THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Subject: AFD Donation Budget Amendment

Staff Resource(s): Fire Chief Mike Cayse, Jessica Hughes Fire Administration and Financial Business Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a budget amendment in the amount of $45,266.38 authorizing the Asheville Fire Department (AFD) to expend donation funds for approved special projects and internal departmental initiatives.

Background:

- The Asheville Fire Department has accumulated donation funds from various sources totaling $45,266.38, which are currently being held in a special revenue fund.
- These donations were made and received in accordance with the City of Asheville Donations Policy and without any restrictions on their use.
- A budget amendment is required for the Department to utilize these funds.
- AFD is seeking authorization to use these donation funds to support internal initiatives and special projects that enhance departmental operations and workforce support.
- Funds will be in alignment with the following four pillars: Response, Resilience, Recognition, and Remembrance.
- In the near term, funds will support the annual Appreciation Banquet on May 1 and cover medals, ribbons, and awards (Recognition), with a portion allocated for station improvements such as workout equipment (Resilience). Remaining funds will honor the families of fallen firefighters through meals with their loved ones' crews on the anniversaries of their deaths (Remembrance).
- This request provides formal approval for AFD to expend the available donation balance for special projects in a manner consistent with donor intent and City financial policies, while maintaining appropriate oversight and accountability.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- N/A

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Fiscally Resilient City

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- Authorizes appropriate use of donated funds consistent with donor intent
- Enhances transparency and accountability for special project expenditures
- Provides flexibility to address internal departmental needs not funded in the adopted budget
- Supports workforce engagement, recognition, and operational improvements

Con(s):

- **N/A**

Fiscal Impact:

- Donation funds totaling $45,266.38 will be used for approved special projects and internal departmental initiatives at the discretion of the Department Director and in accordance with City financial policies. No new funding is requested, and there is no impact to the General Fund.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt the Budget Ordinance Amendment authorizing the Asheville Fire Department to expend donation funds, in an amount not to exceed $45,266.38, for approved special projects and internal departmental initiatives.

Attachment(s):
- Budget Amendment

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an appropriation of $45,266.38 in the Special Revenue Fund for Fire Department Operations. Funds were donated to the Fire Department:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Private Donations	$45,266.38

Appropriations:

AFD Operating Expenses	$45,266.38

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 24th day of February, 2026.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney