

2019-2020 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Water

REQUEST NO.: 57

REQUESTED BY: Tovo

DATE REQUESTED: 8/29/19

DATE POSTED: 9/5/19

REQUEST: Can the proposed budget absorb the costs for the installation, operations, and maintenance of drinking fountains as contemplated in [Resolution No. 20190808-071?](#)

RESPONSE:

On August 8, 2019 Council passed Resolution 20190808-071, which directed the City Manager to present the Council with proposed locations and a budget estimate to install at least ten (10) free, ADA-compliant, 24-hour drinking fountains within the downtown area. In response to this resolution, Austin Water conducted coordination meetings with multiple stakeholders and has identified ten potentially suitable fountain locations and is in the process of finalizing the response to the resolution.

In consultation with Law, Austin Water confirmed that there are no legal limitations to the Utility paying for public drinking water fountains or the water consumed at the fountains. While Austin Water's FY 2020 proposed budget did not specifically include funding to install, maintain and operate drinking water fountains, a review of the proposed FY 2020 levels of capital budget appropriations and operating budget indicates these costs can be absorbed in the FY 2020 budget submittal. Any budget expenses beyond FY 2020 will be included in future budget proposals.