

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: April 8, 2019

To: The City Manager

From: Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager
Patrice Toney, Budget and Evaluation Director

Council Action Requested:

Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Ordinance for the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Strategic Focus Area: Service Excellence

Strategic Objective: Maintain City's Financial Strength

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The proposed amendments to the Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget ordinances authorize adjustments for the following purposes.

Center for Community Progress Assessment

- Community Development Department staff has engaged the Center for Community Progress—a nationally recognized technical assistance nonprofit—to perform an assessment of the systemic legal, policy, and operational challenges related to vacant, abandoned and deteriorated properties. This assessment will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 1. Data and information management systems and practices;
 2. Housing and building code enforcement systems and practices;
 3. Delinquent property tax enforcement systems and practices; and

Committee Action:

Committee	Finance 4/8/19	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

4. Acquisition and disposition of vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties.

This assessment will provide the City with preliminary observations, findings, and recommendations to achieve a more equitable, effective and efficient approach to managing vacancy and abandonment. The proposed amendment appropriates \$40,000 in 2018 neighborhood revitalization bond funds for this assessment.

FY 2018-19 Sidewalk Repair Contract

- Each year the Department of Transportation contracts for sidewalk maintenance and repair. The proposed amendment transfers \$160,000 from other completed sidewalk projects to cover the cost of the FY 2018-19 sidewalk maintenance and repair contract. In prior years, this contract had been covered by operating funds. However, due to an increased demand for sidewalk repairs, additional funding is needed for FY 2019. The operating budget for FY 2019-20 sidewalk repairs has been increased to match recent trends and this contract will be funded out of operating funds again next fiscal year.

Fair Housing Testing

- The Human Relations Department is requesting funding for the purpose of contracting with the Fair Housing Project, Legal Aid of North Carolina to conduct fair housing testing. The purpose of fair housing testing is to continue gauging housing discrimination within the city's housing rental market. All testing is to be conducted pursuant to HUD-approved testing methodology. The amount requested to complete testing for 45 tests is \$24,600. The proposed amendment appropriates funding from the Housing Finance Assistance Fund.