



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Monica Sedelmeier, Public Information Officer  
Communications & Marketing Department  
(254) 750-5636  
MonicaS@wacotx.gov  
waco-texas.com

---

## **WACO CITY MANAGER SUBMITS PROPOSED 2024-2025 BUDGET**

**WACO, TEXAS (July 2, 2024)** — Waco City Manager Bradley Ford submitted the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 to Waco City Council today. The proposed budget is available on the City website at [waco-texas.com/budget](https://waco-texas.com/budget).

### **Budget Highlights**

The proposed budget maintains the current tax rate of 0.7550 cents per \$100 in valuation — unchanged from the current rate, which is the lowest the tax rate has been in more than a dozen years. This tax rate is based on the taxable value for budgetary purposes estimated from the Preliminary Tax Roll provided to the City by the McLennan County Appraisal District (McCAD). The final tax rate could be adjusted by the Certified Tax Roll issued by McCAD on July 25, 2024.

Expenses from the General Fund, which is tax supported, are down \$1.2 million from the current year while still providing salary increases for public safety and civilian employees. The ability to fund these raises and still produce a budget with less expenses than the current year was created through a \$7.6 million (-8.4%) reduction in non-personnel-related expenses. None of these reductions will impact the delivery of core City services to Waco residents.

Major projects to be completed and opened during the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year include the new regional landfill, the new landfill transfer station, and Fire Station 15 at Richie Road and Panther Way. Projects that were started in the previous fiscal year that will be completed in this upcoming fiscal year, include three new fire engines and three brush trucks being put into service, completion of the design of the new regional park on Flat Rock Road, and completion of water and wastewater improvements to support continuing investment and job growth in the Business Park near Bagby Avenue and Texas Central Parkway.

Several new projects are expected to begin in the upcoming fiscal year, including:

- Construction of the Regional Park and Heritage Trail at the old Floyd Casey stadium site
- Construction of a new animal hospital at the City of Waco Animal Shelter on Circle Road
- Construction of a new fire station on LaSalle Avenue
- Construction of a new STEAM Center in the former Bledsoe-Miller Community Center
- Reconstruction of the Riverwalk from Webster Avenue to the Baylor Law School
- Implementation of railroad quiet zones from the Brazos River to South 11<sup>th</sup> Street
- Implementation of Phase 1 of the Downtown Strategic Road Map

The Communications & Marketing Department strives to educate, inform, entertain, and involve citizens with their government.

## Impact on Taxpayers and Ratepayers

The monthly bill for utilities—water, wastewater, solid waste, drainage, and a new fee for street maintenance—will increase the monthly bill for the average customer \$7.38 per month (+5.7%). The total monthly bill in fiscal year 2024-25, with the new proposed street fee, is less than the average monthly bill in 2021 adjusted for inflation.

Taxpayers owning a home of average taxable value (\$226,683) will see an **estimated** annual increase of \$154.37 (+9.9%) due to higher property valuations. This estimate, like the final tax rate, may be adjusted when McCAD issues the Certified Tax Roll on July 25, 2024.

## Financial Summary

- The Proposed Budget includes 1,846 personnel, which is seven less than the current year.
- Across all funds in the City, operating expenses total just under one-half billion dollars at \$499,622,677.00 — an increase of 2.9% over the current adopted budget.
- The single largest fund is the General Fund at \$202,509,505.00 — a reduction of \$0.6% from the adopted budget.
  - The General Fund includes many services familiar to residents including Police and Fire response. The total expense budget for Police and Fire (\$104.84 million) is more than the total property tax received by the City for operations (\$91.73 million).

## Next Steps

The final budget and certified tax roll will be presented to Waco City Council on Tuesday, August 6. Over the following weeks, City Council will review and may initiate amendments to the proposed budget before the final adoption at a special called City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 27.

The public is welcome to view or attend any of the public hearings at a City Council meeting. Meetings are held at the Bosque Theater in the Waco Convention Center, 100 Washington Ave., and they are streamed at [mywacotv.com](http://mywacotv.com).

The approved budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 will go into effect starting Tuesday, October 1.

# # #