



COUNCIL BUDGET STAFF REPORT

CITY COUNCIL of SALT LAKE CITY

[SLC Budget FY26](#)

TO: City Council Members

FROM: Allison Rowland
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DATE: June 5, 2025

RE: FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET: NEW LEGISLATIVE INTENTS

Item Schedule:

Briefing: June 5, 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 the drafts (below) of new Legislative Intents that have been proposed for the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget, as well as any new ones that Council Members may like to propose. There may also be some opportunity during the Work Session to receive preliminary feedback from the Administration on these.

Goal of the briefing: *Review potential new Legislative Intents listed below, consider new Legislative Intents, and potentially straw poll Council support for these.*

- a. **Court System Budget and Workload Evaluation.** It is the intent of the Council that Council staff and Administration collaborate on an evaluation of the Justice Court system within the next six months, to prepare for future budget consideration. The items of interest include historic caseload data, alternative justice systems and support programs, consideration of new funding sources, options to address workload issues, space needs, and other related matters. The Council further requests the Administration report on caseloads monthly.
- b. **Police Camera/Body-Worn Camera/Drone Privacy.** It is the intent of the Council that the Administration evaluate data privacy guardrails and best practices as additional safety cameras and drones are deployed to assist SLCPD's public safety efforts. Potential language could include ensuring the REP Commission is included in policy discussions, and concerns about privacy, accountability, transparency, and civil rights protections. The Council further requests an annual report (written, if needed) on this information as well as small group meetings.



- c. **Don't Block the Box.** It is the intent of the Council that the Administration evaluate an ordinance on the "Don't block the box" concept, referring to vehicles that block an intersection by entering them when traffic is backed up on the other side. The Council would like the Administration to include the potential for action to raise public awareness of this law.
- d. **DRAFT Considerations relating to potential future property tax increase.** It is the intent of the Council that the Administration provide the following (or, specific justification?) should the Administration propose a property tax increase in a future budget year, as the Mayor has indicated is a possibility.
 - i. The extent to which the tax increase is needed to accommodate priorities or service level needs which were known in the FY 26 budget, for example: Justice Court system needs, public safety relating to new strategies, Fire apparatus staffing, Public Lands' maintenance needs, (others?). Add "structural deficit"?
 - ii. The extent to which growth (population, service demand, etc.) is driving the need for increased service level. "growth versus enhancement."
 - iii. The operational efficiencies that the Administration employed to avoid or reduce a tax increase, and whether there are additional efficiencies planned.

Options discussed:

- iv. A unified report that has deferred maintenance, non-core services implications, analysis of State pre-emption and unfunded mandates (how they affect the City), and of market (economic?) changes.
- v. Strategies to minimize the impacts of tax increases on the most vulnerable community members.
- e. **Evaluating Efficiencies of All Diversified Response Teams.** It is the intent of the Council to hold a series of briefings with the Administration, beginning in the first quarter of the FY26 fiscal year, to identify metrics for, and continue to evaluate the efficiency of, the various diversified response teams, including any potential overlap. The Council recognizes the consolidation of several response teams into Public Services, while several others remain in different departments, such as Fire (CHAT and MRT), Police (Social Worker Co-Responders and Civilian Response Team), CAN (Downtown Ambassadors), and Public Lands (Park Rangers program). *Note: Similar Legislative Intents have been adopted in recent years. With this new Intent, those could be considered closed.*
- f. **Streets Bonds Funding Options.** It is the intent of the Council that the Administration study and recommend funding options in time to place on the ballot, if necessary, that would return Salt Lake City streets to national standards,.
- g. **CIP Set-Aside for Community-Led Projects.** It is the intent of the Council that the Administration evaluate the CIP program to determine whether to set aside a specific funding amount annually for community-led projects, as a category distinct from City department projects in overall CIP funding. The allocation could be a set dollar amount or a percentage of the total annual CIP budget.
- h. **mySLC.** It is the intent of the Council to discuss brainstorming with the Administration and outreach team the next steps to promote and improve public use of a single point of access for constituents. The goal is to directly reach the department best able to help them, without waiting for the extra steps that traditionally happen when requests are routed through the Council Office.

- i. **Arts Council Funding and Programs.** It is the intent of the Council that collaborative discussions be held with the Administration to help expand the number of art projects throughout the City. The discussions could include shared understanding of the current funding, programming, and priorities of Arts Council work, new goals, and identifying ways to resolve budget and processes that hinder new art requests from moving ahead.

- j. **Evaluation of Non-Statutory City Services.** The Council wishes to collaborate with the Administration to create an inventory of core and non-core City services and programs. The goal of this study is to inform future decisions about the optimal delivery model for certain community services, ensuring the best use of public resources while maintaining quality and equity in service delivery.