

Survey results

The city of Leavenworth issued a Survey Monkey online for the purposes of obtaining feedback about the 2025 budget proposal.

The survey was active July 15, 2024 – July 21, 2024.

Results of the survey are as follows.

City of Leavenworth 2025 Budget Survey:

The City of Leavenworth is currently considering the proposed 2025 Budget with a flat mill levy. A flat mill levy would result in the city collecting \$318,000 more in property tax than it did in 2024, due to an increase in citywide property valuations. A revenue neutral mill levy would result in the city collecting the same amount of property tax that was collected in 2024. To accomplish a revenue neutral mill levy the budget team would need to cut \$318,000 from the proposed budget.

See full staff budget proposal online here - <https://www.leavenworthks.org/ru/page/budget-discussions-planned-upcoming-2025-annual-year>

Q1: This survey is intended for City of Leavenworth residents. What is your address?

100% of respondents answered question, 604 responses

Q2: Should the City of Leavenworth adopt the proposed 2025 Budget with a flat mill levy?

61.75% no

38.25% yes

Q3: Should the City of Leavenworth consider a revenue neutral rate mill levy and cut an additional \$318,000?

58.11% no

41.89% yes

Q4: Should the City of Leavenworth close the Performing Arts Center and sell the building to accomplish the needed cuts?

76.99% no

23.01% yes

Q5: Should the City of Leavenworth close the Indoor Pool at the Riverfront Community Center to accomplish the needed cuts?

86.42% no

13.58% yes

Q6: Should the City of Leavenworth consider other options such as ending the business grant program or eliminating the Rental Coordinator Position to accomplish the needed cuts?

55.96% yes

44.04% no

Additional comments:

293 responses

How about cutting all of the unnecessary expenses. Start running the city like a business would. As a business owner, I take care of my equipment and run it as long as it makes financial sense. There is no way we need a new swat truck or dump truck or roller truck All of this unnecessary spending is absurd. Stop wasting our money.

The indoor community pool at the Riverfront Community Center is a valuable city service. It provides exercise for pool patrons year round. No matter the weather the pool is available for folks working on their health. My mother suffered from several Strokes and has greatly improved due to the exercises she performs in the pool. Another benefit of the pool is the friendships and support each of us have formed. Members of the Water Walking class have become emotional support for folks preparing for surgery or recovering from medical situations. Milestones are celebrated and cheered. We have formed friendships that carry on outside of pool time. This is the only indoor pool of its size available to the public. The pools on Post at Ft Leavenworth are not available to the general public. The pool is also the venue for the Leavenworth High School Swim team. Practices and Meets are held in the RFCC. Several patrons come to the indoor pool for Physical Therapy. They, with their PT, increase range of motion and strength in the water that cannot be gained on land. As to the Community theater, all the elements needed for community plays and musicals can be supported by the LHS Performing Arts Center. The LHS PAC was renovated several years ago. It is substantially larger than the downtown venue and is already taxpayer subsidized by property taxes and school taxes.

This city has precious little activities for kids as it is. Closing the Theater and the pool would dramatically lessen the opportunities for future generations. I have been involved with the Community Theater for almost 25 years, my kids have been involved their whole lives. We have made friendships that will last a lifetime. If the city were to close that building, you would be robbing that opportunity from so many people. I think you could find easier places to reduce funding, such as salaries of the city/county politicians, reducing the resurfacing of roads that honestly don't need it while ignoring those that do (18th street between Thornton and Lecompton), and other wasteful projects that are in place only to pad someone's pocketbook.

The Performing Arts Center and the RFCC pool are two of the main places here in Leavenworth that I attend regularly. Getting rid of these things would remove several of my primary hobbies, and result in trying to find things to do OUTSIDE of Leavenworth.

Lower raises for staff. No one else gets more than the 3-4% COL increase, why should you?

Our property taxes increased by almost 40% since we bought our home in 2021. Plus, our water, sewage, and trash bill has increased. Yet, the trash service has declined. No more taxes.

in light of decreasing populations, aging citizenry, price inflation, income stagnation, etc, all levels of governmental functions need to focus on core services & projects & eliminate subsidies on less essential activities. there IS such a thing as living within a budget that doesn't continually expand- (at least some) taxpayers are constantly FORCED to do so. it's time that government started scaling back, so we can all share in responsible fiscal policy that preserves citizen's opportunity to live without stress of trying to pay for cost increases in EVERYTHING

The indoor pool is very important for nonimpact exercise for all ages. Raise the price, slightly not significantly, to help costs. Even an increase from \$35.00 per swim ticket to \$40.00 would help elderly and people of all ages get a good non-impact workout. Please don't close the indoor pool1

"No one wants to pay more taxes! There has to be some redundant positions at the city hall. I know this because I am a former employee.

What is the Rental Coordinator? How was this handled before there was this position?"

All levels of government, including City government, should stop using public resources to enact programs that pick winners and losers in the private sector. City government should focus on quality of life issues for residents and impact the business community only to establish an environment that promotes economic prosperity and encourages entrepreneurship.

"Eliminate projects with no value...like the sidewalk ptoject on Vilas Street.

"

How about cuts in every department? That would be shared across the board. I think any government, at every level, can cut spending.

"I would prefer a flat mill levy. The slight increase in revenue would allow our city to continue with the improvements.

I would like the renters to be licensed similarly to the way rental units are. Some bad renters move from place to place requiring the rental coordinator's time. Even if it is near free, somebody who is licensed are less likely to leave trashy messes and add undo work to that position "

"The city should not go ""Revenue Neutral"" for the upcoming budget year. We did that last year and it hurt the overall finances of the city.

1. The city should consider selling the Performing Arts Center in the near future.
2. The Indoor Pool at the Riverfront Community Center shall remain open. There are several groups that use the pool on a regular basis.
3. If possible the city could reduce the amount for the business grant program until finances can be restored. I don't think we should eliminate the Rental Coordinator Position. As we all know Leavenworth has an abundance of rental properties.

As a taxpayer I do not like the idea of cutting programs or opportunities for the citizens of this community. I also don't mind paying a few extra dollars in taxes when the money is being used wisely."

Cut bureaucracy, not culture and fitness benefits that citizens enjoy and which benefit the social fabric and community health.

"I haven't seen that the city has done anything (or shared info if they have) to find ways to make the theatre or pool profitable. I'm assuming the \$75k (+/-) saved by not supplying trash bags this year reduced the budget.

Do not raise our taxes more.

Do not take away our pool, library, theatre, or historic buildings. Start working to keep our legacy and quit trying to make us just another KC suburb.

This survey seems to have only been shared via Facebook. Did you not learn this was not effective when you did the trash surveys? You are not getting a true pic of what this town thinks. You eliminate too much of the population. Print it in the paper, send it in the mail, include it on the back of the water bill, give it to church groups, council on aging, organizations, something. It seems you are just checking a box to say you seeked input."

I would much rather pay more taxes than cut things that make Leavenworth a great place to live. How do we attract new businesses when we don't have nice things to offer?

Cut school administration costs and positions

I do not want my tax dollars supporting programs that are operating at a loss, such as the theater or the pool. I was surprised to learn this information from the recent article in the LV

Times. If these programs had additional outside funding sources that would not place the financial burden on the tax payers, I would support retaining them.

I have been using the Riverfront indoor pool for exercise three days a week since 2019 when I retired as an educator. I have had bilateral knee and hip replacements so water exercise is highly therapeutic. You could direct me to the outdoor pool, but I am also a skin and breast cancer survivor. I cannot be exposed to the sun. This morning, I saw another woman enter the pool by use of the ADA chair lift for the 10:00 water walking program. If you close the pool, how would she be able to exercise? Please reconsider your decision with regard to closing the Riverfront indoor pool. Thankyou.

Cutting city programs is not going to have any effect on property taxes. Property taxes usually increase every year anyway because they are based on the assessed value. Keeping the mill levy flat means that the city won't be increasing our property taxes. Cuts to the budget will not reduce property taxes. They will only reduce the quality of life in our city. I don't see the need for cuts at this time.

Dont raise taxes, please. The cost of living is already too high as it is

"There's no such thing as a revenue neutral mill levy.

Increasing expenses make not increasing silly and use the extra revenue to fund city services.

Cutting the Rental Coordinator position is a good cut, but eliminating grants is not a good choice as they are useful for the community. "

Since we actually send actors to Broadway Hollywood and can sell out the house HOW DARE YOU! This town needs an arts program. Cancel the pool no one in town is healthy anyhow. That building needs to be restored. Money should be going into that facility. We should be offering a children's theatre venue. Especially when Leavenworth puts more butts in seats sells more tickets than KCcThwatres and the Coterie has failed the theatre seeking children's community. Leavenworth has long had a thriving population of active artists, the thin fabric of culture we have you want to stomp out. Interestingly enough it has been retired military who have done so much to help the theatre thrive. They really do appreciate it. What a shame this is on the heap of things Leavenworth does not appreciate. But hey let's have more stores downtown that don't even open for business.

Revenue neutral budgets are not practical.

"Riverfront Community Pool benefits the health of many residents, especially seniors with joint problems. More and more doctors recommend that patients with joint issues exercise in the water.

The pool also provides the location for the Leavenworth High swim team to practice and compete.

If the indoor pool closed, the lifeguards would likely find jobs elsewhere; and then it would most likely make it difficult to find enough lifeguards to staff the outdoor pool for the summer.

Children need the opportunity to learn to swim in order to prevent an increase in the number of drownings that occur each year."

I was born in Leavenworth and have been attending the community theatre there my entire life. I have even returned more recently to be a performer. This theater is a Leavenworth tradition and should not be closed or torn down. It's an important part of not just the Leavenworth community but also the Kansas City metro.

If Riverfront has a gym & walking track why close the pool? Surely people who go there & have PAID for memberships would want a pool. Closing the theater means more blighted spaces. People need assistance with rental issues. New military families move into this community all the time. They often return here to retire. What will they think as all these services are dropped? Why come to Leavenworth if good things are dropped? Non military People we see these cuts and move somewhere else and take their tax dollars with them. Revenue neutral budgets are not the way to go!

"The rental coordinator helps people in crisis. The theater draws people to downtown & businesses grow because

of this. I don't use the pool, but many people do. Saving money is good, but those proposed cuts are too drastic. Inflation has touched the lives of everyone & it makes sense that the cost of running the city would increase. TAX CUTS THAT DEMINISH QUALITY OF LIFE DO NOT HELP PEOPLE. Last year the library was targeted. Revenue neutral budgets are not always practical. So many businesses have banker's hours.. if they were open later & on Sundays the city would get more tax dollars. Leavenworth needs to grow in so many positive ways. REVENUE NUTRAL BUDGETS DO NOT EQUAL GROWTH. Saving tax dollars should not be a punishment.

Closing the theater would mean another empty building and downtown has enough of those. "

The city commission needs to finds ways to make the city grow, not close down businesses

The city should budget to at least make up the cost of inflation. We should not go backwards in serving the citizens of Leavenworth.

I think the jump in property tax money would cover city expenses. An explanation of why only the choices above were selected should be provided.

Please do not get rid of the amenities that bring people to our city! Get rid of things do no serve or benefit our community.

No one wants to pay more taxes. I appreciate that some citizens are struggling to pay their tax bills. But cutting programs to avoid tax increases is a short term solution. You are considering cutting programs that make Leavenworth a desirable place to live and work. That will cause people to stop wanting to live and work here, hurting local business and property values and eventually the tax base.

Perhaps it's not a great idea for the city to purchase soon-to-be-blighted real properties for top dollar and then sell them at a loss.

Hold city salaries at current rate. Reduce number of city owned (COA and LV) transportation vehicles. Charge higher fees for recreational venues (aquatics, exercise, etc).

Close any pool in Leavenworth and I will make it my life's mission to make sure every politician who votes yes or is apart of said removal is removed from office.

I appreciate the opportunity to look at the proposed budget and I went through the entire document. My father-in-law was a successful small-business owner who said, "Watch the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves." Tax payers would appreciate a hard attempt at removing line items like \$2K for coffee supply for City Hall (and more money for other departments). \$7500 for the City Christmas party? \$6500 for Spring Clean-up T-Shirts? \$3K for Planters II Tennant events? Cake and donuts for farewell events? Honestly, doesn't anybody in these offices like the honorees enough to pay for a cake and not make me do it? Lots of travel and conference fees, trips to DC for a City Commissioner and the Planner? I could go on but you probably get the point. I know that these things are nice to do and have, but when I do my personal budget where I spend my own money, I have to be serious in discerning between things I need and things I want. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to view and comment on the proposed budget and the efforts by the acting City Manager and staff to address issues without just passing them off to taxpayers without discussion. Most of us are making hard personal decisions due to the current financial environment and I hope that our City civil servants and elected officials will do the same. Dana Shopfner

Revenue neutral is a stupid idea. I want my local cops, fire fighters, water, sewer, and sanitation workers to get annual raises to match inflation. Streets need to be kept up to avoid needing an alignment of your tires after driving down our roads. Equipment needs to be maintained and replaced when required. Self serving state legislatures need to think about the greater whole and not focus on being a hypocritical Pharisee focused only on himself.

"No to the transfer station!!

I strongly disagree to the proposed cuts! In a town that seems to be slowly dying, taking away two activities that are available, seems like putting a nail in the coffin.

Also, the Rental Coordinator position should remain! Mr. Levine has assisted many tenants with concerns regarding slum lords, absentee landlords, and the corporations that are buying the apartment buildings in town. He is a vital asset to us!

Perhaps Mr. Kitchens should concentrate on ridding the neighborhoods in central Leavenworth that are known to be rife with drug activity.

"

Another option: EVERYONE on the city staff take a 1.5% (?/variable) pay cut and/or cut ALL city programs 1.5% (?/variable) each; in other words, an equitable percentage cut ACROSS-THE-BOARD.

Slash city budget to the bone. All taxation is legalized theft. Every politician will stand before God and give an account for holding their constituents at gunpoint and demanding payment on penalty of death. Do not believe me or think I am exaggerating? How many homes have been seized by government for failure to pay taxes during your tenure? Who seizes these homes? What happens if current owner refuses to surrender? Stop using your monopoly on violence to fund pet projects. Thou shalt not steal.

Cutting vibrant and essential community programs does nothing to help the city grow and attract new residents. Investing in your community is the only way forward. If that means taxes go up slightly, then let's put those taxes to good use by giving them back to beneficial community programs.

I have been going to the indoor pool for years along with other seniors. Exercising in the pool is very beneficial to our health. There aren't any other options that measure up to the pool.

Is there a buyer lying in wait to purchase the Performing Arts Center? What would be the asking price? So its sale takes care of this year's shortfalls, if it sells. What will be sold next year? If the indoor pool is closed, would it be drained and allowed to sit and deteriorate? If it opens next year because there is money, will it be twice as costly to do that? These options are not acceptable.

"The wording on this survey is misleading. The questions imply that there are options, however, they are not choices. Terrible! Even worse, the Commissioners will use the results as viable information.

The biggest asset is the Riverfront pool. It has enormous potential to draw ALL ages, incomes, and abilities from the county to the downtown business area. Totally under utilized asset "

This town is on its way out...you have done an outstanding job killing it.

It would seem that the city does not consider the quality of life for its citizens a priority

Cutting the budget is penny-wise and pound-foolish. If you want to attract businesses, you have to provide an attractive town culture.

Increase the cost of using the indoor pool and for the aquacise classes. I understand that the classes have only gone a very small amount in 30 years. Also increase the cost of seeing plays. I

think people would still use these facilities. Also, what pool would the high school use if this pool closes? I am sure I am not suggesting anything new and this alone would not solve the problem.

"the city needs to approve a budget that is in line with the tax paying community needs. The commission has spent too much of the covid money, (our tax dollars) on pet programs and projects. These programs and projects will be looking for more tax dollars in the future and the answer should be NO! We weren't able to keep programs that had served our community for decades, we don't need to keep the commission's pet projects funded. City Hall could look at staffing, we could cut staff or at least increase the hours at city hall to meet the needs of today. We no longer live in a 9 -5 , Mon- Fri, world. We need a City that has a thriving downtown. How could you sell the community theater when so many other buildings are empty and for sale. Why close the in- door pool , that serves many of our older population , when you just put in a pickle ball court? It is time the commission starts looking at the budget like so many of our neighbors do. What is needed , not what feels good to a few. The city needs to get out of social services and provide a thriving community.

Let charity lead the way in social programs.

Why does the city need a rental coordinator, have they now gotten into the rental business or just into the business of landlords and rental agencies?"

I know I am not a Leavenworth resident, however, as a resident of neighboring Lansing, I utilize and benefit from many of the things the city commission is considering cutting. My children have taken swimming lessons during the winter months at Riverfront Community Center. This is an important and lifesaving skill and having it close by makes it easier for me to fit this essential class into our busy schedule. They've also gone swimming there in the winter months and it is much appreciated as it's also the closest and most affordable indoor pool for miles. We have also attended a few shows at the community theater. It is a gem of a local program and to be housed in such a beautiful building is the cherry on top. It gives such a professional feel to the productions. Also, the productions themselves lend a synergy to the downtown area. How many people come from around the region to see a production there and also happen to dine at a restaurant either before or afterwards? Browse through one of the downtown shops in the vicinity (particularly for a Saturday evening show, people can make a whole day of being downtown and taking advantage of all it has to offer!)? If the theater were to close, and the community theater putting on the productions couldn't find a new home, it would be a major loss to the arts community, the residents who miss out on enriching arts and humanities/cultural events that make life more special, and the local neighboring businesses that are the recipients of the foot traffic these events attract. Finally, the business grant program is another important factor for entrepreneurs to consider opening a business in downtown Leavenworth. A thriving business district helps everyone. It brings a wider variety of potential visitors to possibly spend their money in one or more businesses. In fact, I daresay that all three of these possible cuts are truly connected to each other and really enhance the

quality of life overall for not just residents of Leavenworth, but residents of Leavenworth County and even neighboring communities in our region such as Atchison, KS; Weston, MO; and Platte City, MO. So while I am not a resident who would feel a direct impact from the rise in my property taxes, I do spend money in downtown Leavenworth frequently (at least 1-2 times a week) and can attest to the high quality of life these places offer all of us. I would truly miss these things if they were to be cut and permanently done away with. It would be a grave mistake.

I have lived in Leavenworth all my life. It should be a thriving city with its history similar to that of Weston. Instead, we constantly cut down opportunities & close those things that mean something to its citizens. Find some other way to balance your budget.

"Please do not raise taxes. We can NOT afford to keep having bills go up.

It will cost the city and it's citizens more in many other ways if this is to go up and keep going up. What happens when people can't afford to pay their property tax? The city takes their property and this is morally wrong. People need to be able to live without the city continuing to raise the cost of the property tax.

Our family is having to cut out many things that we would enjoy but are not a need. As much fun and enjoyment as some people get from using the pool and theater my guess is that it is a pretty small percentage of the Leavenworth population and probably an even smaller percentage of people who actually own property that use them. Why should we have to pay for a smaller percentage of people's choices of entertainment?

Just like individual house holds have to cut back on the nonessentials when times get tough so should the city. The higher the taxes the less people will want to live here and that would be fewer people for the city to receive taxes from. I believe the city will slowly tax its self out of people to tax.

Thank you for offering this survey.

Please do Not raise "

"Closing the Performing Arts Center and the indoor pool is likely shortsighted and false savings. Both facilities provide valuable services to many people and draw people and business to downtown Leavenworth. Thus, the true overall value of these facilities must be considered-not just the direct operating income and operating expenses. Furthermore, we need to find ways to help downtown Leavenworth instead of considering ways which will further its gradual decline. We already have too many downtown buildings that are empty or underutilized. It is very doubtful that any downtown business owner/operator would be in favor of closing any existing facilities when reasonable options are available to keep them open.

A flat mill levy and the small \$318,000 budget increase seems reasonable. Thank you for this excellent survey and easy way to provide input."

Why not go after obvious modified straight pipe exhaust noise violations on our streets. These noise violators break the city noise ordinances every day and drive right past cops. You can increase revenue by ticketing these folks as well as residential road speeders. The city could raise additional funds while making our neighborhoods safer and quieter at the same time.

Our taxes have doubled and this is ridiculous

"What exactly does 320-640'000 even do really?

We have nothing that increases revenue and nothing that decreases repeat costs.

Please explain? I'm complimented by this new idea to poll the city.

You could point everyone into www.thevotersbox.com and help with establishing a decent public news article. I could use the extra support. So could the community.

P.S.

How does the closure and sale of the performing arts center and building and closing an indoor pool even equate in cost??

"

I find it amazing when budgets are cut governments start at the bottom and cut from programs that effect us common folk...Arts, the building is worthy - Swimmers ?

Fire weak ass Kitchens and quit lining his pockets with two positions

Consider increasing the cost to use the pool facility at the community center.

Costs are increasing. Foolish to think taxes won't.

This city has stopped being family friendly. We have allowed large businesses destroy our local businesses. I would rather shop at Gronis than another business for the items I need. The city taxes local businesses while allowing big business, i.e. home depot to get all kind of breaks. The taxes we pay have not gone to where we need them in rebuilding our own infanstructure, downtown, and supporting our local merchants. Our police force is weak as we train new persons and then when they finish their commitment they go to other areas that pay more. Loyalty only goes so far. I have been here since 1986 and seen great businesses disappear because the city saw that allowing big stores to overtake our established business would making our city more attractive. Our local park district has ceased having community events, tour de park, 10k runs, kids triathlon, swim teams, etc., which made our children better and gave a favorable look to our community. We volunteered over and over but now it seems that

no one cares and if they have to go over and beyond either pay me, or we cannot afford the overtime etc.

"I feel

Like the city needs to find different avenues for taxes not at the expense of community activities being cut, nor having homeowners have to make up for shortages that were allocated in areas that were not necessary. I.e: block grant, trash bins etc. "

Find other ways to cut. The proposed suggested cuts are TERRIBLE, aside from the paid employee salary for the rental coordinator, a position I doubt fifteen people even know exists.
Karen Curto

As a city, you represent the people. Private citizens must cut their budgets, when not able to pay for things. They cannot require their neighbor to pay for a swimming pool, foray into the arts, or business adventure. So also our city should be in the practice of cutting expenses when a budget cannot balance. It sets bad precedent to take more money from the residents, who are also feeling the strain of inflation and are tightening their own proverbial belts.

MAKE THOSE THAT OWN BUILDINGS DOWNTOWN PAY MORE THAN A DOLLAR FOR THEM. HAVE THOSE BUILDINGS RECEIVE IMPROVEMENTS. ENHANCED THEM SO IT IS A DRAW TO DOWNTOWN. HAVE DOWNTOWN BECOME A DESTINATION PLACE. MAYBE CITIZENS WILL STAY HERE TO SPEND MONEY INSTEAD OF HEADING TO KCMO OR THE LEGENDS.

Please direct our needs to the Police, Sheriff and Fire Depts. Also...streets maintenance and trash collection. We didn't need the upscale of trash bins...we need to pay the trash employees a fair wage. I don't understand the need for the curbing done on 10th street..just south of Spruce. No one walks there and no plantings. That money could have been used for the dedicated lines painted on the streets. Fourth street is in need of lane lines at 4th and Limit. I just wish the city manager would be aware we are not nor will be Johnson County. We are a city which has several tax exempt properties....the weight of the taxes fall on the citizens of Leavenworth. Thank you...

"I will be honest I am not fully in tune with the Leavenworth budget. However. On point #2 adopting a flat Mil Levy, what would that be? I mean to really be able to respond to this question the city needs to say what that flat rate would be. On points #3 and #4. These seem more like a scare tactic. I know that hard decisions need to be made in developing budgets, but I would imagine the two proposals are near and dear to a lot of people in Leavenworth. Not to mention these appear to me to be single year fixes not a long-term solution to adjusting the budget to the realities of falling tax revenues. (Loss of the prison tax revenue) On Point #6. I think eliminating the rental coordinator position, to me, sound like a good starting point. I would also say a full top to bottom review of the city of Leavenworth manning structure may in fact find more savings cuts. Ending the business grant, seems to me, that Leavenworth might be shooting themselves in the foot. I think attracting and developing new business to Leavenworth

is the key to gaining more tax revenue, not raising property taxes on the existing homeowners, i.e. expand the tax base. For example, I recently attended and spoke at the planning and zoning board meeting where the proposal to grant the use of Ables Field as a trash transfer point was the agenda. While the current proposed location is in the wrong spot and I don't agree with that location, there is a perfectly usable location right behind Ables Field east of 2nd street with what appears to be a skeletal structure of a large warehouse already there. My point is expanding city revenue but in the right place.

Thanks

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Please consider re-evaluating department budgets, not buying new vehicles for a while, determine appropriate staffing costs, there are lots of little wastes all over the departments. Move to smarter use of technology, reduce equipment needs in offices, negotiate harder with vendors. If businesses can do it, so can you. Why are we outsourcing so much with internal staff available? It is getting more difficult for businesses to thrive, so why are we giving grants to those we are pushing out. There are a lot of costs for recruiting, but no one really discusses the success or retention rates of these applicants, is the recruiter really that successful? There are costs that could shift. It's ok to not give pay increases if it isn't available, it happens in the real world everyday. The pay scales are very interesting among departments and the staffing is just the same. Try keeping things local, keep the revenue here. Partner with the community and not just stay in a building. Its interesting to not see community leaders representing themselves at community functions. Disappointed that mainly one or two leaders of our community are visible in the community who voted for them. Where are the rest?

Revenue neutral does not work. It has become a trend that some think solves issues. A political fad diet!

The indoor swimming pool supports the improvement of residents health through activity and exercise.

Most of the money can be saved by reducing pay increases. %'s are way too high.

You need to do more cuts than a mere \$318000

While in this current economy, people are struggling. I am not a proponent of raising taxes, but these cuts would harm crucial programs that our city offers.

Just do what we do in our homes. For those that howl, tell em: When the barrel runs dry, there ain't no more!

Closing the theater and pool are terrible ideas. Without community amenities this city will become a shell of what it is now with no identity and no community. For these to even be brought up as options should make residents second guess who is running the city.

Move the theater productions to an available site like a school

Consider any options that could have private entity funding.

One of the reasons the city is losing revenue because we have so many empty store fronts. So many businesses left because their rent was raised too high. Now they sit empty. There needs to be some sort of penalty for property owners who own these eyesores and ruin our downtown. Let's bring business back to downtown.

It seems that something like this is a last-ditch only-option effort knowing that it could have been avoided heading into this next fiscal year. This is unacceptable and honestly should it pass, will again make our city an undesirable place for folks to live and/or settle.

It was incredibly crappy to single out a single employee for elimination. Do better.

We should legalize cannabis and get in on the Billions being made by Missouri and stop our Kansas dollars going 20 min across the bridge. Then we KEEP out ppl, theater and Add me extorting things to bring tourists to the oldest city in Kansas

The RCCP is a historical site and provides such value to the Kansas City community. It should not be closed.

"If the PAC is costing the city more money than it currently brings in, it should be cut. However, what happens if the building doesn't sell? The funds still aren't there, and the city continues to carry the burden of maintaining the property until it does sell.

Is there an option for a third party to take over operating the RCC, such as the YMCA? If this could be an option, that would reduce the city's overall budget for staffing, building maintenance, etc at the RCC, yet still give citizens an option to utilize the classes, gym, pool here locally.

Are there positions/roles within the city government that can be consolidated to help alleviate the strain on the budget? "

You would call out one specific person on the city staff as not needed unless the voters think so. How does that provide psychological safety to any city staff? You all should be ashamed at how misleading and unfair this survey is. There is no such thing as a revenue neutral mill levy. You are purposefully confusing an already befuddled concept of revenue neutral. This is absolutely sickening.

Please stop spending so loosely.

"No new SWAT vehicle. Cut the b

Visitor bureau positions.

(250k?)

Use all tourism money for downtown events. Don't have camp Leavenworth and use money for more events that actually benefit downtown business. Fine business owners or take their property by eminent domain who let them sit empty immediately. "

The theater is the only stage within a 30 minute radius that is open year round for people to perform. How could you want to take that outlet away from this community? The indoor pool also needs to remain because LHS doesn't have a pool for their competitive swimmers. Both buildings are used year round and it's outrageous that they are considered for budget cuts.

There is absolutely no reason to increase the taxes for hard working, barely making it individuals because you can't find the proper budget cuts. If you want to make more money for the city then tell the judges to increase the bond amounts for these criminals they continue to let out over and over again.

If current leadership cannot manage the budget without cuts why would we trust you with more money. It may be time for a leadership change instead of a change to our tax rate

Fix the pot holes on side streets where Leavenworth residents, tax payers live.

The Community Center Pool has been a blessing for Water Aerobics to help in my recovery from both foot surgeries, back aches, Multiple Sclerosis due to not being available to utilize outdoor pool due from extreme heat

"1. Eliminate pay to the City Commissioners

2. Eliminate Camp Leavenworth and bring back Buffalo Bill Days

3. Wage freeze for two years for all city employees

4. Impose a city tax on alcohol

5. Legalize marijuana"

Review current administrative positions, broaden scopes if needed and consolidate or eliminate positions where it is realistic. Also no management position should be paid more than 4 times the rate of the lowest hourly position.

Return the speed limit back to 30, instead of 35 on Shawnee st, it's getting more unsafe for everyone living along this route, Speed limits on the residential area are already 30 MPH and on Shawnee the traffic has become way too fast, lacking speed enforcement, the fast vehicles are too close to the south side sidewalks and well as too many blind areas, with a curve and hill going directly into the sun in the rush hours.

Maybe allocate a higher percentage of property taxes to the city. My property taxes are at an all time high.

Balance the budget by increasing taxes or cutting costs....maybe generate revenue by either ticketing those breaking the law by firing fireworks OR change the law and make fireworks legal so you get the sales tax....the current situation is the worst of both worlds

Any business that cannot support its-self in the absence of Tax Payer funding, should be eliminated. The Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum should be on this list as well. If they cannot fund themselves, then it means no one is interested in using the facility and therefore it should be eliminated.

Some of the city (tax) funded positions are not necessary and can be dissolved.

Revenue neutral won't work long term. The state imposed it but can't do it themselves.

"

I FEEL THAT THE CITY NEEDS TO CUT BACK ON SOME OF THE UNNECESSARY EXPENDITURES- FOOD, SUPPLIES, SUBSCRIPTIONS, ETCETERA. UTILIZE EMPLOYEES TALENTS WHEN SOMETHING NEEDS FIXED INSTEAD OF THROWING IT AWAY AND BUY NEW. BE MORE FRUGAL."

The survey did not include "maybe" as a possible answer to questions about the cut. I would not be opposed to alternatives, such as finding a way to make some of the programs self-sufficient. I think the community theater program should be privately run without being subsidized by the city.

Many citizen who are older use the facilities at the community center. Pool and exercise rooms. And many of us are on scholarships because we can't afford anything else to exercise especially in winter

STOP spending like drunken sailors!

My research, if it were me, would be to begin looking in less obvious places where money is being spent that is not necessary. Like, areas that have little or no impact on Leavenworth's appeal to new businesses or little or no appeal or benefit to existing businesses. As you know, without businesses locally Leavenworth will continue to diminish and businesses will continue to fade off the scene locally. I don't pretend to know where funding could be cut as I have described because I am not familiar with the present spending graph, but as a lifelong resident I am seeing taxes continue to rise and city quality decline.

Closing anything in Leavenworth Kansas only drops population by not offering venue's here, pushing people to move or spend their money in the Kansas city area. We must learn to BUDGET within our means. Stop dipping into taxpayers pockets, just like the citizens have to do. I'm sure there is options that this community leaders can come up with.

Most of the city employees are lazy. It is time to cut those who can not or will not carry the load. City services are all terrible.

All of the above are needed. As an RCCP member, I think it needs to be recognized that the theatre gives opportunities for entire families to participate. Youth, especially, can be a part of a "team" in a creative experience and have activities to keep their minds and bodies busy and having fun.

Less taxes.

Have not heard one example of rental coordinator helping anyone in this town helping any person successfully resolve rental issues. Barely habitable rental properties allowed to continue so owned by city slumlords with no repercussions to the property owner.

Hire a City Manager. Conflict of interest now with Chief of Police.

Cut your paychecks first you pieces of shit.

How about the police chief take pay cut or we start to get business to come in to expand our tax ase

Stuff costs more every year, and a budget should increase to account for that. Stagnating or regressing city services isn't what I want and I'm willing to pay more for them as should others

"The River City Community players gives such an amazing opportunity for our military families, many spouses and older dependents enjoy getting involved with theater but CYS is restricted for just the kids on Fort Leavenworth, not only is it great for the military kids but also the people who did theater in Highschool and want to continue the passion for it. I think closing the Theater would be detrimental for this city, it's one of the few places that actually is fun to be apart of for the goofballs of our city. Many of which consider the place a second home. Closing the indoor pool might inconvenience some people but closing the theater would impact the people who have grown to love being both on and off stage. It would hurt the artists of Leavenworth County, it would gut the people who have worked there putting together costumes for years and those who have poured their entire heart into the many roles they've played on that stage. It's historical and important for Leavenworth. Please find anything else that could be cut but please try to keep the theater.

- Someone With alot of love for River City Community Players and the Performing Arts Center"

The Performing Arts Center has been a major part of the city since its inception in 1938. Before it was a performing arts center, it was a movie theatre, and it has captivated people for generations since its transformation. I had seen my first show and started performing there almost two years ago, and I have tried to come back whenever I can. I have made so many friends there since I was in the youth production of A Christmas Carol in 2022, and I want to be able to continue to see them here at the theatre. I know there have been many people who have participated in these shows long before I joined the theater troupe, and I know they want

to come back for the same reasons I do. We love performing for people and we adore the connections we have made. It is our home away from home, and we would be grateful if you could keep it going. I hope you will keep my plea in mind, please. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Eliminate the city commission and elect a mayor, like all other cities.

We spend tons of money in other areas, figure something out to save our town from dying completely, while keeping the businesses we have....

As a senior, water exercise is very important to me.

Taxes have gone up enough. Make some cuts somewhere besides asking us to keep paying more.

Cutting arts and physical fitness is just simply bad public policy. We want a healthy vibrant community. Keeping these programs does not increase property taxes. Those tax increases are due to property valuations- a system that is clearly flawed. Do the right thing.

It would be nice to see all options listed vs family type options. We need more things in LV for youth...not cut them! My husband and I raised 4 boys in LV. We had to do competitive sports outside of LV to keep them busy. Not much to do here for them. Please cut things that don't have anything to do with youth. They are our future!

Re look at where you are spending money at instead of making Leavenworth worse by taking entertainment away maybe consider other options

"The theatre is vital to the youth of this community. Many disadvantaged youth with nowhere else to go or who are not accepted elsewhere find homes in community theatre. Shows are heavily attended by the local community and are an amazing local entertainment option for those who can't fork out the money or don't have transportation for a show downtown.

The pool is necessary for the health and well being of many demographics. Elderly who can only be active in water exercises, young children learning to swim, a lifesaving skill. This community center is the only affordable option in this community."

It's ridiculous to think we could go revenue neutral given every year cost increases. There is cost of living increases, cost of benefits, cost of keeping good workers. Even social security has cost of living adjustments. How can a city be expected to do this. Quality is important. Do the right thing.

The owners of run-down buildings should be taxed more. It is unsightly and it is potentially dangerous. Restaurants not adhering to health requirements should be fined. The city has to do

everything in its' power to keep taxes as low as possible for homeowners. The city should "serve" the county residents.

Cut spending elsewhere. The pool and the theatre are the few places this city has that allows the people some amenities. Find better staff that will encourage and promote the place. Both pools are run down because the people that work there don't care. Get people who care. The theatre's needs better promotion to be successful. This city is going downhill, don't cut the few things we do have, just make them better. Employ people who know how to write grants and will work hard to make it right. The people at the RFCC are doing bare minimum and it shows, get rid of them.

Please don't close the community theater

Don't close the pool. However, the parks and rec department needs investigating. Some people are not pulling their weight, and the current conditions of the (both) pool (s) are questionable. Years ago, when it opened it had a great staff that took care of the pool, now it's a disgrace, dirty, run down, and the management is bad.

Save where you can.

Collect the money that the state of Kansas owes.

We have lost so many things lately! Catholic high school, golf courses, ability to safely walk the riverwalk due to so many homeless on the streets. We want to live and play and spend money in Leavenworth but with every cut it's driving us to Kansas City. Please figure it out without creating more loss for the Leavenworth natives.

Giving Leavenworth more to draw tourists and new businesses will be the only thing to keep Leavenworth alive and passing these budget cuts will further kill our city! There has to be other ways to balance the budget!

Using one time funds to cover a recurring budget item is a terrible idea. You need to hire a city manager who understands budgeting and listen to them and not destroy our quality of life through lack of investment. Shame on the City Commission for bringing us to this fake crisis.

while i agree with closing & selling the theatre, closing the pool is down right the stupidest shit i've ever seen be proposed lmao. the city needs to do a better job at budgeting if this is their answer to getting more money. why does Leavenworth need 5 city commissioners? there are cuts that need to be made within the system instead of taking away from the community. ya'all are crooked as hell. get it together.

I think a serious look should be taken at the number of staff employed and what we actually need.

Give us something for our kids to do instead of building trash sites, liquor stores and car washes

You can't grow Leavenworth by taxing residences to death and cutting amenities for said residents!! SEARCH AND FIND AND ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO COME TO LEAVENWORTH! Stop with these short term ideas and starting planning for a future or watch residents leave and Leavenworth die off to be little more than the fort.

"This city has a spending problem, this city takes in record levels of taxation year over year, positions need cut, city positions need examined under a very intense microscope and all the fat that is worthless needs trimmed.

It's time to start controlling spending not eliminating community centers to fund a mill levy.

Cut useless positions especially administrative positions.

This city doesn't have a income problem it has a spending problem that is being abused at the city level.

I'm getting very tired of my property taxes going up year over year without end, I make 90,000 dollars a year and I'm broke constantly because my taxes keep going up.

When I bought my house in 2014 my house payment was under 700 dollars a month, now it's over a 1000 a month, 10 years later it is up over 300 dollars a month in taxes alone, that's nearing a 50% increase in property taxes in less than 10 years.

Welfare needs gutted, able bodied humans need to get off there ass and go to work like the rest of us, welfare recipients should be drug and alcohol tested monthly and if they fail a test their welfare should be terminated ,if the able bodied individuals refuse to improve their life their welfare should be terminated.

Stop enabling worthless welfare rats on my tax dollars, it is high time things change in this city.
"

"Drugs

Crime

Empty buildings

Do more for senior citizens "

Need to spend more on improving streets.

"Maybe you work harder to fill the empty business Lots that you put on Eisenhower.

there's something good to focus on"

Do not cut theater and pool. Leavenworth should consider branding itself in some manner. Consider researching Helen, GA.

Its embarrassing that the city is considering cutting community enrichment programs like the pool and theatre that offer valuable programs to a variety of ages, incomes, and genders.

Do whatever is possible to get manufacturing jobs relocated to Leavenworth. More jobs, not higher taxes will solve many issues.

There are two tax payers at this address. Do we get two votes, or do we get one vote?

Increase the penalties for violations across the board. Enforce the statutes we have with more bite(fines) for those that wish to break those statutes (fireworks, speeding, parking, traffic, court judgments, code violations, etc). I understand this would cost more to enforce but worth it. Raise the user cost to use the public activities (pool, ballparks, permits for various venues, etc). Redo existing contracts to open bidding (reverse bid auctions). I understand we should support local businesses be we need to support our citizens with better products at the best rates.

I'm sure there are a few more city positions and programs that could be eliminated as well. Sell the Theater to someone who will do something with it. The community center pool is some peoples only enjoyment. Why is there no budget? Where is the money going? I have lived in Leavenworth my entire life and there is nothing here anymore and the place is starting to look trashy, I honestly see no improvements. Small businesses cannot stay open. The property taxes cannot raise anymore, people will not be able to keep their homes. Cancel Camp Leavenworth another option. I have gone every year to support it and I'm sorry but it's no good. Most of the vendors didn't even show up last year.

Why does the city need an assistant city manager? Cut that job. Or cut the other two jobs listed above and have the assistant city manager and city manager do those jobs. Then maybe you could pay the sanitation employees more or contract out all out Sanitation services.

No employee or Commissioner raises for 2025. Pay less of employees insurance. Give the police officers a quota each month to bring in more city revenue from tickets. Raise court costs for more revenue. Approve business like the previous trash service that would bring in a lot of income in taxes.

Explain what the mill rates are or you're not going to get many responses

Cut all the politicians pay make them take the cut

Quit wasting my tax dollars on frivolous studies like the traffic study for Klemp St and Grand St which resulted in more frivolous spending installing speed bumps which are nothing anyway of a joke.

Look at salaries of others than law enforcement, fire and em's staff and cut them rather than taking away things from people. I use the indoor pool three times a week for my exercise and want to continue doing so. Leavenworth High uses it for their swimming meets.

With increasing inflation, we must vote to exceed revenue neutral. As the value of the American dollar drops, we must allocate more funds (not less) to our programs to make up for the inflation. If Leavenworth decides to go revenue neutral every period, we will continue to lose funding for a variety of historic programs, activities, and places of entertainment. Do we really want Leavenworth to become a "dead town"?

The community theater is what brings me to the downtown area to spend money. More than any other business. Knowing the community theater would be there was also one of the deciding factors in our choice to move here from California.

When I worked for a local government, I felt they could have cut things without cutting staff.

Cut the city vehicle fleet. Half the people issued a vehicle do not require one. A vehicle can be used by multiple people on an as needed basis. It would save a lot of money on purchasing and maintenance of vehicles. Quit hiring outside consultants for planning etc. That's why the city has employees in positions to make those decisions. The city spends way too much on consulting fees and then not act in them. Why have a city engineer if the person can't draw up simple drawings for even small projects. Look for waste in each department. I did that at the state, saved 10s of thousand just on Styrofoam cups and tape. Not to mention ridiculous amounts of printer paper. Begin changing out all lights in city buildings with Led lighting as the existing lights burn out. Look for better contracts on projects, equipment, and maintenance of all buildings, property and mechanical equipment. If the city would budget and conduct business as if it were their own, a lot of savings can be made.

Legalize Marijuana and budget problems solved and provide enough to make sure all kids eat free in school, or pay the teachers more.

How about you take away the pay of the shitty city officials maybe that will clear money. A public servant shouldn't make more than the poorest member they serve. You sacks of shit.

We should cut the business grant program

These are all great cut ideas in my opinion. At this time tax increases are going to be damaging for some families currently dealing with the inflation already. We are spending twice as much for groceries alone and for less people at this point.

Have code enforcement do a better job keeping the city in compliance and actually enforce the fines they threaten. Cut automatic sprinklers to save on utility costs when its not needed.

I am not a city of LV resident but I use the pool and the theater on a regular basis AND I have to pay more to use it so please count my vote. Also, I am an employee at the LVCO HD and we refer many, many residents to Mr. Levine and he is ABSOLUTELY necessary to the city's rental population.

Audits. Goodness, if our family can wisely budget our money to pay our bills, maintain our home and vehicles, send our 3 kids to school, and spoil two dogs on one income; I should think all you very intelligent people could find a way to trim a little fat from your own budget. Raise the property taxes (AGAIN) and you may find that you have a whole new set of problems when people can't or won't pay. Our home has already been assessed at more than 40K over market value. Ridiculous.

The current property taxes are already unaffordable. There is no reason for property values to raise on property that has not received upgrades. Do something to make property tax affordable for the working people.

None

I want to see progress, not cuts. I would happily pay a little more to keep the town open for business.

Keep the Performing Art Center, it's a positive contribution to Leavenworth. All others can be eliminated. Thank you.

There should be additional areas to cut or more options in reduced spending.

Don't get rid of two of the things that Seniors utilize.

Open pool longer hours so people that work can use it.

Unfortunately inflation is on us. The City is no different things cost more so the City needs to raise more money (within reason). Some how the City needs to solve the trash problem, the parks problem. In general the City needs to pay it's front line workers a wage that they can attract and maintain quality workers. Maybe there are some in supervisory roles that should not be, but the pay has to be part of the problem. Either way the City needs to raise more funds to solve these problems.

Maybe revenue from traffic law enforcement would help with some of the revenue issues? There seems to be rampant speeding and red lights being run in the area.

we need dan dan the money man back

This revenue neutral option is not an actual solution, it is an attempt to pacify people who don't truly understand a budget and the way a business (to include cities) run. Taking away amenities will lose current residents AND make is less attractive to new residents.

Listen to the community. When they want something, ask why. When they say they don't want or like what you are doing, ask why. Listen. Then act accordingly.

Eliminate the city manager position and replace it with an elected Mayor. Eliminate the salaries of the city Commissioners and/or eliminate the positions altogether. Stop spending tax dollars on overpriced studies. Stop killing small businesses with permits, fees and other financial requirements. Keeping businesses open and generating tax revenue is better for the city and its budget.

I don't think cuts should be done for anything.

Save the arts in our city

"The city already owns and maintains LHS, that has a nice stage and theatre and it could work with RCCP to share if they had to. I don't think the Rental Coordinator position needs to be cut.

Maybe a tiered fine system needs to be implemented for empty building buildings downtown. These buildings drive away potential visitors and money spenders from visiting, staying and spending monies. The empty buildings eventually fall into disrepair and become a health hazard too."

Stop taking things away from our kids! There's already little to do here. You could use our history to bring in visitors/ money. You could stop paying a company to put on Camp Leavenworth when you have a community willing to step up and help.

"I think the rental coordinator position sounds more essential than business grants.

I think we should consider a tax on property owners that allow commercial property to sit empty or fall into disrepair. It will be the city's problem eventually if the owner defaults on the property. It might also incentivise the owner to rent their property at a reasonable rate. "

To come the Performing Arts Center and the pool at the community center would be a huge backward step for our community. I would sooner see prices raised for passes at the community center and tickets at performances. Closing either one is a ridiculous idea!

Revenue neutral budgeting is not an effective year over year budgeting technique for local government. Would like to see the state actually fund the Lavtr fund to help enhance the budget. City has done a great job prioritizing our roads!

The citizens of Leavenworth are already over taxed and having a hard time financially. DO NOT UP THE TAXES that would just make it harder on people to live in Leavenworth and we already have a homeless issue because of issues like tax hikes. If you raise taxes you are going to lose more residents and lose even more money. Try cutting the salaries of the city officials and make

them live off a minimum wage so maybe they could begin to understand the general population and how we already struggle just to barely survive.

Start cutting admin at the top!

You can't stay revenue neutral without adding in the inflation cost if you do that you will be spending the same amount as you did the year before. Just do what you have to to pay the bills without cutting programs that are used frequently. If you do cut programs you will have more problems then if you just raise the taxes a hair.

Hard to believe these were the top places to make cuts. What about the busineses and technology park thats been empty since conseption. I recall a city commissioner mentioning something along the line of this would only fill the pockets of a few individuals. Also all of the baseball fields sitting empty. Could tjose not be used to generate revenue? I herad a sum of 250k to use them for the season was turned down. That seems like a big chunk of the shortage amount.

Come up with some other idea that could bring more stuff to town to help out

Closing the theater and indoor pool would be a tremendous loss not only to the community but also the culture of Leavenworth.

Raise taxes to remain neutral

Stop taking away more and more things for our youth. I remember growing up in this town and we had a bunch of great stuff to do. I was apart of a group in high school that worked our butt's off the get the stake park built. While we fought to build things for children and families to enjoy our city has cut the parks budget countless times. Here's an idea ask us residents what we want. I would personally pay more taxes if this city provided amminties like a grocery store on the north end of leavenworth, more public transit, good lighting in all parks, public restrooms that actually have toilet paper and soap in every park. All public restrooms should have stalls so we can remove the doors to prevent places where rape and drug use can take place. Used vape disposal bins, we want our city to improve our quality of life but I've lived in this town for 30 years and we have less now then we did when I was a kid in the 90s. Mom and pop shops are dying out. Homeless are taking over our parks. They are camping along the roadside and panhandling almost every major intersection in town. Bring back bufflo bill days. We have to build better for the next generation instead of removing one thing after another. I suggest we opt for a pay for performance government system. If our reps don't do there jobs they shouldn't be paid. If you represent this city and do not try to actively improve this city everyday, what are you doing. We have houses falling down being used as flop houses by homeless drug addicts. But your proposed solution is more cuts and no actual improvements we would actually be losing more. I think our city needs to have a full audit done by an outside agency so we the people can see where our tax dollars actually go, the trash service is garbage. The old system was less strain on our trash collectors and they actually picked up all the trash.

My trash never sat for 3 days past pick up on the old system and now it happens regularly. I'm spending more money on a worse service. Explain that.

Many of us use the Riverfront Community indoor pool for Aquacize class. Instead of closing the pool, how about increasing the cost of the punch card to help offset the cost?

Cut the jobs of those family members that were hired by Andy Diedeke and the other unnecessary committees.

Stop raising property values, causing taxes and insurance to go up on homes. Retired people can't afford to live in a house that is payed off because it has increased in value by 1000%

They should not raise property taxes. The taxes are too high as it is. In this economy people are having difficulty paying taxes as they are

Cut those programs, take away our pool, and DEFINITELY ending the business grant program will only HARM our community and make it less attractive for people (esp retiring military) to settle down. We NEED more small businesses and attractions/amenities like the pool and performing arts center!!

Cut the payroll of the police chief.

I think eliminating the pool will hinder most of Leavenworth and those who use it, including our swim teams. Also eliminating the performance arts center takes away from the arts being accessible and enriching our communities.

Property tax cuts , need another hospital. More grocery store or shopping

Quit destroying everything in our town

Not sure what #6 is so not sure if I care or not.

Commissioners and top dogs need a pay cut

The performing arts center is so special to many people in the community that in closing said building and activities, we would lose a place where people find others that have a similar interest and can bond with one another to strengthen the bonds in our community. It's so important to keep the theatre alive.

Institute an across the board budget cut to ALL departments. The size of the cut would only be equal to the amount of money needed to be saved. For example a .01% (less than a tenth of a percent) budget-cut across the board would be sufficient to cover the shortfall. This would allow each department to best determine where they can save on funds while only feeling a minimal impact to operations. Current city budget is over \$350 million, shortfall is \$318 thousand. This equates to 1/10 of a percent of the budget....too easy Huh?

Why don't you cut your spending without affecting the poor.

It's not fair to take away our entertainment for budget cuts

Look at Your Grants awarded to business. Does the business give back to the city. Not Mill Levy consider all options available

Our community cannot stomach any additional tax increases at this time. I would rather look for more efficiencies in the proposed budget; however, at this point, if there are not any that can be found, then I think we will have to look at options to close opportunities.

You need to lower taxes cut un-needed jobs and luxury items that are not necessary. You can cut much more than \$318,000 that is almost nothing!!!!

You need to collect a toll for the new bridge coming soon

All of these potential cuts eliminate arguably important vehicles that are needed to attract and grow the city and downtown. These are steps backward with infrastructure already in place. I support the adoption of the existing FY 25 budget as a home and property owner in Leavenworth as well as a downtown employee.

"Where was all the money spent? Why are we over budget? Please don't close down things that families enjoy. Leavenworth only has a few fun things to do with our kids. Don't take them away.

Keep greedy politicians away from everyone's tax dollars.

If these go into effect you will see people moving out of LV and LV county. "

I think the people of Leavenworth should get a mailer on all the positions pay and how many of the elite are hiring their spouses.

LV is missing things for kids as it is. If you take away 2 more items for the fews things that are in LV for kids to do then what? We need things in LV for them to keep busy or it's just going to get worse for our children in LV

EVERYONE OF THE COMISSION NEEDS TO TAKE A PAY CUT AND START TREATING citizens FAIRLY!!! THE CITY GIVES PREFERENCIAL TREATMENT TO CERTAIN CITIZENS!!! THERE ARE TRASHY AREAS THAT THEY IGNORE AND HARASS DECENT CITIZENS!!! J.M.P.O.B.

Kids have nothing to do here as it is. Leave the theater and the pool alone!!!!

Cut pay of city officials, they're over paid and under worked.

Personally get rid of the city manager position or decrease a commissioner or two. No need for all of them. Also stop wasting money on dumb stuff. And remodel or community center. Look

around. People will drive to Lenexa and Matt Ross before they come to ours. Maybe put forth some effort into making it successful and you won't need to cut or add money to make people pay for property taxes increases

Make the choices necessary to keep quality city services and employees. Assess the right amount of dollars to do that. \$318,000 is not a lot per person. No budget can remain revenue neutral every year. This law was created to ensure nothing happened behind closed doors, it does not mean we have to remain revenue neutral, it's impossible in an inflationary environment, aging infrastructure and aging equipment. Spend the money necessary to make Leavenworth a great city to live in.

Instead of cutting out entire programs why not cut a percentage of operating budget across the board. Wait to backfill positions to save on budget or other means. Closing a pool is the easy solution - I think LV can do better. These types of services are what help sell a city and attract newcomers. We should be following the model (to a lesser degree) that Lenexa has followed to offer better amenities to the constituents, not less. We need to stop the decline, the given proposal is very short sighted.

Our children need more things to do in the city and I think the city needs to be audited on how much money is being spent. Taxes do not need to be raised! These places that our kids enjoy going to do not need to be closed down.

Please don't close the Riverfront community indoor pool. It is the only indoor pool we elderly can safely exercise in a safe, non-impact way. It helps others with weight loss and physical disabilities, PLEASE don't close this indoor pool!

If I was to give my opinion, I would say keep the pool open based on the needs for an indoor pool In The city of Leavenworth, the theatre would be nice to keep open just for a community project. I feel however that the idea of the business grant program is one that we could do without and still make progress.

This survey is sophomoric. The term revenue neutral mill levy is not accepted budget terminology. Mr. Mayor, you and your fellow commissioners are duty bound to put in the hard work, analyze various options against a set of critical decision criteria, and vote on the best possible budget to meet the strategic objectives and annual goals for the city. That is what you were elected to do. The buck stops with all of you.

Property taxes are high enough.

The indoor pool at the Community Center is an essential part of community life. To close the pool would degrade the essential quality of life for all residents whether they be young or old. We have something which cannot be replaced with any other substitute. Retain the excellent swimming facility in our community.

I honestly don't see where the money goes the cops don't do anything, the streets are horrible. Weeds are not cut along 3 mile creek like they have been in the past. Trash all over the city to include piles of it on 4th street up north. The homeless are aloud to do whatever. But the tax payers have to keep giving more and more in a community that is NOT giving us more.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback through this survey. I believe that our community center is a great asset to our city. I am not personally in favor of cutbacks To those facilities or services. In my opinion, \$318,000, spread out among all property owners. Is not an impactful amount. I believe the reason for our above average property taxes is not that the mill levy is inappropriate, but that we simply have a large percentage of entities that do not pay property tax. I would personally be in favor of collecting property tax from churches and military institutions. But of course, this would not be popular.

This survey includes undefined jargon that not all citizens are inherently familiar with. The city needs to figure out funding the services. Further, the city needs to do better at communicating with citizens.

Vote out the current members and replace with better ones. This city is trash. It's on the list of worst cities to live in. Druggies are taking over.

DO NOT CLOSE THE INDOOR POOL!!!

"Write the options more clearly--""revenue neutral mill levy"" is not what is being considered.

Also, Leavenworth has the 2nd lowest mill levy of all the Cities of the First Class in Kansas (only Overland Park is lower); some office holders say they want to bring jobs and opportunities to Leavenworth--if a City cuts facilities, recreation opportunities for families, etc. it will NOT draw jobs and opportunities. People want the amenities of good parks, facilities, etc.

Employees deserve salary increases, costs of materials and maintenance increase every year; to maintain the same level of City services there needs to be a slight increase annually to maintain. Revenue neutral is very short sighted.

Those city leaders don't need huge raises as they already make more than the average. So, let them get 0% raises for a year or two to help make up some of the money. Figure out some fun activities for kids to do in the Arts Center and charge. We need things for kids to do here. Instead of taking away things, change the mindset and come up with things people will pay to do.

Stop eliminating all things for our youth to participate in. Not every child can be in sunlight.

We should cut the business grant program

I know I'll be in the minority here, but I'd much rather you raise the mill a by 2-3, and support these amenities and work to improve our park system. Our parks are generally in overall rough shape (you've made some improvements and those are appreciated, but we need so many more) and there is so much potential in this city to create a really wonderful community that supports parks and trails.

These kind of changes would make people move away. The community center pool and performing arts center are part of what makes the community enjoyable.

The city should not increase property tax. The city should not cut social programs such as the pool or arts. INSTEAD the city should cut police force funds or find it somewhere else.

These are all good programs and facilities. They promote community and good health. The pool fees could be increased and still attract swimmers.

Please don't close the theater or pool!

Cutting services that make our community appealing to residents will cause more people to move elsewhere!

Don't take the arts away from the community! That theater is a historical landmark and one the city should value instead of being willing to toss it away so easily!

There has to be other options rather than the ones proposed. Leavenworth High School uses the pool. Young people have the opportunity to perform at the Arts Center. We definitely need the Rental Coordinator. Why are you suggesting cutting the very activities that make Leavenworth a family friendly city?

You need explanations and a not sure response. I started the survey without reading about the mill levy. I feel like cutting physical opportunities like the pool and creative youth activities like the theater are coward ways to balance the budget. People complain about cutting PE and Art classes from schools. This is what the city is proposing and it's just sad. I'm not sure what entails the rental coordinator job either - we have a problem with slumlords and if that's the position that citizens reach out to for help, that's another reason to keep it. And business grants? Aren't we trying to improve our city by ensuring a bustling economy? Don't we want more businesses to thrive? This entire thing just seems ridiculous. What are everyone elses salaries like? Over paid maybe?

No more taxes. People will leave this town.

LV needs the pool and the community theatre in order to keep quality of life high and attract new residents.

I use the indoor pool 3-4 times per week. There are many elderly that use the pool for exercise. Please keep it open.

The city should invest their money into something for the youth of our community. Opening another roller skating rink, a hang out spot for them, after school program to help them with jobs etc.

Three points: 1 - you are misleading residents and constraining the solution sets by looking only at what you label as budget cuts. You should be looking at broader proposals to reduce or eliminate the need for increases. 2 - It is sad that our talented city staff with high expertise in all aspects of city operations could only come up with a very limited set of proposals for budget cuts that, frankly, appear as if staff designed them to create controversy and limit city council discussions of the budget. 3 - By limiting this survey to residents only you have done a great disservice to a large group of significant property tax payers. Leaving businesses out of this discussion also illuminates input from a group that has three vested interests in keeping property taxes in check. Those three vested interests are their business health, their employees, and their customers many of them are also residents.

I agree with others that you should cancel Camp Leavenworth which is one weekend and keep these necessary community places such as the indoor pool and the performing arts theater.

O think closing the pool and performing arts center would have a huge negative impact on our community. A lot of kids look forward to participating in the plays at the theater and going to the indoor pool. There is not a lot for our youth to do here and I think we should do all we can to maintain the positive things here for them.

"The city should consider eliminating a few positions within the city offices. There are more people in charge of said positions than need to be that do not do their job as they should.

Start at the city code enforcement and the city inspectors. Also the city manager is over paid in their salary(when we have one) since the commission is who is making all the decisions.

Elect a Mayor and put them as the city manager. Stop electing commissioners and using one of them as the mayor.

You also are wasting money and time with the trash service that so many people are frustrated with. Let's stop trying to run a trash business and contract that out so we can focus on our city and other needs. "

Revenue neutral is unrealistic and the proposed changes required to make that happen would be harmful to our community. Stop this nonsense!!!

Cut the funds to Main Street program

Tax big corporations that have the revenue to assist the city government with its financial concerns/ upcoming projects. Partnership with businesses ,trade for services..not keep raising taxes on the local hard working community members who are barley staying afloat!

Think harder.

Retired and on fixed income. Can't afford property value increases. My 95 yr old uncle just down the street will not be about to eat with any more tax increases.

"I don't mind paying extra property taxes to support the swimming pool, performing arts and the rental/business funded programs. Hard to believe these are the only areas that were offered for cuts. We used to call this dangling gold watches in the military.

"

Stop taking away good things.

It's always easy to cut the arts! But also shows the decline of a city. So no the theater is a landmark that should be kept!! The pool is vital!! Many people use it for exercise.

Sell the RCCP theater only to an entity who will either run it as a performing arts center or turn it back into a movie theater.

Balance the budget to get Property Taxes back in check. I'm ready to vote everyone out if it is out of control.

Do not close the pool. Lots of older citizens use this!!!

I'd consider a yes on #6 if I knew more about what they did. I think money could be cut from what the City pays for Camp Leavenworth events unless it is generating city revenue. There could be added events yearly (like what First City Creatives is trying to coordinate) that could generate money for the city. Focus groups could further develop, I would volunteer for a city event planning team.

Special fee/taxes for properties being used for short term rentals/air bnb and hotels.

Cutting important things that add to the livability of our community is not the solution.

This town is already woefully short of activity options for its citizens. Getting rid of two that are often used would be a grave disservice.

Closing the pool at the Riverfront Community Center, the only indoor pool this town of 36,000 people has, would be the stupidest idea I've heard in a long time. Many people enjoy use of this pool year-round, including boys and girls swimming at Leavenworth High school. Ridiculous to even consider it.

Please let the people of Leavenworth keep more of their own money. Thank you.

Bring in more businesses to get that sales tax off them. Or better idea allow fireworks to be sold here and that would generate thousands and thousands in sales tax for just a week of sales like Lansing does.

n/a

is it possible to fold some of the rental coordinator tasks into code enforcement? Obviously not everything would be possible to farm out to them. I would be ok with the City not remaining revenue neutral if the county remained revenue neutral this year.

Each department should look at cuts. I understand there are several side/side vehicles at the service center running around. Are these types of vehicles really needed. Reconsidered snow removal equipment and maybe change the mowing requirements in certain parks. Be creative and look at each department including Police and Fire.

Who is coming up with where the budget can be cut?

We are already at such high tax rates, why propose more? More and more people will move because they can't afford the property taxes!!

The rising property tax is a burden on retired and senior citizens.

There are other vacant buildings and other options rather than close our community buildings that provide spaces for people to gather, exercise, and entertain. It is despicable that the only things being considered are those cuts.

"If the city is considering cuts, perhaps it should look for ways to save from the 2.5 million proposed in vehicle leases. Why are we leasing vehicles instead of purchasing and maintaining them? There's no way that's as cost effective, unless we're purchasing the vehicles at the end of the lease.

There's also the option to look at phasing CIP improvements at Wolman over multiple budget years, rather than frontloading next year's budget."

Leavenworth seems to be losing local businesses every day. Getting rid of any of the few we have left is not the answer.

My daughter and many other high school students loved being in this theater group. I like my indoor exercising classes in the pool

Really shouldn't of over collected last year

Leave the library alone!! It is a vital community resource!

spend less on the parks. we dont need all the upgrades to the city parks.

Shutting down community activity spaces is NOT the answer. These spaces hold value to many community residents. Consider options to help these spaces generate more revenue by holding special events such a comedy shows or bands in the Hollywood Theater that won't disrupt set construction. Add in themed events in the Riverfront pool, add in additional swim levels for

those that have completed level 4, warm the pool during select times for patrons that don't do cold water to bring in more revenue. There are so many ways you can boost revenue in the community. Poll members for ideas!

You need to take a hard look at the Police Department and Public Works. That is where most of the money in the budget is found.

Close the indoor pool and the performing arts center will leave us with what? This is ridiculous to even think about

"MANY use the indoor pool for physical therapy, exercise, recreation, swimming lessons and lifeguard training.

Eliminating services won't entice people or businesses to move to the city. Let's stop going backwards so a couple of commissioners can brag about cutting taxes. The former Hollywood Theatre is a treasure and the performances are enjoyed by many.

How about promoting a cleanup of the city encourage citizens to clean up their property mow their grass and pick up trash. It's a cheap solution to a HUGE first impression of the city.

I vote no on revenue neutral.