

Curbside trash collection transition

Council guidance and implementation approach



Council Work Session: 10.5.26

**April
2028**

Proposed start
of City operated
collection

In-house curbside collection option

Direct City control would improve accountability, responsiveness and long-term cost management.

\$570K

Estimated first-year
collection savings

5 trucks

Four daily routes + one
reserve

9 staff

Eight operators + one
Equipment Technician

The current contract provides a safe transition window

Current arrangement

GFL Trash Contract - \$1.3M annual cost

Renewed July 1, 2026

Two-year term through June 30, 2028

Three additional one-year options

Total Core-Service – \$2.75M
(refuse/recycling)

Why transition

Greater service control

Faster response to missed collections

Stronger compliance oversight \$\$\$

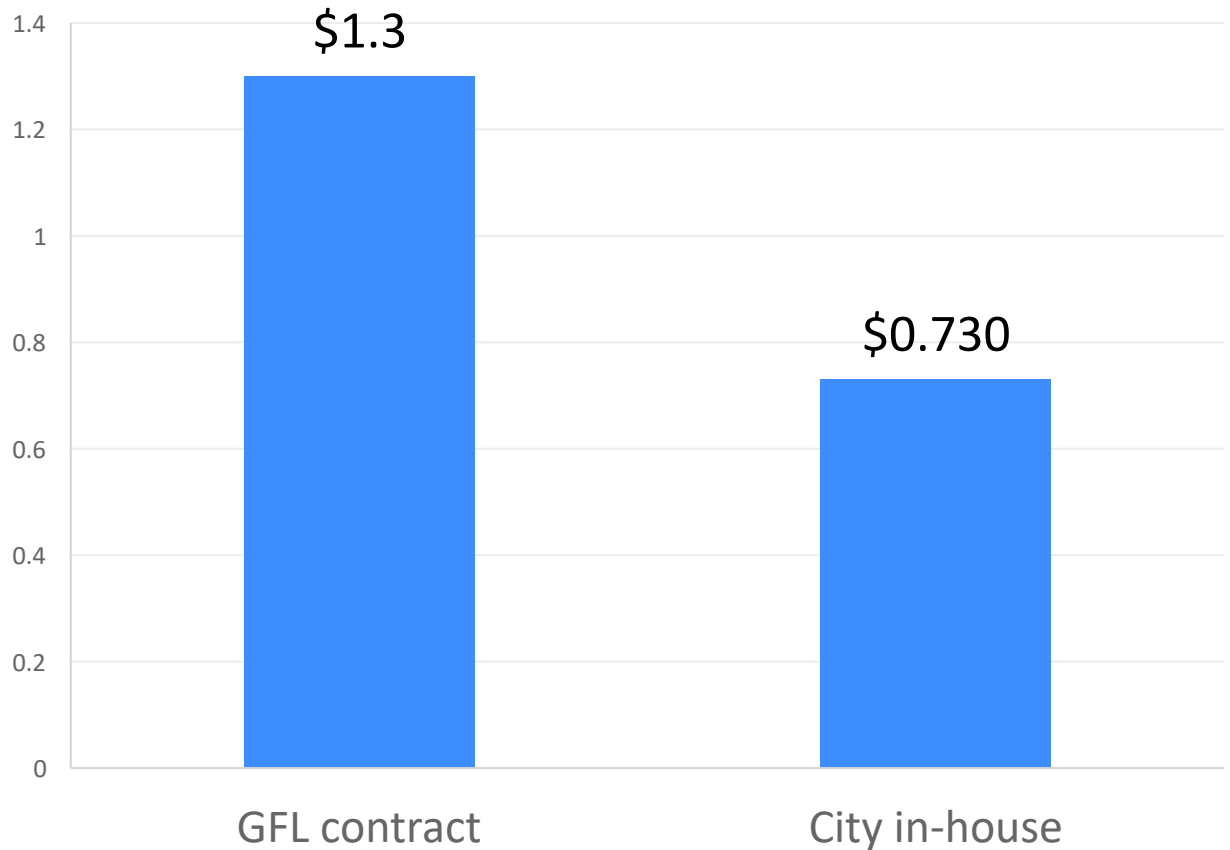
Reduced exposure to market volatility

Additional emergency capacity

Initial investment – FY27/28 (\$2.04M)

Five collection trucks (FY27)	\$1,300,000
Collection staffing (FY28)	\$550,000
Equipment Technician III (FY28)	\$65,000
Software (FY28 one-time investment)	\$17,000
Fleet maintenance (FY28)	\$25,000
Fuel (FY28)	\$90,000
FY27	\$1,300,000
FY28	\$747,000
Total startup investment	\$2,047,000

In-house collection lowers annual costs in current dollars



\$730K

Annual in-house collection cost

\$570K

Estimated first-year savings

Tipping and disposal fees
continue under either model.

Better oversight can improve program compliance and revenue

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FY26 REVENUE

\$1.40M

Approximate annual
program revenue used for
planning

COMPLIANCE TARGET

+\$100K

Potential improvement
through monitoring,
education and enforcement

WITH COMPLIANCE

\$1.50M

Before any rate adjustment

City-operated collection strengthens monitoring, education and enforcement of existing program requirements.

Workforce availability is the key implementation consideration

Maintenance Worker III	\$19.66/hour
Motor Equipment Operator II	\$22.51/hour
Equipment Technician III	\$27.35/hour

The \$550,000 staffing allowance provides flexibility for qualifications, CDL status, experience, benefits, overtime and reliable coverage.

A phased rollout protects service continuity

Jan 2027

Order five trucks

Sept–Dec 2027

Recruit staff, prepare routes and begin outreach

Jan–Feb 2028

Receive equipment, train employees and activate customer service

Mar 2028

Conduct operational dry runs

Apr 2028

Begin City - operated collection

First 90 days

Monitor performance and adjust

The proposed system has capacity and operational resilience

15,000

Estimated collection stops

18.75 tons

Expected daily collection volume

24 tons

Available daily capacity

Four trucks operate daily. A fifth truck remains in reserve for maintenance, repairs or emergencies.

Proposed implementation approach



Propose the phase transition toward City-operated curbside trash collection beginning April 2028.

Maintain GFL service until staffing, equipment, technology, training and operational testing confirm full readiness. Council guidance requested on the January 2027 purchase of five collection trucks.

Why revisit the solid waste model now?

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THEN

When the City moved to contracted collection, outsourcing avoided a major City investment in collection equipment and staffing and was financially attractive under the market conditions at the time.

OVER TIME

The contracted model served the City for many years. Private collection costs increased while customer sticker rates remained largely unchanged. The current GFL collection contract is approximately \$1.3M annually.

NOW

Current analysis indicates City-operated collection can provide greater control at an estimated recurring collection cost of \$730K annually.

The earlier decision to contract collection was reasonable for its time. The economics have changed, and the City should evaluate the model based on today's costs and operational needs.

What does current program revenue cover?

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Bringing curbside collection in-house changes the financial picture before any sticker increase is considered.

FY26 REVENUE

\$1.40M

Approximate annual solid waste program revenue

COLLECTION + DISPOSAL

\$730K

In-house
collection

\$400K

Tipping /
disposal

≈ \$1.13M combined

WITH COMPLIANCE

\$1.50M

Potential revenue before a
rate increase

Current revenue is sufficient to cover estimated in-house trash collection and disposal. A rate increase would support broader core program costs and future equipment needs.

Staff recommendation: 15% rate adjustment

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Staff recommends a modest rate adjustment after approximately 15 years without a comprehensive review, while preserving the existing pay-as-you-throw structure.

SMALL STICKER – 13 GALLON

\$1.05 → \$1.20

15% adjustment, rounded

LARGE STICKER – 32 GALLON

\$2.10 → \$2.40

15% adjustment, rounded

**Estimated additional revenue from
15% adjustment: \$210K annually**

**Potential additional compliance
revenue: \$100K annually**

Together, the 15% adjustment and compliance target would increase program revenue from approximately \$1.40M to approximately \$1.71M.

Resident assistance remains in place

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The City already provides assistance for residents who qualify for help with trash service. These assistance programs would continue if sticker and decal rates change.

Rent Relief recipients

Qualify for free trash service

Real Estate Relief recipients

Qualify for free trash service

Social Services (DDS) clients

DSS may provide stickers based on need

DSS distributes approximately 1,300 individual stickers per month to clients as needed.

The current assistance value is approximately \$35,000 per year.

This allows the City to maintain a pay-as-you-throw structure while continuing assistance for residents who qualify.

Why staff recommends this approach

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- 1 Operational savings** Bringing collection in-house is estimated to save approximately \$570K annually compared with the current GFL contract.
- 2 Current revenue base** FY26 program revenue is approximately \$1.40M, which is enough to cover estimated in-house collection and disposal.
- 3 Compliance target** Improved monitoring, education and enforcement are expected to generate approximately \$100K in additional annual revenue.
- 4 Modest rate adjustment** A 15% adjustment generates approximately \$210K annually and helps support broader core costs, future fleet replacement and reduced General Fund reliance.

This proposal reduces General Fund reliance without asking customers to absorb the full historical funding gap.

Plan for future truck replacement

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The initial fleet purchase establishes the operation. The long-term financial plan should also account for replacing those trucks when they reach the end of their useful life.

\$1.3M

Initial purchase

Five collection trucks

\$115K

**Current annual fleet
costs**

\$90K fuel + \$25K
maintenance

\$175K

**Replacement reserve
per year**

Beginning Year 7

Staff recommends that future fleet replacement be treated as an ongoing program cost so the City is not faced with another large one-time General Fund request.

Recommended direction

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- 1 Bring collection in-house** Continue the phased transition to City-operated curbside trash collection, targeting April 2028.
- 2 Adjust rates by 15%** Increase the small sticker from \$1.05 to \$1.20 and the large sticker from \$2.10 to \$2.40, with corresponding decal adjustments.
- 3 Improve compliance** Use direct City oversight, education and enforcement to target approximately \$100K in additional annual revenue.
- 4 Plan for replacement** Establish an annual fleet-replacement amount with Fleet and Budget as part of the long-term program budget.

The combined approach is intended to reduce General Fund support while providing additional funding for core solid waste services and future equipment needs.