

## FY 2023-2024 BUDGET QUESTION

### *Response to Request for Information*

DEPARTMENT(S): Parks and Recreation Department

CBQ NO.: 153

REQUESTED BY: Vela

DATE REQUESTED: 07/27/2023

DATE POSTED: 08/07/2023

REQUEST: Please provide detailed information on the funding required to offer paid training during the 40 hours of lifeguard training, the 20 hours of lifeguard recertification training, the number of hours required to obtain a lifeguard instructor certification, and the number of hours needed to acquire a water safety education certification. Parks and Recreation committed to implementing paid training from the first day of lifeguard courses during a response to a question in the 2023 Council Budget Q&A. Please provide an update on implementing paid training during lifeguard courses and whether and how much funding is included in the current budget proposal to do so.

#### RESPONSE:

##### Lifeguard Certification/Recertification Stipend

In FY 2023, the Parks and Recreation Department paid a lifeguard certification/recertification stipend of \$400 to temporary Aquatics staff that completed the training, were successfully onboarded and worked a total of 80 hours with the City of Austin. Assuming the same successful recruitment in FY24, the funding required to continue this practice is \$473,660.

	Stipend	Number of Lifeguards*	Total
Recertification	\$400	1100	\$440,000
		Total	\$440,000
		Total With FICA/Medicare	<b>\$473,660</b>

\*Based on total number of eligible lifeguards onboarded in FY23.

### Water Safety Instructor/Lifeguard Instructor Certification

The number of hours needed to acquire a water safety education certification is 14 hours of training. In FY23, 73 staff members earned a Water Safety Instructor certification.

The number of hours needed to acquire a lifeguard instructor certification requires 16 hours of training. In FY23, 26 staff members earned a Lifeguard Instructor certification.

During the FY23 swim season, staff are paid their regularly hourly rate to obtain the Water Safety Instructor or Lifeguard Instructor certification. PARD has spent \$33,170 to date, using its departmental vacancy savings to cover the additional personnel cost.

Based on FY23 average hourly wages, \$50,456 in funding is required to offer paid certification in the future.

Training	Avg Hourly Wage*	Hours	Number of employees	Total
Lifeguard Instructor	\$21.50	16	75	\$25,800
Water Safety Educator	\$21.50	14	70	\$21,070
			Total	\$46,870
			Total With FICA/Medicare	<b>\$50,456</b>

\*Avg wage based on FY23 pay rate schedule

There is no additional funding in the FY 2023-24 Proposed Budget to continue to the paid training program.