



COUNCIL BUDGET STAFF REPORT

CITY COUNCIL of SALT LAKE CITY

[SLC Budget FY26](#)

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Allison Rowland
Senior Policy Analyst

DATE: June 3, 2025

**RE: FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET: RESPONSES TO OPEN LEGISLATIVE INTENTS
FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**

Item Schedule:

Briefing: June 3, 2025

Set Date: n/a

Public Hearing: n/a

Potential Action: n/a

ISSUE AT-A-GLANCE

The purpose of this update is for the Council to consider closing any Legislative Intents that were adopted as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget, along with any that are outstanding from previous years. Council Members will have the opportunity to raise *new* Legislative Intents for discussion with their colleagues and the Administration on June 5.

Potential Council policy questions are noted in the context of each item on the following pages, along with Council staff recommendations to either leave an Intent *open*, or to *close* it. Recommendations to *close* (or *consider closing*) include whether the item would then be considered *complete* or would *continue* indefinitely as a policy change. The Council can consider closing any Legislative Intent during this briefing. The FY25 Legislative Intents were most recently discussed with the Administration in the Council Work Session on September 2024.

The full text of all open Legislative Intents can be found in Attachment C2, as well as in the FY26 Mayor's Recommended Budget (MRB), pages 121 to 136. Complete Administration responses can be found in these pages, as well.

Goal of the briefing: *Review the status of past years' Legislative Intents, consider options, and potentially straw poll Council support for changing the status on specific items. Note: if Council Members don't indicate otherwise on a specific intent, staff will proceed according to the recommendations below.*



Summary of Administration Responses, FY26 Mayor’s Recommended Budget

1. Attorney’s Office

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p>FY24 Department Role Clarity in Ordinance. The Administration responded that “<i>Research and analysis are ongoing for amendments to Chapter 2.08 of City Code; acknowledging the priority is Sustainability.</i>” In FY24, the Attorney’s Office prepared a draft amendment to City Code that identifies the functions and responsibilities of the Sustainability Department. The Council discussed the draft in 2024. Corresponding drafts are pending for the Department of Economic Development, and the Public Lands Department, along with several other City departments.</p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY24 Pay Parity among Attorneys. The Administration responded, “<i>Coordination with Human Resources for analytical review of the data available has begun, and the work is ongoing.</i>” In FY24, the Salt Lake City Prosecutor’s Office indicated support for a review process and willingness to participate in further discussions. The City Prosecutor’s Office also mentioned the need to consider numerous factors that may impact parity among attorneys in different organizations, like constitutional mandates, caseload and types, staff support, and others.</p> <p>➤ <i>The Council may wish to request additional information from the Attorney’s Office on their efforts to bring the Salt Lake Legal Defenders and County prosecutors into the discussion.</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY23 Boarded Building Fee (with Finance and CAN). The Administration reports that “<i>The adoption of Ordinance 91 of 2024, Title 18 Amendments, accounted for the updates to boarded building fee.</i>”</p> | <p>Close and Complete.</p> |
| <p>FY23 Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA). The Administration reports that “<i>Analysis of an amendment to Chapter 2.07.100 of the City Code is ongoing, while training and appropriate conduct is being addressed with board managers.</i>”</p> <p>➤ <i>The Council may wish to request an estimated completion date for this item.</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY21 Decriminalization Review of City Code. The Attorney’s Office reports that the project will be continued in the coming fiscal year. Its initial review, several years ago, revealed that substantial attention and expertise would be needed to complete this review. Previously, the Salt Lake City Prosecutor’s Office also indicated its support of a review process for decriminalization efforts and willingness to participate in any discussions and efforts. It also noted examples of specific City ordinances that are frequently used and of great utility that should be retained, while the charging level of some offenses might be reviewed, and some City offenses may be compared to state offenses for redundancy and necessity.</p> | <p>Open.</p> |

2. Community and Neighborhoods Department

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|---|-------------------------|
| <p>FY25 Neighborhood District Signs. It is the intent of the Council to request a future policy discussion with the Administration about establishing a standard process and broadening the City’s ability to respond to requests for neighborhood marking signs, including requests for historic district street signs. It would be helpful for the Administration to clarify the following information in the discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could community and neighborhood identity signs be included, in addition to street signs that have historic designations? 2. What are the differences between regular street signs and historic markers? 3. What is the process for replacement of existing signs? 4. How is the accuracy of the history portrayed in historic district signs ensured? <p>In the discussion, the Administration may recommend:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exploring opportunities related to the 10-year plan for the Olympics, and 2. Recommending whether the City should establish a pool of funding in the General Fund for this work, and how much should be included. <p><i>FY25 Administration Response: Response is forthcoming.</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY23 Youth and Family Program Streamlining. The Department began working with a consultant in December 2024 to conduct a needs assessment and develop a five-year strategic plan for the Youth and Family Division. The plan will include recommendations and fiscal analyses for future programming, and a system for measuring program outcomes for City residents. The needs assessment and strategic plan will be complete in June 2025. The Division also reports, “<i>Given the federal funding uncertainty, we worked with our consultants to adjust their scope of work to include more financial mapping and accompanying strategic messaging of Y&F to apply for and be awarded funds for future program funding opportunities. Given these adjustments in scope of work for the consultants, we adjusted the timeline of the strategic plan from five years to three years.</i>”</p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY22 Trips-to-Transit Expansion Evaluation. The documents which were submitted by the Transportation Division, appear to not be included in the Mayor’s Recommended Budget. <i>Council staff has requested the documents from the Administration.</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> |

3. Department of Economic Development

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>FY15 Maintenance of Business Districts. <i>See description under Public Services Department.</i></p> | |

4. Finance Department

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|--|--|
| <p>FY25 Policy Goals for Zero-Based Budgeting Exercise.</p> <p>a. Balancing Resources in the Public Lands Department. The Administration reports that “The Public Lands Department is developing a Strategic Capital, Acquisition and Asset Management Plan (SCAAMP) that will identify repairs and replacement schedules to maintain current levels of service. The results will inform future CIP requests and the Capital Asset Plan (a five year or 10 year CIP plan across multiple departments) and operational budget needs. An evaluation of historical funding and staffing levels for Public Lands maintenance is ongoing as well as operational assessments for potential efficiency changes.”</p> <p>b. Evaluating Alternative Response Programs. The Administration reports that “A framework has been developed to evaluate the City’s several alternative response models including total calls for service, outcomes, total costs, and costs per outcome. Refining the data sources to ensure valid and consistent measurements across the programs is ongoing. The results of the evaluation will help illustrate the costs and benefits of the alternative response models.”</p> <p>c. Staffing Vacancy Analysis. The Administration reports that “The FY26 Mayor’s Recommended Budget (MRB) includes an annual vacancy report by department showing positions and estimated savings while the full-time position was unfilled. An earlier version of the report was generated and informed development of the MRB. The number of full-time vacant positions has significantly dropped since last May, falling from approximately 8.5% to 5.5% across all departments. This partly reflects changes in the labor market stabilizing after the pandemic.”</p> | <p>Open</p> <p>Open</p> <p>Consider closing and continue.</p> |
| <p>FY25 Consolidated Fee Schedule. Evaluate the CFS in the following areas:</p> <p>a. Sidewalk closures, lane closures and sidewalk fees, including potential fines for blocking sidewalks. Updated policies for construction traffic mitigation plans have been drafted and are going through the standard review process. Their goal is to ensure safety of all users and minimize disruptions, regardless of the mode of transportation. The Administration states, “Adjustments to fees and fines may be recommended following the construction traffic mitigation plan policy update.”</p> <p>d. Reducing business license fees for push carts and other mobile vendors. The Administration reports that most mobile food businesses pay \$103 per year, which is lower than the fees for home-occupied businesses (\$148) and commercial businesses (\$187). The current fee was based on a cost justification study several years ago, and City costs may have risen since then.</p> | <p>Open.</p> <p>Open.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>➤ <i>The Council may wish to discuss the goals of charging and potentially reducing business license fees for mobile vendors, and how the City’s foregone revenue could be recuperated.</i></p> <p>c. Providing 100% forgiveness of City playing-field fees for youth development teams (not competitive teams) in return for “sweat equity” at these locations. The City currently discounts up to 50% of recreation and facility reservation fees for youth teams that provide sweat equity. The Administration offered to research the potential revenue loss to increase the discount to 100%.</p> <p>➤ <i>Would the Council like to explicitly request this research?</i></p> <p>d. The Council further requests an annual report provided with the Mayor’s Recommended Budget which shows the percentage of the fully-loaded potential fee that is proposed, so the Council can consider adjusting on that basis. <i>Council staff has requested this document from the Administration.</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY24 Legal Defenders Association. The Administration responded <i>“The Legal Defenders Association contract continues to be funded out of the City’s General Fund. The same is true of the City Attorney’s Office. The definition of Public Safety for the purposes of using Funding Our Future dollars could certainly expand to include criminal justice legal services. This approach was used for the Justice Court in the FY25 annual budget for a case manager FTE. The Administration is not recommending changes to the Legal Defenders Association contract arrangement or funding source at this time.”</i></p> <p>➤ <i>Given the recommendation of the Administration against making this shift, would the Council like to reconsider whether to pursue this Intent?</i></p> | <p>Consider closing.</p> |
| <p>FY23 Consolidated Fee Schedule Holistic Review. The Administration responded <i>“Each fee on the CFS requires a cost justification study to set the maximum allowable fee. The Finance Department periodically rotates through fees for updated studies. This long-standing practice continues to ensure fees are accurate and balance the City’s costs to provide services with use of and benefits from public resources. Increases in fees would require new cost justification studies. While eliminating or reducing fees would not require a new study it may be helpful to first evaluate the revenue loss impacts, especially if multiple fee reductions are being considered. Finance remains ready to respond to the Council’s recommendations for CFS evaluations including current ongoing efforts related to the FY25 CFS legislative intent.</i></p> <p>➤ <i>Given this information from the Administration, would the Council like to reconsider whether to pursue this Intent?</i></p> | <p>Consider closing.</p> |
| <p>FY23 - Grants and Ongoing Programs. The City’s recent adoption of the Workday system provides new potential for analyzing grants and identifying costs for continuing a program once the grant has been spent.</p> | <p>Open.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>➤ <i>The Council may wish to engage with the Finance Department for a detailed discussion of the potential of the new system to evaluate potential policy guidance related to grant funding.</i></p> | |
| <p>FY15 Maintenance of Business Districts. <i>See description under Public Services Department.</i></p> | |

5. Human Resources Department

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p>FY25 Compensation Plan. The Department incorporated its recommendations for changes and edits to the FY25-26 Annual Compensation Plan for Non-Represented Employees scheduled which was transmitted for review by the City Council in spring 2025.</p> | <p>Close and Complete.</p> |

6. Mayor’s Office

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>FY25 Noise Enforcement (Vehicular and Non-Vehicular). The Administration plans to send transmittals on this issue soon.</p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY24 Evaluating Efficiencies across Diversified Response Teams. The Administration stated that it <i>“has included a mid-term action in the Public Safety Plan to improve efficiency and effectiveness of its Diversified Response teams.”</i></p> <p>➤ <i>The Council may wish to consider scheduling a briefing with the Administration to discuss the issue in more depth.</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY24 Apprenticeship Program Incentives. <i>This item was closed and continued by the Council on May 7, 2024.</i></p> | |

7. Police Department

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>FY21 - Police Department Role. Council staff note: These responses are also related to the evaluation of diversified response, which the Council has requested from the Mayor’s Office.</p> <p>➤ <i>The Council may wish to consider scheduling a briefing with the Administration to discuss these issues in more depth.</i></p> | |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| <p>a. Social Workers. The Administration reported, <i>“The Community Connections Team is fully staffed with 2 current vacancies that are in the hiring process. They continue to provide referrals, resources and co-response throughout the city, assisting 1,087 individuals utilizing Co-response and social workers assisted an additional 4,764 individuals.”</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>b. Internal Affairs Unit. In FY23, the Department hired a civilian director for the Internal Affairs Unit, which is now part of the Chief’s Office. The director works closely with the City’s Human Resources Department, the independent Civilian Review Board, and the public. This director is not a sworn officer, which allows for continuity and steady leadership since the position is not subject to rotating assignments.</p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>c. Police Community Response Team (PCRT). The Department stated, <i>“The Police Community Response Team continues to handle non-emergency calls for service as well as traffic control, special event staffing, community impact division projects, and community outreach.”</i> The name of the team has been modified, and it now includes 16 FTE’s and 1 Lieutenant. It has responded to over 6,700 calls for service this year.</p> | <p>Open.</p> |

8. Public Lands Department

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|---|-------------------------|
| <p>FY24 Golf Fee Structure. The Golf Division states, <i>“Given the current financial needs of the Golf Enterprise Fund—particularly regarding deferred maintenance and capital asset replacement—the Golf Division recommends not implementing a new discounted rate program to reduce financial barriers for city residents. The Division acknowledges that it lacks the resources and expertise to design and administer a financial need-based discount program at this time.”</i></p> <p><i>Further, If the Council remains interested in pursuing such a program, the Golf Division suggests building upon an existing discount program, such as the SLC Golf Club membership. The annual cost of an SLC Golf Club membership is \$100, and external funding sources could be used to offset the membership cost for qualifying individuals. However, additional staff would be needed to administer the program, and relying on Golf Enterprise Fund revenues would hinder the Division’s ongoing capital investment efforts without requesting further General Fund subsidies. A pilot program could be launched with scaled funding, based on available resources.”</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> |

9. Public Services Department

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>FY25 Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles. The Administration reports, <i>“The Community Electrified Transportation Study was finalized in January. Public Services and Sustainability are supplementing the findings from this study with</i></p> | <p>Close and Complete</p> |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| <p><i>additional research to evaluate charger fee options and ownership models which will be discussed in a transmittal expected to be sent to the City Council this spring.</i></p> | |
| <p>FY15 Maintenance of Business Districts. The Administration stated, “<i>Public Services is not aware of whether a study of enhanced services was ever completed by Economic Development or City Finance. Unless Council passes a special assessment specifically for enhanced maintenance and clean-up, there is no budget or mechanism to pay for business district expenses (outside of the assessment for economic promotion conducted by the Downtown Alliance.)</i></p> <p>At the time the Council adopted this intent, it wished to hold a briefing regarding the costs of enhanced services provided to the Central Business District, in order to consider: a) revising how City services are provided and paid for, b) services that may be offered to other established or developing Business Districts in the City, and c) maintenance of amenity upgrades (such as lighting and benches). The Council’s intent also was that this discussion happen in time to incorporate any changes into the renewal of the Central Business District agreement and Sugar House Business District.</p> <p>➤ <i>The Council may wish to schedule a briefing with multiple departments, including Economic Development and Finance, to discuss this further.</i></p> | <p>Open</p> |

10. Public Utilities Department

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>FY25 Jordan River Water Quality. The list of actions provided in the Administrative response does not appear to correspond with this Legislative Intent. <i>Council staff has requested a review from the Administration.</i></p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY23 Water Usage by the City. The Administration stated, “<i>The most up-to-date information pertaining to this intent was in the City Property Water Use Efficiency EXECUTIVE REPORT transmitted to the Council last fiscal year.</i>”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The report on water usage was released in November 2023. The Executive Report is included in the transmittal as an Attachment B. b. In September 2022, the Council added an analysis of the water fee schedule as part of this intent. | <p>Open.</p> |

11. Council-Led Intents

| Title | Staff Status Assessment |
|-------|-------------------------|
|-------|-------------------------|

FY25 Council Member Compensation. The Council intends to evaluate the ordinance governing elected official compensation and have this conversation before the end of 2024.

Close and complete.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| <p>FY23 Rotating Outside Auditing of Each City Department. In a recent Council discussion, Council Members expressed an interest in starting with the Division of Housing Stability. Staff is working with the Administration on developing a scope and will return to the Council with a draft.</p> | <p>Open.</p> |
| <p>FY21 Police Department Reporting Ordinance. <i>Update:</i> Council staff is working with the Attorney's Office to determine next steps for this item.</p> | <p>Open.</p> |

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment C1. Annual Schedule for Review of Legislative Intentions.

Attachment C2. Outstanding Legislative Intentions FY15 to FY24.