

Land Use Bureau FY 21-22 Budget Summary
(March 8, 2021)

1. Staffing

- With the exception of the contractual increases for salaries and benefits, there are no increases proposed for the operating budget
- No one has left or retired, and no positions were upgraded or reclassified. We have currently three unfilled positions:
 - A GIS Technician. This position was approved as a program expansion for this FY, but at the request of the Mayor, the position has not been filled. We did, however, receive permission to start the hiring process and are in the process of interviewing candidates
 - An Environmental Inspector – this is a program expansion requested for FY21/22 (see below)
 - A community development specialist – this position will be paid for through federal grants and has no impact on the City budget. Hiring for this position has not started.

2. Program Expansion

The Land Use Bureau is request one additional position – an Environmental Inspector for EPB. The salary impact of that position is \$69,521. EPB’s workload has increased due to new regulatory requirements, such as stormwater management (MS4).

3. Other Operating Budget items

No non personal-related increases are proposed for the Operating Budget.

4. Capital Budget requests

a. DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION PROGRAM (Proposed Budget: \$100,000)

High development costs are a threat to both the City’s budget – in particular with regard to Stamford’s aging school and affordable housing. Development cost is determined by the cost of the land, construction cost and regulatory cost, e.g., for permits. While land cost is driven by supply and demand, construction cost and regulatory requirements can be controlled by innovative building technology and regulatory streamlining. The purpose of this project is to identify innovative approaches for lowering the cost for public facilities and new residential development, with the intent to reduce cost to the tax payer.

b. CITYWIDE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (Proposed Budget: \$150,000)

The request is for new GIS data including an aerial flight, orthophotography (imagery), topographic and planimetric mapping. The current GIS data is from 2013 and is outdated especially considering the development within Stamford. This new GIS data would include new high-resolution imagery, contours and multiple GIS base data layers such as building footprints, roads, and driveways. The GIS data is used extensively within multiple city departments where current GIS data is essential. Stamford’s 911 dispatch Fire Department and Police utilize the GIS data for efficient emergency response. The new data will aid the Assessor’s 2022 revaluation process and support initial design of City construction projects.