

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-22-18 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Louie E. Sanchez, Dan Lewis, Trudy E. Jones, Isaac Benton

1 RESOLUTION
2 CREATING A PILOT PROGRAM TO TEST AND REVIEW A PRIORITY-BASED
3 BUDGETING APPROACH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANNUAL
4 OPERATING BUDGET

5 WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 10 (b) of the Charter specifies the
6 Albuquerque City Council shall review, amend, and approve all budgets of the
7 City and adopt policies, plans, programs, and legislation consistent with the
8 goals and objectives established by the Council; and

9 WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 6 of the Charter specifies the Albuquerque
10 City Council shall establish a procedure for formulation of the annual
11 operating budget by ordinance and adopted by the Council, after consultation
12 with the Mayor, consistent with the provisions of the City Charter; and

13 WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the Charter specifies the Mayor shall
14 formulate the City's operating budget and the biennial capital improvement
15 budget in consultation with the Council; and

16 WHEREAS, Chapter 2, Article 11, Section 7(B) of the City Code of
17 Ordinances specifies a full program budget will be prepared for all city
18 departments each year, and shall include the projected costs of each program;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the definition of a program is not clearly defined in the Code of
21 Ordinances; and

22 WHEREAS, a priority based budgeting approach could be a useful tool in
23 better identifying the true cost of providing a given city service or program;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the current budget formulation process is incremental in that it
26 begins with prior year budgeted expenditures, adjusts for projected year-over-

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1 year cost increases, and adds any additional programs in the form of issue
2 papers; and

3 WHEREAS, the City’s current incremental budget process can have the
4 effect of limiting the Council’s ability to fully evaluate spending decisions of
5 the past and determine whether they services they support are meeting the
6 needs of the community and supporting the Goals and Objectives of the City;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the current approach also creates a significant cyclical
9 administrative burden for all City departments because of the information
10 needs necessary for a thorough review of the proposed budget in the spring
11 of each calendar year; and

12 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque City Council desires to make more data-
13 informed decisions and to be good fiscal stewards of public funds, and is
14 therefore exploring new and innovative approaches to the formulation of the
15 annual operating budget; and

16 WHEREAS, priority-based budgeting is a method that provides information
17 to elected officials that is necessary for decision making by clearly defining
18 the full cost of detailed programs, allowing for the ranking/prioritization of
19 each program, and connecting programs with desired results; and

20 WHEREAS, a priority-based budgeting approach identifies the services that
21 provide the highest value, continue to provide funding for them and in times of
22 budget deficits, reduces services levels strategically and divests or potentially
23 eliminates services that are identified as lower priorities; and

24 WHEREAS, a priority-based budgeting model can meaningfully engage
25 citizens in the budgeting process and provide transparency on how funded
26 programs make a meaningful difference in their lives by focusing on the
27 results of a program or service the city provides; and

28 WHEREAS, priority-based budgeting is recognized as a best practice by
29 the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the
30 Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA); and

31 WHEREAS, priority-based budgeting has been implemented in over 300
32 municipalities across the United States, including City/County of Denver, City

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1 of Pittsburgh, City of Scottsdale, City of Tacoma, City of Boise, City/County of
2 Los Angeles, and San Juan County, New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque City Council desires to establish a pilot
4 program to test a priority-based budgeting approach with select departments
5 in the City; and

6 WHEREAS, The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 supports program
7 evaluation, data, and outreach through technology infrastructure and
8 improvement expenditures to increase public access and delivery of programs
9 and services

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
11 ALBUQUERQUE:

12 Section 1. That the Administration is directed to establish a Priority-Based
13 Budgeting Pilot Program that will focus on Public Safety Departments, to
14 include Albuquerque Police Department, Albuquerque Fire Rescue,
15 Albuquerque Community Safety, Department of Animal Welfare, and the
16 Civilian Police Oversight Department.

17 Section 2. The Administration will work in collaboration with City Council
18 staff to set up and administer the Pilot Program described in Section 1.

19 Section 3. The Pilot Program shall begin within 60 days after adoption of
20 the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget with plans to implement the approach
21 with the Public Safety Departments for preparation of the Fiscal Year 2024
22 Operating Budget.

23 Section 4. City Council shall reserve Two Million Dollars from the
24 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for purposes of this Pilot Program.

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