

**City Council Proposed Budget Changes Form (AMENDMENTS)****Fiscal Year 2026 - Due Monday, August 4, 2025 (end of day)****Council member name:****Eric Melson****Short Title:** New Request for Urban Forestry Department**Please describe the request and community benefit**

This is a modest request for our Urban Forestry Program. The return on this investment is both immediate and compounding. Our current crew is stretched to the limit, leaving critical tasks like stump grinding, pruning, and inventory updates largely undone, despite the City owning the equipment to perform these tasks. Performing these tasks in-house has 2x - 4x times the cost efficiency of contracting and funding this position would move many of these critical tasks in-house. The July 2024 wind event, which toppled 64 trees in Pleasant View—59 of them due to preventable structural defects—demonstrated that *deferred maintenance translates directly into higher risk, liability, and loss of the environmental and economic benefits* our urban forest provide. This investment completes a third Forestry Worker, and would enable a 2nd arborist crew to operate year-round - eliminating hazards, extending tree lifespans, reducing future storm losses, and making progress on updating our aging tree inventory with proactive care. For less than \$50,000 annually, this request converts underused capacity into a safer, more resilient, and cost-effective urban forest program that protects both our community and its green infrastructure for decades to come.

**Please prioritize/rank this request in relation to the total number of requests you've submitted (ex. Rank 2 of 4)****1 of 1****Does your request involve increasing staffing? (How many FTEs?)****.5 FTE****Requested budget amount****\$ 48,093.00****Proposed funding (check one)**

	Increase taxes (only available for general fund requests AND must verify if there are available mills to levy)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	Increase Park District Assessments (must be Park eligible expenditure)
	Increase Road District Assessments (must be Road eligible expenditure)
	Reduce Fund Balance (to Approved Policy Level )
	Re-Appropriation/Reduce appropriation elsewhere

*If re-appropriation please note department budget from which to reduce appropriation***Is this proposed for one time funding or ongoing? (Please check one)**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	One-time	\$1,350
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y	Ongoing	\$46,743