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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mayor Sakbun Releases City of Terre Haute Balanced Budget to City Council**

**Terre Haute, IN-** Mayor Brandon Sakbun today announced the submission of the City of Terre Haute's proposed 2026 budget to the City Council and the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. The budget maintains a balanced approach, invests in critical city services, and positions the community for long-term financial stability.

The proposed 2026 operating fund revenues are projected at **\$127.8 million**, reflecting steady growth from 2025 and a more than doubling of casino revenues from \$3 million to \$9.3 million. The city continues to budget conservatively by planning revenues on the low end and expenses on the high end, ensuring resilience against economic fluctuations while preserving reserves.

"Terre Haute is living within its means," said Mayor Sakbun. "We've put forward a responsible, balanced budget that not only supports public safety and essential services, but also invests in infrastructure, parks, and community amenities that improve quality of life."

Key highlights of the 2026 budget include:

- **Balanced General Fund:** Surplus increased from \$4.3M to \$4.7M in 2024 with another marginal increase in 2025, current models show the city will continue maintaining healthy reserves for the general fund.
- **Public Safety Investments:** Salary adjustments, including a base increase for police and fire personnel, alongside improvements in facilities and equipment.
- **Infrastructure & Community Projects:** Funding for the Deming Pool (\$1.15M), YMCA partnership (\$750,000), Neighborhood Parks Improvement Projects, and multiple paving, sidewalk, demolition projects, and building improvements.

- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Slower expense growth of just 1.47%, compared to a 15.45% increase in the previous year. This is a direct result of SB1, which is costing the city over \$1M to the general fund in 2026.
- **Modernizing Staff and Equipment:** Efficiency gains will be made through improved staffing, modern equipment, and realignment within city departments.

The budget also anticipates future investments in long-term sewer and stormwater infrastructure, required by the EPA, ensuring Terre Haute remains compliant while upgrading essential systems.

“Our focus is on sustainability,” Sakbun added. “By strengthening reserves today and investing wisely, we’re building a more resilient Terre Haute for the next generation. The negative effects of SB1 have only just started. The city is preparing for that through a conservative approach to gaming revenue and EDIT revenue.”

The proposed budget will now move forward for consideration by the City Council.

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