

January 7, 2026

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
202600005

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager

Subject: **Finance and Budget Monitoring Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2025**

The purpose of this report is to provide the City Council with the status of the City's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 financial and operating budget conditions as of September 30, 2025, to note any significant variances, identify potential budget issues, and provide recommendations. The report is divided into two sections: revenues and expenditures. Various supplemental reports are attached to reflect forecasted revenue, actual revenue, expenditures, and commitments through September 30, 2025.

The following Citywide issues may impact the General Fund 050, Special Revenue Funds, and Enterprise Funds.

1. General Fund revenues are greater than projected by \$3.5 million through the end of September. However, this report highlights increased potential expenditure needs in the amount of \$42.3 million. However, increased police detail revenue of \$8.2 million in the remaining three quarters of FY 2026 is expected to partially offset this need reducing it to \$34.1 million.
2. Overtime in the Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) and the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) is currently outpacing the budget. In CFD, the increased overtime is primarily driven by increased wages and the assignment of sworn positions to administrative tasks and other special duty assignments. The graduation of Recruit Class 123 is expected to reduce overtime usage. If trends do not curtail, CFD projects an overtime need of \$19.0 million. In CPD, the increased overtime is primarily due to Police Visibility Overtime (PVO) related to Downtown Event Deployment to curb violence and for large public events such as BLINK, FC Cincinnati soccer games, and Cincinnati Bengals home football games. If overtime trends do not curtail, CPD projects a need of up to \$11.4 million for overtime by fiscal year end. CPD's total need is \$21.9 million for overtime and off-duty detail expenses, \$10.5 million of which can be offset by additional off-duty detail revenue.

3. Pursuant to a grievance settlement agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighter (IAFF), various wage adjustments are required. Retroactive pay on regular wages back to December 2023 is expected to cost \$6.7 million. There will also be an impact to overtime and ongoing wages. This is an unbudgeted expense, and a supplemental appropriation will be required. The Administration recommends transferring \$6,745,474 to the Reserve for Weather Events, Other Emergency and One-Time Needs General Fund balance sheet reserve account to cover the retroactive portion of these additional costs related to the newly agreed to bargaining agreement as part of the FY 2025 Closeout Ordinance. If approved, these resources would be transferred as part of the Final Adjustment Ordinance (FAO) as necessary.
4. The Approved FY 2025 Budget Update assumed a 2.0% wage increase for the Cincinnati Organized and Dedicated Employee (CODE) employees. The labor agreement was not approved until October 2025 and included a 5.0% across-the-board wage adjustment retroactive to March 2025. The Administration recommends transferring \$360,000 to the Reserve for Weather Events, Other Emergency and One-Time Needs General Fund balance sheet reserve account as part of the FY 2025 Closeout Ordinance to cover the retroactive portion of these additional costs related to the newly agreed to bargaining agreement. These resources will be transferred as part of the Final Adjustment Ordinance (FAO).
5. The Approved FY 2026 Budget assumes a 3.0% wage increase for CODE employees in FY 2026, but the newly executed labor agreement includes a 4.0% across-the-board wage adjustment. Additionally, the new contract includes a new longevity pay article and a one-time lump sum payment. The Administration recommends transferring \$390,000 to the Reserve for Weather Events, Other Emergency and One-Time Needs General Fund balance sheet reserve account as part of the FY 2025 Closeout Ordinance to cover a portion of the longevity and one-time lump sum payment needs. However, this will not cover the ongoing needs associated with the across-the-board wage adjustments. Transfers will likely be required in the Final Adjustment Ordinance (FAO).
6. The Approved FY 2026 Budget assumes a 3.0% wage increase for American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) employees in FY 2026, but the newly executed labor agreement includes a 5.0% across-the-board wage adjustment. Additionally, the new contract includes increased longevity pay, increased deferred compensation match, and one-time lump sum payments. The Administration recommends transferring \$2,655,000 to the Reserve for Weather Events, Other Emergency and One-Time Needs General Fund balance sheet reserve

account as part of the FY 2025 Closeout Ordinance to cover the longevity and one-time lump sum payment needs. Transfers will likely be required in the Final Adjustment Ordinance (FAO).

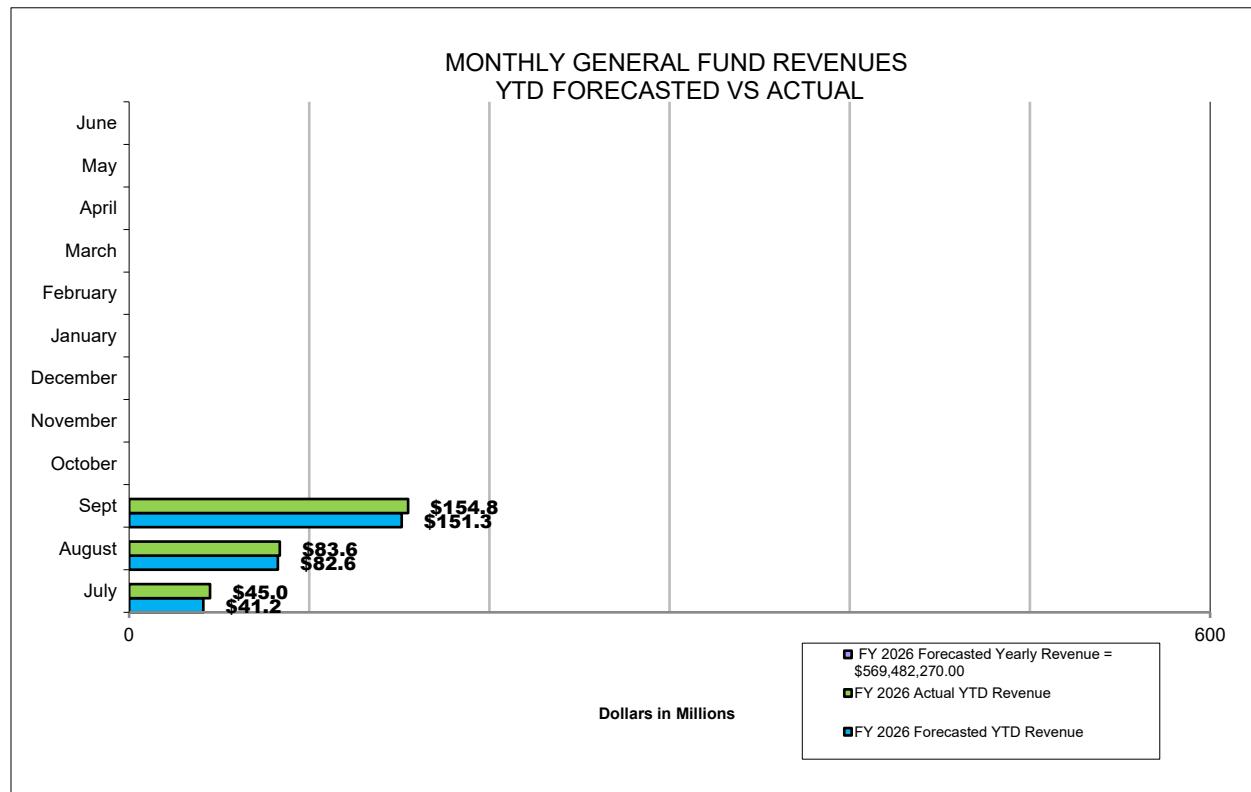
REVENUE

The following report provides an update on the City of Cincinnati's financial condition as of the month ending September 30, 2025. This report represents the third report for the new 2026 fiscal year, ending June 30, 2026. Variances are based on current year estimates and prior year activity in attached schedules.

A more detailed explanation of revenues and expenditures is attached for review, including reports comparing the current year's actual revenue vs. forecasted revenue and prior year's actual revenue vs. current year's actual revenue. Both of those reports are presented on a monthly and year-to-date basis.

I. GENERAL FUND 050

The chart below portrays the performance of actual revenue collected against the forecasted revenue collected through September 30, 2025, and shows that actual revenue of \$154.8 million was above forecasted revenue of \$151.3 million by \$3.5 million.



The major revenue components of the General Fund are listed in the table below. This table highlights the year-to-date variance (favorable and unfavorable) in General Fund revenue collections as compared to forecasted revenue collections. Each major category that differs significantly from forecasted collections will be discussed in further detail.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE SOURCES

	FAVORABLE VARIANCE	(UNFAVORABLE) VARIANCE	PERCENTAGE VARIANCE
General Property Tax	811,142		4.08%
City Income Tax		(\$996,396)	-1.08%
Admissions Tax	182,454		5.71%
Short Term Rental Excise Tax	62,486		10.65%
Licenses & Permits		(\$5,098)	-0.06%
Fines, Forfeitures, & Penalties		(\$417,081)	-25.94%
Investment Income		(\$1,160,310)	-14.61%
Local Government	196,830		4.66%
Casino	58,548		2.30%
Police	2,269,631		74.45%
Buildings and Inspections		(\$97,242)	-4.35%
Fire	1,224,986		59.65%
Parking Meter			0.00%
Other	1,333,716		40.34%
	6,139,793	(\$2,676,127)	
Difference	3,463,666		

General Fund (favorable variance) is \$3.5 million above the amount forecasted through September in the FY 2026 Budget. This is the third month's report for the new fiscal year. What follows is an explanation of significant variances of individual General Fund revenue components.

Income Tax (unfavorable variance) is \$996k below the forecasted amount. Income tax projections have been estimated with a slight decrease from last year. This is the third month of the new fiscal year and as such there is not enough data to discern any trends.

Admissions Tax (favorable variance) is \$182k above the forecasted amount. Along with the prior period payment received, additional events at Great American Ballpark have contributed to the positive variance in this category.

Fines, Forfeitures & Penalties (unfavorable variance) are **\$417k below** the forecasted amount. Civil fines and moving violations are trending lower than estimated. Finance will work with Law to keep an eye on this category.

Investment Income (unfavorable variance) is **\$1.2 million below** the forecast amount. This is due to a timing variance of a drawdown of bond interest and will resolve itself by the end of the next quarter.

Police (favorable variance) is **\$2.2 million above** the forecasted amount. The department's detail estimate was understated; therefore, Finance projects this category finishing well above estimate for the year.

Fire (favorable variance) is **\$1.2 million above** the forecasted amount. Fire's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) third-party vendor has received collections from prior periods as they continue to recover from their cyberattack.

Other (favorable variance) is **\$1.3 million above** the forecasted amount. Police received a grant reimbursement for the previous fiscal year, and Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) received payment for several prior year invoices.

II. RESTRICTED FUNDS

- A. Convention Center (favorable variance)** is **\$559k above** the forecasted amount. The receipt of a settlement payment originally estimated in FY 2025 was received in FY 2026 leading to the positive variance.
- B. Golf (favorable variance)** is **\$292k above** the forecasted amount. Staff have caught up on receipting, and weather conditions have been better than anticipated.
- C. Riverfront Park (unfavorable variance)** is **\$226k below** the forecasted amount. The latest flood damaged the parking system at the park. The Parks Department is working to get it repaired.
- D. Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS) (unfavorable variance)** is **\$827k below** the forecasted amount. Due to contract changes billing has not been able to be sent out yet this year. Once the contract is resolved and billings are initiated and paid, the variance should level out.

EXPENDITURES

The following provides an update on the City of Cincinnati's operating budget position as of the month ending September 30, 2025. The attached Fund Summary Report provides the current budget, expenditures, and commitments of each appropriated fund. This report is presented on a year-to-date basis.

I. GENERAL FUND 050

As shown on the attached report, total expenditures are 22.8% of budget, and commitments are 28.8% of budget in the General Fund 050 as compared to the estimated period ending September 30, 2025, or 25.0% of the fiscal year. "Non-personnel expenses" are trending higher at 44.8% committed year to date due to encumbering twelve months of expenditures for certain commodities such as gas and electric costs, contractual services, and materials and supplies. This is not unusual for this reporting period.

The majority of departments have indicated their FY 2026 General Fund 050 appropriation will meet their budgetary needs through the end of the fiscal year. However, budget transfers may be necessary to move funds from divisions and programs with savings to others within the respective departments that have budget needs. These transfers will be included in the Final Adjustment Ordinance (FAO), which will be presented to the City Council in May 2026.

A. Budget Savings Identified

As of September 30, 2025, no General Fund 050 departments are projecting savings at the end of FY 2026. Any savings identified will be available to support budget needs in other departments and programs as necessary. Interdepartmental transfers of funds from one department to another will be included in the FAO as appropriate.

B. Budget Needs Identified

Based on current expenditure projections, the following General Fund 050 departments are forecasting a budget need in FY 2026. The departments have been advised to manage their appropriated resources so that supplemental appropriations will not be required. However, the Administration will continue to closely monitor departments in the coming months and work with them to mitigate the need for supplemental appropriations. As appropriate, any remaining budget needs will be addressed within the FAO.

1. Cincinnati Police Department (\$21.9 million)

The Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) projects a total personnel need of \$21.9 million primarily due to overtime. This personnel overage is attributed to an

approximate \$11.4 million increase in Police Visibility Overtime (PVO) related to Downtown Event Deployment to curb violence and for large public events, and FC Cincinnati and Cincinnati Bengals home games. Additionally, police off-duty detail expense is projected to be greater than anticipated, which is offset by additional \$10.5 million in detail revenue. This detail revenue may be appropriated to offset the projected off-duty detail need. Overtime spending and lump sum payments will be closely monitored as the fiscal year progresses. The City Administration is having regular meetings with the department to closely monitor staffing trends and overtime needs, and to identify overtime mitigation strategies.

2. Cincinnati Fire Department (\$19.0 million)

The Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) projects a total need of up to \$19.0 million primarily due to overtime and salary increases related to collective bargaining agreements and a recent arbitration settlement agreement. This does not include the retroactive pay associated with the arbitration settlement agreement. The department has implemented two programs that run primarily on overtime in response to increased calls for service: peak demand medical units and chase vehicles. There are also rising overtime costs associated with sending sworn members to paramedic training and backfilling positions to keep units in full operation. CFD has started implementing an overtime reduction strategy, including reducing the number of peak demand medical units and eliminating the chase vehicles. The recent graduation of Recruit Class 123 is also expected to reduce the need for overtime. The City Administration is having regular meetings with the department to closely monitor staffing trends and overtime needs, and to identify overtime mitigation strategies.

3. Non-Departmental Accounts (\$529,000)

The Workers' Compensation non-departmental account is projecting a need of \$529,000. The final charge was higher than budgeted due to General Fund supplemental appropriations for public safety overtime provided at the end of FY 2025.

4. City Manager's Office (\$500,000)

The City Manager's Office projects a need of \$500,000 for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) consultant. No savings or needs are projected in personnel.

5. Department of Public Services (\$410,000)

The Department of Public Services (DPS) projects a personnel need of \$70,000 related to increases from the newly executed AFSCME labor contract. The department also projects a non-personnel need of \$340,000 related to information technology (IT) services and City Hall maintenance. These needs may be partially offset by personnel savings in other agencies.

C. Within Budget, Intradepartmental Budget Transfers May Be Needed

Numerous General Fund 050 departments have indicated the ability to manage their resources within their appropriation. However, budget adjustments within their departments may be required. These transfers are referred to as Intradepartmental Budget Transfers. Unless noted otherwise, these Intradepartmental Budget Transfers will be included in the FAO, which will be presented to the City Council for approval in May 2026.

1. Clerk of Council

The Clerk of Council's Office projects a potential personnel savings due to natural employee turnover.

2. Enterprise Technology Solutions

The Department of Enterprise Technology Solutions projects no budget savings or need at this time, pending reimbursement processing.

3. City Manager's Office: Office of Budget and Evaluation

The Office of Budget and Evaluation projects no budget savings or need at this time.

4. City Manager's Office: Office of Environment and Sustainability

The Office of Environment and Sustainability projects no budget savings or need at this time.

5. City Manager's Office: Emergency Communications Center

The Emergency Communications Center projects no savings or need at this time.

6. City Manager's Office: Office of Procurement

The Office of Procurement projects no budget savings or need at this time, pending reimbursement processing.

7. City Manager's Office: Office of Performance and Data Analytics

The Office of Performance and Data Analytics (OPDA) projects no budget savings or need at this time, pending reimbursement processing.

8. City Manager's Office: Internal Audit

Internal Audit projects no budget savings or need at this time.

9. Department of Law

The Department of Law projects a non-personnel need related to temporary staffing to support the contracts section of the General Counsel Division. No savings or needs are projected in personnel, pending reimbursement processing.

10. Department of Human Resources

The Department of Human Resources (HR) projects a possible non-personnel need of up to \$200,000 related to public safety testing, which will be closely monitored. HR projects no savings or needs in personnel, pending reimbursement processing.

11. Department of Finance

The Department of Finance projects a possible personnel need in the Division of Accounts and Audits due to various staffing changes, including the addition of a position in Payroll. As the fiscal year continues, this need will be closely monitored.

12. Department of Community and Economic Development

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) projects no budget savings or need at this time.

13. Department of City Planning and Engagement

The Department of City Planning and Engagement projects no savings or needs, pending reimbursement processing.

14. Citizen Complaint Authority

The Citizen Complaint Authority (CCA) projects no savings or need at this time.

15. Cincinnati Recreation Commission

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission projects no budget savings or need at this time.

16. Cincinnati Parks Department

The Parks Department projects no budget savings or need at this time, pending reimbursement processing.

17. Department of Buildings & Inspections

The Department of Buildings & Inspections projects no budget savings or need at this time, pending reimbursements. Budgeted reimbursements into the General Fund will continue to be prioritized and aligned with various department programs.

18. Department of Transportation and Engineering

The Department of Transportation and Engineering projects no savings or needs at this time. However, transfers within appropriations may be required in the Final Adjustment Ordinance (FAO).

19. Enterprise Services: Parking

The Enterprise Services Parking Division has no projected savings or needs at this time.

20. Department of Economic Inclusion

The Department of Economic Inclusion projects neither a savings nor a need at this time.

II. ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Enterprise Funds account for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. If an activity's principal revenue source meets any one of the following criteria, it is required to be reported as an enterprise fund: (1) an activity financed with debt that is secured solely by pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges for the activity; (2) laws or regulations which require that the activity's costs of providing services, including capital costs, be recovered with fees and charges, rather than with taxes or similar revenues; or (3) pricing policies which establish fees and charges designed to recover the activity's costs.

A. Water Works Fund 101

Water Works Fund 101 is 16.9% expended year to date. The Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) projects personnel savings due to increased capital project reimbursements and position vacancy savings, which will be partially offset by unbudgeted wage increases and one-time contractual payments. GCWW also expects non-personnel savings in postage and collection fees.

B. Parking System Facilities Fund 102

Parking System Facilities Fund 102 includes the budget for off-street parking enterprises, including garages. Fund 102 is currently 6.1% expended year to date. The Division of Parking Facilities projects savings of \$850,000 related to debt schedule timing.

C. Convention Center Fund 103

The Convention Center Fund is 7.5% expended year to date. The Convention Center reported a non-personnel need of up to \$1,800,000, including \$200,000 for contractual services obligations and \$1,600,000 for the termination of the current naming rights agreement for the Convention Center. This need was subsequently addressed with a supplemental appropriation by Ordinance No. 0301-2025, which was passed by the City Council on October 1, 2025.

D. General Aviation Fund 104

General Aviation Fund 104 is 16.2% expended year to date. The Department of Transportation and Engineering projects no significant budget savings or need.

E. Municipal Golf Fund 105

Municipal Golf Fund 105 is 35.3% expended year to date. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission projects a non-personnel need of \$407,000 for prior year contractual services expenses. A supplemental appropriation Ordinance was introduced to the City Council in November 2025 to address the entirety of this need.

F. Stormwater Management Fund 107

Stormwater Management Fund 107 provides resources to various City departments. The major recipient of resources from this fund is the Stormwater Management Utility (SMU). The Department of Public Services, the Parks Department, the Office of Environment and Sustainability, the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, and the Department of Buildings & Inspections also receive appropriations from this fund. The Stormwater Management Fund is 10.3% expended year to date. SMU projects no savings or needs; however, transfers within appropriations may be required in the Final Adjustment Ordinance (FAO). The Department of Buildings & Inspections projects a potential non-personnel need due to additional contractual services required to respond to increased code violation complaints in the Private Lot Abatement Program (PLAP). This need could be offset by salary and benefits savings with its Fund 107 appropriation. A transfer within appropriations may be necessary in the FAO.

III. DEBT SERVICE FUNDS

Debt Service Funds account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, principal and interest on the City's bonds issued in support of governmental activities.

A. Bond Retirement Fund 151

Bond Retirement Fund 151 is 4.4% expended year to date. The Finance Department projects no budget savings or need at this time.

IV. APPROPRIATED SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Special Revenue Funds account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than trusts for individuals, private organizations, or other governments, or for major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

The Office of Budget and Evaluation, in cooperation with various City departments, reviewed appropriated special revenue funds to ensure the Approved FY 2026 Budget remains in balance. Based on expenditures and revenues through September 30, 2025, most special revenue funds are on target with regard to their budget and

require no additional appropriations at this time. Any identified issues are highlighted in the narrative summaries provided below. If warranted, budget adjustments will be addressed in the FAO later in the fiscal year.

A. Street Construction, Maintenance & Repair Fund 301

Street Construction, Maintenance & Repair Fund 301 is 19.0% expended year to date. The Department of Public Services anticipates a personnel need of \$25,000 related to the newly executed AFSCME labor contract. The Department of Transportation and Engineering projects a potential personnel savings due to a position vacancy.

B. Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund 302

Income Tax-Infrastructure Fund 302 provides resources to several City departments. Fund 302 is 18.1% expended year to date. The Department of Transportation and Engineering currently projects a net personnel need of up to \$950,000 due to reduced capital improvement program project reimbursements and unrealized budgeted position vacancy allowance (PVA). This need will be monitored closely. Additionally, the Department of Public Services (DPS) projects a non-personnel need of \$160,000 related to unexpected city facility maintenance as well as a \$125,000 need in personnel due to unmet budgeted position vacancy allowance and the newly executed AFSCME labor contract. A supplemental appropriation may be required to address the needs in DPS and DOTE. The Law Department projects a potential personnel need due to lower than expected reimbursements. This need will be monitored closely. The Human Resources Department, the Department of Buildings & Inspections, and the Department of Economic Inclusion project no budget savings or need.

C. Parking Meter Fund 303

Parking Meter Fund 303 includes the budget for on-street parking enterprises, including parking meters. Fund 303 is currently 23.3% expended year to date. The Division of Parking Facilities projects a personnel need of \$325,000 related to increased staffing and the newly executed AFSCME labor contract. The department also projects a non-personnel need of \$100,000 related to parking vendor fees from increased revenue.

D. Municipal Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund 306

Municipal Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund 306 is 12.7% expended year to date. The Department of Public Services anticipates neither a savings nor a need in this fund.

E. Sawyer Point Fund 318

Sawyer Point Fund 318 is 11.0% expended year to date. The Parks Department projects no budget savings or need in this fund.

F. Recreation Special Activities Fund 323

Recreation Special Activities Fund 323 is currently 23.6% expended year to date. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) reports a \$1.4 million need in Fund 323 due to a prior year shortfall and unbudgeted non-personnel expenses for software and equipment replacement. A supplemental appropriation Ordinance was introduced to the City Council in November 2025 to address \$1,174,000 of this need. This fund will continue to be monitored closely.

G. Cincinnati Riverfront Park Fund 329

Cincinnati Riverfront Park Fund 329 is the appropriated fund for Smale Park. Fund 329 is currently 2.4% expended year to date. The Parks Department projects no budget savings or need in Fund 329.

H. Hazard Abatement Fund 347

Hazard Abatement Fund 347 is 1.7% expended year to date. The Department of Buildings & Inspections projects no budgeted savings or need within Fund 347 at this time.

I. 9-1-1 Cell Phone Fees Fund 364

9-1-1 Cell Phone Fees Fund 364 is the appropriated fund that governs the City portion of state collected revenue from mobile device fees. Fund 364 is currently 18.7% expended year to date. The Emergency Communications Center projects a potential need of \$265,100 related to software expenses from FY 2025 paid in FY 2026 as a moral obligation.

J. Safe and Clean Fund 377

Safe and Clean Fund 377 is the appropriated fund that collects revenue associated with billboard leases. These resources are allocated to Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB) expenditures. The fund is currently 0.0% expended year to date. The Department of Public Services anticipates neither a savings nor a need in this fund.

K. Community Health Center Activities Fund 395

Community Health Center Activities Fund 395 is 15.8% expended year to date. The Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) projects potential personnel savings resulting from position vacancies. This will offset a projected non-personnel need due to increased medical service costs. CHD reported a non-personnel need of up to \$2,000,000 due to expense corrections resulting from prior year cash flow issues. This need was subsequently addressed with a supplemental appropriation via Ordinance No. 0295-2025, which was passed by the City Council on September 17, 2025.

L. Cincinnati Health District Fund 416

General operational support to the Cincinnati Health Department is provided from Cincinnati Health District Fund 416. This fund is 21.2% expended year to date. The Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) projects non-personnel savings. This will offset a projected personnel need resulting from unbudgeted contractual wage adjustments.

M. Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System (CAGIS) Fund 449

Cincinnati Area Geographic Information System Fund 449 is 19.9% expended year to date. The Office of Performance and Data Analytics projects a need of up to \$700,000 related to the Accela contract renewal. The General Fund and Restricted Funds will be charged for this increased expense based on number of licenses needed in each fund.

N. Streetcar Operations Fund 455

Streetcar Operations Fund 455 is 4.0% expended year to date. The Department of Transportation and Engineering projects no budget savings or need at this time.

O. County Law Enforcement Applied Regionally (CLEAR) Fund 457

The CLEAR Fund is 14.8% expended year to date. Enterprise Technology Solutions projects no budget savings or need for FY 2026.

Summary

Through September 30, 2025, major budget issues include overtime needs for both the Fire Department and the Police Department, the arbitration settlement agreement with IAFF, and the newly executed labor contract agreements with CODE and AFSCME. Departments have identified possible savings and shortfalls, which will continue to be monitored and updated monthly.

Submitted herewith are the following Office of Budget and Evaluation reports:

1. Fund Summary Report for the month ended September 30, 2025.

Submitted herewith are the following Department of Finance reports:

2. Comparative Statement of Revenue (Actual, Forecast and Prior Year) as of September 30, 2025.
3. Audit of the City Treasurer's Report for the month ended August 31, 2025.
4. Statement of Balances in the various funds as of September 30, 2025.

By approval of this report, City Council appropriates the revenues received in the various restricted funds on the attached Statement of Balances and as stated in

greater detail on the records maintained by the Department of Finance, Division of Accounts & Audits. Such revenues are to be expended in accordance with the purposes for which the funds were established.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
Steve Webb, Finance Director
Andrew Dudas, Budget Director