



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Olgy Diaz
COPY: Mayor, City Council, and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Resolution – Allocating \$10,000 in contingency funds to the Tacoma Tree Foundation to assist in purchasing operational equipment – September 26, 2023**
DATE: September 20, 2023

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the use of \$10,000 in Council Contingency Funds to assist the Tacoma Tree Foundation in purchasing operational equipment for the purpose of tree planting and maintenance in the City of Tacoma.
[Council Member Diaz]

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Walker, City Council Member Diaz, and City Council Member Ushka

BACKGROUND:

The Council Member’s Recommendation is Based On:

The Tacoma Tree Foundation has launched a campaign to raise \$25,000 to purchase a truck. This resolution would provide \$10,000 from Council Contingency Funds for this campaign.

This contingency fund allocation invests long-term in our tree canopy. Over the past five years, the Tacoma Tree Foundation has distributed 10,000 young trees by borrowing vehicles from their partners and using their personal cars. Their goal, pending availability and affordability, is to purchase a hybrid or electric flatbed truck. This would be used along with other infrastructure. They will need a water trailer to water trees, safety equipment to keep trees and neighbors safe, and to plan for insurance and maintenance costs to keep trucking trees for at least another five years. Once planted, from June to October, trees need 15-20 gallons of water a week, and their growth and health must be monitored year-round. This infrastructure will support the work of tree planting and ongoing tree maintenance.

While staff estimate that a hybrid small pickup truck traveling 5000 miles a year in town would emit approximately 1 metric ton of greenhouse gases a year, this greenhouse emissions is offset by the work of the Tacoma Tree Foundation. During one year, a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. Last year, the Tacoma Tree Foundation planted over 2200 trees in the Tacoma area across all their programs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The City of Tacoma created the 2030 Tacoma Climate Action Plan (CAP). Creation of this plan centered frontline communities' priorities, and Tacoma's new plan invests in both climate action and environmental justice. As we plan for our collective climate future, the City of Tacoma needs to hear continually from communities that are historically underrepresented, underserved, made vulnerable communities, or expected to experience the first or worst impacts of climate change. CAP includes a number of actions related to tree planting and maintenance, which would be supported with this funding request. The City also utilizes the Urban Forest Management Plan, which was adopted by Council Resolution December 2019 to support our goal of a healthy, thriving, equitable tree canopy throughout all of Tacoma, which a specific emphasis on community engagement, facilitating relationships with local partners, and environmental justice. This was the foundational policy that led to the Council passing funding for the Community Tree Program.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: (Mandatory)

Tree canopy coverage is critical to reducing the urban heat island effect. In addition to Tacoma's Tree Canopy being disproportionately low in the Puget Sound Region, the analysis further recognizes that within the City of Tacoma, tree canopy is not distributed evenly, with some census blocks experiencing as low as 3% tree canopy cover, while others have as high as 64%. In Tacoma, our analysis found that urban heat islands increase maximum temperatures by as much as 6.2 degrees F above the local baseline. Combined with regional climatic effects, neighborhoods in Central and South Tacoma may be as much as 14 degrees F hotter than neighborhoods in North Tacoma. 11,980 people live in neighborhoods where maximum temperature exceed the 90th percentile and where average per capita incomes are less than 200% the federal poverty level. Every additional degree carries significant public health costs.

Livability: Equity Index Score: Low Opportunity

Improve access and proximity by residents to diverse income levels and race/ethnicity to community facilities, services, infrastructure, and employment.

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?² (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

The Tacoma Tree Foundation won a competitive bidding process to run the City's Urban Forestry Program's Community Tree Program. The Community Tree Program uses the City's Equity Index to direct resources into the lowest opportunity neighborhoods, many of which have less than half the tree canopy coverage of higher opportunity neighborhoods. In this way, the Community Tree Program has begun delivering upon the City's goals around climate resiliency and equity. The Tacoma Tree Foundation's goal is to grow a fair urban forest, one where residents of historically underserved neighborhoods have access to clean air, a cool shade, health and wellbeing, and where toxic stormwater runoff does not pollute our watershed. To make this possible, they need to do more than plant thousands more trees—they must also care for them year-round. This operational equipment is critical infrastructure to accomplish this goal and an investment in the health and future of neighborhoods with low tree equity.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Provide less or no funding.	Preserve Council resources for other priorities.	Do not support critical infrastructure investments in supporting our tree canopy.
2. Provide more funding.	Increase Tacoma Tree Foundation's capacity to purchase infrastructure to plant and maintain trees.	Reduce Council resources for other priorities, and does not acknowledge there is community support to fund this campaign.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

The Tacoma Tree Foundation provides annual reports for the Tacoma Tree Program, which will highlight the work this operational equipment is used for.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Sponsors recommend passing this contingency fund request in order to support work to boost our tree canopy across the City.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1.1030- Council Contingency Fund	660000		\$10,000
2.			
TOTAL			\$10,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN BELOW

The Council Contingency Fund provides an established amount of funding each year for unbudgeted Council sponsored initiatives.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

No

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution

2023 Council Contingency Commitments

2023-2024 \$ 225,000.00

Resolution 41151

Council requested - South Sound together \$ 12,000.00

A Resolution authorizing 2023 membership in South Sound Together, in the amount of \$12,000.

Resolution 41150

Council Requested - Welcoming Interactive Conference Participation Sponsorship \$ 4,800.00

Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$4,800 to fund two Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' Members and a Council Member Participation in the 2023 Welcoming Interactive Conference

Resolution 41163

Council Requested - Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Youth Summit 2023 \$ 5,000.00

Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$5,000 to sponsor the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma 2023 Youth Summit

Resolution 41162

Council Requested - Raising Girls Care Package Initiative \$ 10,000.00

Council Contingency Fund expenditure for \$10,000 to fund the Raising Girls Non-Profit Organization's "One Bag Drive" to support the creation and distribution of 500 care bags with essential hygiene items to youth and young adults in Tacoma.

Resolution 41161

Council Requested - Wheelstops \$ 12,500.00

Contingency Fund of \$12,500 expenditure to install wheelstops along South D street, from S. 72nd to S. 74th on the east side of the street.

Resolution 41160

Council Requested - Khmer New Year Celebration \$ 10,000.00

Council Member Bushnell provides the attached Council Action memorandum for a Resolution authorizing the use of \$10,000 of Council contingency funding to support the first annual Khmer New Year Celebration.

Resolution 41173

Council Requested - Mi Centro's First Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Conference \$ 20,000.00

A Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor Mi Centro's First Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault conference for \$20,000.

Resolution 41181

Together We End Gun Violence Conference \$ 10,000.00

A Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$10,000 to sponsor the Together We End Gun Violence Conference.

Resolution 41216

Mitigating Impact of City's Light Rail Investment \$ 20,000.00

Council Contingency fund expenditure of \$20,000 to support efforts to mitigate the impact of the City's light rail investment for the Hilltop Street Fair and Stadium Business District events.

Resolution 41217

City of Tacoma 2023 Juneteenth Celebration \$ 2,500.00

Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the City's 2023 Juneteenth Celebration.

Resolution 41215

Summer Coding Workshop Series Sponsorship \$ 7,000.00

Council Contingency Fund expenditure of up to \$7,000 to sponsor the Summer Coding Workshop Series developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab and hosted by Tacoma Public Libraries.

Resolution 41225

Buffalo Solider Museum Event Sponsorship \$ 6,000.00

Council contingency fund expenditure of \$6,000 to sponsor the Buffalo Soldiers Museum's event, "Honoring Our Military Labor Force."

Resolution 41246

2023 National Association of Local Boards of Health Conference Sponsorship \$ 20,000.00

Resolution authorizing \$20,000 in Council contingency funds to sponsor the 2023 National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) conference.

Resolution 41245

6th Avenue Business District's Art on the Avenue Festival \$ 10,000.00

A resolution authorizing \$10,000 in Council contingency funds to support the 6th Avenue Business District's 2023 Arts on the Avenue event.

Resolution 41271

Historic Cushman Street Fair Sponsorship \$ 8,000.00

Council Contingency Fund expenditure of \$8,000 for the Historic Cushman Street Fair, sponsored by the North End Neighborhood Council (NENC).

Resolution 41272

Poverty to Possibilities Summit Sponsorship \$ 5,000.00

A \$5,000 Council Contingency Fund expenditure to sponsor the Poverty to Possibilities Summit.

To Council September 26, 2023

Tacoma Tree Foundation \$ 10,000.00

A \$10,000 Council Contingency Fund expenditure to assist the Tacoma Tree Foundation to purchase a truck.

Starting Balance	\$	225,000.00
Total Amount Allocated	\$	172,800.00
Current Balance	\$	52,200.00