



Missoula City Council Informational Budget Summary following Final Budget Vote for Fiscal Year 2021 Sept. 1, 2020

Several news organizations have expressed interest in doing follow-up stories on the City of Missoula's FY 2021 budget. This document from Council President Bryan von Lossberg and Council Vice President Gwen Jones serves to provide further information. Please feel free to contact us for more details.

On Monday, August 31, the Missoula City Council adopted the City of Missoula's Fiscal Year 2021 budget on a 9-3 vote. The FY 2021 budget responds to several challenges: It holds the line on property taxes (no increase in levied mills) during the pandemic and its associated economic fallout; maintains levels of service across departments; and includes major investments in areas of critical community need such as housing, social services, and equity. The budget also fulfills all previously approved multi-year labor contract obligations for employees. For a city resident, City taxes represent about 30% of a property tax bill, alongside the County and schools as the other major taxing jurisdictions.

There is significant polarization within the community, reflective of what we see across the nation. Constituents, including BLM and BIPOC leaders and allies, have asked for additional major social service investments and cuts to the Police Department budget, while others have advocated for the police budget to be enhanced without question. Ultimately, Council members chose to cut in some areas and make major investments in new initiatives, while recognizing the magnitude of the challenges ahead. Over the past two months, there has been a robust community discussion about policing, mental health services, and affordable housing. Council members recognize the needs, gaps, and opportunities for change, as well as the sometimes-competing values at play. Mental health and affordable housing are increasingly acute issues in our community and need greater resources. Re-envisioning public safety, including policing, and providing responders with the tools and skills to better interact with and meet the needs of our citizens will improve the lives for all who call Missoula home.

We harbor no illusions about the work undone and the necessary investments still required to make the progress we must make as a community. This budget makes the most significant investments in those directions the City has ever made. We and those who follow us will need to build upon it.

The Mayor's final budget was provided to the Council in mid-August. Highlights of the adopted budget include:

DELETIONS FROM THE BUDGET:

Municipal Court:

The Council declined to fund **\$10,000** to set up a collections service for unpaid fines. Due to the pandemic, unemployment concerns and the large impact collections can have on credit ratings and other financial documents, collections is not a constructive tool. Rather, the Court is encouraged to again pursue invoicing as a means to collect fines, as the Court has done in the past. Resources to facilitate invoicing are a topic of discussion for a mid-year budget review or budget adjustment, if necessary.

Police:

The Council reduced the new request for training by **\$77,352**, which corresponds to the overtime component within the request. The actual training funding requested was approved at **\$148,980**, which doubles the funding level from prior fiscal years and is responsive to Chief White's request to address a major training deficit within the department. A majority of Council members concluded the overtime component could be accommodated within the department's existing budget. Training will include skills for Patrol and Detective Officers, and also include Crisis Intervention Training, Implicit Bias, Use of Force and De-escalation, and Civil Disturbance training. The Council supported this additional training, while recognizing that the efficacy of the training will be an area of intense, understandable, and appropriate interest on the part of the public and Council.

\$45,000 for a fifth police motorcycle was denied for this year.

Police new requests for PPE, ballistic helmets, vehicles, body cameras, locker room and security features and regular rotations of vehicles in the Capital Improvement Projects list were kept in the budget.

Police requested two new officer hires; the Council approved both. One is for a forensics investigator who will administer data and technology evidence warrants and collection by the Police Department.

The second officer will be on the Business Improvement District rotation and will work closely with the Mobile Crisis Response Team detailed below. The Council clearly indicated its support for innovative approaches to crisis response that involve cross-department personnel working collaboratively with mental health and crisis intervention professionals.

ADDITIONS TO THE BUDGET:

Mental Health Services:

Historically, municipalities have not been the main provider for mental health services, as this was a federal and state government responsibility. However, with federal and state cuts to these services spanning decades, local government is placed in a position in which it must respond to the need for these services. Creating new programs takes time, effort, money, and capacity in terms of who can be hired to supervise and staff. The following initiatives are in the new budget:

\$50,000 to provide seed funding for the Trinity Housing Project. The funding will support the creation of a homeless navigation center, which will be a nucleus for other social services available to help this population. This funding will assist in the creation of a service delivery model, the identification of Medicaid billable models to ensure ongoing program sustainability, and capacity building within the homeless and behavioral health provider communities through the provision of training and technical assistance. Under this funding, staff will take the lead on interfacing with numerous service providers to streamline and coordinate the social services that will be offered at Trinity and make sure the construction of the physical facility will support and enhance these services. This includes the creation of

the Crisis Stabilization Center, which will be integral to the Mobile Crisis Response Team as a resource where clients can be taken when in crisis.

Mobile Crisis Response Team Total Budget: \$500,000

Various funding sources as delineated below comprise a total budget of approximately \$500,000 for this new program, which will start October 1, 2020. Funding formula is:

- **\$75,000** for the Mobile Crisis Response Team. Total budget for the Mobile Crisis Response Team is \$380,000, comprised of \$75K from the City of Missoula, \$50K from Missoula County, \$125K from the Department of Health and Human Services from the State of Montana, and a Tribal Grant for \$130K. The Mobile Crisis Response Team will respond to a call for someone in mental health crisis, instead of law enforcement or other first responders, or when necessary accompany first responders to the scene. This team will include two mental health professionals to assess and assist the person in crisis and a peer-support specialist and/or case manager to ensure the person receives follow-up treatment and mental health services. Note: the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has worked under the MacArthur Foundation Grant over the last year, and this Mobile Crisis Response Team pilot program was spearheaded by Kristin Jordan of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of Missoula County. The \$75,000 was requested by the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Mobile Social Crisis Response Team will be housed and administered in the Missoula Fire Department, in collaboration with Partnership Health.
- **Additional \$114,000** for enhanced capacity with the Missoula Fire Department's deployment of the Mobile Crisis Team, to ensure that two teams of mental health providers will be working 80 hours total per week for the next 10 months, starting October 1, 2020. This additional enhancement was added to the budget during the final budget hearing held on August 31.
- **Mobile Crisis Response Team Total Budget: \$500,000** The base budget of \$380,000, plus the additional enhancement of \$114,000 and other grant monies, will increase the total Mobile Crisis Response Team to approximately \$500,00.

\$151,000 in grant money has been obtained and will fund the Crisis Intervention Training Program, which will train first responders how to appropriately handle mental health crisis situations. This training has been done previously by many City of Missoula first responders, but due to the grant funding will now be comprehensive of all first responders on an ongoing basis. The program will be housed in the City of Missoula Fire Department.

MCPS Collaboration at Lowell Elementary:

\$91,652 is provided to the City of Missoula Parks and Recreation Department to provide a pilot program at Lowell Elementary School. The initial pilot program focus is to maximize public investment through an Intergovernmental Agreement with MCPS. The Missoula Parks and Recreation Department will provide equity programs in Missoula's most diverse elementary school, which is also within an Opportunity Zone. This program will provide before- and after-school programming for children, free of cost to

families. The City and Missoula County Public Schools are collaborating to provide the best possible childcare so that students and families may thrive.

Social, economic, and racial equity:

\$100,000 to support the preliminary steps in a City-driven policy and equity audit. Initially, this allocation will support a qualitative and quantitative research study conducted by LEARN Missoula and the City's efforts to conduct an internal policy analysis and equity audit.

LEARN Missoula is a predominantly BIPOC research team working to address anti-racism at a structural level in local government and municipal systems. Using both qualitative and quantitative research, their work focuses specifically on the centering of BIPOC voices to dismantle systemic oppression and precipitate change the public sphere. This investment is essential and will serve as a necessary building block and catalyst for the following additional goal outlined in the City's strategic plan: *Create a pro-equity policy agenda that will advance racial and social equity in the areas of economic development and jobs, environment and the climate, housing, health and behavioral health, the justice system and mobility.*

Affordable Housing:

\$750,000 for initial seed funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, created in July of 2020, pursuant to the Housing Policy, which was passed by the Council in June of 2019.

Missoula Redevelopment Agency Affordable Housing Support:

As part of policy created with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, MRA will commit \$1,000,000 each year from its expenditures toward affordable housing.

Within the last twelve months, MRA has expended the following funds for affordable housing:

\$1.34 million to the Villagio, which will provide 200 affordable housing units.

\$1.1 million for purchase of the Sleepy Inn, which is currently housing quarantined and/or isolating individuals who have no other viable options during Covid-19. FEMA has to date paid approximately \$200K in rent for the use of the Sleepy Inn during the pandemic. Eventually the Sleepy Inn will be torn down and affordable housing built as part of a larger development, or the land will be leveraged or traded for other land which can be better used for affordable housing in Missoula.

\$6.6 Million for 18 acres for the Scott Street purchase, which when City Streets Division shops and other Public Works facilities are combined will translate into 30-40 acres on the North Side of Missoula that will be available for residential development, a portion of which will be affordable housing.

\$142,000 for the YWCA for construction of new facilities that will house homeless families with children.

The Office of Housing and Community Development has committed over \$4,000,000 to homelessness, affordable housing, conservation, social justice issues, and community development. Following is a graph that outlines these items. Please note that some of these items were already discussed previously.

(SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR INFO GRAPH)

Office of Housing and Community Development FY21		
Estimated Direct Investments in Housing, Social Services, and Social Justice Work		
Housing and Homelessness		*rounded to nearest \$5,000
Support to Shelter Providers (YWCA, Poverello)		\$125,000
Financial Education		\$18,000
Emergency Winter Shelter		\$150,000
Coordinated Homeless Outreach Program		\$160,000
Housing Navigation and Case Management		\$150,000
YWCA Emergency Shelter Construction		\$400,000
Partnership Health Center Operational Support		\$35,000
Creation and Preservation of Affordable Homes		
Homeowner Rehabilitation Loans		\$200,000
Community Land Trust Preservation		\$175,000
New Construction (200 homes)		\$806,000
Developer Capacity Building Grants		\$20,000
Brownfields Clean-up Grants		\$250,000
AHTF Investment		\$750,000
Energy Conservation and Climate Action		
100% Clean Electricity Partnership		\$35,000
Zero Waste Partnership		\$30,000
Policy and Advocacy Work		\$35,000
Racial and Social Justice Work		
Missoula Mobile Crisis Team		\$75,000
Policy and Advocacy Work		\$100,000
Community Development		
Missoula Economic Partnership		\$100,000
Arts Missoula		\$200,000
Missoula Aging Services		\$240,000
International Choral Festival		\$12,000
Total Estimated FY21 Investments		\$4,066,000