

DISCOVER



A Deeper Dive

Municipal budgets are large, and the time required to read and understand the entire document is substantial. In addition to the entire FY 2025 Budget Book, we've also published a supplemental Budget-in-Brief with the adoption of the FY 2025 budget. It is a summary of the main Budget Book.

[Read the FY 2025 Budget Book here.](#)

[Read the FY2025 Budget in Brief here.](#)

YOUR MONEY

Pelham City Council Adopts FY 2025 Budget

By: Ainsley Allison

The Pelham City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) budget on Monday, September 16, 2024. The total budget is just over \$90.6 million and reflects the City's commitment to continued growth and prosperity and prioritizes the concerns and preferences of Pelham's residents. The operations budget is just over \$69 million. The remaining funds are dedicated to capital outlay and debt service.

In 2022, the City conducted its first Citizen Satisfaction Survey to inform budgeting priorities. The survey allowed us to obtain a baseline measurement of our residents' perceptions and has been used to inform budget priorities for the third consecutive year. To further commit to the voice of the resident's importance in the budget, the 2025 city manager's budget reflects the cost of conducting the City's second citizen survey. The Council has concentrated on ensuring the budget's top priorities are aligned with the wants and needs of the residents. The top priorities from the 2022 survey were stormwater management, traffic congestion, and road and facilities maintenance. These priorities are evident throughout the FY 2023 and 2024 budgets, and the FY 2025 continues that focus.

Budget priorities in FY 2025 include traffic management, emergency medical

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transport, infrastructure investments, technology, and investment in city staff, including Pelham University, a new customer service training initiative.

In addition to the budget priorities, the FY 2025 budget also allocates funding for capital projects that align with the survey and Plan Pelham, the city's comprehensive plan:

- Parks & Recreation
 - Design work for a batting cage facility and entrance to the baseball complex, along with paving and new restrooms.
 - Design work for the conversion of the large grass baseball diamond into a multi-use three-field synthetic turf area.
 - The City Council directed \$2 million from revenues to be placed into the existing Parks & Recreation Reserve Fund. Along with the nearly \$1 million already in the fund, at least one of the baseball complex projects can be fully funded with significant savings towards the cost of the second project.
 - This budget also covers the construction of two extra pavilions at the splash pad. Birthday parties in the pavilion quickly became popular, and the two additional spaces will enable more residents to hold parties in the park.
 - The Pelham Greenway Trail from Campus 124 to the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena parking lot is slated for completion in FY 2025, ensuring the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.
 - Two additional pickleball courts, solar lighting and a combination pavilion/restroom facility are to be installed at the Pelham Senior Center.
 - Other park expenses in the FY 2025 budget include the purchase of a six-seat golf cart to transport those needing assistance at the growing number of public events in the park.
- Annual Expenses
 - The City Council continues its commitment to use funds from the sales tax increase to complete \$1.25 million in annual paving projects. This is up from a previous annual commitment of \$500,000. The FY 2025 budget also reflects the annual commitments to ADA sidewalk compliance and drainage infrastructure improvements.

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- Projects new to this budget include two new rain gauges along the creek to more effectively monitor creek levels, especially during storm conditions.
 - The parking lot just west of the Pelham Civic Complex & Ice Arena will also be paved with sidewalks and lighting installed.
- Pelham Central Park Development
 - The property in front of the library is moving forward with plans for a retail/office space with dining choices and a city-managed outdoor gathering space for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The City of Pelham strives to make its annual [Budget Book](#) easy to understand to facilitate broader consumption and greater comprehension of the municipal budgeting process. It identifies the services provided, the funding sources, and the rationale behind key decisions. Because municipal budgets are large, the time required to read and understand the entire document is substantial. That's why we have also published a supplemental [Budget-in-Brief \(BIB\)](#) with the adoption of the FY 2025 budget. A BIB is a summary of the main Budget Book.

Fall Shred & E-Recycling

The City of Pelham's bi-annual electronic recycling and paper shredding is schedule for Saturday, October 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in front of Pelham City Hall.

There is a six-box limit for free document shredding. Residents should not bring paper in three-ring binders. Manila folders, envelopes, office paper, etc. are fine. Staples and paper clips are okay, but please, no binder clips. Residents may bring the paper in any receptacle, and they will get their boxes, bags, etc., back after their documents are securely placed in the shredder.

Please read the list of accepted e-waste recycling items (PDF). The cost of destroying hard drives is \$10 per item; cash is preferred.





Faster Emergency Response

The City of Pelham is one step closer to EMS transport operations after the Shelby County Commission delivered two state-of-the-art ambulances to the communities of Pelham and Alabaster.

Shelby County leaders funded the ambulances to provide better outcomes for residents, noting the wait time for an ambulance in Shelby County averages 45 minutes. Pelham Fire Chief Mike Reid said the delays started during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Since that time, we've had increasing response times from our ambulance provider. We've been working with Shelby County for almost three years to come up with solutions."



Shelby County invested capital funds for six ambulances with the agreement that Pelham and Alabaster will staff them and begin EMS transport. Both cities received an ambulance each on Tuesday, September 24th. The cities will receive the other two ambulances in late October. "Pelham, Alabaster, and other surrounding fire departments will provide a more robust system for EMS transport by working together," said Chief Reid.

The City of Pelham has been working since 2023 to prepare for EMS transport operations by hiring personnel and working on logistics. Both Pelham and Alabaster will begin transport services on January 1, 2025.

Shelby County plans to purchase 6-8 ambulances each year to help other fire districts and cities that provide EMS transport and set up a replacement program for aging units.



"We have a very good automatic aid and mutual aid response for fire responses with our surrounding fire districts and municipal fire departments and we will add the EMS Transport to this model. I believe our system, for not only Pelham citizens, but the county as a whole will be more robust and provide excellent care and expedient transport for our patients," Chief Reid said.



PRC Wins National Award

The Pelham Racquet Club has long been a jewel in the City of Pelham's recreational offerings, and now it has received national recognition for its excellence. This year, the club was honored with the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) Outstanding Facility Award for a Large Public Tennis Center. The award, presented at the 2024 U.S. Open in Flushing Meadows, New York, celebrates the top public tennis facilities in the country, and Pelham Racquet Club was one of only 12 facilities selected for the honor.

To be eligible for the award, public tennis centers must meet the USTA's stringent criteria, including the quality of their court surfaces, enclosures, lighting, overall layout, and amenities. For the Pelham Racquet Club, which boasts more than 12 courts, this recognition is a testament to years of hard work and dedication from its entire staff.

Chaney Mills, Director of the Pelham Racquet Club, accepted the award at the ceremony, but she was quick to give credit to her team. "This award reflects the combined efforts and hard work of our entire team," Mills said. "We wouldn't have received this recognition without the contributions of everyone who works tirelessly to make Pelham Racquet Club one of the top facilities in the United States."

That team-first mentality is echoed throughout the club's staff. Grant Sasser, Parks and Racquet Club Superintendent, shared his pride in the team's dedication. "The USTA Outstanding Facility Award is rewarding to me personally for those who come in daily and are behind the scenes, so to speak," Sasser said. "From the crew members who arrive in the pre-dawn hours to prepare the grounds to the staff members who close the facility at all hours of the night during events—they are the true glue that makes our facility what it is."

Sasser also emphasized the importance of a well-maintained facility, which extends beyond aesthetics. "A strong plan for facility upkeep improves production, solidifies equipment reliability, and allows our team to focus on our members' needs," he said.

Chris Byrd, Pelham Parks & Racquet Club Supervisor, takes pride in seeing the courts and grounds in pristine condition every day. "Motivation for me is seeing the

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grounds and courts looking great and knowing I'm contributing to a great experience for everyone who uses them, whether it's a citizen of Pelham or a visitor for one of our events," Byrd explained. "This award helps us realize what we have at the Pelham Racquet Club, and it encourages us to keep improving. We want to maintain—and even surpass—the high standards we've set."

Ryen Valentine, PRC's Head Tennis Professional, leads a team of five pros who help players of all ages and abilities improve their game. He noted that the USTA has strict criteria for the Large Public Facility Award, and the Pelham Racquet Club met nearly all of them. "We are a large facility that services the community. The facility is beautifully laid out with viewing for nearly every court, and the maintenance staff does an amazing job keeping everything in top condition. We also offer a wide array of programming for all ages and skill levels to grow the game of tennis."

Valentine also shared the team's pride in the facility, highlighting its beauty and the staff's commitment to ensuring every player has a positive experience. "We're fortunate to have a great full-time maintenance staff that keeps our courts and landscaping looking beautiful. Our pros are dedicated to player development and instruction, and our leadership fosters a team and family atmosphere. We regularly plan new and fun events for our community and club members."

David Brainerd, who runs the front desk and pro shop, has been with the club since 2018 and was Chaney Mills' first hire after she became Director. "Our team is truly like a family, and everyone enjoys working together," Brainerd said. "Good customer service is the key to making people happy when they come to Pelham Racquet Club to play a sport they enjoy. I try to treat our customers as if they're my friends, which they are."

While the staff's dedication is one part of the equation, the club's members also play a vital role in its success. Chelsea resident Robyn Lyons, a three-year Pelham Racquet Club member, nominated PRC for the Outstanding Facility Award after receiving an email from the USTA encouraging nominations. "It was a no-brainer to choose PRC as my tennis home," Lyons said. "The Pelham Racquet Club's staff and leadership consistently strive to ensure that its members and visitors have excellent facilities and top-notch staff and feel welcomed."

Lyons highlighted the many improvements she's seen as a member. "Since I joined in 2021, PRC has continued to improve its functionality and appearance." She said among the improvements are updated walkway lighting, a new concrete walking path to the bottom courts, a more functional lobby and bathrooms, and an expanded pro shop. "Pelham Racquet Club continues to set the standard for tennis facilities not only in the Birmingham area but throughout Alabama. By far, PRC is the best I have ever experienced."

When Pelham Racquet Club won the award, Lyons was thrilled. "I knew it was deserved but didn't know if I was just being biased. I guess now we know I wasn't!" she laughed.

This award highlights the City of Pelham's ongoing commitment to providing residents and visitors with top-tier recreational facilities and opportunities.

For more information about the Pelham Racquet Club and its offerings, visit the [Pelham Racquet Club website](#).





Public Safety Awards

The Shelby County Chamber honored the recipients of the 2024 Public Safety Awards at a luncheon on September 25th. Officer Austin Bowen with the Pelham Police Department was recognized, as were Pelham Fire/Medics Derrick Wright and Galen Smitherman.

Pelham Police Chief Brent Sugg described Officer Austin Bowen's work ethic, saying it was his daily contributions to the department and the community that earned him the honor. A recent example the Chief mentioned was a traffic stop Officer Bowen worked that resulted in the seizure of five pounds of fentanyl. Officer Bowen is a nine-year veteran of the department and serves as a Field Training Officer.



In honoring Fire/Medics Derrick Wright and Galen Smitherman, Pelham Fire Chief Mike Reid described their work ethic, saying it was their contribution to the success of the department's Rapid Sequence Induction (RSI) program that earned them the honor. Chief Reid said they demonstrated time and time again their ability to make swift, accurate decisions that have led to positive outcomes for patients. Both have been with the department for two years. Congratulations to these men for their dedication, service to the community, and courage. The work they do is appreciated by all of us in Pelham.



Excellence in Communications

The City's Communications Office manages external and internal communication efforts. It is responsible for promoting the City's events, services, and initiatives, ensuring that residents, visitors, and stakeholders stay informed and engaged.

Some of our most important stakeholders are our employees, who are the organization's pulse. One way we keep them informed is through our monthly e-newsletter, the Pelham Pulse, which was recently awarded a Silver Circle Award from the City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA). The newsletter is a collaboration between the City of Pelham Communications Office, and the Human Resources Department.



Five Years of Sensory Inclusion

The Pelham Public Library is thrilled to continue their partnership with KultureCity to provide service, inclusion, and acceptance to those with sensory processing disorders. The library staff first underwent training in sensory processing disorders in 2019. Each year since, the library has committed to continuing education and has maintained the certification.

According to KultureCity, a 501c3 committed to creating a world where everyone can be accepted and included, "1 in 4 individuals have a disability with the vast majority of them having a sensory processing need. This has left as much as 25% of our population unable to attend a sporting event, visit the zoo, check out books from a library, enjoy a meal in public, seek help from the medical system or first responders, struggle in school, or even have acceptance in their own workplace."

Thanks to this initiative, these individuals and their families can shift from isolation to enjoying activities in public. The Pelham Public Library and KultureCity are proud to be partners as they work together to include everyone.

Cheers to another year of KultureCity® Sensory Inclusive™ Certification and many more years to come.



Did You Know?

A Monthly Update from the Pelham Public Library

By: Melanie Carden

Did you know that you have free, online access to the New York Times and Wall Street Journal, compliments of the Pelham Public Library? [Visit this link](#) to get started. Your access to the New York Times will be available for 24 hours and Wall Street Journal will be available for up to three days. When you have reached your daily/term limit, just simply revisit the library's site again to regain access. For more information, email Tech Librarian [Melanie Carden](#).





Ballantrae Course Updates

Fall is the perfect time to take advantage of good weather and play a round of golf. The staff at Ballantrae Golf Club are busy prepping for winter and getting a handle on wildlife that occasionally makes its way on to the course. Here are some updates to note:

- This month the overseeding of selected tees will take place using winter grass for those tee boxes that receive the most play.
- The fall pre-emerge week control will be applied to the course for winter and spring weeds.
- A coyote trapper is scheduled to return in late October, or if there is increased activity. Ballantrae staff note coyotes have not been active around the course lately.
- Just in time for cooler fall temperatures, the fire pit on the Greenside Terrace patio is fully functional and ready for use. Come sit awhile!
- The PGA will rent office space upstairs in the Ballantrae clubhouse. The lease begins January 1st for a term of three years.



Trick-or-Treat!

Many newcomers to Pelham often ask what day the City of Pelham allows trick-or-treating. The City does not designate a specific day for trick-or-treating other than Halloween night, which falls on Thursday, October 31st.

Traditionally, residents turn on their porch light if they plan to hand out candy to little ghosts and goblins on Halloween. Any homeowner who does not wish to hand out candy should simply turn off their light. This serves as a signal to trick-or-treaters so they'll know which houses to approach and which to pass up. Children begin to make their rounds as early as 5:00 p.m. The trick-or-treat activity usually winds down by 8:00 p.m.

Good to know:

- Many churches and organizations offer "Trunk or Treat" events on dates other than Halloween.
- Remember the Pelham Parks & Recreation "Fall-O-Ween" on October 20th. Children will have the opportunity to participate in the Trick-or-Treat Trail at this fun, family-friendly event.
- As you plan your trick-or-treat route, don't forget Pelham Fire Stations hand out candy to children on Halloween night.



Your City At Work

Here are some of the recent items approved by the Pelham City Council. Please visit the City of Pelham website for the complete text of the agendas, minutes, ordinances, and resolutions.

- Accepted a bid and entered into an agreement with Mark Johnson Construction for RAS pump replacements at the Pelham Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Approved a resolution to encourage the Board of Directors of Campus 124 and The Canopy to dissolve their cooperative districts. The Cooperative District Boards are scheduled to meet on October 1st.
- Approved a Tax Abatement Agreement between the City of Pelham, Morin Process Equipment, Inc., and CED Real Estate, LLC.
- Opted out of recent and future PFAS legal settlements per the recommendation of the City's legal counsel, Beasley Allen.
- Mayor Gary Waters proclaimed September 17-23, 2024, as Constitution Week in the City of Pelham.
- Declared certain equipment of the Public Works Department as surplus, The equipment is no longer needed for public or municipal purposes.
- Approved the FY 2025 operating, capital budgets, and debt service schedule of the City of Pelham.
- Approved a special events ABC Retail License for Mi Pueblo Supermarket for the Hispanic Independence Day Festival 2024.

WATER & SEWER RATES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024

Inside City Limits	2024	2025
Base Charge	\$18.00	\$18.00
Gallons Included in Base Charge	2500	2000
Commodity Rate	\$4.42	\$4.57
Outside City Limits	2024	2025
Base Charge	\$21.00	\$21.00
Gallons Included in Base Charge	2500	2000
Commodity Rate	\$5.09	\$5.26
Social Security / Disability	2024	2025
Base Charge	\$5.60	\$5.60
Gallons Included in Base Charge	2500	2000
Commodity Rate	\$2.13	\$2.20

Residential Customers	2024	2025
Base Charge	\$25.82	\$26.70
Gallons Included in Base Charge	3000	3000
Commodity Rate	\$6.38	\$6.60
Social Security / Disability	2024	2025
Base Charge	\$23.38	\$24.17
Gallons Included in Base Charge	3000	3000
Commodity Rate	\$4.25	\$4.39
Residential Access / Not Connected	2024	2025
Base Charge	\$25.82	\$26.70

*ORDINANCE 091-04
*ORDINANCE 156-09