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Ald. Peter Burgelis
(414) 286-3446

Back to basics: Burgelis budget proposals focus on streetlights, fire equipment, street repairs and city workers

Ahead of tomorrow's Finance and Personnel Committee budget amendment meeting, **Alderman Peter Burgelis** is proposing investments in the workers, equipment, and infrastructure Milwaukee depends on every day.

"When someone calls for help, drives to work, or reports a broken streetlight, they expect the city to deliver," Ald. Burgelis said. "My proposals focus on making those everyday services more reliable and making sure our workers have the tools and support to do their jobs."

Alderman Burgelis's proposed budget amendments include:

- Investing in fire readiness: Provide \$6.4 million in borrowing for heavy fire apparatus replacements (3) and one fire engine for a fire station to be reopened in 2027, and \$2 million for a comprehensive fire facilities planning and assessment study to guide long-term investments.
- Repairing more streets: \$712,000 to High Impact Paving, matching the amount of newly recognized general transportation aid from the State of Wisconsin with additional road investment.
- Making school routes safer: Add \$750,000 for Safe Routes to School improvements, using MPS payment for the School Resource Officer contract that paid the city over \$1million in 2025.
- Strengthening streetlight repairs: Restore 14 electrical-services positions proposed for elimination, redirect \$350,000 toward electrical-services fleet equipment, and require an early-2027 market study of electrical-services pay to support worker recruitment and retention.
- Prioritizing city workers: Offer alternative compensation proposals, including targeted raises of \$2 per hour for general city employees earning below \$25 per hour and \$1 per hour for those earning \$25–\$30 per hour, as well as options to increase the residency incentive.
- Supporting vulnerable young people: Provide \$150,000 for Pathfinders to restore lost grant funding.

Alderman Burgelis is also proposing that outside police special-duty contracts include pension cost recovery, that departments regularly report on chronically vacant positions, and that the city explore savings by relocating the retirement system offices to a city-owned building.

Budget amendments will be considered at 9 a.m. on Thursday, October 29. The city will evaluate funding and compensation options against available resources, ongoing costs, and its expenditure limits. The Finance and Personnel Committee meeting will be streamed live on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the city website at city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25.