



**To:** Latisha Johnson District 4 Councilmember  
**From:** Crystal Perkins, Director, General Services Department  
**Date:** March 21, 2023  
**Re:** Responses to GSD Budget Questions

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Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 21, 2023, regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget for the General Services Department.

- 1. Due to COVID 19 many people, particularly seniors, are reluctant to travel to meetings and community gatherings. Also, many people do not have adequate transportation. We can better serve these constituents with a mobile office. We have ARPA Funds (COVID 19) that we desire to spend to purchase a mobile unit, which more effective in serving the community than a field office. How can you and the City's Vehicle Steering Committee assist us in this matter?**

The Vehicle Steering Committee (VSC) is a body that serves as oversight for the purchase and acquisition of vehicles. Approval from the committee is required prior to moving forward with purchasing. The specific parameters and business case for the request may be submitted as a memo to GSD and the Office of Budget for review by the VSC. If approval is granted, the General Services Department can assist with developing the specs for the mobile unit based on the needs of your office, connect with vendors to gather quotes, and assist with pricing and assist your team with starting the procurement process.

- 2. Are the renovations for Sasser Park included in the budget and are they scheduled to begin and end?**

Sasser Park is currently under renovation and is included in this current fiscal year budget. The contract was approved in December 2022 and work began shortly thereafter. The playground, picnic shelter, site furnishings, and fitness equipment have all been ordered. The vendor is working on permitting for the shelter and water tap. Groundwork will begin in April with demo, layout, and excavation planning, dependent on favorable weather conditions.

- 3. When will the construction of the Chandler Park Field House begin and when is it scheduled to end?**

We are currently preparing documents for the Chandler Park Field House to go out for bid. We expect construction to begin in the Summer of 2023 and completion to occur Summer of 2024.

- 4. Will the Chandler Park Field House preclude District 4 from getting the full-service recreation center that our community desires?**



The build and design of the Chandler Park Field House will serve as a full-service recreation facility. We will provide services for all ages from youth to seniors and those in between. There will be a football field, basket-ball court, walking track, kitchen, office space, multipurpose, and meeting rooms.

**5. A relatively inexpensive way to beautify the communities is to trim trees and plant them along major streets to extend the work being done in the ten (10) strategic neighborhoods (e.g., Warren/Cadieux). Does the proposed budget address these concerns?**

Yes, the proposed budget includes plans to trim, plant, and remove dead, dangerous, and diseased trees.

**6. There are vacant lots throughout the city that have overgrown trees and vegetation, which are unsightly and unsafe. How does the proposed budget address this matter?**

Our budget includes five (5) rotations of vacant lot mowing and increased blight remediation throughout the city. We have a strategic plan in place to deploy resources to each district to address blighted areas including the vacant lots.

**7. Can we make the Chandler Park Field House a more permanent structure? Domes have the tendency to collapse during heavy snowstorms.**

We understand your concern regarding the structure of the dome and its safety. We have plans in place to ensure the structure is sound and sturdy. There are domes used throughout Michigan which have been proven to withstand the weight of heavy snow. During the BSEED permitting process, they will examine the snow load calculations per code prior to approving the permit. The fabric used can resist winds up to 165 mph and up to 50 lbs of snow per square foot.

**8. Will GSD be partnering with the DLBA to address the cutting of backyards of vacant DLBA owned properties?**

GSD is willing to engage in conversation with the DLBA to see how we can best address this concern. Last summer, we worked with the DLBA to clean the exterior front and back of over 100 homes. This was a huge project that utilized various resources to complete.

**9. Residents in Jefferson-Chalmers have been asking for the Tiger Dams to be removed since there hasn't been any flooding from the Detroit River; they want access to their garages and yards. Will GSD be removing the bladder system?**

GSD is currently working on a plan to best address the removal of the Tiger Dams from the Jefferson-Chalmers community while ensure we maintain the integrity of the DWSD system in the event of future flooding.