

City Council Agenda Item Memo

From: Ashley Rentsch, Finance Director

Council Meeting: July 14, 2026 / July 30, 2026

Subject: Ordinance 26-022: Amendment No. 5 to the 2026 Budget

Presenter: Ashley Rentsch, Finance Director

Summary and Recommended Action:

Staff recommends approval of this budget amendment to increase the Public Art Fund Long-Term Projects budget by \$250,000 for the Dakota Nature Park Art Installation Project. This amendment also decreases the current Contracted Services budget in the Public Art Fund by \$96,230 to ensure all project expenditures are accounted for within the correct line item.

Item Details:

On June 23, 2026, the City Council approved Resolution 26-042 awarding the contract for the Dakota Nature Park Art Installation Project to CJR Design Studio for an amount not to exceed \$250,000. The project budget includes artist services, design, engineering, fabrication, transportation, installation, foundations, and other related project costs.

The project originated in April 2025 when the Public Arts Commission voted to pursue a signature public art installation at Dakota Nature Park. A nationwide call for artists resulted in 167 submissions, which were evaluated by the Dakota Nature Park Art Selection Subcommittee. Following its review, the subcommittee recommended CJR Design Studio's proposal, which incorporates sculptural elements inspired by native South Dakota prairie species. The recommendation was unanimously approved by the Public Arts Commission before being presented to the City Council.

The Council's approval authorized execution of the contract, and the next step is establishing the budget authority within the Public Art Fund to allow expenditures to be incurred as the project progresses.

This amendment increases the Public Art Fund Long-Term Project budget by \$250,000, consistent with the project budget previously approved by the City Council.

Legal Consideration:

Under SDCL 9-21-7, municipalities may adopt supplemental appropriations when sufficient funds are available to support additional expenditures. This amendment establishes the budget authority necessary to administer the Dakota Nature Park Art Installation Project.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

- Fiscal Responsibility – The City of Brookings will responsibly manage resources through transparency, efficiency, equity, and exceptional customer service.
- Safe, Inclusive, Connected Community – The City of Brookings will create an environment for inclusive programs, gathering places, and events where the community can safely live, work and come together to participate in opportunities for learning, recreation and enjoyment.
- Service and Innovation Excellence – The City of Brookings will provide an accessible environment committed to ongoing innovation and outstanding service through listening and engagement.

Financial Consideration:

This amendment increases the Public Arts Commission Long-Term Projects budget by \$250,000 to provide expenditure authority for the Dakota Nature Park Art Installation Project. The project budget was previously established and approved by City Council, and this amendment authorizes expenditures as the project moves forward.

Supporting Documentation:

Ordinance

Project Budget