

# Mayor Malik's 2024 Operating Budget Overview

The 2024 operating budget **outlines \$815 million in investments**. This is a **2.1% increase** from last year's budget and is primarily due to **staffing costs**. **Income tax and property taxes are expected to be higher** this year by **2% and 24%** respectfully, **offsetting the increase in expenditures**. Additionally, the **general fund is utilizing \$10.5 million of Revenue Replacement from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**. The budget includes a **4% cost of living wage increase** for all **CSPA** and **1360 employees** as well as a **3% increase for Police, Fire, and non-bargaining employees**.

## What does this budget do?

### **A. Promotes safety as the first priority**

- Prioritizes police and fire hiring.
- Hiring classes for both Police and Fire in 2024.
- Budgeting for 488 uniformed Police Officers which is the highest level in at least 20 years.
- Budgeting for 402 uniformed Firefighter/medics which is the highest level in 30 years.
- \$1.2 million Violence Intervention and Prevention funding through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
- New roles to focus on retention and recruitment of safety forces and emergency management.

### **B. Realigns the mayor's office by creating new strategy team and discontinuing some prior roles**

- Important part of Mayor's Together For Akron vision of a city government that is more strategic and more collaborative across safety, education, economic development, health, housing, environment, and more.
- Establishing the new Office of Sustainability and Resiliency and building out office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by adding a Cultural Engagement Coordinator and Diversity Supplier and Contract Compliance officer.

### **C. Prioritizes strategic initiatives**

- Investing \$500,000 to support youth out of school time opportunities as a key partner with Youth Success Summit.
- Investing \$750,000 to launch the THRIVE program for small business support with a focus on Black-owned businesses.
- Investing \$250,000 to support planning for the city's Bicentennial celebration.

### **D. Invests in personnel and staffing**

- 69% of the general fund expenditures are allocated to labor costs.
- Public Service
  - Hiring 6 people to assist with the city's water meter project.
  - Hiring 1 landscape technician to assist with the city's ACORN project and 2 landscapers for downtown Akron.
- Akron Municipal Court
  - Adding a mediator for the Municipal Court.
  - Adding a housing specialist for the Municipal Court.
  - Adding a grants manager for the Municipal Court
- Akron City Council
  - Hiring a legislative and public policy specialist.
  - Hiring a Council Community Liaison.
- Budgeting for 2,054 full time employees, up from 2,019.

### **E. Focuses on ARPA expenditures**

- Investing \$7.5 million into the water main replacement program.
- \$2 million of ARPA allotted for lead services replacement. After this year's program, the city will only have 1,000 lead service lines remaining.
- \$28.9 million investment into parks and public spaces including:
  - Ed Davis Community Center
  - Joy Park Walking Path
  - Lock 3 Vision Plan
  - Patterson Park Community Center
  - Perkins Pool Reconstruction
  - Reservoir Park Community Center
  - Reservoir Pool Reconstruction
  - Rubber City Heritage Trail
  - Summit Lake Vision Plan
- \$7.5 million towards housing rehab and supporting CDCs.