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Capital Budget Review

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Summary

- **Focus on housing and community services:** A significant portion of the budget is dedicated to addressing housing challenges, including demolition of blighted properties, affordable housing development, and support for unhoused prevention programs. This reflects a strong emphasis on improving the quality of life for city residents.
- **Emphasis on public safety:** The budget includes investments in public safety initiatives, including police and fire equipment upgrades, improved communication systems, and initiatives to enhance community safety.
- **Significant investment in infrastructure:** The budget allocates substantial funds for crucial infrastructure projects, including road repairs, bridge replacements, and sewer and water system upgrades. This reflects a commitment to improving the city's overall condition.

Follow-Up Questions

- How will inflation impact the budget, especially the costs that aren't determined yet, and are there contingency plans in place to address potential cost increases?
- What are the city's strategies to ensure equitable distribution of resources across all neighborhoods, particularly those with historically underserved communities?
- Are there talks or strategies already in place in regard to the long-term sustainability of funding for park maintenance and improvements, including potential revenue sources beyond the current budget allocation?

Notes:

This Akron City Council meeting focused on reviewing the [city's 2025 capital budget](#). The mayor emphasized responsible spending, highlighting a significant reduction in general obligation debt. Key departments presented their budget requests, including transportation, parks and recreation, public facilities, and housing and community services. The meeting emphasized community engagement, with input gathered from ward meetings informing budget priorities.

[View the presentation here.](#)

Transportation

\$50.1 million budget

Street projects:

- Exchange Street: Closeout costs (\$TBD)
- Home Avenue: Replacement of failing concrete with asphalt
- North Main Street: Complete street project, safety improvements (\$1.1 million [Ohio Public Works Commission](#) grant)
- Tallmadge Avenue: Improvements and retaining wall
- All American Bridge: Replacement, including an 8-foot fence (\$200,000)
- Bowery Street Bridge: Replacement and closure for 12 months
- 10th Street Bridge: Deck replacement (\$500,000 bridge funds)

- South Main Street Bridge: Design only (\$TBD)
- University Avenue: Preventive maintenance (\$750,000 bridge funds)
- Residential streets: Belleau Drive replacement of concrete with asphalt
- Speed reduction projects: Speed tables, radar signs
- Concrete street rehab: Patch and match on Patterson, Thornton, Brown and other streets (\$1.2 million)
- ODOT resurfacing: Vernon Odom Boulevard and Kenmore leg of 1-76
- City-wide sidewalk restoration program (\$1 million).
- Portage Trail West sidewalks: Awarded to Lockhart, construction to begin in spring
- [Safe Streets for All](#): Planning study for Copley Road, Maple Street and Archwood/Wilbeth/Kelly areas in East Akron and West Akron (\$896,000)

Parks and Recreation

\$13.4 million budget

- Akron Parks Challenge: Design and construction of improvements (\$300,000)
- Akron Park sign replacement: \$10,000
- Court resurfacing: Basketball and tennis courts (\$125,000)
- [Davenport Park](#): New play equipment (\$40,000)
- Elizabeth Park splash pad: Restroom and control valve room (\$160,000)
- Gaming and e-sports rooms: Four community centers (\$100,000)
- Firestone Park Community Center: HVAC replacement (\$216,000)
- Firestone Park pickleball court: Construction (\$75,000)
- Gorge Dam removal: Design and removal (\$600,000 EPA grant)
- Gorge Dam removal: Sediment placement area (\$100,000 EPA grant)
- Bank stabilization: Grading and removal of fill (\$200,000 EPA grant)
- Grace Park lighting: Replace underground lighting (\$95,000)
- Hyre Park Nature Trail: Renovation (\$25,000)
- Joy Park Community Center: HVAC system replacement (\$102,000)
- Kent Street Park: Design and construct park in conjunction with bridge rehab and dam removal (\$166,000 EPA grant)
- Lane Field: Improve 8-lane running track (\$100,000)
- Lawton Street Community Center: Interior restroom upgrades (\$20,000)

- Little Cuyahoga River Restoration: Floodplain restoration and dam removal (\$2.5 million)
- Middlebury Run Trail: Painting, renovation and sign replacement (\$50,000)
- Miscellaneous Community Centers: Building improvements, HVAC, flooring, lighting (\$300,000)
- Miscellaneous park improvements: Playground upgrades, park furnishings, electric, lighting, fencing (\$260,000)
- Perkins Park: Rehabilitation of courts, parking lot, playground and walkways (\$75,000)
- Park lighting: Install additional lighting and security cameras (\$75,000)
- Prentiss Park: Park rehabilitation, courts, parking lot, playground and walkways (\$150,000)
- Reservoir Park Pool: Reconstruction of pool and bathhouse (\$3.3 million [ARPA funds](#))
- Rubber City Heritage Trail: Phase 2 and Phase 3 development (\$TBD)
- Waters Park: Amphitheater repairs (\$25,000)

Public facilities

\$10.6 million budget

Airport

- Fuel farm: Design only (\$125,000)
- Taxiway: Design only (\$500,000)
- Snow removal equipment: \$60,000 (pending funding)
- Wind cone: \$313,000

Canal Park Stadium:

- Restaurant/restroom renovations and waterproofing (\$TBD)
- Cascade parking deck: Elevator renovations (\$TBD)
- Central Services: Replace lifts at East Market Street facility (\$TBD)
- CitiCenter Parking Deck: ADA accessibility improvements (\$TBD)
- High Market Parking Deck: Repair failed expansion joints (\$TBD)
- Greystone steam line addition: Connect to Akron Energy district heating and cooling (\$TBD)
- Miscellaneous facility improvements: LED upgrades, mechanical and

sealing, flooring upgrades (\$TBD)

- Morley parking deck sprinklers: Design only (\$TBD)
- Motor equipment pit repairs: Repair pits and grating at Triplet Street facility (\$TBD)
- Municipal Service Center: Training and locker rooms: Renovations by city employees (\$TBD)
- Miscellaneous improvements (Public Works): Security fencing, water line replacement for brine system, brine system (\$TBD)
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- Parking deck maintenance: Rehab of structures, known defects and waterproofing (\$TBD)
- Salt storage: Replace existing dome with new 24,000-ton capacity facility (\$TBD)
- Stubbs elevator modernization: Evaluate and potentially modernize elevators (\$TBD)

Miscellaneous

- Debt service: \$39 million to pay for previous capital budgets
- Derby Downs security cameras: (\$TBD)
- Equipment replacement: Police, fire, and public works vehicles (\$TBD)
- Downtown beautification: \$20,000
- FireCAD system: \$164,000
- Combined Communication Center: \$185,000
- Fire EMS miscellaneous safety equipment: \$100,000
- Fire facilities improvements: Kitchen upgrades, HVAC systems, generators (\$250,000)
- Fire vehicle refurbishment: \$100,000
- Fire management software and renewals: \$205,000
- Fire turnout gear replacement: \$150,000
- Debt service (fire facilities): \$2 million
- Police Academy facility and training: \$731,000

- Mass notification system: \$31,950
- Mobile communications center: \$330,000 (part of \$660,000 total)
- Police body worn camera contract: \$390,000
- Police share of Combined Communication Center: \$344,000
- Police gear replacement: \$87,000
- Police management software and hardware renewals: \$664,000
- Railroad quiet zones: \$400,000 (federal grant)
- School flashing signal remote access system: \$30,000

Housing and Community Services

- Acquisition, relocation and clearance: \$TBD (opportunity purchases for redevelopment)
- AMHA ([Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority](#)) environmental reviews: \$60,000
- Affordable housing development: \$730,000
- Demolition of vacant and abandoned structures: \$400,000
- Down payment assistance program: \$TBD (for first-time homebuyers)
- Miscellaneous affordable housing projects: \$220,000
- Homeless shelters: \$568,000 (Emergency Solutions Grant)
- Lead-based paint remediation: \$2.4 million (major grant secured)
- Minor home repair program: \$250,000