



Informational Memo
Management Services - Memo No. 26-051

Date: January 12, 2026

To: Mayor and Council

Thru: John Pombier, City Manager *JP*
Dawn Lang, Deputy City Manager | CFO *DLL*

From: Matt Dunbar, Budget & Policy Director *MD*

Subject: Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Fees Work Session Follow-up

During the Council Work Session on December 11, 2025, regarding proposed fee changes, there were a few questions that required further research and/or information. The following is a summarized list of these items and the responses provided by the appropriate department:

- 1) Councilmember Poston asked to obtain additional comparisons of the public record request fees requested by the Police Department. Also, to ensure market comparisons are consistent and to clarify why we pick certain cities to compare against.

Response: The Police fee comparisons on the Proposed Fee Summary Sheet that is posted online ([City of Chandler Summary of Proposed New or Modified Fees for FY 2026-27](#)) has been updated to show additional comparisons for other valley cities.

On future fee updates, departments proposing fee changes will be asked to ensure market comparisons make sense based on the proposed change. When reviewed, departments will be asked why certain comparisons were chosen if not obvious.

- 2) Councilmember Orlando asked about the number of residents that paid for a bulk collection in the prior year, as well as the number of customers who requested an additional container pick-up.

Response: In FY 2024-25 there were 304 paid bulk collections and 586 additional container pick-ups.

- 3) Councilmember Harris asked why the Library Board was changing the fees and wondered why they have that authority.

Response: City Code Chapter 2-26.4 (G) and 33-4 gives the power to the Library Board "to establish fines and fees to be levied and collected by the library staff". Once the Library Board

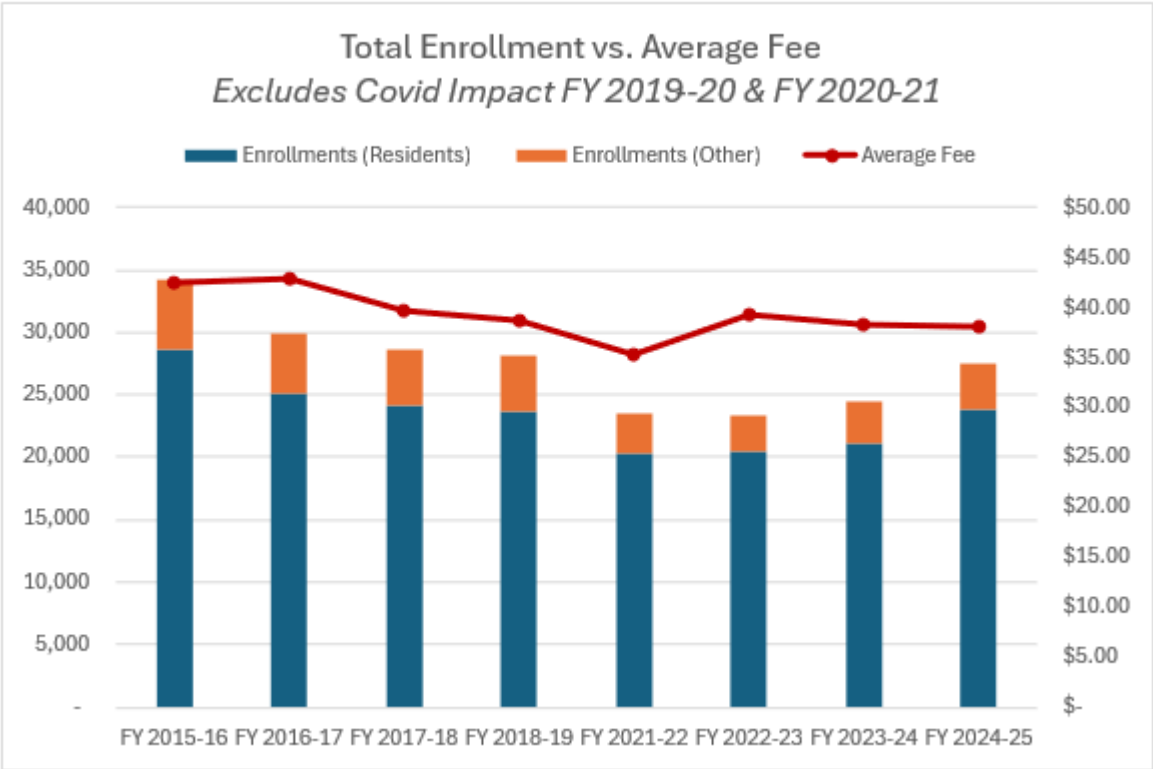
has determined a change to a fine or fee, they must follow the posting requirements set forth in City Code section 2-17. The inclusion of copy fee is now noted as “Authorized by Library Board”. Should there be feedback on this fee by residents, staff will work with the Library to communicate back to the Library Board.

- 4) Councilmember Orlando asked to get some history of residential users of kid’s programs and whether the participation is increasing or decreasing over the last several years, and if the enrollment in programing is affected by costs.

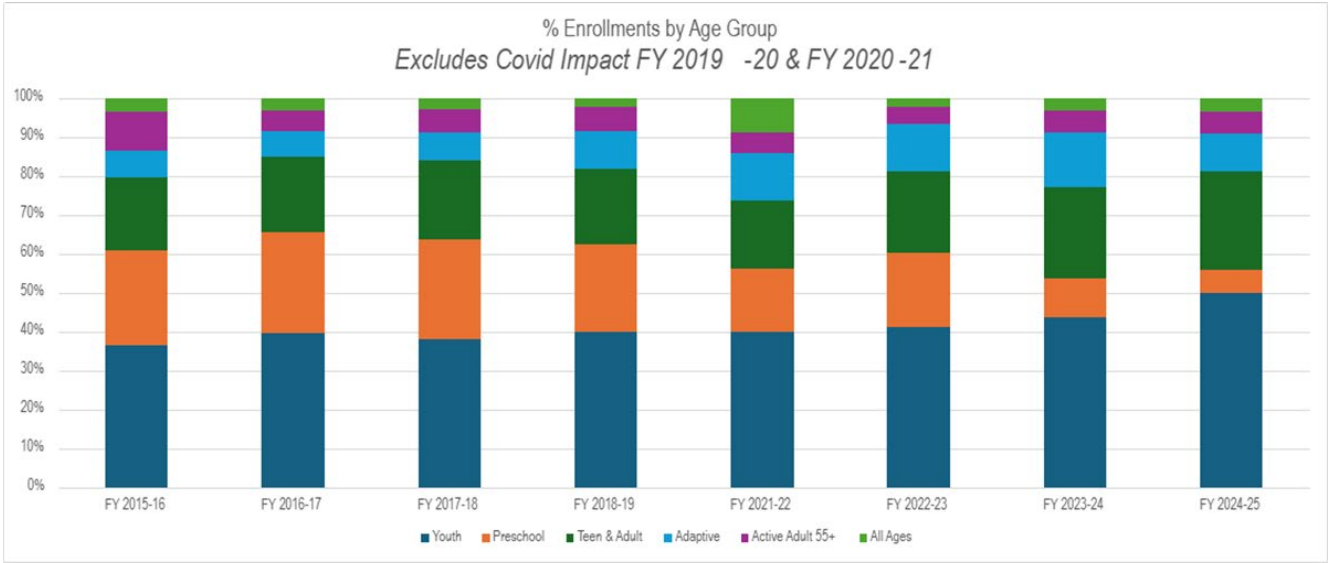
Response: Community Services was able to provide the following chart showing enrollment trends related to fees. The chart shows that enrollment trends are not significantly affected by fee increases. Despite modest fee increases over time, including a change to the formula in 2019, enrollment stabilized and rebounded following COVID-adjusted years. FY 2019-20 and 2020-21 have been removed because the data points were skewed, as the department was offering highly reduced or free programming based on need, and new tele-programming options were offered during the pandemic.

Demand for programs has remained resilient, suggesting that factors such as program quality, availability, and perceived value played a greater role than pricing.

Total Enrollment vs. Average Fee



Additionally, the following chart reflects the age group participating in the programming offered, with the number of youth (in navy blue) participating growing over the last few years.



5) Councilmember Orlando asked about the frequency of facilities or amenities being taken out of availability to the general public and used for private use.

Response: Public access varies widely by facility and amenity, so the response depends on the space in question. For the proposed fees, this applies only to room rentals, pickleball courts, and the archery range.

Depending on the facility, rooms can be for general use without a reservation or reserved and taken out of public use. For pickleball courts and the archery range, the proposed fees allow reservation of half the facility periodically. As these fees are new, there is no historical data to measure impacts; however, reserving half of the archery range is expected to have minimal effect.

Using a single location as an example is difficult since usage varies. For instance, Tumbleweed pavilions are reserved more frequently than others, and Snedigar fields see higher demand than Espee or Pima.

In short, reservations do reduce general public access at a specific space; however, staff have built in safeguards to maintain availability, such as non-reservable pavilions at the same parks and open field areas within parks that also contain reservable fields.

Should there be more questions, an FY 2024–25 report showing reservation frequency for facilities available for both public use and private rental, including fields, pavilions, and courts could be researched.

- 6) Councilmember Hawkins had a question on the proposed formulas for Community Recreation Program Classes and Specialized Fitness Classes, and if there was a difference for resident vs. non-resident fees?

Response: While the city has always included a fee class/program discount for residents, the Citywide Fee Schedule does not clearly show how that process works to offer the discount to residents. An update to the language in the Citywide Fee Schedule has been added to help clarify the treatment of residents versus non-resident rates as follows: "For programs, classes, services, and facility use administered by the Community Services Department, fees are established with separate resident, non-resident, commercial, and non-profit rates. Resident rates reflect a 35% reduction from the non-resident rate in recognition of taxpayer support for City facilities, programs, and services. Chandler based non-profit organization rates are discounted at 50% of the resident rate and Commercial or for profit organizations are charged 50% above the resident rate. Residency eligibility and verification requirements shall be determined by the Department Director or designee."

The fees are scheduled to come back to City Council following the 60-day posting period which is February 26th. This is required to be an Action Item on the agenda. If you have any additional questions about these follow-up items, please contact me at X2256 or Dawn Lang at X2255.

c: Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager
Ryan Peters, Deputy City Manager
Leah Powell, Deputy City Manager
Department Directors