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A Back-to-Basics Budget for Pensacola

Pensacola's General Fund has grown from \$61.7 million in FY2022 to \$80.8 million in FY2026—an increase of **\$19.1 million (31%)**. Every budget increase should be measured against one question: **Does this investment improve a basic city service or make Pensacola more affordable?** If not, it deserves a closer review before asking taxpayers to spend more.

Budget Snapshot	Amount
FY2022 General Fund	\$61.7 M
FY2026 General Fund	\$80.8 M
Increase Since 2022	+ \$19.1 M (+31%)

Where the Budget Grew	FY22	FY26	Change
General Fund	\$61.7M	\$80.8M	+31%
Core Sanitation*	~\$8.38M	~\$9.82M	+17%
Travel	\$86,176	\$249,400	+189%
Printing	\$59,778	\$116,200	+94%
Memberships	\$262,906	\$453,700	+73%
Training	\$565,455	\$963,900	+70%
Contractual Services	\$11.95M	\$19.23M	+61%
Communication	\$4.36M	\$6.44M	+48%
Advertising	\$1.56M	\$1.79M	+14%
Repairs & Maintenance	\$8.84M	\$5.90M	-33%

*Comparable core sanitation collection functions.

Review These Budget Areas	Reinvest in These Priorities
Consultant contracts	Affordable neighborhoods & housing stability
Outside studies	Public safety
Administrative efficiencies	Parks & public spaces
Rebranding & marketing	Safer streets, sidewalks & drainage
Travel & memberships	Youth & senior programs
Reduce lawsuits & legal costs	Maintain public assets
Finish projects before starting new ones	Lower long-term operating costs
Require growth to pay for growth	Impact fees for new infrastructure

Does this improve a basic city service or make Pensacola more affordable?	Budget Decision
YES	Prioritize
MAYBE	Measure Results
NO	Reduce or Redirect

The Bottom Line

Pensacola doesn't have to choose between affordability and great city services. By reviewing discretionary spending, improving administrative efficiency, making better long-term land-use decisions, and finishing projects already underway, we can strengthen neighborhood services while reducing pressure for future tax increases.

Every dollar we save is another dollar we can reinvest in the basic city services that make Pensacola a better and more affordable place to live.