



# City of Grand Forks Staff Report

**APPROVED & ACCEPTED**  
by City Council

12/15/2025

*Maureen Storstad*  
Maureen Storstad  
City Auditor

**Committee of the Whole – December 8, 2025**  
**City Council – December 15, 2025**

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**Agenda Item: Budget Amendment – Lodging Tax Remittance to Visit Greater Grand Forks**

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**Submitted by: Mike Vatnsdal – Budget Manager**

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**Staff Recommended Action: Approve Budget Amendments for Excess Collections**

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**Committee Recommended Action:** Motion by Lunski, second by Berg to move staff recommendation to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried 6-1 with Osowski dissenting.

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**Council Action:**

Motion by Berg, second by Fridolfs to approve recommendation.  
Motion passed 6-1 with Osowski dissenting.

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**BACKGROUND:**

Each month, the City collects the 3% Lodging Tax charged on hotel and motel room/stays within the City, and remits the collections to Visit Greater Grand Forks. Collections are coming in strong, and are projected to exceed 2025's budgeted revenues of \$1.25M (Collections to date ~\$1.0M). As a result, the pass-through remittance to Visit Greater Grand Forks is also expected to exceed budget.

We request approval of budget amendments to collect and remit any excess in Lodging Tax received. Both revenue and expenses will be amended to reflect actual collections and remittances once we receive the final two month's collections for 2025.

**ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- A 3% lodging tax is placed on hotel overnight stays, which is used by the organization for tourism/promotional activity for the Greater Grand Forks area
- Collections are estimated to come in better than budget by \$50K-\$100K if December collections come in similar as last year
- Budget amendments will be required for the additional activity