



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 17-963, **Version:** 3

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Ordinance No. 17-54 amending Ordinance No. 16-116 (2017 Appropriation Ordinance) for a Supplemental Appropriation to the General Fund in the amount of \$75,000 for tree cleanup from the April 2017 snowstorm

**Presenter:**

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director  
Jay Hein, City Forester

**Summary:**

The attached ordinance is a supplemental appropriation to the General Fund in the amount of \$75,000 to continue the Park Forestry Division's emergency response to the April 4, 2017 snowstorm that created significant tree damage throughout much of Colorado Springs.

**Previous Council Action:**

On November 26, 2016, City Council approved the 2017 Budget per Ordinance No. 16-116, which included the appropriation of funds for the General Fund.

**Background:**

On Monday, April 4, 2017, the City of Colorado Springs experienced a spring snowstorm that created significant tree damage throughout much of the community. Many tree species were beginning to leaf out, which gave the snow additional surface area to adhere to. As a result, thousands of trees began losing branches. The hardest hit parts of the City were downtown, the Old North End, and Old Colorado City. On the west side of town, nearly every tree experienced some level of failure, resulting in extensive damage. Many roads were not passable due to the high volume of broken limbs. Presenting an even higher risk to the public is the high volume of branches that have either partially or completely broken off from the tree, yet remain in the canopy.

The Forestry Division has fielded well over 1,000 phone calls and online requests as a result of this storm. In addition to the citizen requests, crews are finding tremendous amounts of damage as they work from block to block. The highest priority is removing the broken branches that are still in the canopy, as they pose the greatest threat to human health and property. In the two weeks since the storm, the Forestry Division crews and contract crews as well as crews from Public Works and the Colorado Springs Fire Department have worked to mitigate the risk and provide cleanup throughout the affected areas. Progress is slow, as the volume of material requires frequent trips to unload the material. In many cases, only a few city blocks per day are being completed.

The Forestry Division is requesting emergency funding totaling \$75,000 to allow the hiring of additional contract crews to assist in the cleanup process. An allocation in this amount will support the hiring of a contractor with the equipment necessary to remove overhead hazards as well as the

material on the ground for approximately one month. The cost breakdown is as follows: For four (4) weeks of bucket truck and chipper work, the total cost is \$60,000. Additionally, two (2) weeks of grapple truck work will cost \$15,000. All contractors will be placed in the most severely affected areas, completing each area in a grid pattern. All debris collected by the contractor will be brought to the Forestry yard where it will be processed and provided to the public through designated “free mulch” locations.

The Forestry Division crews will continue to work in conjunction with any additional contractors in an effort to expedite the cleanup process. All other projects have been placed on hold until storm cleanup is complete.

**Financial Implications:**

The supplemental appropriation increases the 2017 General Fund expense budget by \$75,000. The source of funds is the unrestricted fund balance. This supplemental will not significantly impact the General Fund available fund balance. At this time, revenue is trending above budget greater than the amount of the supplemental.

**Board/Commission Recommendation:**

N/A

**Stakeholder Process:**

N/A

**Alternatives:**

N/A

**Proposed Motion:**

Move approval of the attached Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 16-116 (2017 Appropriation Ordinance) for a Supplemental Appropriation to the General Fund in the amount of \$75,000 for tree cleanup from the April 2017 snowstorm.

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