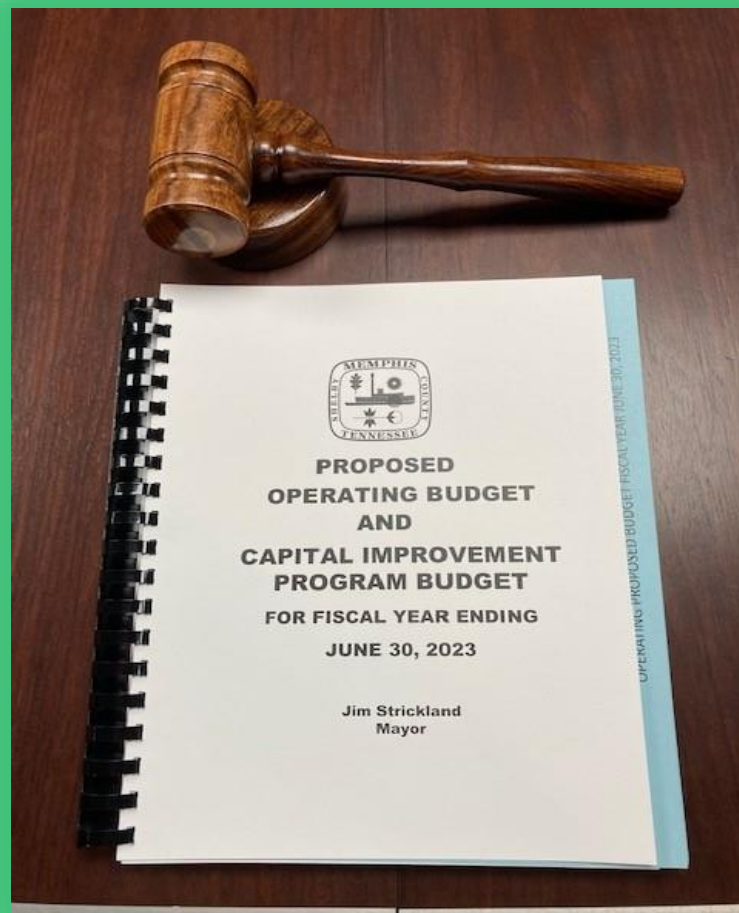




## ***Fiscal Year 2023, here we come!***

It's official! After months of work by Administrators and Staff in all City Divisions (particularly the Finance Division), Mayor Strickland, Chief Operating Officer Doug McGowen and Chief Financial Officer Shirley Ford; and a month of hearings and in-depth discussion among members of the City Council, Memphis has a Budget! The several Ordinances and Resolutions defining and shaping the Budget were passed on Third and Final Reading at the Council's June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes of that meeting were approved at the Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting – officially ratifying the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023.



## **Keeping you informed**

In April, Mayor Strickland presented an innovative and ambitious Budget which the Council was excited to review. Over the course of the Council's Budget hearings in May, the City Council introduced several amendments regarding raises for City employees. Building on the Mayor's proposed 2-percent increase for general employees and 1-percent increase for retirees, the Council passed a 3-percent raise for general, non-represented employees. It also added a one-time, 1-percent bonus to City retirees' pay; with an understanding that the Administration is working on a plan to award regular Cost of Living adjustments to retirees in the future.

Recognizing that crime – and how to combat it – are major concerns of the Administration, the Council, and the citizens they represent, the Budget includes a 3-percent raise for firefighters, completing the 6-percent raise announced last year; and a 5-percent raise for police officers, with another planned next year for a total of 10 percent.

And acknowledging that blight and illegal dumping are also a top priority, the City Budget includes new funding for the addition of 17 staff members and equipment for the Environmental Enforcement Office of the Public Works Division. In addition to increasing the scope of Environmental Enforcement's efforts against illegal dumping, this will allow the Department to address this persistent problem without pulling staff away from the regular garbage collection efforts of Solid Waste Division employees.

The Budget also includes around \$95 million in Capital Improvement funds for projects ranging from road paving to a new Lester Community Center to a new Mt. Moriah Police Precinct; as well as \$2.6 million for immediate capital improvements across City libraries, parks, and community centers, as directed by the Council. And, of course, there is \$3.25 million in the Council Community Grant Fund, which will be apportioned by the members among qualified non-profit agencies in the City.

But the Budget action this year with perhaps the greatest long-term impact was the passage of an ordinance to establish a dedicated revenue stream for the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA). The first such fund in the City's history, this mechanism would appropriate funding from taxes returning to City coffers from expiring Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOTs) granted to businesses as incentives to locate in Memphis.

With an estimated intake of \$4 million in its first year (FY23), the fund is projected to be at \$15 million by 2030. This is a major step toward funding the Transit Vision program associated with the Memphis 3.0 Comprehensive Plan. Transit Vision is designed to increase the frequency of MATA vehicles, reduce rider wait times and enhance the reliability of MATA's system. It would mean more Memphians with more frequent and faster access to jobs, stores, and other essential destinations.

All 13 of your Councilmembers signed on as sponsors of the Ordinance establishing the Transit and Mobility Fund. We on the Council are proud to have a part in this action in helping to improve the lives of thousands of Memphians for years into the future.

Each year, the City's Budget presents unique challenges and requires an enormous amount of effort to put together and pass. I would like to thank all of those in each City Division who worked on this year's Budget. I extend a special thank-you to the Council's Budget Chair Martavius Jones and his Staff, Research Analyst Brianna Owens, and Executive Assistant Devon Thompson, for the countless hours they put into the Budget this year. Although it is a lot of work, as a Councilmember, it is worth it to know our efforts will make possible the services essential to all Memphians.

***A moment of gratitude:***

I am fortunate to serve you each day along with my colleagues working to advance our great city. Stay tuned for future Council updates as we keep you informed regarding the activities taking place here at City Hall. As always, for an archive of meeting recordings, you may visit <https://www.memphistn.gov/government/watch-public-meetings-online/>.



Yours in service,

*Jamita E. Swearengen*  
Jamita Swearengen  
Chairwoman, Memphis City Council  
**District 4**