2026 Executive Operating Budget
Common Council Amendments (Adopted)

General and Library Fund Summary

	Net Expenditures	GF Revenue	Levy
Executive Budget	**$ 452,505,115**	**$ 125,838,694**	**$ 326,666,421**
Finance Committee			
Finance Cmte Proposed Amendments	$ 236,295	$ -	$ 236,295
Finance Cmte Adopted Amendments	$ 218,037	$ -	$ 218,037
Total Finance Cmte Recommended Budget	**$ 452,723,152**	**$ 125,838,694**	**$ 326,884,458**
Common Council			
Common Council Proposed Amendments	$ -	$ 218,037	$ (218,037)
Common Council Adopted Amendments	$ -	$ 218,037	$ (218,037)
Total Common Council Adopted Budget	**$ 452,723,152**	**$ 126,056,731**	**$ 326,666,421**
Maximum Allowed Levy			**$ 331,564,924**
Remaining Levy Capacity -- Executive Budget			$ 4,898,503
Remaining Levy Capacity -- FC Recommended Budget			$ 4,680,466
Remaining Levy Capacity -- CC Adopted Budget			$ 4,898,503
Maximum Allowed Expenditures			**$ 380,384,799**
Net expenditures, less debt service and other ERIP execeptions			$ 379,966,514
Remaining Expenditure Capacity -- Executive Budget			$ 418,285
Remaining Expenditure Capacity -- FC Recommended Budget			$ 200,248
Remaining Expenditure Capacity -- CC Adopted Budget			$ 200,248

Finance Dept recommends leaving a $200,000 margin for future readjustments to ensure the City qualifies for the 2027 ERIP payment. The budget adopted by Common Council leaves $248 in expenditure room above the recommendation.

						General & Library Fund			Other Funds	
#	**Agency**	**Amendment Title**	**Sponsor(s)**	**Co-Sponsor(s)**	**Action**	**General Purpose Revenue**	**Net Expense**	**TOAH Impact**	**Revenue**	**Expense**
1	General Fund Revenues	Reduce property tax levy through allocation of fund balance	Rhodes-Conway, Vidaver, Govindarajan	Field, Matthews, O'Brien, Guequierre	Adopted	$ -	$ -	$ (2.25)	$ -	$ -
Floor Amend. #1	Public Health	E. coli source testing pilot	Vidaver, Evers		Adopted	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Floor Amend. #2	Office of the Independent Monitor and Police	Eliminate funding for OIM and increase funding for body worn cameras	Knox, Harrington-McKinney, Pritchett		Failed	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

2026 Operating Budget
Common Council Amendments (Proposed)

Identifying Information

Agency:	General Fund Revenues	Amendment #:	1
Amendment Title:	Reduce property tax levy through allocation of fund balance	Page #:	40
Sponsor(s):	Mayor Rhodes-Conway, Council President Vidaver, Council VP Govindarajan	Action:	Adopted
Co-Sponsor(s):	Field, Matthews, O'Brien, Guequierre	Vote:	Voice Vote - Unanimous

Amendment Narrative

Reduce the property tax levy by $218,037 by allocating that amount from the general fund unassigned balance ("fund balance") to cover additional expenses added through Finance Committee amendments.

Amendment by Funding Source

	General Fund	Other Funds
GF Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Expenditure	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -

Note, the proposed changes are within the GF revenue major, resulting in a $0 change in the summary tables

Amendment by Major Expenditure/ Revenue Category

	General Fund	Other Funds
GF Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Revenue	$ -	$ -
Salaries	$ -	$ -
Benefits	$ -	$ -
Supplies	$ -	$ -
Purchased Services	$ -	$ -
Inter-Dept Charges	$ -	$ -
Inter-Dept Billings	$ -	$ -
Other	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -

Ongoing Fiscal Impact

Taxes on the Average Value Home (TOAH) Impact	$ (2.25)
One-Time or Recurring	One Time
Annualized Cost	n/a

2026 Operating Budget
Common Council Amendments (Proposed)

Identifying Information			
Agency:	General Fund Revenues	Amendment #:	1
Amendment Title:	Reduce property tax levy through allocation of fund balance	Page #:	40
Sponsor(s):	Mayor Rhodes-Conway, Council President Vidaver, Council VP Govindarajan	Action:	Adopted
Co-Sponsor(s):	Field, Matthews, O'Brien, Guequierre	Vote:	Voice Vote - Unanimous

Finance Department Analysis

The executive operating budget allocated $2.0 million from the general fund unassigned balance ("fund balance") to reduce the property tax levy. By allocating this amount, the City reached the maximum allowable carryover of unused levy limit authority under state law (approximately $4.9 million, or 1.5% of the prior year property tax levy). The tax increase on the average value home under the executive budget was $30.41 (0.9%).

On October 27, 2025, the Finance Committee proposed and adopted seven amendments to the executive operating budget. These amendments added $218,037 in general fund expenditures. The summary table of the amendment packet, attached to Legistar 90249, reflected an increase of the property tax levy of $218,037 to fund the increased expenses. These increased expenditures brought total expenditures to the level recommended by the Finance Department to qualify for state aid under the Expenditure Restraint Incentive Program (ERIP). Property taxes would increase by an additional $2.25 after incorporating the Finance Committee amendments, for a total of $32.66 (1%) .

This Common Council amendment would change the funding source for Finance Committee amendments from property tax levy to fund balance. This would keep the total property tax levy amount the same as the adopted budget ($326,666,421). This would lower the taxes on the average value home by $2.25 compared to the Finance Committee recommended budget.

The total amount of fund balance applied would increase from $2,000,000 to $2,218,037. The City's 5-year operating budget plan includes utilizing $40 million in fund balance over five years. The City will be able to meet its long-range fund balance targets with the additional use of fund balance in 2026. Fund balance is a one-time source of funding, so on going costs will have to be covered by other general fund revenues in future years.

Changing the funding source for Finance Committee amendments **does not** create additional budget capacity under the Expenditure Restraint Incentive Program (ERIP). The executive budget, as amended by Finance Committee, leaves $200,248 in expenditure room. The Finance Department recommends leaving a $200,000 margin for future readjustments to ensure the City remains eligible for the 2027 ERIP payment. If the Common Council follows the Finance Department recommendation, it would have $248 in expenditure room for further amendments.

2026 Operating Budget
Common Council Amendments (Proposed)

Identifying Information

Agency:	Public Health	Amendment #:	Floor Amendment #1
Amendment Title:	Floor Amendment -- E. coli Source Testing Pilot	Page #:	411
Sponsor(s):	Vidaver, Evers	Action:	Adopted
Co-Sponsor(s):		Vote:	Voice Vote - Unanimous

Amendment Narrative

Increase purchased services by up to $4,000 to conduct an E. coli source testing pilot at City beaches. This additional expenditure would only be funded if there is sufficient projected underspending in other City-only expenses within the Public Health budget by June 1, 2026. This determination of underspending would exclude any projected underspending within the Violence Prevention Unit.

Amendment by Funding Source

	General Fund	Other Funds
GF Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Expenditure	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -

Amendment by Major Expenditure/ Revenue Category

	General Fund	Other Funds
GF Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Revenue	$ -	$ -
Salaries	$ -	$ -
Benefits	$ -	$ -
Supplies	$ -	$ -
Purchased Services	$ -	$ -
Inter-Dept Charges	$ -	$ -
Inter-Dept Billings	$ -	$ -
Other	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -

Ongoing Fiscal Impact

Taxes on the Average Value Home (TOAH) Impact	$ -
One-Time or Recurring	One-Time
Annualized Cost	n/a

2026 Operating Budget
Common Council Amendments (Proposed)

Identifying Information			
Agency:	Public Health	Amendment #:	Floor Amendment #1
Amendment Title:	Floor Amendment -- E. coli Source Testing Pilot	Page #:	411
Sponsor(s):	Vidaver, Evers	Action:	Adopted
Co-Sponsor(s):		Vote:	Voice Vote - Unanimous

Finance Department Analysis

The proposed Dane County 2026 operating budget includes $5,020 for E. coli source testing at County beaches. This funding was added through amendment Sub. 1 to the County executive budget. The Dane County budget amendment noted that the total project cost was estimated at $8,900, and a separate City amendment would be moved to cover the City's portion of costs.

The City's executive operating budget, as amended by the Finance Committee, it at the recommended expenditure limit under the Expenditure Restraint Incentive Program (ERIP). Increasing the Public Health budget to fund the City share of this cost would result in the overall budget exceeding the target expenditure limits.

This amendment proposes funding the City's share of the E. coli source testing pilot ($4,000) by analyzing projected spending in the Public Health budget. If there is sufficient underspending in City-only expenses by June 1, 2026, the funds would be transferred to the appropriate account to fund the pilot. If there is not sufficient funding, no funds would be transferred. The underspending analysis would only consider City-funded expenditures. It would exclude joint City-County expenses and would exclude any City funding for violence prevention initiatives.

2026 Operating Budget
Common Council Amendments (Proposed)

Identifying Information

Agency:	Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM); Police	Amendment #:	Floor Amendment #2
Amendment Title:	Floor Amendment -- Eliminate funding for OIM and increase funding for body worn cameras	Page #:	376, 382
Sponsor(s):	Knox, Harrington-McKinney, Pritchett	Action:	Failed
Co-Sponsor(s):		Vote:	Roll Call

The amendmet failed by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Knox, Harrington-McKinney, Pritchett
Nays: Duncan, Evers, Field, Figueroa Cole, Glenn, Govindarajan, Guequierre, Lankella, Madison, Martinez-Rutherford, Matthews, Mayer, O'Brien, Ochowicz, Tishler, Verveer, Vidaver

Amendment Narrative

Eliminate funding for the Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM), including eliminating 2.6 FTE positions and funding for the Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB), which is included as part of the OIM agency budget (reduction: $405,299).

Increase for the Madison Police Department by $405,299 to fund staffing capacity needs related to implementing body worn cameras (BWC). The amendment would authorize the creation of up to 5.0 FTE civilian position with the Police Department, dependent on staffing needs determined by the department. The Police Chief would have discretion in allocating funds for BWC implementation.

Amendment by Funding Source

	General Fund	Other Funds
GF Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Expenditure	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -

Amendment by Major Expenditure/ Revenue Category

	General Fund	Other Funds
GF Revenue	$ -	$ -
Agency Revenue	$ -	$ -
Salaries	$ 142,607	$ -
Benefits	$ (60,406)	$ -
Supplies	$ (2,000)	$ -
Purchased Services	$ (79,280)	$ -
Inter-Dept Charges	$ (921)	$ -
Inter-Dept Billings	$ -	$ -
Other	$ -	$ -
Total	$ -	$ -

2026 Operating Budget
Common Council Amendments (Proposed)

Identifying Information

Agency:	Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM); Police	Amendment #:	Floor Amendment #2
Amendment Title:	Floor Amendment -- Eliminate funding for OIM and increase funding for body worn cameras	Page #:	376, 382
Sponsor(s):	Knox, Harrington-McKinney, Pritchett	Action:	Failed
Co-Sponsor(s):		Vote:	Roll Call

Ongoing Fiscal Impact

Taxes on the Average Value Home (TOAH) Impact	$ -
One-Time or Recurring	Recurring
Annualized Cost	

Finance Department Analysis

The proposed amendment contemplates two actions: eliminating funding for the Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM) and transferring funding to the Police Department to fund operational capacity for body worn cameras (BWC).

The OIM budget, as proposed in the executive budget, is $405,299. This budget includes funding for 2.6 FTE staff positions ($323,098 salary and benefits); legal services ($50,000); funding for the Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB) ($13,580); and other supplies, services, and inter-departmental charges ($18,621). The amendment would eliminate all funding for OIM and PCOB and eliminate 2.6 FTE staff positions. The Common Council would need to separately consider ordinance revisions to repeal the ordinances establishing the OIM and PCOB.

This amendment would reallocate the $405,299 reduction in OIM to the Police Department to fund staffing capacity needs to implement body worn cameras (BWCs). Finance Committee amendment #5 to the 2026 Executive Capital Budget added a horizon list project for BWCs. That capital budget amendment noted that implementing BWC equipment would require significant operating costs for software and staffing, and the department would need to develop an operating cost plan. As of November 2025, the Police Department anticipates needing 5.0 FTE civilian staff, including 2.0 FTE program assistants, 2.0 FTE IT specialist, and a 1.0 FTE forensic lab technician. The current cost estimate for these positions, including one-time supplies, is $473,380. This amendment would not fully fund positions, but it would allow the Police Chief to phase in positions to build operational capacity in advance of full implementation of BWCs. It would also give the Police Chief discretion in allocation funding for other expenses related to BWC implementation.