



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2246, **Agenda Item #:** 87.

6/11/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Resource Recovery Department Operating and Capital Budgets (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) related to the expansion of community litter abatement efforts.

Lead Department

Austin Resource Recovery

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$3,269,300 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019 2020 Austin Resource Recovery Department's Operating and Capital Budgets. A fiscal note is attached.

Prior Council Action:

On September 10, 2019, Council approved Ordinance No. 20190910-001 adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Austin Resource Recovery Department Operating Budget. This adoption included a budget amendment sponsored by Councilmember Paige Ellis to maintain the Clean Community Fee at its current Fiscal Year 2018 -19 level rather than decreasing the fee as had been proposed by the department.

For More Information:

Ken Snipes, Director, Austin Resource Recovery, 512-974-1926; Victoria Rieger, Finance Division Manager, 512-974-1960; Brent Paige, Financial Manager, 512-974-7759.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

On September 4, 2019, the Zero Waste Advisory Commission voted unanimously to recommend the department's proposed FY2019-2020 Budget.

Additional Backup Information:

Council's adopted Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget (Ordinance No. 20190910-001) maintained the Clean Community Fee (CCF) at its 2018-2019 level and directed staff to conduct an informal audit of all City-funded litter abatement work to clean our public spaces and present options and funding requirements for expanded community cleaning services.

The audit of City-funded litter abatement activities was conducted by the Budget Office and the results of the audit reveal that while several city departments provide some form of targeted cleanup activities, the vast majority of the citywide effort to keep the community clean falls under the purview of Austin Resource Recovery. The results of the audit are attached as backup to this request.

The Clean Community Fee supports Litter Control in designated public areas, Street Sweeping, Dead Animal Collection, Landfill Closure and post-closure requirements, Business Outreach, Zero Waste Strategic Design and Development, Brownfields Remediation, and recycling and non-commercial hazardous waste disposal at the Recycling & Reuse Drop-Off Center (RRDOC). Through this request ARR seeks to strengthen partnerships

with several City departments to enhance community-wide litter control.

The partnership with Public Works will increase funding for Right of Way cleanups in the amount of \$200,000. The additional funding will allow the department to increase the frequency of cleanups in various locations throughout the City.

The longstanding partnership with the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) will receive \$181,200. This will allow DACC to hire a Crew Leader to oversee a new crew dedicated to citywide cleanups including garbage pickup at specific Library locations.

In the coming months, the department will collaborate with Watershed Protection Department to study the impact of litter in our watershed. We hope to identify opportunities to substantially prevent and abate litter in our rivers and creeks and where actions of the department could impact our watersheds.

ARR will expand its core services of street sweeping to increase the frequency and better maintain bikeways on residential and major streets. The additional funding of \$1.97M will pay for a 5-person crew and the necessary equipment that will allow the department to expand and enhance this service.

As part of the city's mission to keep Austin clean while addressing the serious issue of homelessness, the department continues to be an active partner in the City's efforts. A new dedicated team within the department will partner with various City departments to provide homeless encampment cleanups throughout the City. The team will consist of a six-person crew, one supervisor, and the necessary equipment to expand these services. In addition, the Violet Bag program will expand to additional locations. Cleanups on parkland will also be a targeted focus. Combined, the department will invest approximately \$0.92M in these services. ARR will continually evaluate the services supported by the Clean Community Fee to find ways to provide the community with optimum levels of service.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.