



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2016

CONTACT: Kyle Veazey  
Deputy Director, Communications  
C (901) 302-0652  
kyle.veazey@memphistn.gov

## **STRICKLAND DEFINES 'BRILLIANT AT THE BASICS' IN 2016-17 MEMPHIS BUDGET PROPOSAL**

*\$667 MILLION BUDGET DOES NOT CALL FOR TAX INCREASE;  
PRIORITIZES PUBLIC SAFETY, PENSION FUNDING AND PAVING STREETS*

**April 19, 2016** | Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland presented his 2016-17 budget proposals to members of the Memphis City Council today, outlining a \$667 million operating budget that commits the city to stronger core services and does not include a property tax rate increase.

The proposals would increase police spending by \$6 million, provide 10 percent more money to repave streets than in the current capital improvement plan (CIP) budget, and increase the pension fund contribution by \$4 million to \$54 million. It also calls for pay increases for both police and fire.

“These budget proposals are the substance of what I mean when I say our administration pledges to be ‘brilliant at the basics,’” Strickland said. “We’re prioritizing public safety, pension funding and street paving. The more we invest in those key areas, the more we can multiply all the good things going on in Memphis today.”

Strickland also proposed a CIP budget that calls for issuing \$85 million in general obligation debt. The city’s operating budget pays for day-to-day expenses such as salaries and supplies; the CIP budget pays for capital expenses such as street paving and police cars.

Members of the administration will present details of the proposals to the City Council during budget hearings that start April 26. The city must have a budget and tax rate set by June 30.

PDFs of the budget proposals, a copy of Mayor Strickland’s prepared remarks and other budget information can be accessed at [memphistn.gov/budgetcentral](http://memphistn.gov/budgetcentral). Mayor Strickland will share more particulars about his budget on his social media channels (Twitter: [@MayorMemphis](https://twitter.com/MayorMemphis); Facebook: [/mayormemphis](https://www.facebook.com/mayormemphis)) in the coming days.

### **Some budget proposal facts:**

- Mayor Strickland’s budget can be financed with the current property tax rate of \$3.40 per \$100 in assessed value, and it does not call for dipping into the reserve fund (currently at \$91 million).
- The proposed budget is about \$9 million more than the current budget, largely because projected revenues are modestly higher.

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- The Strickland budget sets aside \$3.8 million to increase salaries and revise the promotions structure for police officers. As of Tuesday morning, MPD had 2,045 commissioned officers, down from a high of 2,452 in 2011.
- The budget calls for two police academy classes and provides for the hiring of 911 call-takers to alleviate hold times.
- The Strickland budget sets aside \$1.9 million to be used to increase salaries by 2 percent for members of the Memphis Fire Fighters Association.
- The proposed \$54 million pension contribution is \$10 million higher than the state requires in its stair-step schedule of having Memphis contribute 100 percent of its actuarial required contribution (ARC) by 2020. The projected ARC for FY 2017 is \$58 million.
- Mayor Strickland proposes \$16.5 million in street paving, 10 percent higher than the current year's \$15 million. This allows the city to pave an estimated 245 lane-miles of streets.
- Mayor Strickland proposes a \$2.5 million increase in the city's operating funds to the Memphis Area Transit Authority, and a \$5 million increase in the city's capital funding to MATA.

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