



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: December 16, 2025

To: City Council
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: December 2, 2025

SUBJECT: Resolution 25-070 – Budget Amendment 2026-003

BACKGROUND: The City of Sanibel currently does not operate a formal stormwater utility or assessment program. Stormwater activities are addressed on an as-needed basis and have historically been funded through general operating resources, transportation revenues, or grants. As resiliency and environmental pressures increase and infrastructure maintenance becomes more complex, the absence of a dedicated, structured stormwater management framework presents growing challenges.

Sanibel's geography as a barrier island, combined with its commitment to environmental protection and water quality, makes stormwater management a critical component of long-term resilience. At its October 21, 2025 meeting, the City Council was presented with some introductory information on a potential stormwater assessment program. That information can be accessed by [clicking here](#). At that meeting, the Council expressed a desire to explore the establishment of a stormwater assessment program.

Municipalities across Florida commonly rely on dedicated stormwater utilities, supported by assessments or fee structures, to maintain compliance and fund infrastructure needs. Determining how to set up and maintain such a program requires specialized knowledge and consultation.

DISCUSSION: Because the City is at the exploratory stage of evaluating a potential stormwater assessment program, consultant assistance is essential to provide foundational analysis and guide decision-making. The scope of work of a consultant would include:

- Reviewing Sanibel's current stormwater conditions, needs, and vulnerabilities.
- Identifying and analyzing potential program structures, including phased or hybrid approaches appropriate for environmentally sensitive barrier island communities.

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

- Developing possible assessment or fee methodologies based on parcel characteristics, impervious area, and Sanibel's unique development patterns.
- Ensuring compliance with Florida law governing stormwater assessments and public financing mechanisms.
- Preparing materials to facilitate City Council and public outreach to inform and engage stakeholders.
- Providing the City Council with clearly defined program options, cost implications, and implementation guidance.

This consulting project will help the City Council make informed decisions about whether and how to move forward with establishing a dedicated stormwater assessment program.

FUNDING SOURCE: Staff is requesting \$25,000 for these services to be appropriated from the General Fund ending fund balance. There is currently \$5,362,651 available to be appropriated.

This budget amendment will not increase the fiscal year 2026 budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of Resolution 25-070 authorizing budget amendment 2026-003.