



MAYOR
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Westland Adopts \$70 Million Balanced Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Westland, MI (June 9, 2021) - On Monday, June 7, the Westland City Council approved the adoption of a \$70 million balanced budget proposal for fiscal year 2021-22. The budget adds approximately \$42,000 to the General Fund unassigned balance, preserving a "rainy day" fund balance at approximately \$6.5 million.

Highlights of proposed budget include an overall taxable value increase of 3.30%, a provision to continue the City's match for 13 Federally funded SAFER Grant Firefighters, funding for an additional Police Officer, an addition of a full-time Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Director as well as funding to research converting the vacant Marshall Middle School into a community recreation center, and also creating the city's first dog park and Pickle Ball Courts.

The budget also includes an additional payment of \$500,000 above costs, to lower the city's unfunded retiree healthcare (OPEB) liability. An additional \$150,000 has also been allocated to offer cash incentives to retirees to discontinue the City's healthcare coverage, which will reduce the City's costs long-term.

The budget allocates planned infrastructure expenditures of \$4.2 million for the City's major and local roads throughout the City in 26 neighborhoods which includes 70 major and local roads. The budget also includes approximately \$4.37 million to fund planned water & sewer capital projects in 6 neighborhoods and 37 roads throughout the City's 611 miles of water & sewer systems. Provisions were also made for an additional \$1.2 million in capital improvements, including a new fire rescue vehicle; three new police patrol cars; a new electric community police vehicle; various DPS vehicles including a new sewer vacuum truck; technology upgrades, bike lanes and sidewalk repairs.

"The City's Finance Team has worked very hard on this year's budget proposal," commented Mayor Wild. "This proposed conservative budget allows for continued improvements to the City's neighborhood infrastructure, supports public safety and makes significant progress towards lowering unfunded pension and retiree healthcare obligation and honoring the city's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion."

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Westland, Michigan is the state's 10th largest municipality, with a population of over 84,000.

Westland has been recognized as one of 24/7 Wall Street's America's Best 50 Cities to Live, offering residents and visitors an ideal blend of single – family affordable homes, apartments and condominiums, great schools, and access to numerous outdoor activities. Public safety is delivered by full-service, professional law enforcement and firefighting personnel.

Westland is well known as a premier destination for shopping and dining in Wayne County with hundreds of shops and restaurants anchored by the Westland shopping Center, one of the country's original four regional malls.

The City is served by two public school districts. Wayne-Westland Community Schools serving 12,000 youth was recently named one of the best schools in Michigan by WXYZ-TV and is the proud recipient of 14 Golden Apple and two Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Awards. Livonia Public Schools, educating nearly 15,000 students, is proud of their MEAP/MME scores that exceed State averages and the district has also earned Golden Apple and Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School awards.

The City provides competitive incentives for those who are interested in investing in Westland, making it one of the hottest investment markets in the region. Westland's Fast-Track to Business Team, which consists of key decision makers who work diligently to “cut the red tape” and expedite the approval process for new business development.