF Appropriation:					\$ 384,288,315	\$ 383,999,636	\$ (288,679)				\$ 55,435

							Schedule A	
"Golden Rod" - Enterprise/Wastewater Correction								
	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT		Proposed Budget	Adjusted Budget	Budget Increase(decrease)	Budget book Page #	
35	Wastewater/revenue	48996	(Inc)Decr in WW Net Assets	\$ (1,449,735)	\$ (1,489,348)	\$ (39,613)	PG 224	
36	Wastewater/appropriations	75100	Debt Service/ Principal	\$ 6,065,983	\$ 6,327,243	\$ 261,260	PG 227	
37		75200	Debt Service/ Interest	\$ 2,443,017	\$ 2,685,600	\$ 242,583		
		Total Debt Service Appropriation				\$ 503,843		
			Total Wastewater Adjusted					
			Revenue	\$ 46,666,570	\$ 46,626,957	\$ (39,613)		
			Appropriations	\$ 46,123,114	\$ 46,626,957	\$ 503,843		
			Total Solid Waste					
			Revenue	\$ 7,183,205	\$ 7,183,205	\$ -		
			Appropriations	\$ 14,630,043	\$ 14,630,043	\$ -		
	Resolution Adjustment for EF Revenue & Appropriation:							
			Revenue	\$ 53,849,775	\$ 53,810,162	\$ (39,613)		
			Appropriations	\$ 60,753,157	\$ 61,257,000	\$ 503,843		

City of Nashua NH
FY2027 Proposed Budget
Department vs Proposed Budget

		Schedule B				
Category	Position Adjustment	52100 FICA/MEDI	52150 Pension	Unaffiliated Adjustments	52100 FICA/MEDI	52150 Pension
51 - Salaries & Wages		0	0		0	0
1 Administrative Services		0	0		0	0
2 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(9,989)	(764)	(1,274)
3 Financial Services		0	0		0	0
4 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(36,267)	(2,774)	(4,624)
5 Police		0	0		0	0
6 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(8,377)	(121)	(2,593)
7 Fire		0	0		0	0
8 51100 - Wages Full Time	(172,500)	(2,501)	(50,888)	(11,009)	(160)	(3,248)
9 Public Library		0	0		0	0
10 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(13,028)	(997)	(1,661)
11 Community Development		0	0		0	0
12 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(6,218)	(476)	(793)
13 Mayor		0	0		0	0
14 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(4,813)	(368)	(614)
15 Board Of Aldermen		0	0		0	0
16 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(112)	(9)	(14)
17 Legal		0	0		0	0
18 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(30,805)	(2,357)	(3,928)
19 City Clerk		0	0		0	0
20 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(8,947)	(684)	(1,141)
21 Arlington St Community Center		0	0		0	0
22 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(3,132)	(240)	(399)
23 Human Resources		0	0		0	0
24 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(11,555)	(884)	(1,473)
25 Payroll		0	0		0	0
26 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(13,223)	(1,012)	(1,686)
27 Information Technology		0	0		0	0
28 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(15,095)	(1,155)	(1,925)
27 City Buildings		0	0		0	0
28 51100 - Wages Full Time	(57,500)	(4,399)	(7,331)	(5,377)	(411)	(686)
29 Purchasing		0	0		0	0
30 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(4,234)	(324)	(540)
31 Assessing		0	0		0	0
32 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(4,258)	(326)	(543)
33 51200 - Wages Part Time		0	0	(69,889)	(5,347)	(8,911)
34 Gis		0	0		0	0
35 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(4,063)	(311)	(518)
36 Woodlawn Cemetery						
37 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(15,261)	(1,167)	(1,946)
38 Edgewood & Suburban Cemeteries		0	0		0	0
39 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(15,086)	(1,154)	(1,923)
40 Total Edgewood & Suburban Cemeteries						
41 Building Inspection		0	0		0	0
42 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(4,523)	(346)	(577)
43 Code Enforcement		0	0		0	0
44 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(4,376)	(335)	(558)
45 Emergency Management		0	0		0	0
46 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(12,970)	(992)	(1,654)
47 Parking Enforcement		0	0		0	0
48 51100 - Wages Full Time	(69,627)	(5,326)	(8,877)	(1,262)	(97)	(161)
49 Pw-Admin & Engineering		0	0		0	0
50 51100 - Wages Full Time	(58,500)	(848)	(5,353)	(39,243)	(569)	(3,591)
51 Streets		0	0		0	0
52 51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(67,337)	(976)	(6,161)

City of Nashua NH
FY2027 Proposed Budget
Department vs Proposed Budget

				Schedule B			
Category		Position Adjustment	52100 FICA/MEDI	52150 Pension	Unaffiliated Adjustments	52100 FICA/MEDI	52150 Pension
53	Fleet		0	0		0	0
54	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(4,260)	(62)	(390)
55	Parking Operations		0	0		0	0
56	51100 - Wages Full Time	(34,250)	(2,620)	(4,367)	(4,150)	(317)	(529)
57	Community Services		0	0		0	0
58	51100 - Wages Full Time	(79,800)	(6,105)	(10,175)	(56,543)	(4,326)	(7,209)
59	Community Health		0	0		0	0
60	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(30,430)	(2,328)	(3,880)
61	51200 - Wages Part Time		0	0	(51,511)	(3,941)	(6,568)
62	Environmental Health		0	0		0	0
63	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(23,542)	(1,801)	(3,002)
64	Welfare Administration		0	0		0	0
65	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(10,744)	(822)	(1,370)
66	Parks		0	0		0	0
67	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(5,915)	(86)	(541)
68	Recreation		0	0		0	0
69	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	18,461	268	1,689
70	Planning And Zoning		0	0		0	0
71	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(5,470)	(418)	(697)
72	Economic Development		0	0		0	0
73	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(79,493)	(6,081)	(10,135)
74	Sustainability		0	0		0	0
75	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(10,053)	(769)	(1,282)
76	School		0	0		0	0
77	51900 - Salary Adjustments	(668,000)	0	0	0	0	0
78	Strategic Communications		0	0		0	0
79	51100 - Wages Full Time	85,000	6,503	10,838	0	0	0
80	Total 51 - Salaries & Wages						
	Total	(1,055,177)	(15,297)	(76,153)	(684,099)	(45,037)	(87,053)
				(91,450)			(132,090)
81	Enterprise Fund						
82	Wastewater		0	0		0	0
83	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(25,086)	(364)	(2,295)
84	Solid Waste		0	0		0	0
85	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(89,409)	(1,296)	(8,181)
	Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$114,495)	(\$1,660)	(\$10,476)
							(\$12,136)
86	Special Revenu Fund						
87	Community Television		0	0		0	0
88	51100 - Wages Full Time		0	0	(5,715)	(83)	(523)
	Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$5,715)	(\$83)	(\$523)
							(\$606)

From the Office of
MAYOR JIM DONCHESS
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To: Alderman Rick Dowd, Chair
Budget Review Committee

From: Megan Caron, Chief of Staff

Date: June 9, 2026

Re: Department 104 – Office of Strategic Communications: Follow Up Information & Recommended Budget Amendments

The purpose of this memo is to provide the information requested during the Budget Review Committee Meeting on June 2, 2026.

During the meeting, Budget Review Committee members expressed support for funding an independent communications assessment instead of the new Strategic Communications Manager position proposed in the FY27 Mayor's Proposed Budget.

As discussed, the objective of this assessment is to evaluate the current organizational structure, identify issues and gaps in our communication practices, and provide recommendations for the City to adopt. The findings of this assessment will also determine the appropriate organizational structure and staffing model. Once this assessment is complete, we will use these findings to propose a path forward for FY28.

I respectfully recommend that all accounts in Department 104 be reduced to \$0 and that \$50,000 be reinstated to 55699 – Other Contracted Services to fund the assessment.