



City of Blaine

City Council Workshop

November 4, 2024 | 5:30 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

AGENDA

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3.01 of the Blaine City Charter, a Council Workshop meeting is scheduled for the following purpose:

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. New Business**
 - 3.1.** 2024-508 Development Proposal for EDA owned Property at 90th Lane and University Avenue
Sponsors: Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director
 - 3.2.** 2024-447 Trunk Highway 65 Update
Sponsors: Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering
 - 3.3.** 2024-491 2025-2029 Capital Equipment Plan
Sponsors: Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Adjournment**



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2024-508

Agenda Date	Status
November 4, 2024	
In Control	File Type
City Council	Workshop Item

New Business - Erik Thorvig, Community Development Director

Agenda Item # 3.1

Development Proposal for EDA owned Property at 90th Lane and University Avenue

Background

The City of Blaine Economic Development Authority (EDA) owns three parcels at 90th Lane and University Avenue. The parcels are 9011 University Avenue, 9021 University Avenue and 20 90th Lane. The parcels total 2.15 acres.

The EDA acquired the parcels in separate real estate transactions in 2008 and 2012. The total acquisition costs were \$1,280,000. The parcels contained a gas station and retail building which have since been demolished. The EDA acquired the properties in anticipation of redevelopment of the entire commercial area north of 89th Avenue and east of University Avenue. The building to the south was mostly vacant for many years after K-Mart closed. Several years ago, the building was remodeled and occupied by various tenants. With the investment of this building, a larger redevelopment of the area isn't anticipated. Therefore, the EDA could look at selling property for development on a smaller scale.

In 2023, the City Council changed the land use in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for these parcels to Medium Density Residential/Community Commercial. This was based on the Northtown Revitalization Plan and extensive discussion by the City Council regarding future land use. The current land use designation allows for residential development at densities between 6-12 units/acre in the form of detached or attached housing, but not apartments. The previous land use was high density residential/planned commercial. The properties were rezoned to County Road 10 Mixed Use along with all the properties within the Northtown area.

The City held an open house on August 26, 2024, to obtain feedback from residents regarding future use of EDA owned property, which included the subject site and property at 211 89th Avenue. This information was presented to the City Council at a workshop on September 4, 2024. Comments related to housing included the following:

- Single story residential (concern about height and compatibility with single-story houses in the neighborhood)
- For-sale product, no rentals
- Smaller units
- Install turn lane to 90th Lane from University Avenue

A developer has approached city staff about development of the subject site. The developer is Ranger Development, partnering with Hedberg Homes. They have previously done work in Blaine, most recently the Arroyo Villas project at 115th and Ulysses Street. They are proposing 12 twin-home style, single-level units. Their plan is attached. The units would access from 90th Lane and 3rd Street with open space, screening, and buffering along University Avenue. A homeowner's association would be established for maintenance.

The proposal addresses many of the concerns/comments heard at the open house, specifically related to height. However, the proposal is inconsistent with several regulations in the new County Road 10 Mixed Use District. Those include product type and height. The ordinance allows attached townhomes, with a minimum of three units and residential building heights required to be a minimum of two stories. The requirements were intended to create a more "urban style" townhome development versus a product type that you may see elsewhere in the City. Given that this site is on the edge of the Northtown area and adjacent to single-family use, though the proposal doesn't meet the requirements of the zoning ordinance, the proposal's design does make sense for the site and adjacent uses. The developer could request a rezoning to Development Flex (DF), which would allow the twin homes and a single-level design.

At this point, the developer is still completing due diligence to understand the cost of the project, therefore a purchase price hasn't been discussed. The developer is seeking guidance from the City Council on whether this concept is supported. If yes, the developer will continue due diligence and determine a purchase price which would be reviewed by the EDA.

Staff Recommendation

Review the proposal and provide feedback.

Questions for Council

Does the City Council support the proposed concept?

Attachment List

1. Map
2. Developer Information



UNIVERSITY AVE NW

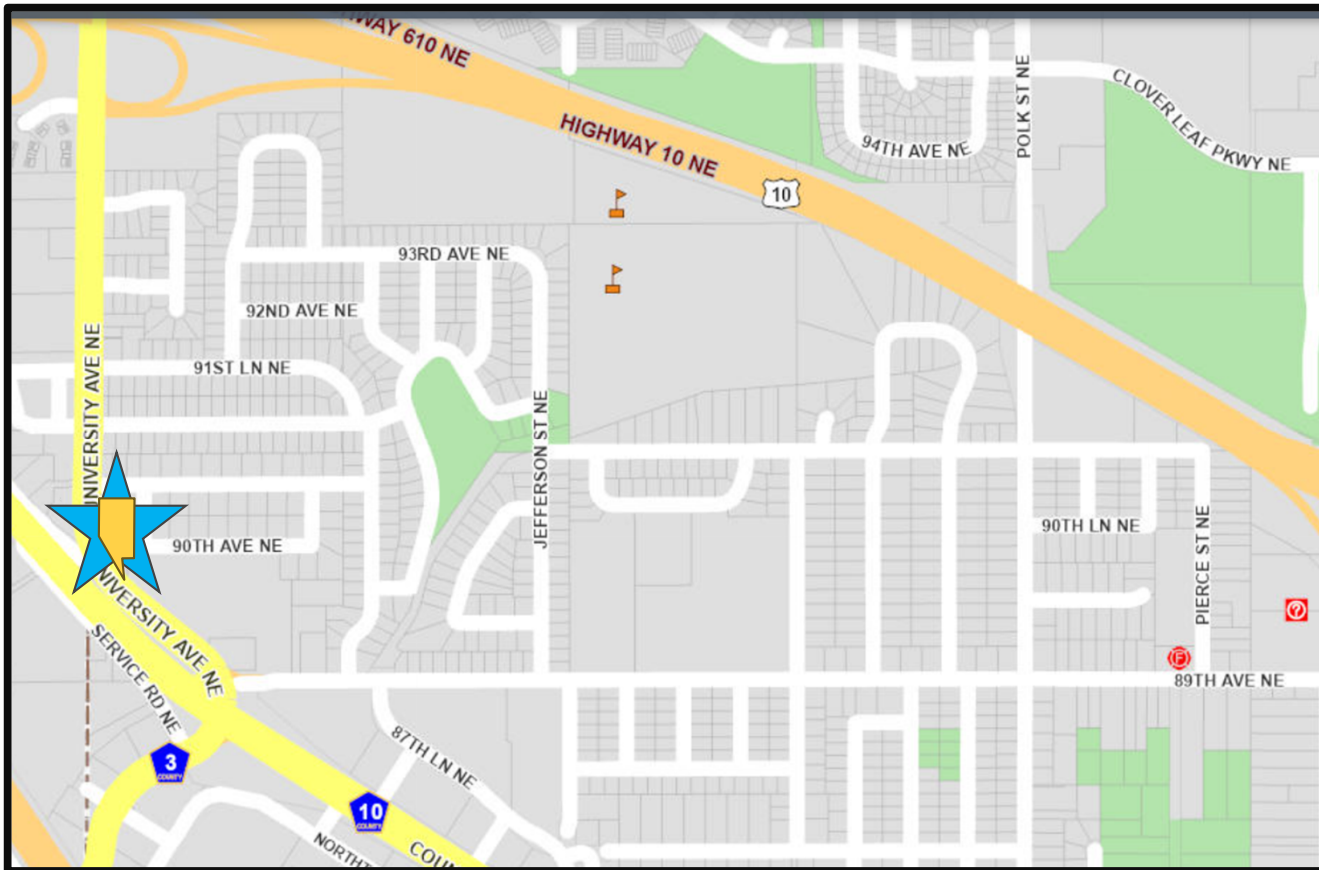
90TH LN NE

3RD ST NE

90TH AVE NE

UNIVERSITY AVE NE

UNIVERSITY AVE NE
COUNTY ROAD 10 NE
COUNTY ROAD
SERVICE



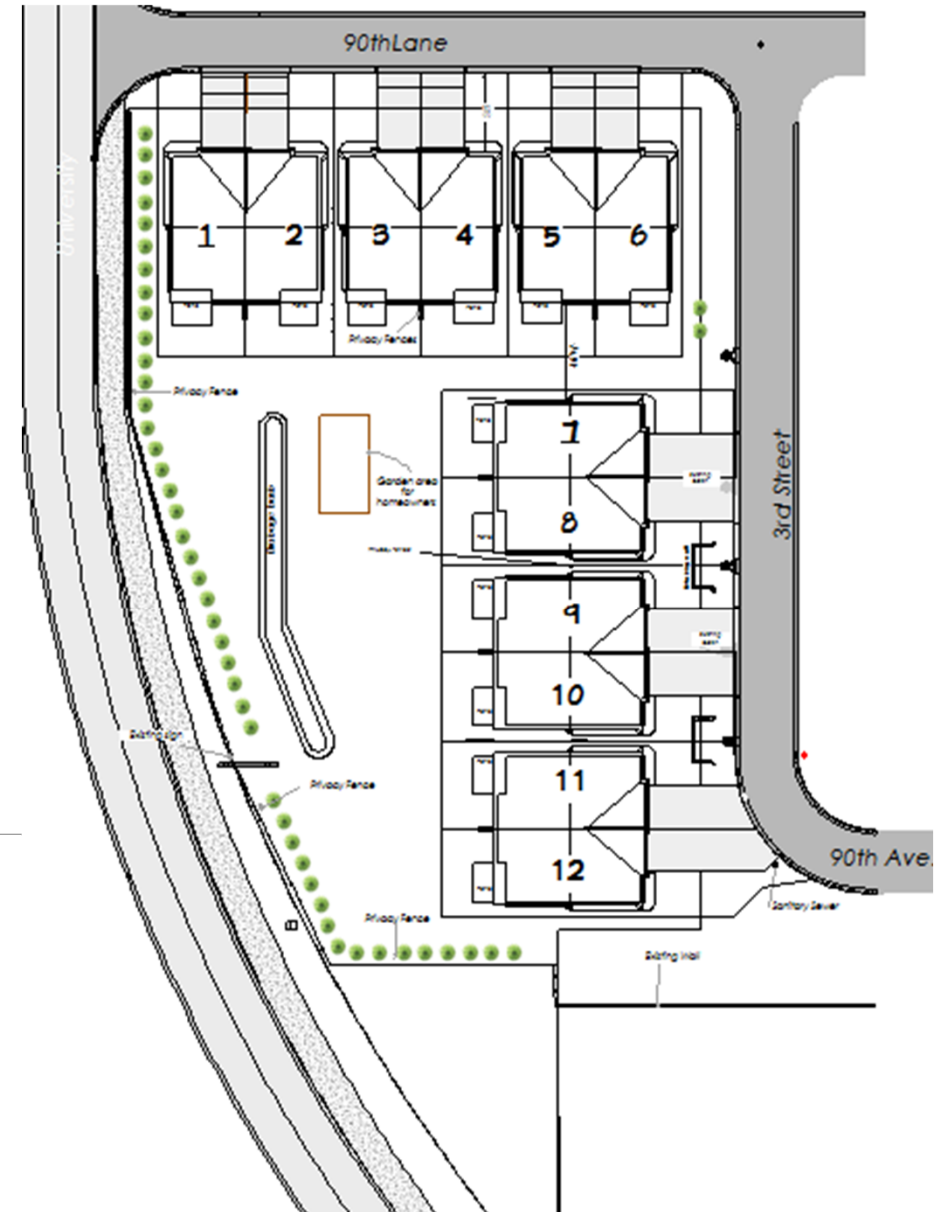
VICINITY

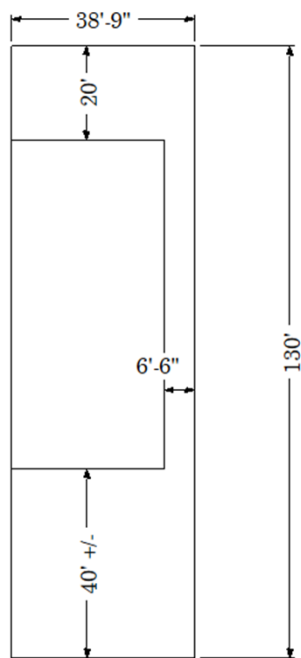


2.16 ACERES +/-

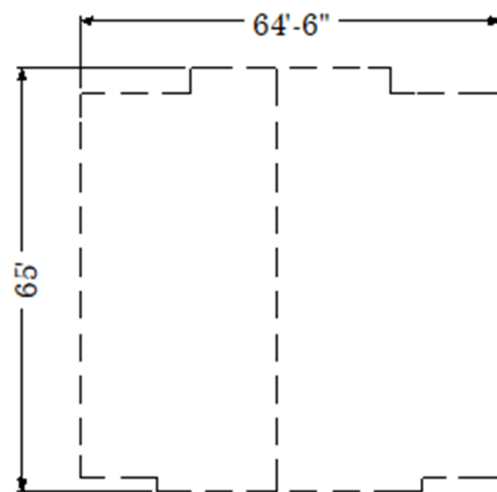
CONCEPT

- SIX ONE LEVEL TWIN HOMES
- Each unit will be 1600sq.' +/-
- Two bedroom with an office.
- All homes come with a storm room for server weather conditions
- Central garden area for homeowners
- HOA for maintaining yards, irrigation, snow removal, fence.

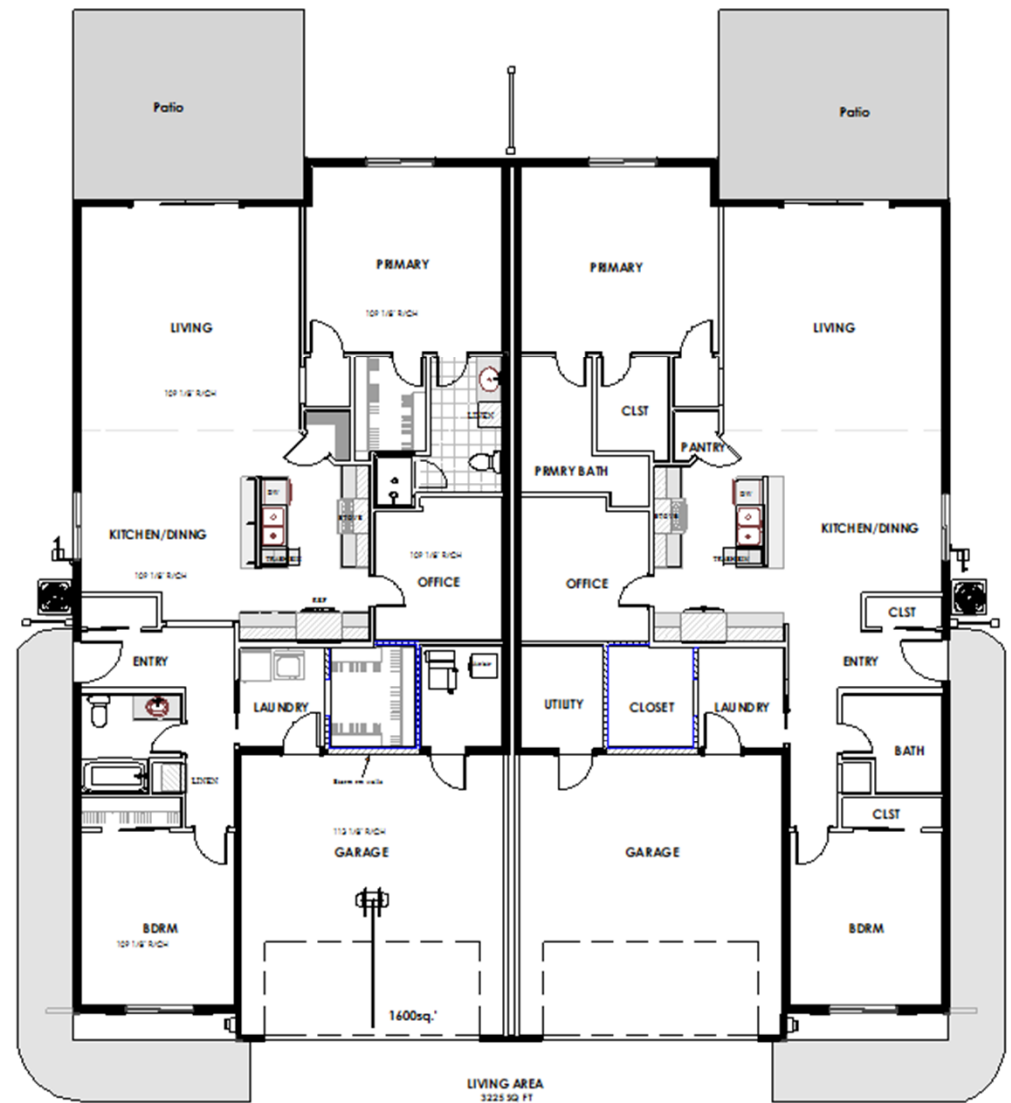




Lot size



Unit size





Front elevation



Entrance from University



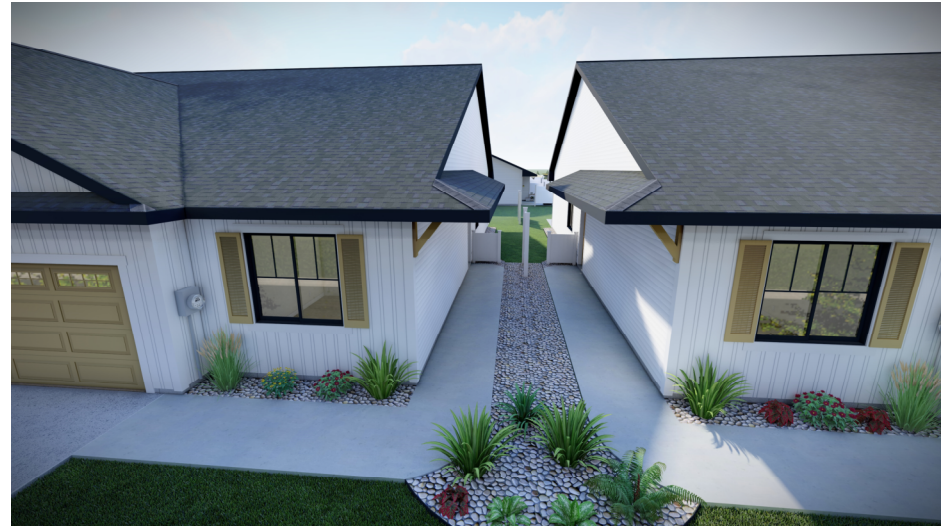
Looking North on 3rd



Looking South on 3rd



South looking North



In-between units



Overview



Patio looking South



City of Blaine

Staff Report

File Number: 2024-447

Agenda Date

November 4, 2024

Status

In Control

City Council

File Type

Workshop Item

New Business - Daniel Schluender, Director of Engineering

Agenda Item # 3.2

Trunk Highway 65 Update

Background

Staff will present an overall update on the TH 65 corridor, including Project design and Project meetings of note for both Segment 2 and Segment 3.

Staff Recommendation

Discuss next steps in project advancement.

Questions for Council

Attachment List

None



City of Blaine Staff Report

File Number: 2024-491

Agenda Date	Status
November 4, 2024	
In Control	File Type
City Council	Workshop Item

New Business - Jason Zimmerman, Finance Director

Agenda Item # 3.3

2025-2029 Capital Equipment Plan

Background

At the September 16 City Council Workshop, the general capital equipment (non-utility) requests for 2025-2029 were reviewed. Several attachments were provided, including: 2025-2029 [Capital Equipment Fund Summary](#), [2025-2029 Detailed Equipment List](#), and the [2025-2029 Capital Equipment Presentation](#).

General feedback from the Council at the conclusion of the workshop was for staff to:

- Ensure the City's equipment is replaced at reasonable intervals to maintain the existing service model
- Reduce the 2025 equipment request from \$4.3 million, as initially proposed
- Develop an annual expenditure model that is generally linear and based on historical price increases
- Create a model to reduce the City's reliance on equipment certificates (debt) by 2030

Updated 2025-2029 Capital Equipment Fund Model:

Finance staff worked with requesting departments to revise the 2025-2029 Capital Equipment Fund Summary as outlined in the table below. The model was developed using the 2024 amended capital equipment fund budget of \$3,034,467 and increasing it by 3% annually to account for inflation in creating a spending target for each year of the CIP. In order to accommodate the established targets based on the proposed model, several important actions are incorporated, including deferrals, removals, and alternative funding sources.

Capital Equipment Fund Expenditures
Summary of Preliminary Requests, Revised Targets, and Departmental Adjustments

Year	Target @ 3% Annual Increase	Prelim Request	Target to Prelim Variance	Police Adjustment	Public Works Adjustment	Finance/IT Adjustment	Building Inspections Adjustment	Comm Standards Adjustment
2024	\$3,034,467	\$3,304,467	-	-	-	-	-	-
2025	3,125,501	4,290,476	1,164,975	(484,278)	(260,147)	(332,800)	(47,750)	-
2026	3,219,266	3,304,100	84,834	46,725	(337,259)	205,700	-	-
2027	3,315,844	3,759,900	444,056	-	255,944	(700,000)	-	-
2028	3,415,319	3,369,012	(46,307)	(154,512)	153,069	-	47,750	-
2029	\$3,517,779	\$3,193,060	\$(324,719)	-	\$244,619	\$155,100	-	\$(75,000)

Deferrals - In order to achieve the targeted level of spending as outlined in the preceding table, staff across all requesting departments were asked to participate in analyzing requests to determine if, and at what level, they would be able to defer items. In addition to the following list of specific requests presented on September 16, Public Works was consulted to see if they would be able to defer \$595,000 of requests from 2025 and 2026 to 2027 through 2029 to facilitate the model. While Public Works wasn't asked to specifically identify items to defer, given the conceptual nature of the process at this point, staff did indicate a willingness to make adjustments to balance out overall expenditures and move the city away from a fully-debt financing model. It should be noted that this process could result in further operating overruns in the General Fund operating equipment repair & maintenance budget.

Area	Deferral Request	Amount	Initial Year	Revised Year
Police	Detective Squad	\$46,725	2025	2026
Finance & IT	PowerStore Storage Network for Public Works	\$145,700	2025	2026
Finance & IT	VMWare Licensing	\$60,000	2025	2026
Finance & IT	Fiber Optic to Cold Storage/PW Service Room	\$155,100	2025	2029
Bldg Inspections	Inspector Vehicle	\$47,750	2025	2028
Community Standards	Response Vehicle	\$75,000	2029	2030

Removals - On June 18, 2009, a public hearing was held in order to utilize the Capital Improvements Fund for the purchase and implementation of a new financial system provided by New World Systems, which was authorized with a \$600,000 budget, and was intended to serve as the primary accounting, payroll, and utility billing software for the City. In 2015 Tyler Technologies acquired New World Systems and in the last several years, Tyler Technologies has communicated that they will no longer provide enhancements or new features to the New World platform. With other similarly sized ERP options in Tyler Technologies' portfolio, it appears the software will be phased out or be sunset at some point in the next several years. This legacy system has become outdated, with a cumbersome interface and lacking several industry standard features/modules. With a focus on customer service, it is important to ensure the City has a robust and comprehensive ERP software to serve the needs of residents and City staff. While Blaine owns the physical software, the City pays approximately \$95,000 annually for

support. By pursuing a new product in the near future, staff will be provided sufficient time to prepare for an adequate implementation.

With the recent staffing changes and existing vacancies, the Finance Department currently considers 2027 as an unlikely timeline to properly develop an RFP, solicit vendors, receive demonstrations, negotiate pricing, receive Council approval, convert historical data, and train end-users. Pricing has also been volatile over the last several years, with several new vendors competing in this space, who offer varying levels of sophistication in software options. This request will come back before the Council in the future, but just as had been done in 2009, one-time funding may be available to provide for the purchase rather than the capital equipment fund levy or debt.

Area	Removal Request	Amount	Initial Year	Revised Year
Finance/IT	Finance Enterprise Resource Planning Software	\$700,000	2027	-

Public Safety Aid - The Minnesota Legislature signed into law a Public Safety Aid in the 2023 Omnibus Tax Bill. This one-time bill provided \$300 million to townships, cities, counties, and tribal governments for public safety purposes. The city received \$3,106,062 in December 2023, with 30% or \$931,819 allocated to the SBM Fire Department for future capital improvements, subject to City Council approval. The remaining funding, or \$2,174,243 has been earmarked for purchases within the Police Department. At the September 25, 2023, Council Workshop, the Police Department provided an [outline of requests](#) to utilize the aid. While some nominal items have been approved by the Council outside the initial proposal, \$1.3M remains unallocated. In order to finance the 2025-2029 CIP as outlined, the Police Department has indicated a desire to utilize this funding as outlined to assist the City with transitioning from a debt model to a pre-funded model for the City's equipment.

The initial request for funding the radio replacement program included \$301,000 in 2025, financed through the Capital Equipment Fund. The City recently received notice that it was awarded \$40,000 from the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) Grant Program which, in turn, reduces the overall request. Given the expense associated with radio replacements due to encryption enhancements that are anticipated to make existing radio stock obsolete, The Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council (JLEC) has agreed to take up the concern in 2025 and will consider a levy to satisfy the substantial cost of replacing all police radios, both mobile and portable for all members of the JLEC, which includes the City of Blaine. With funding uncertain at this time, the potential cost remaining after the application of the grant has been moved to the 2026 budget.

Area	Public Safety Aid Request	Amount	Year
Police	Space Saver Evidence Lockers	\$37,259	2025
Police	Patrol Vehicle (New to fleet)	\$70,700	2025
Police	Patrol Vehicle (New to fleet)	\$70,700	2025
Police	800 MHz Police Radio Replacement Project	\$261,000	2026
Police	Patrol Vehicle (New to fleet)	\$77,256	2028
Police	Patrol Vehicle (New to fleet)	\$77,256	2028

Future Pre-Funding of Capital Equipment

Finance recommends the City develop a plan to pre-fund capital equipment which would mitigate interest and issuance costs, insulate the City from unfavorable economic conditions, and develop a consistent funding model. To do this, staff recommends increasing the dedicated capital equipment levy and reallocating future expiring capital equipment debt levies to the capital equipment fund, similar to the actions taken with the SBM Capital Fund. By increasing the dedicated levy, the City will be able to "buy-down" the annual debt requirements (absent unrestricted General Fund reserves). This commitment to developing a mix of cash and debt capital funding model has been discussed with S&P, who has been hired to evaluate the City's creditworthiness, and is important to maintaining Blaine's AAA credit rating.

A copy of the presentation will be attached before noon on the day of the meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Questions for Council

Are there any questions regarding the 2025-2029 Capital Equipment Plan?

Is there a consensus on the revised capital plan and target methodology?

Is any further information needed before adopting the 2025-2029 Capital Equipment Plan in December?

Attachment List

1. 2025 Capital Equipment CIP Fund Summaries - As of 11.4.24
2. 2025-2029 Capital Equipment Presentation

City of Blaine, Minnesota
Capital Equipment & Projects Fund - 410
Summary of Revenues, Expenditures, and Change in Fund Balance
2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan - As of November 4, 2024

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Projection	2027 Projection	2028 Projection	2029 Projection
Revenues							
New Property Tax Levy*	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 3,000,000
Reallocated Expired Equipment Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	689,062
ARMER Grant	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	-
Investment Earnings	18,458	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Revenues	18,458	102,000	542,000	1,002,000	1,602,000	2,302,000	3,691,062
Capital Outlay							
Finance & Information Technology	324,609	440,850	431,215	320,700	155,500	170,500	320,100
Police Administration	533,383	32,200	88,831	189,000	189,000	189,000	196,000
Police Patrol	-	391,151	494,900	604,000	615,900	620,000	638,000
Police Special Operations	-	80,000	-	94,825	-	-	52,560
Emergency Management	-	-	106,452	40,000	-	100,000	-
Community Service	-	55,266	-	-	-	-	-
Community Standards (Fire Inspections)	-	130,000	-	-	75,000	75,000	-
Public Works Administration	45,975	-	-	-	-	-	-
Street Maintenance	828,555	1,330,000	1,390,853	1,267,741	1,645,944	1,453,069	1,704,619
Park Maintenance	443,617	557,000	396,000	532,000	545,000	428,000	505,000
Vehicle & Equip. Maintenance Dept.	48,699	18,000	209,500	121,000	38,500	280,000	48,500
Engineering	69,421	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Inspections	-	-	47,750	50,000	51,000	99,750	53,000
Total Capital Outlay	2,294,259	3,034,467	3,165,501	3,219,266	3,315,844	3,415,319	3,517,779
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(2,275,801)	(2,932,467)	(2,623,501)	(2,217,266)	(1,713,844)	(1,113,319)	173,283
Other Financing Sources (Uses)							
Transfers In	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of Fixed Assets	97,178	115,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Certificate of Indebtedness Proceeds	3,007,610	2,817,467	2,548,501	2,142,266	1,638,844	1,038,319	(248,283)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	3,104,788	2,932,467	2,623,501	2,217,266	1,713,844	1,113,319	(173,283)
Net Change in Fund Balance**	\$ 828,987	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

*Assumes compounding levy increase

*Remaining 2023 funds will be spent in 2024; not all approved equipment was available to procure in 2023



2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

General Fund Equipment

Council Workshop | Finance

11/04/2024

Recap

- ▶ General feedback from Council on September 16
 - ▶ Ensure equipment is replaced at reasonable intervals
 - ▶ Reduce 2025-2029 requests
 - ▶ Develop an annual expenditure plan based on historical price increases
 - ▶ Create a model to reduce the City's reliance on debt by 2030

Overview

- ▶ Finance worked with staff to revise the 2025-2029 requests
 - ▶ Participation from all requesting departments
 - ▶ Developed a model using 3% inflation
 - ▶ Identified a spending target
 - ▶ Refined deferrals, removals, and alternate funding sources
 - ▶ Ensured equipment requests are consistent with strategic priorities
 - ▶ Thoroughly considered all equipment requests

Summary of Changes

Request				Adjustments				
Year	Target @ 3% annual increase	Prelim Request	Target to Prelim Variance	Police	Public Works	Finance/IT	Building Inspections	Comm Standards
2024	3,034,467	3,034,467	-	-	-	-	-	-
2025	3,125,501	4,290,476	1,164,975	(484,278)	(260,147)	(332,800)	(47,750)	-
2026	3,219,266	3,304,100	84,834	46,725	(337,259)	205,700	-	-
2027	3,315,844	3,759,900	444,056	-	255,944	(700,000)	-	-
2028	3,415,319	3,369,012	(46,307)	(154,512)	153,069	-	47,750	-
2029	3,517,779	3,193,060	(324,719)	-	244,619	155,100	-	(75,000)

Alternate Funding

Department	Public Safety Aid Request	Amount	Year
Police	Space Saver Evidence Lockers	\$37,259	2025
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Police	Patrol Vehicle (New to fleet)	\$77,256	2028

- ▶ The city received \$3,106,062 of Public Safety Aid in December 2023, with \$931,819 allocated to SBM Fire Department
- ▶ At the September 25, 2023, Council Workshop, the Police Department provided an outline of requests to utilize the aid
- ▶ Approximately \$1,300,000 remains unallocated

Request Deferral

Department	Deferral Request	Amount	Initial Year	Revised Year
Police	Detective Squad	\$46,725	2025	2026
Finance & IT	PowerStore Storage Network for Public Works	\$145,700	2025	2026
Finance & IT	VMWare Licensing	\$60,000	2025	2026
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Bldg Inspections	Inspector Vehicle	\$47,750	2025	2028
Community Standards	Response Vehicle	\$75,000	2029	2030

- ▶ Staff across all requesting departments were asked to participate in analyzing requests to determine if, and at what level, they would be able to defer items
- ▶ In addition to the specific items above, Public Works agreed to defer approximately \$595,000 of requests from 2025 and 2026 to 2027 through 2029 to facilitate the model

Request Removal

Department	Removal Request	Amount	Initial Year	Revised Year
Finance/IT	Finance Enterprise Resource Planning Software	\$700,000	2027	-

- ▶ New World Systems was implemented in 2009; serves as the primary accounting, payroll, and utility billing software
- ▶ Tyler Technologies acquired New World Systems in 2015, in recent years they have communicated that they will no longer provide enhancements or new features to the platform, and with other ERP options in their portfolio, it appears the software will be phased out at some point
- ▶ The system has become outdated, with a cumbersome interface and lacking several industry standard features/modules
- ▶ With a focus on customer service, it is important to ensure the City has a robust and comprehensive ERP software to serve the needs of residents and City staff

City of Blaine, Minnesota
Capital Equipment & Projects Fund - 410
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ARMER Grant	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	-
Investment Earnings	18,458	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
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Emergency Management	-	-	106,452	40,000	-	100,000	-
Community Service	-	55,266	-	-	-	-	-
Community Standards (Fire Inspections)	-	130,000	-	-	75,000	75,000	-
Public Works Administration	45,975	-	-	-	-	-	-
Street Maintenance	828,555	1,330,000	1,390,853	1,267,741	1,645,944	1,453,069	1,704,619
Park Maintenance	443,617	557,000	396,000	532,000	545,000	428,000	505,000
Vehicle & Equip. Maintenance Dept.	48,699	18,000	209,500	121,000	38,500	280,000	48,500
Engineering	69,421	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Inspections	-	-	47,750	50,000	51,000	99,750	53,000
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Other Financing Sources (Uses)							
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Sale of Fixed Assets	97,178	115,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
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Net Change in Fund Balance**	\$ 828,987	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

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**Remaining 2023 funds will be spent in 2024; not all approved equipment was available to procure in 2023

Questions for Council

- ▶ Are there any questions regarding the 2025-2029 Capital Equipment Plan?
- ▶ Is there a consensus on the revised capital plan and target methodology?
- ▶ Is any further information needed before adopting the 2025-2029 Capital Equipment Plan in December?