

LBD Budget Survey
Frequently Asked Questions and Observations

GENERAL LBD QUESTIONS:

What is the purpose of the LBD?

The LBD was created in 1982, and is a political subdivision of the State of Missouri. It's directive is to appropriate funds and efforts to benefit the constituents and visitors of the LBD. Generally speaking, the LBD strives to improve the safety, prosperity and connectivity of the community.

Where do I go to get more information about the LBD?

You can start by visiting our website at www.locustbusinessdistrict.com and by reading the e-newsletter that is sent out on a monthly basis. The best way to learn more about the LBD would be to regularly attend the scheduled meetings of the LBD.

How do you get on the Board of the LBD?

Commissioners of the LBD are appointed by the Mayor. The Mayor considers all applicants to the LBD and makes selections as seats open on the Board. There are designated seats on the LBD for both owners and renters of property in the LBD. The terms of the appointments are for 3 years.

How much are the LBD Commissioners paid?

All Commissioners are volunteers and receive no compensation for their involvement in the LBD. They donate their time and efforts to helping address the issues in the LBD and make the LBD a better place to live and work.

OVERALL BUDGET QUESTIONS:

Where can I see the individual spends and budget of the LBD?

The LBD budget, as well as general ledger is posted on the website at www.locustbusinessdistrict.com. Additionally, the individual transactions that occur during each month are made available and discussed at each LBD meeting during the Treasurer's Report.

I've added up the percentages in the survey questions and they don't add up to 100%. Why not?

The 2019 Budget Input Survey asked several questions about specific areas of spends, but did not ask about all areas of spends, such as legal expenses. The survey did offer an area for general comments, not specific to a particular budget. The 2018 full budget is available of the LBD's website at www.locustbusinessdistrict.com and the 2019 budget has not yet been approved.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Does the city take care of general trash issues?

The city does provide trash pick-up but it is not sufficient for the LBD's needs.

Where is the LBD Parking Lot? Who uses it?

The parking lot is on the northeast corner of Garrison and Olive. The parking spots are available for lease by companies, residents and individuals in the LBD.

Why does the LBD pay to clean the streets? Should STL taxes already pay for this?

The city does not provide sufficient street cleaning for the LBD's needs.

SECURITY:

What are the current crime statistics?

Total Crime in the LBD has dropped by 7.5% from a year ago (Trailing Twelve Months, thru August 31st) and has been on a steady decline the last 4 years. In fact, Total Crime has dropped 26% since 2014. Specific areas of crime, changes from the TTM August 31st 2018:

Total Crimes against People are down 19.2%

- *Homicides are down 50% (1 incident versus 2 YAGO)*
- *Rape is flat to last year (2 incidents)*
- *Robberies are down 35% (11 versus 17 YAGO)*
- *Aggravated Assaults are down 9.7% (28 versus 31 YAGO)*

Total Crimes against Property are down 5%

- *Burglaries are down 11.1% (8 versus 9 YAGO)*
- *Larceny is down 2.5% (195 versus 200)*
 - *Larceny from Motor Vehicle down 5.4% (156 versus 165)*
- *Vehicle Thefts are down 19.3% (25 versus 31 YAGO)*

Does the LBD make targeted efforts to reduce crime in the hotspots?

The LBD meets and hears from the City of St. Louis Police Department and our Community Liaison Officer every month to stay informed on issues happening in and around the LBD. Additionally, the LBD seeks counsel from The City of St. Louis Police Department as it pertains to areas of improvement and things the LBD can do to support the policing efforts. An example of this is the LBD's investment in high visibility cameras and license plate reader technology connected to the Real Time Crime Center.

What is the deal with the flashing cameras and why aren't we notified that they are going in?

Those flashing cameras are part of the network of technology connected to the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), that is managed by The City of St. Louis Police Department. The RTCC includes remotely controlled cameras, license plate readers and gun shot locators. All of the devices that have been commissioned by the Board of the LBD have been discussed in open forum meetings, available for public comment, voted on and recorded in meeting minutes.

What sort of accountability do we have with Gold Shield?

Gold Shield holds a contract with the LBD to provide secondary security. In addition to reporting activity each month at the regularly scheduled meeting, Gold Shield provides GPS tracking on patrols for each shift.

COMMUNICATION:

What's the deal with our website?

After a change in administrative personnel, we lost access to our old website and it went dormant. After several discussions on finding budget dollars to have a new site built, one of the Commissioners took the challenge of relaunching the website and volunteered their time to build it out as a communication platform. We currently have a Marketing Firm engaged that may look to enhance the site.

How on earth do you spend \$36,000 and get so little done?

The \$36,000 that is referenced in communication represents our budget. The spend Year to Date, thru August, is \$4,308.67. August represented our first payment to a recently engaged marketing firm of \$3,333.

I wish the LBD would provide a newsletter to keep up to date. Why not do that?

The LBD actually does electronically publish a newsletter on a regular basis. It is distributed via email and often serves as a reminder of an upcoming LBD meeting. If you haven't seen it yet, please check your SPAM filter.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

What is the status of the Dog Park concept?

The project remains on hold at the present moment. And it has only been in the conceptualization/exploration stages with some internal efforts made to identify potential locations and draft a rough budget. No dollars have been spent on this project.