Winnipeg Committee for Safety 2026 Budget Requirement and Considerations

2026 Budget recommendation:

Communications and Community Outreach	$10,000.00
Education and Training (safety events)	$15,000.00
Meeting Costs (Zoom subscription and food)	$1000.00
Office Expenditures (incl.Coordinator phone)	$3500.00
Coordinator contract fee	$55,000.00
Total Budget	**$84,500.00**

2025 Budget (current)

Communications and Community Outreach	$5,000.00
Education and Training (Annual safety event)	$2000.00
Meeting Costs (Zoom subscription and food)	$300.00
Office Expenditures (Tracey's phone)	$1600.00
Contract Fee	$50,000.00
Total Budget	**$58,897.00**

History:

2023 budget was **$66,497.00.**

2024 budget was reduced by **$7800.** No explanation for this was given.

2025 budget saw **$7600** reinstated, but only for the current year. It will be removed for 2026.

That will leave us at **$51,297**, which means after the coordinator contract fee ($50,000) we would have **$1,297** to work with.

In 2001, the year the WCFS was initiated), the committee budget was **$69,000.**

Considerations for 2026

Coordinator contract fee – The last fee increase was 5 years ago. A 10% increase ($5000) would be in line with other committee coordinator increases over this same period.

Note: In 2001, the coordinator contract fee was $40,000. That's an average .8 % pay increase each year.

The coordinator's personal cell phone is used for WCFS operations and reimbursed at a cost of $1000 per year. Coordinator assumes $2000 per year for office expenses and transportation costs, as there is no room in the budget to cover these.

Who Do I Call? cards - we have $5000 budgeted for this (Communications and Community Outreach). Current (2025) amount does not cover costs for requests received. With graphic design fees, French translation fees, printing, mailing costs, **$10,000** is a realistic cost estimate.

Community safety events (three per year) - **$15,000**

2026 Budget requirement

Communications and Community Outreach	$10,000.00
Education and Training (safety events)	$15,000.00
Meeting Costs (Zoom subscription and food)	$1000.00
Office Expenditures (incl.Coordinator phone)	$3500.00
Coordinator contract fee	$55,000.00
Total Budget	**$84,500.00**

2026 Budget requirement

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How our funding compares to other civic committees

While it's different in each case, other committees – Human Rights Committee of Council (HRCC), Climate Action and Resilience Committee (CARC) and the Winnipeg Food Council have budgets that are significantly larger than the WCFS. For example, the HRCC had their budget approved in June for $125,000. They have two sub-committees - Accessibility & Inclusion and Equity & Diversity. Their budget includes the coordinator's contract fee of $63,000.

CARC has a budget of $47,000, but that does not include the coordinator's pay, as she is a city employee and working with that committee is only part of her job. Winnipeg Food Council's budget is $23,000 and has two city staff assigned to it – their wages aren't part of the budget amount either. Also, CARC and the Food Council don't have expenses for things like phones, office supplies, postage, Zoom subscription. If you take away the coordinator contract fee, we have a far smaller operating fund (under $1300) than these other committees.

Where does our value lie?

An August 2025 Probe Research poll showed crime, safety, and violence top the list of Winnipegger's frustrations. This has been the case for many years, as our city continues to rank high up the charts when it comes to the number of residents living in poverty, as well as the level of violent crime reported. These two factors do not occur in isolation, as we know one drives the other. How we as a city respond to those issues is what will set us apart in the future. The WCFS members bring a diverse wealth of expertise and experience to their roles. With the collective ability to draw from our community relationships we can inform and offer suggestions and feedback that would assist the Mayor and Council. We feel we are under-utilized in this aspect of our role.

The work of the new Safe Winnipeg Initiative would benefit from a voice connected to the community, which could be broadened through increased community safety and well-being outreach and events initiated by the WCFS – I.E. Neighbourhood Watch connection, public forums and education opportunities on topics of concern such as youth violence, substance use, mental health issues, and partnering with organizations or agencies working on issues of concern.

Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Priorities Action Plan states "Council is focused on building a safe, healthy, and happy city that supports the well-being of all residents by providing city services that are available, accessible, and affordable. This will happen by supporting reconciliation, poverty reduction, and advocating to and partnering on shared goals with other levels of government to build a stronger city."

The WCFS fully supports these priorities. One way we do this is through the production and distribution of Who Do I Call? cards. The popularity of these cards has grown greatly since the pandemic, with tens of thousands being requested each year. The most popular topics are Mental Health & Addictions, Meal Services, and Sexual Violence, which tells us user needs are varied and serious.

Library Services is the largest user of these cards, saying they are among the best resource materials available. In 2024 they ordered 70,000 cards. We are grateful to be able to support them, along with a wide variety of organizations in providing help to fellow Winnipeggers. This also includes high schools, hospitals, clinics, community centres, low-income housing providers, newcomer and immigrant services, Child and Family Services, youth and women's organizations, public health providers, and senior services.

By June 2025 we exhausted our stock of cards, so cannot fill requests until 2026 budget money is received.

The funding we are currently allotted to support the work of Council, as well as provide community safety and well-being resources, is not meeting our committee's needs. We believe that with crime, safety and violence being a top concern for most Winnipeggers, funding our committee to a greater level, and considering us a beneficial prong in the work of making Winnipeg a safer city has value to Council and the citizens of Winnipeg.