

CPRB 2025 Proposed Budget Responses

The 2025 proposed (CPRB) budget reflects a thoughtful approach to enhancing the operational effectiveness and transparency of the board, which is a critical component of maintaining community trust in local law enforcement. The key elements of this proposal are as follows:

1. Salaries and Wages:

- The proposed salary budget is \$66,625, representing a 5.8% increase year-over-year. This increase aligns with the city's proposed 3% wage increase for all employees and includes a residency bonus to incentivize employees to live within the city limits, fostering stronger community ties.

2. Fringe Benefits:

- Fringe benefits have increased by 7.9%, with a proposed budget of \$26,574. This ensures competitive employee benefits, crucial for attracting and retaining talent in a critical oversight body.

3. Professional Services:

- A new allocation of \$10,000 has been set aside for professional services. This marks a significant addition, reflecting the board's need for external expertise and support to perform its functions efficiently and impartially. This allocation will be indispensable if we need to hire an outside investigator.

4. Education & Training:

- The budget includes an allocation of \$8,000 for education and training. This investment in ongoing education will help CPRB members stay updated on the best practices in oversight, policing, and community engagement. We need to become members of a national oversight association and participate in local and national training sessions. The CPRB needs to learn from other offices and understand the best practices for oversight.

5. Travel and Supplies:

- \$4,000 has been allocated for travel and another \$4,000 for necessary supplies. These funds support the logistical needs of board members and staff as they carry out investigations, community outreach, and other duties essential to their role.

6. Repairs and Maintenance:

- An allocation of \$300 for repairs and maintenance has been made, ensuring the board's facilities and resources are kept in good working order. This allocation, compared to other city offices, is plausible considering the emergent nature of this office.

7. Total Budget:

- The total proposed budget for 2025 is \$103,199, a 38.9% increase from the previous year's adopted budget. This increase underscores the city's commitment to empowering the CPRB to fulfill its mission of ensuring police accountability and fostering public trust.

How This Budget Benefits the Community:

- **Improved Accountability:** With additional resources for professional services and training, the board can more effectively review police actions and provide recommendations, enhancing transparency and accountability.
- **Community Engagement:** The budget allows for better outreach and community engagement, as the board can travel and connect with residents to better understand their concerns and experiences with law enforcement.
- **Sustainability of Operations:** The board can attract and retain skilled professionals dedicated to this essential civic duty by ensuring competitive salaries and benefits.

The proposed budget aims to strengthen the relationship between the South Bend Police Department and the community, ensuring that concerns are addressed through a well-supported and operationally effective review board.