

2025-2026 Budget Questions

#	Date Asked	Member	Opr/Cap	Department	Question	Answer
1	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	Gen. Govt CIP	Is Mult-09, painting and flooring improvements, for facilities citywide? Is there a list of everything that includes?	That is designed for multiple facilities – for painting and carpet, etc. that require updating/replacing. This project addresses needs at multiple sites – there is more detail in the full CIP document (which will come soon – see message above).
2	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	Gen. Govt CIP	Just so that I understand the appropriate urgency, what is the possibility of delaying FS-03, as that is the largest capital expenditure in this category through the 6 year horizon? What would the downsides be, beyond a likely increase in future costs due to construction inflation?	There are two main pieces here – one is that we’re working on the preliminary design (funded in the 2024 budget), so this is the logical next step. Aside from the time value of money (only get’s more expensive with inflation year over year), we may have to update any work done this year if it’s delayed multiple years. The downside is that the facility continues to not meet new code and standards.
3	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	Parks CIP	If I remember correctly, there was an existing balance in funds previously allocated for PK-29: Land Acquisition. Have those funds been expended, or is there another reason they are not reflected in the 25-30 CIP?	The funds still exist; however, at this point the PROS plan directs focus on maintaining our existing assets and there are no properties that are up for consideration. The dollars are sitting in Parks CIP fund balance; however, those funds were general fund dollars and can be used elsewhere should council desire.
4	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	Parks CIP	Is there a recommended line item under which bike racks in parks would or should be included? (I have also suggested this be specifically added as language in the appropriate chapter of the Comp Plan.)	Bike racks will be studied as part of the proposed Bike and Ped Master Plan as a part of a comprehensive look. We have bike racks at: Big Rock Park North, Big Rock Park Central, Ebright Creek Park, Evans Creek Preserve Upper Parking lot, Evans Creek Preserve Lower Parking Lot, NE Sammamish Park, Pine Lake Park, Sammamish Landing, Beaver Lake Preserve, Upper Commons at City Hall, Sammamish Community & Aquatic Center. Parks without bike racks include: Beaver Lake (Lodge & Ballfields), East Sammamish Park, Illahee Trail, Klahanie Park, Lower Sammamish Commons.
5	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	Street CIP	It’s mentioned that the reality is the revenue from the fuel tax will decline. Is it possible to estimate those declines in the out years in any meaningful way, so as to give us a better picture of what the draw from the general fund might be going forward? I understand if leaving a stable figure with a note of likely reductions in the out years is considered best practice - I was just curious!	The gas tax has been essentially flat; we’ve project it as flat moving forward until we receive new estimates, but until then, it’s the most accurate estimate available.
6	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	IT CIP	I’m probably missing something obvious here, but is there a reason there is no forecasted revenue from the Technology Surcharge on Permits from 28-30?	It’s primarily because the capital needs are minimal in the last 3 years and the tech surcharge is then being applied to tech operations.
7	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	Equipment Rental CIP	I remember some discussion of leasing vehicles when we talked about our fleet electrification strategy. As the majority of the listed fleet replacement is in the out years, is there possibility to plan for leasing rather than purchasing vehicles, with the long-term goal of purchasing EVs as technology for larger/heavier duty vehicles matures? Since those years are beyond the scope of this biennial budget, is this something that would be covered in the detailed 2025 fleet review that’s mentioned in the notes?	The short answer is yes – we will be reviewing all aspects of our fleet with the 2025 review.

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8	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	Surface Water CIP	It's mentioned that the new NPDES permit may require changes to SWM rates and capital projects to maintain LoS in the out years. In the Financial Policies document that Vicki had presented earlier, we'd discussed impact fees being updated - is that a separate process? Am I mixing up funds?	Impact fees are for parks and transportation and is a separate process from SWM rates and the NPDES permit issue.
9	9/6/2024	Gupta	Capital	Surface Water CIP	Are we expecting 0 Developer Contribution to the SWM Fund with the projected development of Town Center? Is it not appropriate to project revenue until development moves forward, or is that revenue potentially being captured elsewhere?	Developer fees are slightly different than impact fees. We budget a small amount for developer fees in SWM of \$120k each year, however those fee revenues are not applied to specific projects.
10	9/10/2024	Howe	Capital	General Gov't CIP	I would like to understand how the City Hall HVAC project is a sustainability issue. If we are making such investments is there a tradeoff for lower expenses in the future?	Upgrades to the City Hally HVAC system will allow the building to be more fuel efficient.
11	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	General Gov't CIP	Please explain the difference between the 2024 budget showing an ending fund balance of \$9M vs. the 2024 projections showing an ending fund balance of \$4.8M.	The difference is viewing the data on an annual basis vs a biennial basis. Attached are all funds presented on September 10, 2024 with the biennial view. These updated charts better reflect the progression of fund balance. Additional information on under spends will be presented during department presentations in October. The CIP memo has been updated with new charts that have the biennial charts.
12	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	General Gov't CIP	Is this ending fund balance separate from the General Fund?	Yes. The ending fund balance in this fund is specific to the General Government Fund.
13	9/10/2024	Lam	Capital	General Gov't CIP	What is the flooring replacement project and can it be deferred?	The tiles in the City Hall lobby need to be replaced. They are dislodging from the subfloor and create a safety hazard for visitors and staff. The project is included in the CIP because of the potential for safety hazards.
14	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	Parks CIP	Please explain the difference between the 2024 budgeted vs projected ending fund balance.	See line 11 above.
15	9/10/2024	Clark	Capital	Parks CIP	What is the jump in REET from 2026 to 2027?	The CIP indicates when REET is used, not earned. Usage of REET includes REET earned in prior years. In 2027 there is a planned use of a significant amount of REET largely to fund the buildout of Big Rock South Phase 1.
16	9/10/2024	Gupta	Capital	Parks CIP	I would like to see a line item for bike racks in parks.	See line 4 above.
17	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	Parks CIP	Why are we drawing \$5M for the Town Center Town Square purchase in 2025 if there is sufficient REET for the biennium to cover the cost?	Staff took the position that the Town Square project is a bit different than a normal parks project. In order to keep parks whole, staff is suggesting using general fund dollars for the purchase of the square. However, this is a council policy decision and could be changed. If REET were used rather than general fund dollars, REET would run out earlier in the Parks CIP fund resulting an additional \$5 million transfer in 2030 to fully fund the current list of CIP projects.
18	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	Parks CIP	It appears there are no planned acquisitions for parks in the six years of the CIP.	Correct. There remains \$4.3M for future land purchases in the fund, however staff is not proposing any purchases in the next six years beyond the Town Square acquisition. The Council could choose to utilize the remaining \$4.3M in the land acquisition fund toward the purchase of the Town Square property. In additional, staff are not proposing any additional property purchases due to the city's fiscal reality and fact that it cannot adequately build out existing parks landholdings.

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19	9/10/2024	Treen	Capital	Transportation CIP	When will the funding for this fund run out?	Given the current list of projects, at the end of 2026, we project that we will be sitting on \$5 million in REET, which can be spent on any transportation project. However, we expect to also have \$10.5 million in unspent impact fees. And impact fee study is planned for 2025 to determine what projects can be added to the list that can utilize impact fees. If more projects that do not qualify for impact fees are added to this fund, REET will run out faster.
20	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	Transportation CIP	I would expect to see REET projected higher in the out years as interest rates go down.	Projections are based on historical data and best available information currently on hand. The reality is that residential home sales do not produce significant REET funds for cities. Commercial and multifamily sales are where the significant REET funds can be realized, and Sammamish does not have a significant number of such properties.
21	9/10/2024	Howe	Capital	Street CIP	Why is pavement preservation the same number across the years? Aren't we actually decreasing service levels by not accounting for inflation?	Current projection are based on a previous pavement conditions study. The City will initiate a new study in 2025 where new information and projected expenses will be identified. It is likely the out year projected expenditures will be changed in the 2027-2028 biennium.
22	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	Street CIP	Electric Vehicles pay a very high fee for vehicle registration. Do cities get any part of that funding?	UPDATED: Upon further research, the \$150 additional fee for electric vehicle registration does go into the Motor Vehicle Fund, which makes its way down to local jurisdictions. See longer answer to question 38 below.
23	9/10/2024	Howe	Capital	Technology CIP	Regarding the financial system upgrade, is that happening now? Is there a component to ensure that bringing a new system online will allow for more efficiencies and less staff time?	The RFP is currently being drafted to determine whether the city's existing system - Springbrook - can adequately address the city's needed capabilities. The RFP will allow for a side-by-side comparison of the different modules offered by different vendors. The finance director recently undertook a similar process in a different city and has experience with the complexities associated with this effort. 2025, which is an off-budget year, is the time to implement a new system, if needed, or upgrade the existing one.
24	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	Technology CIP	Why does the phone system replacement take five years and cost \$145K?	There was an error and only the first year of funding should have been included in the CIP. Subsequent years (2026-2029) should have been captured in the operating budget. Since both operating and capital for IT come from the general fund this does not change the budget in a material fashion. This will be fixed in a subsequent budget amendment. Implementation of the replacement system will happen by the end of 2025, but the CIP shows the ongoing costs for required software licensing associated with the new system. Software license requires a 5-year commitment, years 2-5 should be O&M not CIP.
25	9/10/2024	Gupta	Capital	Surface Water CIP	Help me understand the developer contribution and revenue.	See question 9 above and 26 below.
26	9/10/2024	Treen	Capital	Surface Water CIP	Following up on CM Gupta's question, is this because the developers are building stormwater facilities as a part of their projects and then turning them over to the city?	Developer Contribution fees are often referred to as System Development Charges (SDCs), which are one-time fees paid by a development applicant at the time of permit issuance. An SDC is a method for recovering from new customers of the Storm & Surface Water Utility a proportionate share of the utility's investment in capital infrastructure - both the historical cost of existing capital assets and the planned cost of future capital improvements. SDCs serve two main purposes: to provide equity between existing and new customers and to provide a source of utility capital funding. SDCs are imposed on both new development and redevelopment that increases demand for system capacity. SDCs are charged in a unit of an Equivalent Service Unit (ESU) of 3,500 impervious square feet. SDC rates were updated in 2023 with Sammamish Surface Water Utility Fee Study and the rates can be found in the City's fee schedule. Developer contributions of \$120 thousand a year are captured in the six-year budget. They are not delineated in the CIP project list yet as they still need to be assigned to specific projects.

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#	Date Asked	Member	Opr/Cap	Department	Question	Answer
27	9/10/2024	Stuart	Capital	General Question	Is there going to be a discussion of potential bonding for these projects? We should take the steps to do it now.	The city would need to show that it has sufficient revenue to pay back bonds, which are only let for specific projects and must be paid back in a specific timeframe. The city does not currently have sufficient unallocated revenue for such purposes. In addition the city will need to go through a rating process. An RFQ for bond counsel and a financial advisor has been let and staff are currently interviewing the two responsive firms. It is expected the winning firm will present to Council by the end of first quarter, 2025.
28	9/10/2024	Howe	Capital	General Question	I would be very interested in having an educational presentation on bonds, as well as other revenue options.	Staff will bring back information on bonding by the end of the first quarter in 2025 and will bring information on revenue options during this budget process.
29	9/10/2024	Lam	Capital	General Question	I would like to see a presentation on revenues next week. Council has additional ideas on revenue sources - would like to see a full discussion on revenue sources before we talk about a utility tax.	Staff will bring back an agenda item on revenue sources, though it will not be on September 17, 2024 due to workload.
30	9/17/2024	O'Farrell	Operating	Public Safety	Are the projected cost of Police and EF&R on page 5 of the memo our best estimation or have they come from these agencies? [<i>"Memo" refers to agenda item 15, Exhibit 1 in the 9/17 Council meeting packet</i>]	Police is an estimation at this point based on information shared by King County Sheriff. We do not have the full budget from them yet because they are wrapping up union negotiations, which affect the total cost. The proposed budget for fire came directly from EF&R. However, we forecasted a 5% increase and the proposed EF&R budget increase is significantly higher than 5%. The other 2 city partners, Issaquah and North Bend, have expressed serious concerns about the significant increase proposed by EF&R. North Bend has gone on record stating they will not support anything more than a 5% increase. I don't know how realistic it is that EF&R can be held to no more than a 5% increase.
31	9/17/2024	O'Farrell	Operating	General Fund	On Page 7 of the memo, in 2029 when the General Fund balance is at zero does this also mean that the reserve fund has been funded? [<i>"Memo" refers to agenda item 15, Exhibit 1 in the 9/17 Council meeting packet</i>]	Not quite, it means that we need to use the reserves in 2029. On page 15 of the memo is a summary of the fund balance projections. In 2027, we retain the full reserve requirement and have \$8.4 million in fund balance above the reserve requirement. In 2028, we are unable to retain the full reserve requirement. We would need to use about \$4.3 million of the required reserve to fully fund the current service level, ending 2028 with just \$10 million in ending fund balance. There are two ways to solve our structural imbalance situation. We need to either add new revenue sources or make significant service level reductions.
32	9/17/2024	O'Farrell	Capital	Surface Water CIP	On page 8 [of the memo] Surface water and Storm Water funds are mentioned. Are they separate or the same fund? [<i>"Memo" refers to agenda item 15, Exhibit 1 in the 9/17 Council meeting packet</i>]	They are one and the same. Surface water and storm water are used interchangeably.
33	9/17/2024	O'Farrell	Operating	General Question	On page 18 of the memo, have we identified a line of business that we would look at to eliminate? [<i>"Memo" refers to agenda item 15, Exhibit 1 in the 9/17 Council meeting packet</i>]	Recommendations for reductions and/or eliminations of lines of business would start with nonessential services first; however we have not initiated that level of review. If there is no support for new revenues, then the longer we delay making reductions, the deeper the cuts will need to be.
34	9/17/2024	O'Farrell	Capital	Parks CIP	Could the approx. \$4m in land acquisition be used towards the \$5m proposed for the TC project?	Yes, however, we would still need to use all of our required reserves in 2029. We just wouldn't need to use any of the required reserves in 2028. With or without using the \$5 million for the town center project, we are still go negative in 2029. Additionally, the Parks CIP fund would still need a transfer of \$3.7 million in 2030 to fully fund the CIP projects. Here is a fund balance summary showing how it would change if we used the \$4.3 million set aside for land acquisition instead of transferring the \$5 million from the general fund. See chart above for comparison.

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35	9/17/2024	Gupta	Operating	Equipment Rental - Operations	Am I understanding correctly that the revenues for Fleet Repair & Maintenance and Fleet Replacement reflect capital transfers from the General & Stormwater funds meant to cover the expenses for Fleet R&M & Replacement? This is revenue to the Equipment Rental fund, not revenue to the City?	Correct. It is revenue earned in the general fund and surface water funds then transferred to the Equipment Repair and Maintenance fund. The transfers are shown as expenditures in the general fund and surface water fund and revenue in the equipment repair & maintenance fund.
36	9/17/2024	Gupta	Operating	Equipment Rental CIP - Operations	The proposed '25-'26 budget sees us adding to the ending fund balance for the Equipment Rental Fund, even with the Fuel costs being moved from the General Fund to Equipment Rental. It looks like the out years project relatively static amounts for both R&M (plus inflation) and Replacement. Is the goal to maintain a certain reserve in the ending fund balance for Equipment Rental? Is this specifically to allow for flexibility pending the Fleet Study in '25?	We are growing fund balance in the equipment rental fund during the next biennium because we know there are significant vehicle replacement costs coming in 2027 and again in both 2029 and 2030. We want to smooth the transfers in as much as possible over time.
37	9/17/2024	Gupta	Operating	General Fund	Is the difference in the '25-'26 Repair and Maintenance (Other Services and Capital), from a '23-'24 projection of \$5.3m to \$1.6m reflective of moving the Pavement Preservation program to the Street Fund? (Approximately \$3.922m in the Citywide CIP).	Yes, that is correct.
38	9/17/2024	Gupta	Operating	General Fund	At the previous meeting (and #22 in the matrix) it's mentioned that the EV registration fee is not portioned to local jurisdictions. Does that money remain with the State specifically for road projects, general transportation dollars, or something else?	EVs pay an additional \$150 as a part of state vehicle registration. Of the first \$100, 70% of those funds go to the Motor Vehicle Fund (MVF), 15% to the Transportation Improvement Account and 15% for the Rural Arterial Trust Account. As to the \$50 fee, the first \$1M of that fee goes to the Multimodal Transportation Account and then the remaining to the MVF. The majority of the additional EV fee goes to the MVF, which is dedicated to "counties, cities and towns for proper road, street and highway purposes." The additional fee was enacted to counteract the lower gas tax revenues associated with EVs.
39	9/17/2024	Treen	Operating	Technology	Why is stormwater transferring money to this fund?	Staff in surface water have technology requirements. It is part of the indirect cost allocation to have stormwater pay for their technology needs.
40	9/17/2024	Gupta	Operating	General Fund	Grant projections are lower than in 2023 and 2024.	Yes, because the City did receive ARPA funds as a part of the pandemic response, but those funds have been fully expended this biennium.
41	9/17/2024	Howe	Operating	General Fund	What were you projecting for EFR increases?	The budget contains the EFR proposed budget of 23% in 2025 and an additional 8% in 2026. Prior to receiving the EFR proposed budget, staff was planning on 5% increases each year of the biennium.
42	9/17/2024	Howe	Operating	General Fund	Why are you proposing changing the reserve fund from its current basis on expenses to revenues?	We have an additional proposed policy that would require us to use ongoing revenues to pay for ongoing expenditures and one-time revenue to pay for one-time expenditures. It keeps our level of service within our financial means. Additionally, there is more volatility with expenditures than there is with revenue so the change in the required reserve, over time, would be smoother changes.

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43	9/17/2024	Howe	Operating	General Fund	When does the budget have to be adopted?	Targeting November 19 but Council is required by State law to pass the budget by December 31.
44	9/17/2024	Lam	Operating	General Fund	Will we be getting a line item from EFR?	The Councilmembers on the EFR board need to ask those questions. The board has asked for more information on the proposed budget from EFR.
45	9/17/2024	Lam	Operating	General Fund	Last summer the fiscal sustainability did a lot of work and they are similar with their projections. However, I recall that the utility tax was able to suffice for the six-year planning window.	Costs are rising higher than what was projected in the model.
46	9/17/2024	Clark	Operating	General Fund	I support Deputy Mayor Howe and Councilmember Stuart get more information about the EFR budget.	Noted.
47	9/17/2024	Treen	Operating	General Fund	With the property tax being such a high amount of our budget, could we look at going to the voters for an increase in property tax.	Staff will incorporate what a voter-approved levy lid lift could look like as a part of the revenue discussion at a coming meeting. Voter-approved measures take time to get in place.
48	9/23/2024	O'Farrell	Operating	Public Safety	EF&R Budget Increase - Does the City have any options and will PD also have an increase? How has it affected the draft budget?	<p>The City is still awaiting details from EF&R on the proposed budget increase. The Board of Directors - which includes Sammamish (2 seats), Issaquah (2 seats), North Bend (1 seat), Fire District 10 (2 seats), and Fire District 38 (1 seat) - has asked to understand level of service options, as the increase affects all city budgets. All cities on the Board are faced with budget challenges and are making reductions to their budgets; therefore, it is critical to understand what is included in the EF&R budget increase.</p> <p>The King County Sheriff's Office will likely be a much smaller increase. Current indications are that it will be an approximately 7% increase. We are still waiting on final numbers.</p> <p>Police and Fire are the largest costs in the City's budget. The large proposed increase in the EF&R budget, along with other increases, necessitated that staff review the City's draft budget to make cost reductions in areas the City can control.</p>
49	9/23/2024	O'Farrell	Operating	Public Safety	EF&R Budget - What was the prior year's increase in the EF&R Budget?	The increase was approximately 10% for 2024.
50	9/23/2024	Lam	Operating	Parks & Rec	Lifeguarding - How much does the City pay for the lifeguarding program?	The budget for part time lifeguards in 2023-2024 was \$195,600, which is anticipated to increase to \$225,000 in 2025-2026 due to an increase in hourly wages.
51	9/23/2024	Lam	Operating	City Manager	Grants - Does it make sense to hire a grant writer to go after federal money?	The City is not competitive for many grants, and it's a substantial amount of work to apply for a grant and manage grant requirements. The City's projects typically have local rather than regional impact, which is the focus of most grant programs, making us less competitive than the variety of other agencies that apply for these same grants. In addition, many grants are focused on over burdened communities, which also leaves Sammamish non-competitive for these funds. The City will still continue to go after grants where staff believe we have a competitive proposal, such as Sahalee and Town Center.

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52	9/23/2024	Lam	Operating	Human Services	Human Services Funding - Are we looking at reducing funding?	<p>Funding for Human Services grants is being maintained at 2023-2024 levels. One exception is the grant for senior center programming, which will increase by \$25,000 annually to more fully fund IACS's costs for delivering the programming (they will still be subsidizing a portion of the program at this level).</p> <p>The Human Services Commission will present their recommendation for 2025-2026 grant funding to City Council on October 8. They will present a base recommendation consistent with the 2023-2024 budget, plus a recommended increase of \$35,000 annually. Staff have briefed the Commission on the budget challenges and they are understanding that the increase may not be possible.</p>
53	9/23/2024	O'Farrell	Operating	Revenues	Utility Tax/Metropolitan Park District - What is the lag time between making a decision and implementation?	<p>There is a considerable lead time. The City must scope the program to determine which utilities are being taxed at what rates. Then the City would contact all utility providers to let them know the tax is coming and give them time to implement the tax in their systems. The City also needs to do a community education campaign to share why the tax is necessary. If Council gave approval now, the utility tax could likely be implemented by January 2026.</p> <p>The MPD takes more time because there is a much higher level of community education required. Staff estimate a two year minimum between decision to implementation.</p>
54	9/23/2024	O'Farrell	Operating	General Question	Reserve Fund - The presentation on September 17 showed a negative balance in the General Fund beginning in 2029 (slide 31). Is there still a reserve fund in 2029 or is it fully expended?	The chart shows that by 2029, the entire reserve would be spent and the fund balance would be negative.
55	9/24/2024	Gupta	Operating	General Question	Will Council get a sense of what different departments could do with more funding?	<p>Departments did service level reductions, but most reductions were internally focused, such as training budgets. These types of items would come back if more money was available to departments.</p> <p>There's another way to look at this question not from the department-specific perspective, which is - what Council-directed policy items would be available with more funding? In reviewing the work plan included in the draft budget, the decision for Council is about whether there are things we're not doing that you would like to do. If so, what revenue will pay for it or what other work plan items will be removed to accommodate it?</p>
56	9/24/2024	Gupta	Operating	General Question	If Council chose to reduce level of service (e.g., snow and ice), could we determine what those savings would be spent on, versus just going back into the General Fund?	There is a budget deficit, so if Council chooses to spend less in an area, it means we need to raise that much less revenue to fill the deficit.
57	9/24/2024	Stuart	Operating	Work Plan	When Council receives the budget on October 1, will we have a sense of what will be included in the associated work plan?	Yes, the 2025-2026 Work Plan will be included in the budget presented on October 1. Departments will also share out their budget highlights as part of the department presentations during the second and third meetings in October.
58	9/24/2024	Stuart	Operating	General Question	Will Council know what wasn't included in the budget as a result of insufficient funding?	Staff didn't organize the budget up that way; we included what we understood to be important. Departments will review any service level reductions during their presentations in October.

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59	9/24/2024	Stuart	Operating	Revenues	Why is grant revenue down significantly compared to 2023-2024?	The ARPA grant made up the bulk of the grant revenue for 23-24, but it has been fully expended. The 25-26 budget only includes the grants we know about going forward, such as the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). These planned, recurring grants are easier to plan for and rely on. It is difficult to plan for non-recurring grants, especially given the City is not very competitive for many of them (see question 51).
60	9/24/2024	Stuart	Operating	Salaries	Salaries are budgeted to increase by 25% - was that expected?	The increase is the result of a combination of two-years worth of COLA, plus benefits, along with formula percentage for performance increases. Note that the increase does not take into account the budgeted reduction for vacancies.
61	9/24/2024	Stuart	Operating	General Question	What is "other services and capital?"	This is a category that summarizes the various type of service costs to the City. Professional services is where most contracted services is captured. The remaining costs are audit fees, legal costs. etc. - not the direct services that are a benefit to the community.
62	9/24/2024	Stuart	Operating	Revenues	When will Council discuss new revenue options?	The budget ordinance directs the implementation of a utility tax and directs staff to begin studying the Metropolitan Park District option. (Also see question 53)
63	9/24/2024	Stuart	Operating	General Question	Traffic cameras in school zones - will we start talking about this option?	Traffic data, including both collisions and speeds, shows that we do not have problems that will necessitate school zone cameras. State law requires that cameras must be warranted for safety reasons, which are not currently present in Sammamish.
64	9/25/2024	O'Farrell	Capital		Could the approx. \$4m in land acquisition be used towards the \$5m proposed for the TC project?	Yes.
65	9/25/2024	Treen	Operating	Revenue	What would it take to meet our operating expenses with no additional revenue?	The Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce looked at this during their discussion on July 13, 2023. Please see slides 6-10 of the presentation here: https://sammamishwa.civicweb.net/document/91301/
66	9/25/2024	Treen	Operating	Revenue	Would a 6% utility tax keep the status quo (current level of service) while ensuring the City is financially sustainable?	It's a big step in the right direction, but it doesn't fully solve the problem. There will likely need to be additional revenue, such as a metropolitan parks district (MPD), implemented in the future. None of the City's revenue sources grow at the same rate as the City's expenses, including the future utility tax, necessitating new revenue in the future.
67	9/25/2024	Treen	Operating	Revenue	What does it look like to solve the issue through 2030?	With the utility tax and MPD, we get to 2030 and beyond.
68	9/25/2024	Treen	Operating	Revenue	Is it staff's recommendation to take the 1% property tax increase every year, take a 6% utility tax, and the MPD?	Staff are following the recommendation of the Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce last year, which included those three components. As part of the ordinance adopting the 2025-2026 budget, the City Manager is recommending the CC provide clear direction on the utility tax and direction to start working on what an MPD could look like.
69	9/25/2024	Treen	Operating	Revenue	The Fiscal Sustainability Taskforce looked at the impact of building new commercial space and the associated revenue generated from its construction and the ongoing property taxes. This would not make a difference in needing new revenues?	Correct - not even close.