

CITY OF COLUMBUS
MONDAY- February 2, 2026

CITY HALL 7:00 P.M.

****ALL MEETINGS ARE RECORDED****

*** Notes an action required by Council**

1. ***MINUTES, APPROVED AS WRITTEN, WITH OR WITHOUT ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTIONS**

2. ***APPROVAL OF CLAIMS**

3. **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

1. Chief CVFD

2. Police Chief

3. Public Works Director

4. City Attorney

5. City Clerk

6. City Court

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS**

5. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS**

6. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

*Approval of the funding request from the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$12,500.00 for the Visitor Center

*Approval of Work Change Directive No. 4 for the Heritage Well Project

*Approval of RFP for Cellular Advanced Metering Infrastructure System

9. **COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

10. ***ADJOURN**

*****All public comment will be limited to 3 minutes***
unless prior approval is granted by the Mayor**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD January 20, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL PRESENT OFFICERS PRESENT	The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Joe Morse began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. The council persons present were Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault and Dannen Johannes. Staff members present were Fire Chief Rich Cowger, Public Works Director Peyton Brookshire, City Attorney Ryan Addis (via zoom), and Clerk-Treasurer Cherrie McAlexander.
SIDELINE IN PERSON	Kirk Ivankovich
PUBLIC HEARING	NONE
REGULAR MINUTES APPROVED	<p>The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the December 15, 2025, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Dennis Holten; roll call for vote, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Rick White abstained from voting. Motion passed.</p> <p>The mayor asked the council if they had reviewed the minutes of the January 5, 2026, regular meeting, and if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, seconded by Cole Waltner; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, all yea votes. Rick White abstained from voting. Motion passed.</p>
SHUT OFF LIST	The shut-off list for the month of January 2026 was presented to the Council. Tim Mayo made a motion to approve the list as presented, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
APPROVAL OF CLAIMS	The claims list for the 1 st half of January was presented to the Council. Rick White made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Tim Mayo; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.
PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS	NONE
FIRE DEPT.	The Fire Chief was present and provided a report. Tim Mayo asked about the wreck one of the fire trucks was in and whose insurance would be handling it. Rich responded that the person who hit the truck insurance would be responsible. Rick White asked if the person had been cited. Rich stated no but he will be soon.
POLICE	The Police Chief was not present but did provide a report.
PUBLIC WORKS	The Public Works Director was present and provided a report. Peyton let the council know that the city was awarded the Tim Sheehy funding bill. The city will receive \$825,000.00 funding for the 12 th Street Sewer Project.
ATTORNEY	The City Attorney was present and provided a report.
CITY JUDGE	The City Judge was not present and did not provide a report.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
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CLERK-TREASURER	The Clerk-Treasurer was present and provided a report. Dennis Holten and Tim Mayo congratulated Cherrie on her appointment to the Board of Directors for MMIA.
DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND EX PARTE COMMUNICATION	Dennis Holten stated that he had a discussion with Peyton on the Concession Stand improvements.
PUBLIC COMMENT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE
COMMITTEE REPORTS-	Mayor mentioned that there will be a Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on January 29 th at 10am at City Hall to discuss the upcoming season at Granite Peak. Tim Mayo asked about the PAWS organization that has been running the concession stand for the last few years. He wanted to know if they would be contributing to the improvements at the concession stand. Cherrie explained that the city would install water to the building and PAWS would be responsible for any interior building improvements.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	NONE
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Mayor announced the 2026 Committee designations and asked the council if everyone was ok with the committees they were assigned to. All responded yes.</p> <p>Approval of Resolution 892-2026 adopting the Public Records Request Policy. Tim made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Kelly Ault. Kelly asked if this was something new. Cherrie explained that the city did not currently have a policy on record requests and that there was new legislation on this matter and thought it was time that the city adopted a policy. Cole Waltner asked why it was necessary when the MCA already has policy on record requests. Ryan Addis explained that even with MCA the city needs to establish a policy to set the charges that will incur when some request records. Cole also asked where all the city records are housed. Cherrie stated that she just found out recently that there are records housed at the Museum in town but per MCA all records should be housed with the city. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of the Special Use Permit for Drivin for a Cure Car Show at Railroad Park on August 15, 2026. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Rick White; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of the appointment of Kirk Ivankovich to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term of 3 years. Dennis Holen made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Kelly Ault; roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed. Kirk stated that he had a postcard he found in his house to give to the museum.</p>

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
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	<p>Approval of the revisions made to the City Procurement Policy. Cole Waltner made a motion to approve the revisions, seconded by Kelly Ault; roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of the Professional Service Agreement between the City and The Grounds Guys in the amount of \$24,924.21 for mowing of the Cemetery. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Rick White. Dennis asked how much the price increased from the last agreement. Peyton stated the increase was 4%. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Construction Agreement between the City and Heart 7 in the amount of \$7,927.50 for installation of water and holding tank at the Concession Building at Granite Peak Park. Dennis made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Cole Waltner. Rick asked if these improvements were a one-time thing. Peyton stated yes. Tim asked if this improvement would be tied into the sewer system. Peyton stated no. Peyton explained that this would be holding tank. In the future there might be sewer brought to the park if restroom facilities were built. Dennis mentioned the city's current Capital Improvement Plan and putting restroom facilities at the park is in the plan. Kelly asked where the money would come from for this project. Cherrie stated it would be general fund money that has been earmarked for parks. Roll call for vote, Rick White, Dennis Holten, Tim Mayo, Cole Waltner, Kelly Ault, Danen Johannes, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p> <p>Approval of Task order 34 from Interstate Engineering for the completion of a new Capital Improvement Plan for the City. Current CIP expires June 2026. Option 1 in the amount of \$32,500.00 or Option 2 in the amount of \$59,400.00. Dennis Holten made a motion to approve Option 1, seconded by Rick White. Dennis asked what the differences were between options 1 and 2. Cherrie explained the differences. Roll call for vote, Danen Johannes, Kelly Ault, Cole Waltner, Tim Mayo, Dennis Holten, Rick White, all yea votes. Motion passed.</p>
<p>COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA</p>	<p>The mayor mentioned a meeting that he had with the county commissioners to discuss the county and city financially supporting the visitor center. The county commissioners agreed to fund \$12,500 per year if the city would match that amount. Cole asked if the visitor center would stay at its current location. The mayor said yes. Kelly asked about the grant that the visitor center currently receives. The mayor stated that there would be something on the agenda for approval at the next council meeting.</p> <p>Kirk Ivankovich welcomed the mayor and thanked all the staff and volunteers that help in the community.</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Joe Morse requested a Motion to Adjourn. Rick White made the motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. seconded by Dennis Holton, roll call all yea votes.</p>

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS,
COLUMBUS, MONTANA HELD January 20, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.

JOE MORSE, MAYOR

CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER, CLERK-TREASURER



Columbus Police Department
408 E 1ST AVE N
P.O. BOX 549
Columbus, MT 59019-0549

Aaron A Uecker, Chief of Police
(406) 322-5313 Ext. 110
Email: chiefofpolice@townofcolumbus.com

To: Columbus City Council
From: Chief Aaron Uecker
Subj: Monthly Report

Officer Jenkins had entered the academy and passed his first physical fitness test. Recruits are given 6:30 to complete the obstacle course and he finished it at 4:31 so he's already representing the City well. As of this report (27 Jan) we are sitting at 305 Calls for the year, up from 159 last year at this time.

On 17 January Officer Jenkins was nearing the end of his shift, so he was patrolling the area of Town Pump and running plates and came across a Chevy Tahoe. Through further investigation he found out the registered owner had a drug-related warrant. He alerted Officer Hankins who arrived on scene, before finding the registered owner in Lucky Lil's. They then conducted a search incident to arrest and found the female to be in possession of suspected fentanyl. The female was transported and incarcerated on her warrants. Officer Hankins then seized the vehicle and applied for a search warrant. The warrant was signed and executed later that night. Several more pieces of paraphernalia and loaded syringes with more suspected fentanyl were seized. Felony Charges are pending.

Two vehicles went down over the weekend. Both minor repairs. Unit#002 for a headlight. Unit#6186 the defrost stopped working. The cost for both was just over \$300.

I am implementing a new policy regarding Awards/Merit, that I have attached to my report. This requires no approval on your end, just keeping you in the loop, since they will be presented during Council Meetings. This is a program that most agencies around the United States utilize, and I feel this could have been used several times since I've been with the City. There is even an award listed under (j) we can give to Citizens, which is also something we could've handed out a number of times over the last several years. We have both good officers/and citizens here in Columbus so this program will definitely get used.


Aaron Uecker

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a method of building officer morale through monitoring job performance.

POLICY:

The policy of the Department is to properly honor officers who perform meritorious service or acts of bravery.

PROCEDURE:

I. Awards

a. MEDAL OF HONOR:

- i. The Medal of Honor is the Columbus Police Department's highest honor and is awarded by the Chief of Police to officers who distinguish themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of police service. To be awarded the Medal of Honor, an officer would have performed an act displaying extreme courage and devotion to duty while consciously facing imminent peril and the risk of his/her own life. (Not limited to combat action)

1. *A posthumous award may be made to an individual who has lost his/her life under conditions where the officer endangered themselves in circumstances consistent with good police practices.*

- ii. Medal awarded.
- iii. Ribbon: 1/3 blue, 1/3 white, 1/3 red.
- iv. Certificate awarded.

b. MEDAL OF VALOR

- i. The Medal of Valor is the Columbus Police Department's second highest honor and is awarded by the Chief of Police for bravery and individual acts of heroism in the line of duty, though not above and beyond the normal demands of police service and in less hazardous conditions as is required for the Medal of Honor.

1. *The distinction between Medal of Honor service and Medal of Valor is made in the beyond the call of duty circumstance and in the degree of risk involved to the officer.*

- ii. Medal awarded.
- iii. Ribbon: 1/3 blue, 1/3 white, 1/3 red with silver "V" in middle
- iv. Certificate awarded.

c. POLICE STAR

- i. The Police Star is awarded by the Chief of Police for act(s) which results in the saving of a life, but which involves no personal danger to the officer

performing the act or may be awarded for an act involving operational risk to an officer which is performed above and beyond the call of duty.

- ii. Medal awarded.
- iii. Ribbon: 5 Colors – Blue/White/Blue/White/Blue.
- iv. Certificate awarded.

d. LIFE SAVING AWARD

- i. The Life Saving Award is presented by the Chief of Police for act(s) that directly contribute to saving or significantly prolonging human life.
- ii. Medal awarded.
- iii. Ribbon: White ribbon with Red cross in the middle.
- iv. Certificate awarded.

e. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

- i. The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded by the Chief of Police to any employee, commissioned or civilian, for exceptional performance in a duty of great responsibility or of critical importance to law enforcement. Such service shall be clearly above that normally expected and shall have contributed significantly to the success of a major project or field operation. Long and faithful service alone shall not be sufficient but may be a consideration.
- ii. Medal awarded.
- iii. Ribbon: 1/3 blue, 1/3 white, 1/3 blue.
- iv. Certificate awarded.

f. PURPLE HEART MEDAL

- i. The Purple Heart is awarded by the Chief of Police to an individual who is seriously or critically injured while performing a heroic and/or police action. The award is limited to those cases resulting from attack by an assailant, personal combat, or the performance of an act of valor.
- ii. Medal awarded.
- iii. Ribbon: 1/8" white edge on each side with purple center.
- iv. Certificate awarded.

g. SUPERIOR TACTICS and RESPONSE (STAR) MEDAL:

- i. The STAR Medal is awarded by the Chief of Police to an individual who, through exceptional tactics, acts to successfully resolve a critical incident, thereby promoting a culture of safety and professionalism to which all officers should aspire. The tactics displayed or performed must be conspicuously effective and above the standard expected.

1. Exceptional tactics include the utilization of proper tactics and appropriate force which mitigated the level of danger and which were directly responsible for preventing the incident from escalating to a deadly force situation.
- ii. Medal awarded.
- iii. Ribbon: Cut in half diagonally with 2 colors Blue/Silver.
- iv. Certificate awarded.

h. MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL:

- i. The Meritorious Service Medal is awarded by the Chief of Police to any employee, commissioned or civilian, for continuous exemplary service, or for exceptional job performance similar to, but falls short of the criteria of the Distinguished Service Medal.
- ii. Medal awarded.
- iii. Ribbon: 1/3 red, 1/3 white, 1/3 red.
- iv. Certificate awarded.

i. ACHIEVMENT AWARD:

- i. Awarded to any employee of the Department or neighboring agency, commissioned or civilian, who performs an act that exemplifies significant achievement, proposes a new or modified method, procedure or system that improves efficiency, operations, service to the public, working conditions, morale, job safety, public relations, and reductions in costs or eliminates waste. This award is designed to recognize those individuals who have served the Department and have played a prominent role in furthering the goals of the department.
- ii. Certificate awarded.

j. COMMUNITY HERO AWARD:

- i. *Recognition of Assistance to a Police Officer:* Awarded by the Department to a citizen who, without regard to their own safety, assisted a police officer who was in danger of bodily harm.
- ii. *Assistance to a Fellow Citizen:* Awarded by the Department as an expression of gratitude to a citizen who, without regard to their own safety, assisted a fellow citizen.
- iii. *Certificate of Award:* Awarded in recognition of valuable service to the City of Columbus and the Department.
 1. Anyone can make a recommendation to the Chief of Police directly who will then cause the matter to be investigated.
 2. These awards presented in an appropriate manner by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

k. OFFICIAL COMMEDATION

i. Selection for Awards:

1. Initiation of awards:
 - a. All officers will be consciously looking for those officers deserving of awards.
 - b. A Recommendation for Award form is filled out by the officer who is recommending the award.
 - c. The completed Recommendation for Award is turned in to the Sergeant /Chief of the officer being nominated.
 - d. The request for an award must be initiated within one year of the event to be awarded.
2. Procedure:
 - a. Sergeant:
 - b. Carefully investigate the circumstances surrounding the award recommendation.
 - c. Prepare a written description of the incident or circumstances for which the award is recommended.
 - d. Forward the description, request, and his or her recommendation to the Chief within 30 days.
 - e. The Chief will respond in writing within 30 days.
3. Individual awards for the following awards are presented at the City Council meeting by the Chief of Police or designee:
 - a. Medal of Honor.
 - b. Medal of Valor.
 - c. Police Star.
 - d. Distinguished Service Medal.
 - e. Purple Heart Medal.
 - f. Meritorious Service Medal
 - g. Community Hero Award
 - h. Any other award so deemed by the Chief of Police.
4. Other awards will be presented by the Chief of Police or designee at a voluntary awards ceremony or appropriate shift briefing.
5. A copy of the award will be placed in the officer's personnel file.
6. Written confirmation of the award is forwarded to the recommending officer
7. Wearing of Awards:
 - a. Order of Precedence: Awards given by the Department shall have precedence over other agency awards. Higher ribbons are worn to the left of and above lesser ribbons from the uniform center chest area. Ribbons are worn in a row of three

unless an officer has fewer ribbons. However, the Medal of Honor ribbon may be worn above the other ribbons as a solo ribbon.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

February 2nd Report to Council

Water

- ❖ **As staff continue routine service line repairs, we are increasingly encountering deficiencies in the City's main water valving network. In multiple locations, valves are either inoperable or spaced too far apart to effectively isolate small segments of main. As a result, otherwise minor repairs are requiring emergency shutdowns over a much larger area than intended, affecting additional customers and increasing both labor time and service disruption. These conditions reflect legacy system design and age, not isolated failures. Each repair is therefore serving as both maintenance and reconnaissance, revealing where valve placement and reliability no longer meet modern operational standards. This pattern underscores the need to incorporate systematic valve replacement and infill valve installation into future capital planning. Strategic valve improvements will allow the City to isolate smaller zones, reduce outage footprints, improve response time, and materially increase system resiliency during both routine maintenance and emergency events.**
- ❖ **Work Change Directive #4 for the new well. Order is to cease operations until DEQ approval of Schedule II of the new well plan.**
- ❖ **I am requesting council approval for the RFP V3 for Meter System Upgrades.**

Sewer

- ❖ **See email and response from the Energy and Technology Interim Committee regarding BNSF and the 12th Street Sewer project.**

Streets/Drainage

- ❖ **Nothing new to report.**

Parks

- ❖ **I would also like Council to consider a seasonal closure of Itch Kep Pe Park to vehicular access starting next season. This area has become an ongoing operational challenge for both Public Works and the Police Department due to repeated illegal dumping and extended unauthorized stays. Since November, City crews have removed significant quantities of dumped material on five separate occasions. Each incident requires staff time, equipment use, and unplanned diversion of resources from core maintenance work. Under this proposal, the park would remain open for pedestrian access but be closed to vehicles during the off-season. A seasonal closure would provide a practical, enforceable tool to reduce dumping, limit unauthorized occupancy, and protect City resources during periods of low recreational use.**

Other

- ❖ **I would like to get together and have a solid waste committee meeting to discuss some issues we are currently facing. I would like to get some input from the committee on some possible language additions and amendments to Chapter 08.16. I am confident that a few minor language changes and additions can clear up some of the grey areas open to misinterpretation.**

From: Director <director@townofcolumbus.com>

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 2:31 PM

To: "Edwards, Becky" <Becky.Edwards@legmt.gov>, "Zolnikov, Daniel" <Daniel.Zolnikov@legmt.gov>

Subject: Municipal Infrastructure Impacts from Railroad Utility Accommodation Policies

Members of the Energy and Technology Interim Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Columbus to share a current, real-world example of the challenges small Montana communities face when essential public infrastructure must cross railroad right-of-way.

Attached is a memorandum from our engineering firm regarding the City's 12th Street Sewer Crossing Project. This project will replace a failing uncased, cast-iron sewer main underneath BNSF RR ROW that was originally permitted by the Northern Pacific Railway Company in 1961. The replacement project was fully designed and permitted under the regulatory framework in place at the time. Notably, the original railroad crossing was approved in 2023 when the corridor was under the control of Montana Rail Link. Since that time, operational control has been transferred to BNSF, and a new utility accommodation policy has been implemented. Under this new policy, the same crossing now carries materially different requirements with no alternative path for compliance. As a result, this single policy change is projected to increase the project cost by approximately \$200,000 to \$280,000, exclusive of added delay and redesign costs.

For a community of our size, that magnitude of unplanned expenses is not an inconvenience—it is a project-altering event. There is no alternate alignment. The sewer must cross the railroad. The City has complied with every technical and regulatory requirement yet remains subject to unilateral conditions imposed by a private entity that controls the only viable corridor. Compounding this impact, the city has been approved and awarded approximately \$825,000 in congressionally directed spending for this project through Senator Sheehy's latest funding bill. These funds were pursued based on the project's previously established scope and cost. The new railroad-driven requirements now threaten to erode that funding's effectiveness and, in practical terms, shift federal investment away from construction and into compliance costs imposed by a private right-of-way holder. This places the City at risk of losing both time and funding momentum in addition to risking the public health and safety in the event the crossing fails prior to the city securing adequate funds to replace the compromised sewer crossing. A failure would result in approximately 25% of the city's residents and businesses being without sewer service until such time as emergency measures can be implemented. This is not an isolated engineering problem. It is a structural issue that places small municipalities in an untenable position: obligated to deliver public health infrastructure, but without any proportional leverage or predictability when a railroad crossing is involved. The result is delayed projects, escalated costs, and increased financial strain on ratepayers who have no role in these negotiations.

The attached memorandum offers a clear, real-world illustration of how this imbalance affects small municipalities in practice. I respectfully urge the Committee to consider this example as it evaluates potential statutory or policy solutions. Small communities need a framework that ensures cooperation, transparency, and proportionality when public infrastructure intersects with railroad property.

We are not seeking to diminish legitimate property rights or safety standards. We are seeking a workable path that allows Montana's cities and towns to build and maintain essential infrastructure without facing open-ended and unpredictable penalties simply because a railroad crossing is unavoidable.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this issue.

Peyton Brookshire
Director of Public Works
City of Columbus
1258 E 1st Ave. S
Phone: 406-322-4424 Mobile: 406-696-0636
Web: www.townofcolumbus.com
Email: director@townofcolumbus.com



Thank you for this information, Peyton, and I am certain I speak for both Chair Zolnikov and myself when I say we are terribly sorry and disturbed to hear about this vital sewer issue for Columbus. Chair Zolnikov has passed along your email to the rest of our committee, and we will be discussing this issue again as a whole. I'm certain you are already doing this, but please share your experiences with Kelly Lynch from Montana League of Cities and Towns (cc'd here). Kelly has been doing a wonderful job of providing Montana communities support and resources regarding this issue.

Chair Zolnikov and I will be back in touch with you soon, and again, thank you for keeping us apprised of challenges you are facing. Please send along any updates as you have them. More soon, and again, thank you.

Kindest regards-

Representative Becky Edwards
HD61 Bozeman
406.570.9427 (cell)



February 2, 2026

**REPORT FROM THE CITY CLERK-TREASURER
CHERRIE L MCALEXANDER**

1. The city has 2 open positions on the Board of Adjustors, 1 position on the City-County Planning board and 1 position on the Airport Board. All these positions are appointed by the city council. If you know of anyone that might be interested in serving on any of these boards, please let me know.
2. The city attorney has advised the city of the need to assign city council members with a city issued email. These emails will be assigned to each council member's position and will follow the seat when there are new council members. Email addresses will be (example) CouncilWard1A@townofcolumbus.com, CouncilWard1B@townofcolumbus.com, etc. These emails will be what all council activity will need to be handled through. Once the official emails are created, I will reach out to each of you individually with help setting up and temporary passwords.
3. Please see attached letter from the auditors. There are new audit standards between the auditors and the governing body and the attached letter is part of the new standard.

Please feel free to call, email or stop by my office anytime with questions or concerns

OLNESS & ASSOCIATES, P. C.

CURTIS D. WYSS, CPA

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

15 AVANTA WAY, SUITE 1
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102
(406) 698.0022

January 9, 2026

To the City Council
City of Columbus
Columbus, Montana

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Columbus for the year ended June 30, 2025. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated July 1, 2025. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City of Columbus are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We noted no transactions entered into by the City of Columbus during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the government's financial statements were: the depreciable lives and estimated residual value of capital assets, those used to determine the liability for compensated absences in accordance with GASB Statement No. 101 (including the current portion), future retiree health insurance costs, the government's proportionate share of the state retirement systems' unfunded liability, deferred inflows/outflows related to pensions, and GASB #87 assumptions. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. The attached schedule summarizes material and immaterial misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures that were corrected by management. The additional attached schedule summarizes uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. The uncorrected misstatements or the matters underlying them could potentially cause future period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though, in our judgment, such uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements under audit.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated January 9, 2026.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the City of Columbus' financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the City of Columbus' auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Basis for Qualified Opinions

Management has not recorded the total pension liability and related expense required by GASB Statement No. 73 in the governmental activities. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that total pension liability and related expense be recorded, which would increase liabilities, decrease net position and change expenses in the governmental activities. The amount by which this departure would affect liabilities, net position and expenses has not been determined.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Required Supplementary Information (RSI), that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, which accompanies the financial statements but is not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the governing body and management of the City of Columbus and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

O'Neal & Associates, PC

Billings, Montana

Client: 2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS
Engagement: 2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS
Period Ending: 6/30/2025
Trial Balance: TB
Workpaper: Adjusting Journal Entries Report - 2

Account	Description	Ref	Debit	Credit
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 7				
ELIMINATE WARRANTS PAYABLE				
7910-000-000-201000-000	Warrants Payable		218.00	
7930-000-000-201000-000	Warrants Payable		153,923.00	
7910-000-000-101001-000	CASH-PRIMARY CHECKING (YS)			218.00
7930-000-000-101001-000	CASH-PRIMARY CHECKING (YS)			153,923.00
Total			154,141.00	154,141.00

Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 8				
RECORD ENTERPRISE DEPRECIATION				
5210-000-000-430510-830	Administration		188,368.00	
5310-000-000-430610-830	Administration		184,572.00	
5410-000-000-430810-830	Administration		2,730.00	
5210-000-000-182100-000	Allowance for Depreciation - Buildings			5,000.00
5210-000-000-184100-000	Allowance for Depreciation			173,356.00
5210-000-000-186100-000	Allowance for Depreciation - Machinery & Equipment			10,012.00
5310-000-000-182100-000	Allowance for Depreciation - Buildings			2,500.00
5310-000-000-184100-000	Allowance for Depreciation			177,146.00
5310-000-000-186100-000	Allowance for Depreciation - Machinery & Equipment			4,926.00
5410-000-000-182100-000	Allowance for Depreciation - Buildings			2,065.00
5410-000-000-184100-000	Allowance for Depreciation			665.00
5410-000-000-186100-000	Allowance for Depreciation - Machinery & Equipment			
Total			375,670.00	375,670.00

Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 9				
GASB 68 On-Behalf				
1000-000-000-410000-199	General Government		1,637.00	
1000-000-000-420000-199	Public Safety		85,625.00	
1000-000-000-430000-199	Public Works		1,647.00	
1000-000-000-440000-199	Public Health		389.00	
1000-000-000-460000-199	Culture and Recreation		1,699.00	
1000-000-000-334100-199	State aide general government-GASB 68			1,637.00
1000-000-000-334200-199	State aide public safety-GASB 68			85,625.00
1000-000-000-334300-199	State aide public works-GASB 68			1,647.00
1000-000-000-334400-199	State aide public health-GASB 68			389.00
1000-000-000-334600-199	State aide culture and recreation-GASB 68			1,699.00
Total			90,997.00	90,997.00

Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 10				
Enterprise Funds GASB 68				
5210-000-000-160000-000	Restricted Assets		5,593.00	
5210-000-000-210000-000	OTHER SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES		1,007.00	
5210-000-000-430510-146	Administration		7,824.00	
5310-000-000-160000-000	Restricted Assets		1,540.00	
5310-000-000-210000-000	OTHER SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES		499.00	
5410-000-000-210000-000	OTHER SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES		807.00	
5410-000-000-239500-000	Net Pension Liability-GASB68		7,869.00	
5210-000-000-239500-000	Net Pension Liability-GASB68			13,603.00
5210-000-000-334300-000	State Aid-GASB 68			821.00
5310-000-000-239500-000	Net Pension Liability-GASB68			1,633.00
5310-000-000-334300-000	State Aid-GASB 68			280.00
5310-000-000-430610-146	Administration			126.00
5410-000-000-160000-000	Restricted Assets			36.00

Client: 2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS
Engagement: 2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS
Period Ending: 6/30/2025
Trial Balance: TB
Workpaper: Adjusting Journal Entries Report - 2

Account	Description	Ref	Debit	Credit
5410-000-000-334300-000	State Aid-GASB 68			195.00
5410-000-000-430810-146	Administration			8,445.00
Total			25,139.00	25,139.00

Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 14
Enterprise comp absences

5210-000-000-430510-111	Administration		4,199.00	
5310-000-000-430610-111	Administration		1,406.00	
5410-000-000-430810-111	Administration		835.00	
5210-000-000-239000-000	Compensated Absences Payable			4,199.00
5310-000-000-239000-000	Compensated Absences Payable			1,406.00
5410-000-000-239000-000	Compensated Absences Payable			835.00
Total			6,440.00	6,440.00

Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 16

ADJUST PREPAID HEALTH INSURANCE ACCOUNT AND CORRECT PAYROLL CLEARING FUND

1000-000-000-101000-000	Cash/Investments - Unrestricted		2,447.00	
7910-000-000-212240-000	Group Insurance		21,640.00	
7910-000-000-212247-000	FLEX PLAN		594.00	
1000-000-000-362000-000	Other Miscellaneous Revenues			2,447.00
7910-000-000-101001-000	CASH-PRIMARY CHECKING (YS)			2,447.00
7910-000-000-141000-000	Prepaid Expenses			19,634.00
7910-000-000-212248-000	FLEX ADMIN FEE			49.00
7910-000-000-212250-000	P.E.R.S			104.00
Total			24,681.00	24,681.00

Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 17

ADJUST TAXES RECEIVABLE TO AGREE TO COUNTY TREASURER

1000-000-000-113230-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2023		77,996.00	
1000-000-000-114240-000	NET PROCEEDS 2024		27,434.00	
1000-000-000-115230-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2023		6,616.00	
1000-000-000-115250-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2025		7,094.00	
1000-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real		227.00	
2190-000-000-113230-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2023		2,436.00	
2190-000-000-115200-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2020		192.00	
2190-000-000-115230-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2023		66.00	
2190-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real		9.00	
2190-000-000-223600-000	Deferred Revenue - Net Proceeds		7,703.00	
2260-000-000-115230-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2023		75.00	
2260-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real		12.00	
2350-000-000-113230-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2023		823.00	
2350-000-000-115240-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2024		1.00	
2350-000-000-115250-000	TAXES REC-PERS		65.00	
2350-000-000-223600-000	Deferred Revenue - Net Proceeds		2,620.00	
2370-000-000-113230-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2023		5,393.00	
2370-000-000-115230-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2023		255.00	
2370-000-000-115250-000	TAXES REC - PERS		427.00	
2370-000-000-223600-000	Deferred Revenue - Net Proceeds		17,110.00	
2438-000-000-118230-000	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS RECEIVABLE 2023		25.00	
2438-000-000-118240-000	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS RECEIVABLE 2024		124.00	
2443-000-000-223300-000	Deferred Revenue - Special Assessments		1,100.00	
2444-000-000-118240-000	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS RECEIVABLE 2024		1,100.00	
1000-000-000-113190-000	Taxes Rec - REAL 2019			518.00
1000-000-000-113200-000	Taxes Rec. - REAL 2020			347.00
1000-000-000-113210-000	Taxes Rec. - REAL 2021			581.00

Client: 2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS
Engagement: 2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS
Period Ending: 6/30/2025
Trial Balance: TB
Workpaper: Adjusting Journal Entries Report - 2

Account	Description	Ref	Debit	Credit
1000-000-000-113220-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2022			1,007.00
1000-000-000-113240-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2024			75,770.00
1000-000-000-115240-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2024			7,101.00
1000-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal			6,609.00
1000-000-000-223600-000	Deferred Revenue - Net Proceeds			27,434.00
2190-000-000-113190-000	Taxes Rec - REAL 2019			27.00
2190-000-000-113200-000	Taxes Rec. - REAL 2020			14.00
2190-000-000-113210-000	Taxes Rec. - REAL 2021			12.00
2190-000-000-113220-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2022			11.00
2190-000-000-113240-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2024			2,382.00
2190-000-000-114240-000	NET PROCEEDS 2024			7,703.00
2190-000-000-115240-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2024			159.00
2190-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal			98.00
2260-000-000-113220-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2022			12.00
2260-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal			75.00
2350-000-000-113240-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2024			810.00
2350-000-000-114240-000	NET PROCEEDS 2024			2,620.00
2350-000-000-115230-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2023			2.00
2350-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real			13.00
2350-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal			64.00
2370-000-000-113190-000	Taxes Rec - REAL 2019			14.00
2370-000-000-113200-000	Taxes Rec. - REAL 2020			14.00
2370-000-000-113210-000	Taxes Rec. - REAL 2021			18.00
2370-000-000-113220-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2022			40.00
2370-000-000-113240-000	TAXES RECEIVABLE REAL 2024			5,291.00
2370-000-000-114240-000	NET PROCEEDS 2024			17,110.00
2370-000-000-115240-000	Taxes Receivable (Personal) 2024			175.00
2370-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real			16.00
2370-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal			507.00
2438-000-000-118190-000	Special Assessments Rec. 2019			67.00
2438-000-000-118200-000	Special Assessments Rec. 2020			18.00
2438-000-000-118210-000	Special Assessments Rec. 2021			33.00
2438-000-000-118220-000	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS RECEIVABLE 2022			30.00
2438-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real			1.00
2443-000-000-118240-000	SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS RECEIVABLE 2024			1,100.00
2444-000-000-223300-000	Deferred Revenue - Special Assessments			1,100.00
Total			158,903.00	158,903.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 18				
GASB #87 LEASE ADJUSTMENT				
4030-000-000-225000-000	Deferred Inflows - Leases		1,213.00	
4030-000-000-361010-000	Land Rental		261.00	
4030-000-000-127500-000	Lease Receivable			351.00
4030-000-000-371010-000	NOW Account Interest			1,123.00
Total			1,474.00	1,474.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 19				
ENTERPRISE OPEB ADJUSTMENT				
5210-000-000-430510-143	Administration		4,904.00	
5310-000-000-430610-143	Administration		1,673.00	
5410-000-000-238000-000	Installment Purchase Contracts(OPEB)		2,978.00	
5210-000-000-238000-000	Installment Purchase Contracts(OPEB)			4,904.00
5310-000-000-238000-000	Installment Purchase Contracts(OPEB)			1,673.00
5410-000-000-430810-143	Administration			2,978.00
Total			9,555.00	9,555.00

Client: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
Engagement: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
Period Ending: **6/30/2025**
Trial Balance: **TB**
Workpaper: **Adjusting Journal Entries Report - 2**

Account	Description	Ref	Debit	Credit
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 21				
UNBOOKED FY 2025 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE				
1000-000-000-420400-390	Fire Protection and Control		25,000.00	
1000-000-000-460445-356	Swimming Pools		1,140.00	
5210-000-000-188000-000	Construction Work in Progress		473.00	
5310-000-000-188000-000	Construction Work in Progress		449,927.00	
5310-000-000-430610-352	Sewer Administration		1,288.00	
1000-000-000-202000-000	Accounts Payable			26,140.00
5210-000-000-202000-000	Accounts Payable			473.00
5310-000-000-202000-000	Accounts Payable			451,215.00
Total			477,828.00	477,828.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 22				
CAPITALIZE REMAINING PORTION OF STORM DRAIN PROJECT				
1000-000-000-430235-940	Storm Drainage		34,967.00	
2820-000-000-430200-940	Road And Street Services		143,540.00	
2821-000-000-430200-940	Capital Outlay		100,000.00	
1000-000-000-430235-356	Storm Drainage			34,967.00
2820-000-000-430200-360	Road And Street Services			143,540.00
2821-000-000-430200-390	Road And Street Services			100,000.00
Total			278,507.00	278,507.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 23				
CAPITALIZE P-WORKS GENERATOR				
1000-000-000-430200-940	Road And Street Services		7,650.00	
1000-000-000-430200-200	Road And Street Services			7,650.00
Total			7,650.00	7,650.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 24				
RECOGNIZE PREVIOUSLY UNSPENT ARPA REVENUE				
2991-000-000-216010-000	Revenue Collected in Advance		274,663.00	
2991-000-000-331993-000	ARPA - Local Recov Funds			274,663.00
Total			274,663.00	274,663.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 25				
ADJUST DEBT BALANCES TO ACTUAL				
5210-000-000-205200-000	Matured Interest Payable		930.00	
5210-000-000-231300-000	Bonds Payable		18,000.00	
5210-000-000-235400-000	Notes/Loans/Intercap		53,000.00	
5310-000-000-101000-000	Cash/Investments - Unrestricted		76,104.00	
5310-000-000-205200-000	Matured Interest Payable		1,000.00	
5310-000-000-233000-000	Advance From _____ Fund		291,433.00	
5210-000-000-490100-610	GO Bonds			71,000.00
5210-000-000-490100-620	GO Bonds			930.00
5310-000-000-231300-000	Bonds Payable			104,469.00
5310-000-000-334000-000	State Grants			183,068.00
5310-000-000-490100-610	GO Bonds			80,000.00
5310-000-000-490100-620	GO Bonds			1,000.00
Total			440,467.00	440,467.00

Client: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
 Engagement: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
 Period Ending: **6/30/2025**
 Trial Balance: **TB**
 Workpaper: **Adjusting Journal Entries Report - 2**

Account	Description	Ref	Debit	Credit
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 26				
REVERSE FY 2024 A/R STILL ON THE BOOKS				
1000-000-000-362000-000	Other Miscellaneous Revenues		3,417.00	
5210-000-000-343023-000	Bulk and Irrigation Water Sales		6,014.00	
1000-000-000-122000-000	Accounts Receivable			3,417.00
5210-000-000-122001-000	Accounts Receivable - Bulk Water			6,014.00
Total			9,431.00	9,431.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 27				
CAPITALIZE NEW FENCE AT BASEBALL FIELD				
1000-000-000-460430-940	Parks		6,579.00	
1000-000-000-460430-360	Parks			6,579.00
Total			6,579.00	6,579.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 28				
CLOSE ENTERPRISE CAPITAL OUTLAY TO BALANCE SHEET, RECLASS BOND COUNSEL AND RECORD ARPA FUNDS SPENT ON UV PROJECT				
5210-000-000-184000-000	Improvements Other than Buildings		20,100.00	
5210-000-000-186000-000	Machinery and Equipment		8,862.00	
5210-000-000-188000-000	Construction Work in Progress		41,515.00	
5210-000-000-430550-390	Transmission and Distribution		11,629.00	
5310-000-000-188000-000	Construction Work in Progress		1,034,536.00	
5310-000-000-430630-390	Collection and Transmission		20,000.00	
5210-000-000-430550-930	Transmission and Distribution			61,614.00
5210-000-000-430550-940	Transmission and Distribution			20,492.00
5310-000-000-331000-000	Federal Grants			274,663.00
5310-000-000-430630-930	Collection and Transmission			779,536.00
5310-000-000-430630-940	Collection and Transmission			337.00
Total			1,136,642.00	1,136,642.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 29				
RECLASS NON-CAPITAL ENGINEERING, GIS AND COUNTY AIRPORT CONTRIBUTION				
1000-000-000-411100-390	Legal Services (City Attorney)		15,163.00	
1000-000-000-430200-390	Road And Street Services		11,485.00	
1000-000-000-430900-390	Cemetery Services		11,485.00	
1000-000-000-460430-390	Parks		11,485.00	
4020-000-000-460430-200	Parks		7,807.00	
4070-000-000-430310-397	Administration		25,545.00	
4100-000-000-460445-200	Swimming Pools		13,572.00	
1000-000-000-411100-904	Legal Services (City Attorney)			15,163.00
1000-000-000-430200-940	Road And Street Services			11,485.00
1000-000-000-430900-940	Cemetery Services			11,485.00
1000-000-000-460430-940	Parks			11,485.00
4020-000-000-334000-000	MDOT TA GRANT - PARKS			7,807.00
4070-000-000-430300-930	Airport			25,545.00
4100-000-000-460445-929	Swimming Pools			13,572.00
Total			96,542.00	96,542.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 30				
RECLASS RV #105043 - MDOT HIGHWAY 78 REIMB				
1000-000-000-132000-000	Due From Government		17,242.00	
1000-000-000-334000-000	MDOT TA Grant			17,242.00
Total			17,242.00	17,242.00

Client: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
 Engagement: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
 Period Ending: **6/30/2025**
 Trial Balance: **TB**
 Workpaper: **Adjusting Journal Entries Report - 2**

Account	Description	Ref	Debit	Credit
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 31				
GRANT ACCRUALS FOR UV AND WATER WELL PROJECTS				
5210-000-000-132000-000	Due From Government		12,000.00	
5310-000-000-132000-000	Due From Government		369,417.00	
5210-000-000-331000-000	Federal Grants			12,000.00
5310-000-000-271500-000	PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT			86,545.00
5310-000-000-331000-000	Federal Grants			94,300.00
5310-000-000-334000-000	State Grants			188,572.00
Total			381,417.00	381,417.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 32				
ALLOCATE GIS PROJECT TO WATER/SEWER AND GENERAL IN PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF VALUE/BENEFIT				
1000-000-000-101000-000	Cash/Investments - Unrestricted		19,902.00	
1000-000-000-360000-000	Miscellaneous Revenues		2,997.00	
5210-000-000-101000-000	Cash/Investments - Unrestricted		3,212.00	
5310-000-000-430610-352	Sewer Administration		23,114.00	
1000-000-000-430200-390	Road And Street Services			7,633.00
1000-000-000-430900-390	Cemetery Services			7,633.00
1000-000-000-460430-390	Parks			7,633.00
5210-000-000-430550-390	Transmission and Distribution			3,212.00
5310-000-000-101000-000	Cash/Investments - Unrestricted			23,114.00
Total			49,225.00	49,225.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 33				
FY 2025 PORTION OF CLAIM #126522				
1000-000-000-430900-390	Cemetery Services		1,275.00	
1000-000-000-440700-390	Insect & Pest Control		6,600.00	
1000-000-000-460430-390	Parks		1,500.00	
1000-000-000-202000-000	Accounts Payable			9,375.00
Total			9,375.00	9,375.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 34				
PPA FOR INCONSISTENT TREATMENT OF DISPOSAL FEES				
5410-000-000-271500-000	PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT		26,234.00	
5410-000-000-430830-390	Collection			24,633.00
5410-000-000-430840-390	Disposal			1,601.00
Total			26,234.00	26,234.00
Adjusting Journal Entries JE # 35				
GASB 101 IMPLEMENTATION FOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS				
5210-000-000-239000-000	Compensated Absences Payable		13.00	
5210-000-000-271500-000	PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT		2,914.00	
5310-000-000-271500-000	PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT		958.00	
5410-000-000-271500-000	PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT		1,840.00	
5210-000-000-430510-111	Administration			2,927.00
5310-000-000-430610-111	Administration			958.00
5410-000-000-430810-111	Administration			1,840.00
Total			5,725.00	5,725.00

Client: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
Engagement: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
Period Ending: **6/30/2025**
Trial Balance: **TB**
Workpaper: **GASB 34 Entries Report**

Account	Description	Debit	Credit
GASB 34 Entries JE # 1			
Adjust deferred revenue to full accrual			
1000-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real	32,604.00	
1000-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal	6,397.00	
2190-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real	1,012.00	
2190-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal	198.00	
2260-000-000-311010-000	REAL PROPERTY TAX	14.00	
2350-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real	337.00	
2350-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal	65.00	
2370-000-000-223100-000	Deferred Revenue - Real	2,224.00	
2370-000-000-223200-000	Deferred Revenue - Personal	436.00	
2438-000-000-223300-000	Deferred Revenue - Special Assessments	1,835.00	
2439-000-000-223300-000	Deferred Revenue - Special Assessments	222.00	
2440-000-000-223300-000	Deferred Revenue - Special Assessments	170.00	
2443-000-000-223300-000	Deferred Revenue - Special Assessments	88.00	
2444-000-000-223300-000	Deferred Revenue - Special Assessments	92.00	
1000-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		29,155.00
1000-000-000-311010-000	REAL PROPERTY TAX		9,846.00
2190-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		664.00
2190-000-000-311010-000	REAL PROPERTY TAX		546.00
2260-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		14.00
2350-000-000-311010-000	REAL PROPERTY TAX		402.00
2370-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		768.00
2370-000-000-311010-000	REAL PROPERTY TAX		1,892.00
2438-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		1,453.00
2438-000-000-363000-000	Special Assessments		382.00
2439-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		147.00
2439-000-000-363000-000	Special Assessments		75.00
2440-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		27.00
2440-000-000-363000-000	Special Assessments		143.00
2443-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		34.00
2443-000-000-363000-000	Special Assessments		54.00
2444-000-000-270000-001	BEG BAL ADJ DEF REV GASB 34		92.00
2444-000-000-363000-000	Special Assessments		
Total		45,694.00	45,694.00

GASB 34 Entries JE # 2

Reclassify capital outlay for govt wide F/S and remove asstes disposed of.

1000-000-000-182000-001	BUILDINGS GASB 34	205,357.00	
1000-000-000-184000-001	IMPROVEMENTS GASB 34	102,312.00	
1000-000-000-184100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34	65,695.00	
1000-000-000-186000-001	MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT GASB 34	199,845.00	
1000-000-000-187000-001	INFRASTRUCTURE GASB 34	733,596.00	
2991-000-000-521000-820	TRANSFER OUT	274,663.00	
5310-000-000-331000-000	Federal Grants	274,663.00	
1000-000-000-184000-001	IMPROVEMENTS GASB 34		65,695.00
1000-000-000-188000-001	Construction in Progress		37,553.00
1000-000-000-411200-930	Facilities Administration (City Hall/City Shop)		100,900.00
1000-000-000-430200-940	Road And Street Services		10,019.00
1000-000-000-430235-940	Storm Drainage		34,967.00
1000-000-000-430900-940	Cemetery Services		2,369.00

Client: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
Engagement: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
Period Ending: **6/30/2025**
Trial Balance: **TB**
Workpaper: **GASB 34 Entries Report**

Account	Description	Debit	Credit
1000-000-000-460430-930	Parks		68,600.00
1000-000-000-460430-940	Parks		17,448.00
2500-000-000-430680-930	Storm Drain		370,000.00
2820-000-000-430200-940	Road And Street Services		143,540.00
2821-000-000-430200-940	Capital Outlay		100,000.00
2991-000-000-430640-940	Treatment and Disposal		274,663.00
4020-000-000-460430-930	Parks		100,432.00
4060-000-000-420100-940	Law Enforcement Services		35,444.00
4100-000-000-460445-929	Swimming Pools		40,857.00
4175-000-000-411200-929	Facilities Administration (City Hall/City Shop)		42,838.00
4180-000-000-430200-940	Road And Street Services		136,143.00
5310-000-000-383000-000	Interfund Operating Transfer (Specify Fund)		274,663.00
Total		<u>1,856,131.00</u>	<u>1,856,131.00</u>
GASB 34 Entries JE # 3			
Record beg debt			
1000-000-000-270010-001	BEG BALANCE DEBT GAB 34	148,771.00	
1000-000-000-239000-001	COMPENSATED ABSENCES PAYABLE GASB 34		148,771.00
Total		<u>148,771.00</u>	<u>148,771.00</u>
GASB 34 Entries JE # 4			
Record change in comp absences			
1000-000-000-239000-001	COMPENSATED ABSENCES PAYABLE GASB 34	28,288.00	
1000-000-000-271500-000	PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT	21,415.00	
1000-000-000-440000-190	PUBLIC HEALTH COMP ABS ADJ GASB 34	608.00	
1000-000-000-460000-190	CULTURE AND RECREATION COMP ABS ADJ GASB 34	9,050.00	
1000-000-000-410000-190	GENERAL GOVT COMP ABS ADJ		746.00
1000-000-000-420000-190	PUBLIC SAFETY COMP ABS SDJ GASB 34		40,303.00
1000-000-000-430000-190	PUBLIC WORKS COMP ABS ADJ GASB 34		18,312.00
Total		<u>59,361.00</u>	<u>59,361.00</u>
GASB 34 Entries JE # 5			
Record beg capital assets			
1000-000-000-181000-001	LAND GASB 34	21,729.00	
1000-000-000-182000-001	BUILDINGS GASB 34	2,708,722.00	
1000-000-000-184000-001	IMPROVEMENTS GASB 34	309,313.00	
1000-000-000-186000-001	MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT GASB 34	1,171,638.00	
1000-000-000-187000-001	INFRASTRUCTURE GASB 34	5,529,129.00	
1000-000-000-188000-001	Construction in Progress	46,949.00	
1000-000-000-182100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34		1,383,914.00
1000-000-000-184100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34		217,803.00
1000-000-000-186100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34		723,013.00
1000-000-000-187100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34		1,438,985.00
1000-000-000-270005-001	BEG CAPITAL ASSETS ADJUSTMENT GASB 34		6,023,765.00
Total		<u>9,787,480.00</u>	<u>9,787,480.00</u>

Client: 2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS
Engagement: 2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS
Period Ending: 6/30/2025
Trial Balance: TB
Workpaper: GASB 34 Entries Report

Account	Description	Debit	Credit
GASB 34 Entries JE # 6			
Record depreciation			
1000-000-000-410000-830	GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEPRECIATION GASB 34	37,059.00	
1000-000-000-420000-830	PUBLIC SAFETY DEPRECIATION GASB 34	24,038.00	
1000-000-000-430000-830	PUBLIC WORKS DEPRECIATION GASB 34	238,130.00	
1000-000-000-440000-830	PUBLIC HEALTH DEPRECIATION GASB 34	584.00	
1000-000-000-460000-830	CULTURE AND RECREATION DEPRECIATION GASB 34	45,229.00	
1000-000-000-182100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34		81,850.00
1000-000-000-184100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34		10,524.00
1000-000-000-186100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34		64,599.00
1000-000-000-187100-001	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION GASB 34		188,067.00
Total		<u><u>345,040.00</u></u>	<u><u>345,040.00</u></u>
GASB 34 Entries JE # 11			
Govt Funds GASB 68			
1000-000-000-160000-001	Deferred outflows-GASB 68	171,369.00	
1000-000-000-270010-001	BEG BALANCE DEBT GAB 34	600,379.00	
1000-000-000-210000-001	Deferred inflows-GASB 68		16,112.00
1000-000-000-239500-001	Net pension liability-GASB 68		747,984.00
1000-000-000-410000-199	General Government		63.00
1000-000-000-420000-199	Public Safety		7,446.00
1000-000-000-430000-199	Public Works		63.00
1000-000-000-440000-199	Public Health		15.00
1000-000-000-460000-199	Culture and Recreation		65.00
Total		<u><u>771,748.00</u></u>	<u><u>771,748.00</u></u>
GASB 34 Entries JE # 20			
OPEB ADJUSTMENT			
1000-000-000-271000-000	FUND BALANCE	49,923.00	
1000-000-000-410000-143	OPEB Expense	1,527.00	
1000-000-000-420000-143	OPEB Expense	12,547.00	
1000-000-000-430000-143	OPEB Expense	4,071.00	
1000-000-000-440000-143	OPEB Expense	1,592.00	
1000-000-000-460000-143	OPEB Expense	4,089.00	
1000-000-000-238000-001	OPEB LIABILITY		73,749.00
Total		<u><u>73,749.00</u></u>	<u><u>73,749.00</u></u>

Client: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
 Engagement: **2076-01 - CITY OF COLUMBUS**
 Period Ending: **6/30/2025**
 Trial Balance: **TB**
 Workpaper: **Budgetary JEs Report**

Account	Description	Debit	Credit
Budgetary JEs JE # 13			
Reverse GABS 68 for budgetary reporting			
1000-000-000-334100-199	State aide general government-GASB 68	1,637.00	
1000-000-000-334200-199	State aide public safety-GASB 68	85,625.00	
1000-000-000-334300-199	State aide public works-GASB 68	1,647.00	
1000-000-000-334400-199	State aide public health-GASB 68	389.00	
1000-000-000-334600-199	State aide culture and recreation-GASB 68	1,699.00	
1000-000-000-410000-199	General Government		1,637.00
1000-000-000-420000-199	Public Safety		85,625.00
1000-000-000-430000-199	Public Works		1,647.00
1000-000-000-440000-199	Public Health		389.00
1000-000-000-460000-199	Culture and Recreation		1,699.00
Total		90,997.00	90,997.00



23 January 2026

Stillwater County Chamber of Commerce
595 N 9th St, Suite 50
Columbus, MT 59019

Columbus City Council
408 E 1st Ave N.
Columbus, MT 59019

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council

On behalf of the Stillwater County Chamber of Commerce, we would like to thank the City of Columbus for considering funding support in the amount of \$12,500 for the continued operation of the Stillwater County Visitor Center. We sincerely appreciate the City's willingness to partner with the Chamber in supporting tourism, economic development, and community engagement in our region.

If approved, the requested funding will be used specifically to cover the core operating costs of the Visitor Center. These funds will help offset overhead and staffing expenses, including rent, utilities, and labor. This support is critical to maintaining consistent hours of operation, providing reliable visitor services, and ensuring that the Visitor Center remains a welcoming and functional resource for residents, travelers, and local businesses.

In addition to requesting operational support, the Chamber has formally voted to invest its own funds into improving the Visitor Center. The Chamber's planned improvements include the implementation of a point-of-sale system, enhanced displays, updated signage, and the development of merchandise offerings. These investments are intended to modernize the Visitor Center, improve the visitor experience, and create opportunities for modest revenue generation.

The total scope of these improvements will be determined in alignment with the level of support received from the City. By combining municipal support with Chamber-led investment, we believe the Visitor Center can become a more sustainable, effective, and visible asset for the community.

Thank you again for your consideration and for your continued support. We look forward to working collaboratively to further strengthen this valuable community resource. If you should have any further questions or comments, please contact the Chamber by phone at (406) 322-4505 or email at admin@stillwatercountychamber.com.

Sincerely

The Stillwater County Chamber of Commerce

WORK CHANGE DIRECTIVE NO.: 4

Owner: City of Columbus
Engineer: Travis West, PE, RS
Contractor: Aaqua Drilling , Inc.
Project: Heritage Park South Well
Contract Name: City of Columbus Heritage Park-South Well Project-2025
Date Issued: 1/21/26

Owner's Project No.:
Engineer's Project No.:
Contractor's Project No.:

Effective Date of Work Change Directive: 12/15/25

Contractor is directed to proceed promptly with the following change(s):

Description: Contractor to stop work until Schedule II of project is approved by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Attachments:

Purpose for the Work Change Directive:

Stop project (stop contract days) until Schedule II of project is approved by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Directive to proceed promptly with the Work described herein, prior to agreeing to change in Contract Price and Contract Time, is issued due to:

Notes to User—Check one or both of the following

Non-agreement on pricing of proposed change. Necessity to proceed for schedule or other reasons.

Estimated Change in Contract Price and Contract Times (non-binding, preliminary):

Contract Price: \$ 0.00 [increase] [decrease] [not yet estimated].

Contract Time: 0 days [increase] [decrease] [not yet estimated].

Basis of estimated change in Contract Price:

Lump Sum Unit Price Cost of the Work Other

Recommended by Engineer

Authorized by Owner

By:



Title:

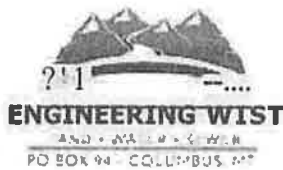
Travis West, PE, RS

Date:

1/21/26

Peyton and Cherrie

Attached is Work Directive No. 4, stopping the contract days for work performed on the Heritage Well. The contractor finished its last work on 12/15/25 (pump test). I have finished the engineering report and plans for Schedule II of the project. Please submit this work directive to the City Council and Mayor to stop work by contractor until we get DEQ approval for Schedule II of the project. The contractor has used 68 days of the 120 days of the contract. Once we get DEQ approval for Schedule II, then I will issue another work directive allowing the contractor to commence work connecting the well to the water building and upgrading water components. Thanks.



TRAVIS WEST, PE, RS

Civil Engineer
Registered Sanitarian

953 11th S N. Columbus, MT 59019

406 322 1116

✉ travis@engineering-west.com

🌐 <http://www.engineering-west.com>

**CITY OF COLUMBUS, MONTANA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) – CELLULAR ADVANCED METERING
INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) SYSTEM**

The City of Columbus is requesting proposals from licensed and qualified firms for the supply of a cellular-based Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system, including ultrasonic water meters, transmitters, and manufacturer-supported software that can be fully integrated with the City's existing Black Mountain billing system.

Drive-by AMR systems or fixed-network systems requiring towers, collectors, gateways, or other standalone infrastructure will not be considered. Proposals will be evaluated on qualifications, technical merit, total cost of ownership, and completeness. Interviews may be conducted with short-listed firms.

Questions and requests for clarification must be submitted in writing via email, referencing "Columbus AMI System RFP," to:
Peyton Brookshire, Public Works Director
Email: director@townofcolumbus.com

Sealed proposals must be submitted no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23rd, 2026. Submissions must be clearly marked "Columbus AMI System RFP" and include two (2) printed copies mailed to:

City of Columbus
Public Works Department
ATTN: Peyton Brookshire
P.O. Box 549
Columbus, MT 59019

Proposals will be publicly opened at the Public Works Shop at the time and date stated above; however, the award will be based on evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP and not solely on price. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive irregularities, and to accept the proposal deemed most advantageous to the City.

An electronic copy matching the hard copy shall be submitted within 24 hours of the opening to director@townofcolumbus.com. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. A complete copy of the RFP is available at Columbus City Hall, 408 E 1st Avenue North, Columbus, MT, or online at www.townofcolumbus.com.

Dated this 5th day of February 2026.
City of Columbus

By: Peyton Brookshire
Peyton Brookshire, Public Works Director



**Request for Proposal (RFP) V3
Cellular Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project
City of Columbus, Montana
February 2026**

1. Background and Purpose

The City of Columbus, Montana is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit proposals for a cellular-based Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. The City seeks a robust, proven, and fully supported solution that will enhance service to residents, improve operational efficiency, and ensure long-term reliability. Drive-by AMR systems or fixed-network systems requiring proprietary towers, collectors, or additional infrastructure will not be considered responsive.

The City of Columbus intends to select the vendor that provides the best overall value, not necessarily the lowest cost, based on technical performance, integration, support, and proven deployment history.

2. Project Objectives

- Replace existing meters with ultrasonic water meters to improve accuracy and reduce maintenance.
 - Transition to a cellular-based AMI system with GIS and mapping capabilities.
 - Ensure integration with Black Mountain billing software and support continuity with Sensus Field logic until cutover.
 - Provide a proven, cost-effective, and fully supportable solution that minimizes risk to the City.
-

3. Minimum Requirements

A. Proven Presence in Montana

- Vendor must demonstrate at least two (2) successful water meter utility deployments in Montana of equal or greater size (≥ 900 connections).
- Vendor must maintain certified local technical support within 100 miles of Columbus with the ability to provide guaranteed on-site response within 24 hours.

B. Meter Requirements

- **Ultrasonic meters accepted only for all applications (residential and commercial). Mechanical meters will not be accepted.**
- **Must comply with NSF 61/372 and AWWA C715 standards.**
- **Registers must:**
 - **Display to 1/100-gallon resolution.**
 - **Be LCD-based and readable without auxiliary lighting.**
 - **Include built-in leak detection alarms visible on screen.**
- **Warranty: 10 years full replacement, 20 years prorated.**

C. Endpoint / Transmitter Requirements

- **All endpoints must operate on cellular LTE-M or NB-IoT networks.**
- **Proposals requiring fixed-network towers, collectors, or other standard-alone infrastructure will be considered non-responsive.**
- **Endpoints must transmit directly over existing cellular networks without reliance on City-owned or City-maintained infrastructure.**
- **Interior set meters: transmitters must be integral to the meter with no external wiring.**
- **Pit set meters: transmitters may be wired but must be mounted through the pit lid with the module flush-mounted and externally visible. No transmitters may be installed beneath lids.**
- **Battery life must be 20 years with a 20-year warranty.**
- **Proposals that require or include third-party integration platforms, cloud partners, or hardware gateways to achieve cellular connectivity will be considered non-responsive.**

D. Software Requirements

- **Software must be natively developed and supported by the meter manufacturer.**
- **No third-party, middleware, or separately licensed integration tools are permitted.**
- **Proposals dependent on third party-hosted, partner-managed, or non-native applications for meter data transmission or management will be considered non-responsive.**
- **System must directly integrate with Black Mountain billing software.**
- **No temporary or subscription-based intermediary software accepted.**

E. Compatibility

- **Must integrate natively with Black Mountain billing software (no middleware).**

F. Performance Track Record

- **Vendor must show 250,000+ deployed endpoints in the U.S. under the proposed platform.**
- **At least 10,000 endpoints must be in northern U.S. cold-weather utilities.**

G. Training & Support

- **On-site training in Montana is required for City staff, installers, and administrators. Remote-only training is not acceptable.**

H. Delivery & Implementation Schedule

The Vendor must demonstrate the ability to manufacture, deliver, configure, and place into operational service all required meters, endpoints, and software components within 20 weeks of contract award.

Installation of meters will be performed by City forces. The Vendor must:

- **Deliver equipment in a phased or bulk manner compatible with City installation sequencing.**
- **Provide all software, account setup, and system configuration necessary for deployment; and**
- **Complete on-site training for City staff prior to the start of field installation.**

The City anticipates completing field installation over a longer, City-controlled timeframe. Vendors shall describe how their system supports phased deployment, mixed legacy/AMI environments, and gradual system cutover.

I. Integrated Smart Water Management Requirements

1. Unified Manufacturer Ecosystem

- **The proposed system must be a fully integrated solution in which the water meters, transmitters, pressure sensors, and cloud-based management software are all designed, developed, and supported by a single manufacturer under one unified platform.**
- **Systems that require or include multiple manufacturers, partners, or third-party integrations to provide any part of the core functionality—including data collection, transmission, or analysis—will be considered non-responsive.**

2. Proprietary Network Monitoring

- **The system must incorporate manufacturer-developed network sensors capable of continuously monitoring pressure transients, acoustic leak events, and flow irregularities within the water distribution network.**
- **These sensors must communicate directly with the same cloud-based software platform used for meter reading and data management, without the use of separate third-party applications, hosted services, or middleware.**

3. Native Cloud-Based Software Platform

- **The system's software platform must be natively developed and operated by the same manufacturer that produces the meters and transmitters.**
- **The platform must allow for real-time systemwide visualization, combining meter data, pressure readings, and leak detection analytics in a single, unified dashboard environment.**
- **Cloud hosting, data storage, and software management must be performed directly by the manufacturer, with no subcontracted or partner-managed applications.**

4. Predictive and Proactive Analytics

- **The system must include built-in predictive analytics that enable early detection of water main breaks, pressure anomalies, and customer-side leaks prior to service impact.**

- These analytics must function within the manufacturer's native software environment—no third-party analytic modules or licensed plug-ins will be accepted.
- 5. Comprehensive System Support**
- All hardware, sensors, transmitters, and software components must be supported under a single warranty and maintenance agreement managed by the manufacturer.
 - The manufacturer must provide end-to-end system support, including firmware updates, data integrity management, and continuous platform access for City personnel.

J. Proposed Validity

- All proposals must be valid for 90 days from submission. Proposals with shorter validity will be rejected.

4. Pricing & Quantities (Mandatory pricing schedule)

Bidders must provide detailed pricing for the following quantities of meters, transmitters, and associated services:

Item	Quantity	Description
Residential Water Meters (3/4", 3/4" short)	890	Ultrasonic
Residential Water Meters (1")	32	Ultrasonic
Commercial Water Meters (1-1/2")	11	Ultrasonic
Commercial Water Meters (2")	13	Ultrasonic
Commercial Water Meters (3" or 4")	2	Ultrasonic
Transmitters	940	LTE-M / NB-IoT Cellular
Pit Meter Box Lids	25	With integral mount capability
Training	1	On-site, all-inclusive
Project Management	1	Full project oversight
Handheld/CPU	1	For migration/testing
Software	1	Fully integrated with Black Mountain

Bidders must provide line-item costs for all categories. Any deviations or exclusions must be clearly noted.

5. Bench Performance Testing (City Verification)

- The City reserves the right to perform bench testing of any proposed meter to verify accuracy, functionality, and durability under actual or extended flow conditions.
- Meters must maintain full operational integrity, including continuous display function and data registration, when subjected to flows at or above the manufacturer's stated maximum operating capacity.
- Any meter exhibiting display blanking, communication failure, or data loss during bench testing or field simulation will be considered non-compliant and may be rejected.
- Vendors must provide, upon request, sample meters for City evaluation and testing prior to final award or shipment.

6. Submission Instructions

- **Proposals must include:**
 - **Executive summary.**
 - **Company qualifications, including proof of Montana installations.**
 - **Technical specifications with compliance matrix.**
 - **Pricing for equipment, software, installation, training, and warranty.**
 - **References from similar utilities.**
- **Sealed proposals must be submitted no later than 1:00 p.m. on Monday February 23, 2026. Submissions must be clearly marked "Columbus AMI System RFP" and include two (2) printed copies mailed to:**

**City of Columbus
Public Works Department
ATTN: Peyton Brookshire
P.O. Box 549
Columbus, MT 59019**

- **Questions and requests for clarification must be submitted in writing via email, referencing "Columbus AMI System RFP," to: Peyton Brookshire, Public Works Director to Email: director@townofcolumbus.com.**
- **An identical electronic copy must be provided within 24 hours of public opening of proposals and sent to the email listed above. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.**

7. Evaluation Criteria

The City may apply weighted scoring to evaluation criteria at its discretion. Proposals will be evaluated on a best-value basis considering:

- **Compliance with requirements.**
- **Demonstrated performance in Montana and northern climates.**
- **Compatibility with existing City systems.**
- **Delivery schedule and lead times.**
- **Warranty and lifecycle cost.**
- **Local support availability.**
- **On-site training delivery.**

8. Reservation of Rights

The City reserves the right to:

- **Reject or accept any or all proposals received in response to this RFP for any reason or no reason.**
- **Reject or accept incomplete proposals.**
- **Waive minor irregularities or errors.**
- **Reject the lowest-price proposal.**
- **Request clarification from bidders.**
- **Conduct simultaneous negotiations with multiple bidders.**
- **Modify requirements due to regulation or legislation.**

Responses are submitted without recourse to the City for rejection or failure to enter into a binding commitment.

DRAFT