



City of Ketchum

News Release  
July 2, 2015

## **Proposed Ketchum Budget Calls for \$1 Million Reinvestment In Infrastructure**

*Improvements in Sidewalks, Street Lights Recommended*

KETCHUM, Idaho – Ketchum’s proposed budget for FY 2015-16 will total \$20,725,761, including a one-time reinvestment of approximately \$1 million in sidewalks, streetlights, drainage and other infrastructure improvements, Mayor Nina Jonas said today.

The proposed total is approximately \$1.7 million more than the budget of \$18,930,218 for the current fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

Maintenance has been deferred on such infrastructure elements as sidewalks, street lighting, and water and wastewater systems, Jonas said in the budget message that will go before City Council on Monday, July 6, at 5:30 p.m.

“The financial picture is slowly improving, and we have the unique opportunity to dedicate one-time funding towards key infrastructure improvements,” she said.

The \$1 million will come from the consolidation of 22 separate funds into the general fund, City Administrator Suzanne Frick said. “Many of these funds had unspent balances ranging from \$2,000 to \$370,000,” she explained. “Consolidating multiple funds into the general fund will provide one-time funding that we can use for major improvements, and will make the budget more efficient and transparent in future years.”

Revenue from the local option sales tax has increased in recent months, and the budget calls for using this income to fund an additional police officer, Frick said.

“During the downturn, the city eliminated three positions in the police department. An additional police officer will free community service officers to return to their original purpose of enforcing local codes,” she explained.

The budget calls for maintaining funding for Visit Sun Valley marketing programs at \$450,000 and Mountain Rides transit service at \$550,000. Funding for other non-governmental organizations, including the Ketchum Community Development Corporation’s Ketchum Innovation Center business incubator, is proposed in the budget.

The cost of health insurance has dropped approximately 1 percent and no money has been budgeted for across-the-board employee salary increases. This year's budget instead calls for a total of \$50,000 for performance-based merit increases for city employees.

The City Council will conduct the first budget hearing on Aug. 3. Idaho law requires final adoption of the budget by Sept. 3. Beginning July 6, the Council will take public comment on the proposed budget.

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### **About the City of Ketchum**

The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit [www.ketchumidaho.org](http://www.ketchumidaho.org).

#### Contact:

Lisa Enourato  
(208) 720-9766, [lenourato@ketchumidaho.org](mailto:lenourato@ketchumidaho.org)

Jo Murray  
(208) 726-5869, [jo@jomurray.com](mailto:jo@jomurray.com)