



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: May 18, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

FROM: Vicki Van Buren, Director of Finance

DEPT: Finance

SUBJECT: FY 2027 Budget Council Questions at May 6, 2026 Meeting

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize staff responses to the Mayor and City Council's questions and inquiries from the May 6, 2026, budget overview for the FY26/27 Proposed Budget and Fee Schedule. Questions and inquiries are organized by topic.

Budget Overview and General Finances

Has the annual budget process or factors that influence the budget process changed significantly over time?

No. The annual budget process and factors being considered in the process have not experienced any significant changes. There have been no significant windfalls, and the process has been generally similar.

What does -6.25% refer to in the chart from slide 3 of the budget presentation? Is this related to funds other than the General Fund?

The figure represents the net difference between the cross-fund annual total for FY25/26, and FY26/27 budgeted amounts expressed as a percentage. The percentage communicates that there has been a net reduction in the year-over-year annual budget for the city. This reduction is due to a myriad of factors including but not limited to vacancy savings, fleet charges, capital improvement projects which vary year over year, and movement to a zero-based budgeting framework.

Are we doing everything that can be done as a City Council to balance the budget?

Yes, City Council has taken proactive steps in directing staff to address the current budget situation. The real issue is that costs continue to rise and revenues are not keeping pace.

With the removal of the addition of CPI on the Sanitation Fee, will the City still be able to maintain sufficient reserves to avoid the Nevada Revised Statutes 4% minimum as indicated on slide 11 of the presentation?

Yes, projections have been adjusted to reflect the updated fee amount.

What does the \$125,000 payment for the Lear Theater represent on the Supplemental Slides provided?

This is the debt payment for the Lear as referenced on slide 20.

Where did we start as a city with our bond rating?

Over the past decade due to Council direction the City's bond rating has moved from an A3 rating to a Aa3 rating according to Moody's rating scale. This rating increase reflects that the City of Reno's steadily improving bond ratings have lowered borrowing costs, increased investor confidence, and strengthened the City's ability to finance long-term infrastructure and capital projects more affordably.

City Clerk's Office and City Charter

Is the way that the City Clerk's Office structured the standard practice?

The City Clerk's Office structure and staffing vary by jurisdiction. The current structure is representative of the Council-Manager form of governance.

Can the City Clerk's Office and staff in the department have their budget authority moved under City Council instead of the City Manager's Office?

City Charter empowers the City Manager with authority as the Chief Executive and Administrative Officer of the City Government to ensure the proper administration of all affairs of the City. As part of this authority the Annual Budget is prepared and presented for City Council direction, consent, and approval prior to adoption via City Manager direction. A change to this process would require City Council to change City Charter.

Reno Police Department

What is in the Reno Police Department budget related to surveillance or Flock Safety cameras?

Multiple software applications are utilized by the Reno Police Department to support units within the department in the processing of reports for investigative leads and court proceedings. Types of software include, but are not limited to: Cellebrite, Forecmetrics, Flock, Fusus, and Magnet Forensics. In combination, the proposed FY26/27 investigative software request total is

\$530,000 and purchase approval will be brought forward to Council later this year. As part of the budget development process, the Reno Police Department submitted a request for \$305,000 for Flock Safety software.

Is there a system in place to catch unauthorized users or authorized users who would misuse surveillance systems or the data they provide?

All software includes time logs and user data tracking designed to prevent misuse of provided data.

Are full-time equivalent positions being increased in the Reno Police Department? Why is there an increase of \$9 million in the Police budget?

No, the Reno Police Department is not increasing positions as a result of the FY26/27 budget process. The \$9 million increase to the Reno Police Department budget is due to Fleet Charges for vehicles, Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs), and increases for approved services & supplies contracts. Fleet charges that were not included in last year's budget must be included in this cycle to ensure the Reno Police Department has adequate resources to continue necessary operations. CBA obligations include salary & benefit increases for both the Reno Police Protective Association (RPPA) and the Reno Police Supervisory/Administrative Employees Administrative Unit (RPSAE) which were signed in prior fiscal years. Contractual risers to previously negotiated services & supplies contracts also contributed to this figure.

Do fleet-related needs in the Reno Police Department substantiate a \$9 million increase to the Reno Police Department budget for FY26/27?

The fleet-related charges for the Reno Police Department in FY26/27 equate to a \$4.6M increase over FY25/26. To balance the FY25/26 budget fleet replacements were placed on hold for the FY25/26 budget. Due to this removal in the prior fiscal year, there is a significant backlog in fleet replacements that must be made in the coming fiscal year to ensure that the Reno Police Department can continue to provide the public with necessary services.

How much exposure has Acting Chief Solferino had in the budget process? How confident are we that the decisions that he has inherited are the decisions he would be able to move forward with based on City Council policy direction?

Acting Chief Solferino is confident that with his experience managing the budget with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the amount of collaboration that has occurred with City of Reno staff that he will be able to execute on City Council direction. During his time with the City, he has been involved in all aspects of the annual budget process as it relates to the Reno Police Department.

Fee Schedule and Administrative Citations

What is the fine for tree removal? What is the process for updating this fine?

The fine is an administrative citation as defined by Reno Municipal Code (RMC) 1.05.215 for non-compliance with RMC 8.32.180. The administrative citation is not specific to tree removal. The administrative citation is used in practice by several City departments including Fire, Business Licensing and Code Enforcement, and Development Services departments.

Why wasn't the administrative citation for tree removal moved from RMC to the Fee Schedule with the Code Enforcement Fee Schedule update in prior fiscal years?

Staff only incorporated Code Enforcement fees as part of the Fee Schedule process. The administrative citation was not brought forward as a part of this process as it is a general administrative citation and not a Code Enforcement specific fee. Staff can begin the process of bringing other fines and citations onto the Fee Schedule with Council direction.

Why are some of the fees on the Development Services Fee Schedule not increasing more? Where do we compare regionally? (Fees specifically mentioned: Land Use Appeals Fee, Annexation Fee, Master Plan Amendment, Zone Change, Minor Modification, Minor amendment to PUD or SPD, Cannabis Establishment Zoning Verification Letter, Time Extensions, Business License Review)

The fee schedule had a 2.9 percent consumer price index (CPI) increase to applicable fees. Not all fees are increased by CPI due to market rates or fees established under NRS. Following CPI adjustment, fees were rounded to support cash handling efficiency (U.S. Treasury elimination of the penny). Depending on department recommendation fees were rounded based on an increment with some departments rounding up or down to the nearest \$5.00, \$1.00, \$.25, or \$.05 increment. Development Services rounded down to the nearest \$5.00 or to the nearest \$1.00 dependent on the fee increase. When considering the percentage increase or decrease as presented, the percentage increase will vary dependent upon the original fee amount and the departmental rounded recommendation. All fees mentioned are located on page 25-27 of Fee Schedule attachment for the May 6, 2026, Budget Workshop. A regional comparison was brought forward to City Council in January of this year.

Is CPI different for each fee?

The fee schedule had a 2.9 percent CPI increase to applicable fees. Not all fees are increased by CPI due to market rates or fees established under NRS. Following CPI adjustment, fees were rounded to support cash handling efficiency (U.S. Treasury elimination of the penny). Depending on department recommendation fees were rounded based on an increment with some departments rounding up or down to the nearest \$5.00, \$1.00, \$.25, or \$.05 increment. When considering the percentage increase or decrease as presented, the percentage increase will vary dependent upon the original fee amount and the departmental rounded recommendation.

For Notice of Violation, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and subsequent citation on the Fire Prevention Permits page of the proposed Fee Schedule it states that the amount is determined by

RMC 1.05.215, is this something we can change in the Fee Schedule or is this something that would have to be changed by RMC?

The fine is determined by RMC and can be changed via City Council legislative action.

When will City Council get a regional comparison of the fee schedule?

A regional comparison was distributed to City Council in January of this year.

Parking Enforcement Fee Schedule

Why are we not increasing Parking Permit Fees on the Parking Enforcement Fee Schedule?

Staff will be conducting a 5-year fee study, and the results of that study will be brought to Council for consideration and potential implementation during the FY27/28 Fee Schedule adoption process.

What does the Stop, Stand, or Park fee mean on the Parking Enforcement Fee Schedule? Are all the Parking Enforcement Fees reflective of the CPI increase recommendation?

The fee is in reference to parking on a roadway and does not apply to people. The fee schedule had a 2.9 percent CPI increase to applicable fees. Not all fees are increased by CPI due to market rates or fees established under NRS. Following CPI adjustment, fees were rounded to support cash handling efficiency (U.S. Treasury elimination of the penny). Depending on department recommendation fees were rounded based on an increment with some departments rounding up or down to the nearest \$5.00, \$1.00, \$.25, or \$.05 increment. When considering the percentage increase or decrease as presented, the percentage increase will vary dependent upon the original fee amount and the departmental rounded recommendation.

Is there a way to change the Defacing Parking Meter fee on the Parking Enforcement Fee Schedule to be the cost of replacing or repairing the meter plus a fee?

Yes, City Council has the authority to change this fee.

Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule

Why did the fee for Gym Rental on the Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule increase by \$175.00 at the top of the range?

The fee is a range for renting parts of the gym and is reflective of the usage of the space as well as the market rate for the rental of small spaces or full sections of the gym. The range is dependent upon the usage requested and can vary from \$25.00 to \$250.00.

Why didn't the Electric Vehicle Charging (per kWh) fee increase?

The Community Engagement and Services (CES) department has contracted with a third party to manage City owned charging stations. As the City is not operating the public charging station the fee represents the last City Council approved amount for public charging stations and the CES department has determined it should remain at the FY25/26 adopted amount.

Why did some of the fees on the Parks and Recreation Fee schedule increase and not others?
(Fees specifically mentioned: Alcohol Beverage Permit, Sound Permit, Activity Administration Fee, Cancellations/Refunds fee)

Many of the fees have to do with cost recovery for staff time, serve as a deterrent for misuse of the cancellation system, or were brought in line with other sections of the fee schedule. Most fees were increased because of CPI and are incremental changes.