FAQs | FY 2027 Proposed Budget

What is happening right now?
The City has developed a proposed FY 2027 budget, which will be reviewed by the Budget Committee in May. This is an early step in the process, and no final decisions have been made. The budget will go through public review and Council consideration before adoption.

Has the City approved the budget?
No. The proposed budget has not yet been reviewed by the Budget Committee or approved by Council.

Final decisions are made after:

- Budget Committee review
- Public input
- Council adoption

Why are staffing changes being discussed now?
As part of developing a balanced budget, departments identify potential adjustments, including staffing and service levels. These are proposals, not final decisions.

Why were employees notified about potential layoffs if the budget is not final?
When a position is included in a draft proposal, employees are notified as early as possible. Early notification is intended to provide employees more time to prepare and does not reflect a final decision. Waiting until later in the process would result in less notice.

Have any positions already been eliminated?
No. All staffing changes are part of a proposed budget and are not final until Council takes action.

Why are library hours changing?
As part of preparing the proposed FY 2027 budget, the library has identified how service hours could be adjusted if the proposed staffing levels take effect. This is planning based on the draft budget, not a final decision. Library hours have not changed.

Is the Library the only department facing budget adjustments?
No. Springfield has a long history of making budget adjustments within the General Fund in response to constrained revenues and rising service costs. The proposed FY 2027 budget reflects that same approach.

In recent years, multiple departments have experienced staffing and service adjustments. For example, in FY 2026, the Springfield Police Department eliminated a Public Information Officer position. In FY 2022, the City eliminated a billing technician position, adjusted outreach staffing, and reduced positions within the Police Department, including a Community Service Officer and a records position. The Information Technology division also reduced one full-time position in FY 2023 and another in FY 2024. These types of adjustments have occurred across departments over time as the City works to align services with available resources.

The proposed budget reflects difficult tradeoffs across a limited number of discretionary services, not a single decision about one department.

Will the payroll tax affect the current budget or the library?
No. The payroll tax is being considered as a long-term revenue option and would not take effect earlier than 2027. The payroll tax and the budget are separate decisions on different timelines.

What has been decided so far?

- A proposed FY 2027 budget has been developed
- Potential staffing and service adjustments have been identified
- Budget Committee meetings have been scheduled