

## Department Questions (Updated 5/21/2020)

Council Member inquiries about specific departments.

1. How much savings would be generated from eliminating the Arts Commission?

**Finance response:** The total Art Commission budget remaining after cutting the arts grants by 50% is \$2,447,000.

2. Was the Hospital Authority asked to make cuts? Are any savings available there?

**Finance response:** The Hospital Authority was not asked to make cuts and the recommended budget includes the same funding as the FY 2020 budget of \$43,112,100. All Metro departments were asked to absorb FY 2020 savings targets in their FY 2021 budgets.

3. What cuts have been considered/made in the library system?

**Finance response:** One budget reduction totaling \$200,000 was proposed for the Library in conjunction with reducing the budget for all community partnership funds.

4. What is the total cost of Public Works services charged to USD?

**Finance response:** \$30,500,100

5. (To Register of Deeds) The cost to your office to provide veterans with a personal photo ID card to show proof of service or maybe referred to as "The Thank a Veteran Photo ID".

**Register of Deeds response:**

The cards are \$47.50 for a pack (1000) ID cards. The machine that is connected to the system is provided by BIS at no cost. Veterans file their original DD214 with County Register Offices at the instruction of the VA during their exit meeting. The card enables them to have an instrument number for the original DD214 with the county so that they do not have to carry around their papers. Additionally, this also assists them and their families should the DD214 be misplaced and is needed for burial/funeral/insurance purposes. It takes sometimes weeks and sometimes months to get a copy of the papers for family members and or for the veteran for certain benefits.

6. (To Register of Deeds) Who hosts, maintains and pays for the site <https://www.veteranshonors.com/index.php?>

**Register of Deeds response:**

The site is provided at no cost to Register of Deeds offices throughout the state by Business Information Systems. We do not maintain the site. It is maintained by BIS. The BIS system was purchased by the previous Register Bill Garrett via Metro Procurement. The program software which is part of the system has been available to Register of Deeds Offices Statewide since 2016. I became Register in 2018 and this service was available to offer to Veterans in Davidson County and I chose to do this in 2019.

7. (To Register of Deeds) The cost to your office to provide the stickers for businesses to display for participating in the program.

**Register of Deeds response:**

The cost of the stickers: \$250.00 + \$10.00 set up fee for (250) stickers. (printed in house with Metro Vendor RJ Young).

8. What is \$846,700 in Other Expenses in the Sports Authority GSD General Fund for?  
a. Where do all the funds for the arena, stadium, and ball park show up?

**Finance Response:** Sports Authority is funded by a transfer from the General Fund equal to \$846,700. That is the baseline budget amount for FY20 and FY21 operations – it has not changed on the GSD Fund side.

a. Arena – Under the new agreement with the Predators the FY20 budget removed the GSD General Fund subsidy to Powers Management for the operation of Bridgestone Arena from the budget

- Administrative at a glance - pages 436 and 439 (01101221)
  - Sports Authority Arena revenues (applied per new agreement) --- not included in budget
    - Seat use charge – continues to pay debt service on arena revenue bonds under new agreement
    - Capital improvement fee
    - Sales tax
    -

Stadium – Titans responsible for the operation of the stadium

- Administrative at a glance - pages 436 and 439 (01101222)
  - \$1,000,000 Stadium capital maintenance transfer (lease requirement)
  - Sports Authority stadium revenues pay debt service on stadium revenue bonds --- not included in budget
    - Ticket tax, pilot payment, rent, and parking

Ballpark

- Sounds ballpark subsidy for debt service (\$1,549,400) – page 78
  - Budgeted increase in (net) subsidy due to anticipated decline in FY21 ballpark revenues
- Administrative at a glance - pages 436 and 440 (01101678)
- Sports Authority ballpark revenues pay debt service on ballpark revenue bonds – not included in budget
  - Sales tax, ballpark TIF, rent

**Department Response:**

\$846,700 is the baseline budget amount for both FY20 and FY21 – it has not changed on the GSD Fund side. The Pay Plan, Insurance, ISFs, etc. are then added on the Special Purpose Fund side – which is why they don't balance. For accounting purposes – it shows up twice on the "At A Glance" page – the Gen Fund 10101 side and the Special Purpose Fund (SPF) 60008 side.

GSD General Fund - \$846,700 ; Special Purpose Fund- \$908,500 [\$846,700 (FY19 Baseline) + \$11,400 (FY20 Pay Plan) = FY20 Budget of \$858,100.]

[\$858,100 + \$44,100 + \$300 + \$6,900 - (\$900) = \$908,500 FY21]

The "extra" money for FY21 is the Insurance Increase (\$44,400), the ITS charges (\$6,900), and the Longevity reduction of (-\$900) = \$50,400.

The \$46,700 is in "Other Expenses" because that is the category where the Operational Transfer object account 531001 is located.

9. Look into the lack of funding for Bordeaux Long-Term and Knowles Assisted Living and ask why in light of the value of both to the City especially during a Pandemic, why once again no adequate funding has been appropriated. budget allocation?

**Finance Response:** Bordeaux and Knowles are both managed by outside contractors. The amounts funded in the budget represent the cost of those contracts. While the city has an obligation under its Charter to maintain a hospital, there is no provision in the Charter requiring facilities like Bordeaux or Knowles. Nashville is relatively unique in that respect. Most cities simply have a general hospital and leave the rest to private entities.

10. What is the Metro Funding Amount (MFA) to the DES for FY21?

**Finance Response:** \$630,700

11. The financial statement for the DES shows operating expenses of \$19M but no revenues are showing on the financial page. Where is this showing in the budget? I do understand it is an enterprise fund.

**Finance Response:** The \$19M revenue is classified as “transfers in”

12. Could you provide the funding source for the voter sticker program linked below? -

[Vote Now to Choose Nashville's Next Voter Sticker!](#)

**Department Response:** The special sticker project has a total budget of about \$700, including the printing of 100 stickers per precinct. It is funded (by Metro Arts) through a grant that the Tennessee Arts Commission gives our agency for operating funds, separate and apart from the Metro budget.

We are proud to partner with the Election Commission and with other government departments, especially for projects like this one where history can inspire artwork from students, and in turn, their art can drive civic engagement and public discussion. We were thrilled with the number and variety of submissions (especially in the face of the myriad issues Nashville students have faced since the contest began, including a tornado and schools closing for at-home learning), and the public has responded with overwhelming support through voting (1,300 votes so far!).

The special edition sticker will be made available in addition to the traditional oval “I Voted” stickers that we all know and love, so voters may choose which to accept after voting.