

## City Council Workshop & Meeting Agenda

March 2, 2026

Auburn Hall, Council Chambers

### 1. 5:30 PM Workshop

- **FY27 Budget Workshop**

File: [FY27 Budget Workshop](#)

### 2. 7:00 PM Meeting

**Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call** - *Roll call votes will begin with Councilor Walker*

### 3. I. Consent Items

*All items with an asterisk (\*) are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member or a citizen so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. Passage of items on the Consent Agenda requires majority vote.*

### 4. II. Minutes - February 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting

File: [Draft 2-17-26 Minutes](#)

### 5. III. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

- ORDER 16-01202026 update – Planning Board and Sustainability Natural Resources Board Ordinance Review Completed

**6. IV. Open Session**

*Members of the public are invited to speak to the Council about any issue directly related to City business or any item that does not appear on the agenda.*

**7. V. Unfinished Business**

**8. VI. New Business**

**9. VII. Reports**

- a. Mayor's Report**
- b. City Councilors' Reports**
- c. Student Representative Report**
- d. City Manager Report**

**10. VIII. Open Session**

*Members of the public are invited to speak to the Council about any issue directly related to City business or any item that does not appear on the agenda.*

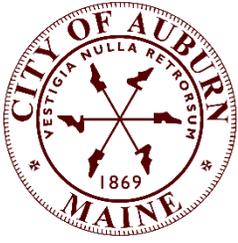
**11. IX. Executive Session**

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (C) to discuss an economic development matter pertaining to the disposition of City-owned property where premature disclosures of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the body or agency.

File: [Executive Session Information Sheet](#)

**12. X. Adjournment**

The City of Auburn welcomes everyone. Language assistance, accessibility supports, and other accommodations are available for public meetings upon request.  
If possible, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours in advance so we can assist you.



## City of Auburn City Council Information Sheet

**Council Workshop or Meeting Date:** March 2, 2026

**Author:** Phil Crowell, City Manager

**Subject:** Preliminary FY27 City Manager Proposed Budget

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### **Information: First Budget Workshop – Overview of Major Changes**

The FY27 City Manager's Proposed Budget reflects the Council's directive to maintain current programs and services with no new initiatives. Compared to the FY26 Council-Adopted Budget, the proposal includes targeted adjustments to sustain operations and meet contractual obligations.

### **Key Highlights**

- **General Government**  
Slight decrease due to a reduction in General Assistance and an increase in operation services. Overall staffing changes is 255.5 FTEs to 253.5 FTEs (Lead grant positions).
- **Fringe Benefits**  
Increase of \$893,539 (+10%), driven primarily by an 11% rise in health insurance premiums.
- **Information Technology**  
Up \$201,404 (+18%), largely due to software licensing and subscription fees, which will be reviewed with the Council.
- **Fire & EMS**  
Increase of \$380,251 (+5.6%), reflecting union contractual obligations (FY26 and FY27) and full-year funding for the third ambulance (previously funded for six months in FY26).
- **Police**  
Up \$229,730 (+4.1%), primarily due to contractual wage adjustments.
- **Public Works**  
Increase of \$183,946 (+2.3%), includes moving the City Electrician salary from Planning & Permitting and other operating increases.
- **Solid Waste**  
Increase of \$506,650 (+28.6%), driven by Year 2 of the Casella contract (bin purchasing) and the MWE tipping fee increase from \$54/ton to \$88/ton.
- **Water & Sewer**  
Increase of \$4,283 due to the 8% rate increase by the Water & Sewer Commissioners – partially funded in FY26.
- **Emergency Reserve**  
Increase of \$136,216, to comply with City Charter requirements.
- **Debt Service**  
Significant increase of \$5.38 million (+44%), primarily due to:
  - \$4,383,007 for the Public Safety Facility Public Referendum bond.

- Full interest and principal payments for the Merrow Road and Engine 2 Station construction debt.

- **Intergovernmental Costs**

County Tax up \$309,344 (+9%); Lewiston-Auburn 911 up \$189,620 (+13%).

**Overall Impact**

- **Total Municipal Services:** +5.69% = \$2,391,407
- **Total Fiscal Services:** +36.5% = \$5,873,053
- **Total Intergovernmental Services:** +8.6% = \$502,666
- **Grand Total Municipal Expenditures:** +13.7% = \$ 8,767,182

Council will also begin discussions regarding:

- City Council Supplemental Requests
- Administration Supplemental Requests
- Non-Municipal Supplemental Requests
- BFY27 Budget Schedule

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**City Budgetary Impacts:** TBD

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**Staff Recommended Action:** Discussion Only

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**Previous Meetings and History:** NA

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**City Manager Comments:**



I concur with the recommendation. Signature:

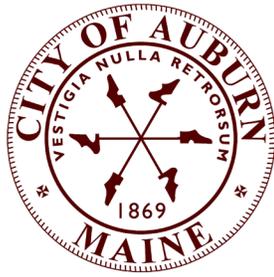
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**Attachments:**

FY27 Preliminary CM Proposed Budget Summary Sheet  
Staffing Comparison Sheet FY27 to FY26  
Supplemental Request Worksheet

**CITY OF AUBURN**  
**FY 2027 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES**

<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>ACTUAL EXPENDED BUDGET FY 24-25</b>	<b>COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET FY 25-26</b>	<b>MANAGER PROPOSED BUDGET FY 26-27</b>	<b>Increase (Decrease) from Prior Year Budget</b>	<b>% of Increase (Decrease)</b>
<b><u>Municipal Services</u></b>					
General Government	7,698,584	8,850,771	8,842,375	(8,396)	-0.09%
Fringe Benefits	8,543,227	8,899,292	9,792,831	893,539	10.04%
Information Technology	1,082,514	1,095,845	1,297,249	201,404	18.38%
Fire & EMS Transport	6,813,374	6,770,859	7,151,110	380,251	5.62%
Police	5,278,613	5,549,367	5,779,097	229,730	4.14%
Public Works	8,306,265	8,262,820	8,446,766	183,946	2.23%
Solid Waste	1,923,115	1,771,977	2,278,627	506,650	28.59%
Water & Sewer	781,203	840,280	844,563	4,283	0.51%
<b>Total Municipal Services</b>	<b>40,426,895</b>	<b>42,041,211</b>	<b>44,432,618</b>	<b>2,391,407</b>	<b>5.69%</b>
<b><u>Fiscal Services</u></b>					
Debt Service	9,592,857	12,259,977	17,642,234	5,382,257	43.90%
Emergency Reserve	0	550,000	686,216	136,216	24.77%
Transfer to TIF	3,627,253	3,272,673	3,627,253	354,580	10.83%
<b>Total Fiscal Services</b>	<b>13,220,110</b>	<b>16,082,650</b>	<b>21,955,703</b>	<b>5,873,053</b>	<b>36.52%</b>
<b><u>Intergovernmental Programs</u></b>					
County Taxes	3,117,240	3,385,568	3,694,912	309,344	9.14%
Tax Sharing	205,121	260,000	260,000	0	0.00%
Arts & Culture	35,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%
Auburn-Lewiston Municipal Airport	217,850	205,000	205,000	0	0.00%
Lew-Aub Transit Committee	458,502	566,298	570,000	3,702	0.65%
Lew-Aub 911 Communications Center	1,384,110	1,436,677	1,626,297	189,620	13.20%
<b>Total Intergovernmental Programs</b>	<b>5,417,823</b>	<b>5,863,543</b>	<b>6,366,209</b>	<b>502,666</b>	<b>8.57%</b>
<b>Grand Total Municipal Expenditures</b>	<b>59,064,828</b>	<b>63,987,404</b>	<b>72,754,530</b>	<b>8,767,126</b>	<b>13.70%</b>
<b><u>Non-Tax Revenues</u></b>					
<b>Total Non-Tax Revenue</b>	<b>26,142,646</b>	<b>27,172,975</b>	<b>27,607,544</b>	<b>434,569</b>	<b>1.60%</b>



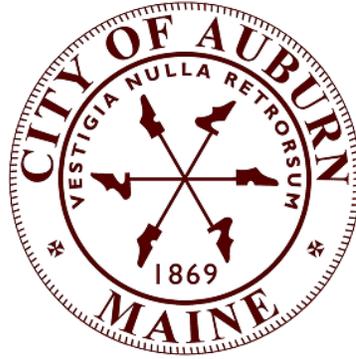
# FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

DEPARTMENT	FY26 FTE	FY27 FTE
CITY MANAGER	3	4
COMMUNICATIONS	2	2
CLERK/TAX	8	8
FINANCE	9.5	8.5
HR	3	4
PLANNING/PERMIT.	10	9
PUBLIC SERVICES	5	4
ENGINEERING	3	3
IT	4	4
BUS. COMM. DEV.	8.5	7.5
REC/PAL	7.5	7.5
<b>GOV. SERVICES</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>61.5</b>
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>POLICE</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255.5</b>	<b>253.5</b>

**SUPPLEMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS - FY27**

	Request	Revenue / Offset	Total Request
<b>CITY ADMINISTRATION SUPPLEMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS - FY27</b>			
Maine Drug Enforcement Agent	151,595	151,595	-
Automatic License Plate Reader (FLOCK Cameras)	24,000	-	24,000
<b>CITY COUNCIL SUPPLEMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS - FY27</b>			
Parks Department - Councilor Walker	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>NON-MUNICIPAL SUPPLEMENTAL REQUESTS- FY27</b>			
Hailey Hugs	100	-	100
Drop-In Center Services (revenue reduction 121 Mill Street)	18,000	-	18,000
Life Flight	2,000	-	2,000

# Meeting Agenda



## City Council Workshop & Meeting Agenda

February 17, 2026

Auburn Hall, Council Chambers

### 5:30 PM Workshop

↓ 1. Revaluation Update - Assessor's Office

↓ 2. Maine Waste to Energy (Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation) Funding Requirement

↓ 3. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (D) for labor negotiations with Police Department Patrol.

↓ 4. Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (A) for the City Manager's quarterly evaluation.

### 7:00 PM Meeting

**Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call** - *Roll call votes will begin with Councilor Walker*

Mayor Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilor Duvall was absent (excused). Student Representative Abdulahi was absent.

#### I. Consent Items

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1. **ORDER 17-02172026** – Appointing Peggy Walton to the Homelessness Committee for an unexpired term that ends 08/30/26, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.

2. **ORDER 18-02172026** – Appointing Kathy Shaw to the Planning Board, Associate Member, for a term that ends 01/01/28, as nominated by the Appointment Committee
3. **ORDER 19-02172026** - Appointing Chelsea Eaton to the Planning Board, Associate Member, for a term that ends 01/01/29, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
4. **ORDER 20-02172026** – Appointing Ryan Walker to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for an unexpired term that ends 09/30/26, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
5. **ORDER 21-02172026** – Appointing Patrick DeFillipp to the Auburn Sewerage District Board of Trustees for a term that ends 3/1/29, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
6. **ORDER 22-02172026** – Accepting an Asset Forfeiture from the State of Maine Criminal Courts to the Auburn Police Department from an incident dated October 18, 2024.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 6-0.

[↓ ORDER 17-21 - Appointments](#)

[↓ ORDER 22 - Asset Forfeiture](#)

## II. Minutes

Councilor Randall moved to amend the draft minutes to include comments made regarding mobile home rent increase moratorium. Councilor Walker moved to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 6-0.

[↓ February 2, 2026 DRAFT Meeting Minutes](#)

## III. Communications, Presentations, and Recognitions

- Recognizing Shanna Cox, Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce President & CEO
- Board/Committee Vacancies & Term Expirations – Emily Carrington, City Clerk

Mayor Harmon presented a key to the City to Shanna Cox. City Clerk Carrington presented an overview on how residents can view and apply to vacant board & committee seats.

## IV. Open Session

*Members of the public are invited to speak to the Council about any issue directly related to City business or any item that does not appear on the agenda.*

None.

## V. Unfinished Business

None.

## VI. New Business

Councilor Walker moved for passage of ORDER 23-02172026, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Councilor Platz asked if all the fees are a 5% increase. Fire Chief Robert Chase addressed that fees are based on a market rate study; some were raised and others were not. Motion passed 6-0. Councilor Cowan moved

for passage of ORDER 24-02172026, seconded by Councilor Gerry. There were no comments from the public. Motion passed 4-2 (Gerry, Walker). Councilor Platz moved for passage of ORDER 25-02172026, seconded by Councilor Cowan. There were no comments from the public. Motion passed 6-0. A public hearing was held regarding CDBG & HOME Consortium Action Plan for Program Year 2026. There were no comments from the public.

↓ ORDER 23-02172026 - Amending Master Fee Schedule to include 2026 EMS Billing Rates.

↓ ORDER 24-02172026 – Granting FSE Class A Restaurant liquor license to El Tequila Mexican Restaurant of Auburn, 245 Center St. Public hearing.

↓ ORDER 25-02172026 - Authorizing Maine Waste to Energy (Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation) Funding Requirement.

↓ PUBLIC HEARING - Prior to drafting CDBG & HOME Consortium Action Plan for Program Year 2026.

## **VII. Reports**

- a. Mayor's Report
- b. City Councilors' Reports
- c. Student Representative Report
- d. City Manager Report

Mayor Harmon shared that he was interviewed by Cameron Bradbury at ELHS for the Edward Little Echo and was impressed with the production; students did a great job. Gave an update on the Casco Bay Trail plan progress; an interlocal agreement is being planned for all towns/cities the trail is proposed to come through. The Auburn Water District meeting will be held at 4pm on February 18; a rate increase hearing will be held. The next Comp Plan meeting will be held this week. Councilor Gerry shared that the Appointment Committee recently met and that nominations are made by fairly reviewing all applications received. Councilor Cowan shared that 122 people per day on average visited the Drop In Center, increased from last year and the kitchen will be finalized any day. Councilor Butler shared that the L-A Airport Committee met for a workshop this week regarding budget; appreciated good collaboration with Lewiston on this project. Councilor Walker noted that the Age Friendly Committee served 120 meals on Valentines Day for Seniors; had a great turnout, thanked all volunteers who helped. Student Rep. Edwards noted that winter sports are finishing up at ELHS and gave an update on various sports. City Manager Crowell noted that the longest running hockey tournament in the Country was held at Norway Savings Bank Arena this past weekend. Budget has been the focus of meetings and discussions this week; the next council meeting will see the first workshop on the FY27 budget.

## **VIII. Open Session**

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None.

## **IX. Executive Session**

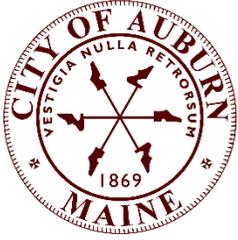
Councilor Walker moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(A) for discussion of the City Manager's quarterly evaluation (from Workshop). Seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 6-0, entered Executive Session at 7:30pm. Declared out at 7:50pm.

## **X. Adjournment**

Councilor Platz moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 6-0, adjourned at 7:50pm.

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## City of Auburn City Council Information Sheet

**Council Workshop or Meeting Date:** March 2, 2026

**Subject:** Executive Session

**Information:** Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (C) to discuss an economic development matter pertaining to the disposition of City-owned property where premature disclosures of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the body or agency.

**Executive Session:** On occasion, the City Council discusses matters which are required or allowed by State law to be considered in executive session. Executive sessions are not open to the public. The matters that are discussed in executive session are required to be kept confidential until they become a matter of public discussion. In order to go into executive session, a Councilor must make a motion in public. The motion must be recorded, and 3/5 of the members of the Council must vote to go into executive session. An executive session is not required to be scheduled in advance as an agenda item, although when it is known at the time that the agenda is finalized, it will be listed on the agenda. The only topics which may be discussed in executive session are those that fall within one of the categories set forth in Title 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6). Those applicable to municipal government are:

A. Discussion or consideration of the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation or dismissal of an individual or group of public officials, appointees or employees of the body or agency or the investigation or hearing of charges or complaints against a person or persons subject to the following conditions:

- (1) An executive session may be held only if public discussion could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the individual's reputation or the individual's right to privacy would be violated;
- (2) Any person charged or investigated must be permitted to be present at an executive session if that person so desires;
- (3) Any person charged or investigated may request in writing that the investigation or hearing of charges or complaints against that person be conducted in open session. A request, if made to the agency, must be honored; and
- (4) Any person bringing charges, complaints or allegations of misconduct against the individual under discussion must be permitted to be present. This paragraph does not apply to discussion of a budget or budget proposal;

B. Discussion or consideration by a school board of suspension or expulsion of a public school student or a student at a private school, the cost of whose education is paid from public funds, as long as:

- (1) The student and legal counsel and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardians are permitted to be present at an executive session if the student, parents or guardians so desire;

C. Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition or the use of real or personal property permanently attached to real property or interests therein or disposition of publicly held property or economic development only if premature disclosures of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the body or agency;

D. Discussion of labor contracts and proposals and meetings between a public agency and its negotiators. The parties must be named before the body or agency may go into executive session. Negotiations between the representatives of a public employer and public employees may be open to the public if both parties agree to conduct negotiations in open sessions;

E. Consultations between a body or agency and its attorney concerning the legal rights and duties of the body or agency, pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers and matters where the duties of the public body's or agency's counsel to the attorney's client pursuant to the code of professional responsibility clearly conflict with this subchapter or where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the State, municipality or other public agency or person at a substantial disadvantage;

F. Discussions of information contained in records made, maintained or received by a body or agency when access by the general public to those records is prohibited by statute;

G. Discussion or approval of the content of examinations administered by a body or agency for licensing, permitting or employment purposes; consultation between a body or agency and any entity that provides examination services to that body or agency regarding the content of an examination; and review of examinations with the person examined; and

H. Consultations between municipal officers and a code enforcement officer representing the municipality pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4452, subsection 1, paragraph C in the prosecution of an enforcement matter pending in District Court when the consultation relates to that pending enforcement matter.