

1. Where did you get the \$48554.99 figure?

a. Are you missing some actuals? Because it's not matching up with last year's ending balance

This is the amount from our bank account plus the amount in cash that we own. The amount in our bank account includes the MSU referendum funding from last year that we deposited in April. The final difference of \$1720 includes members' deposits and additional summer deposits that had not been included in last years' calculations. Going forward, all deposits that come through the MMB's account will be tracked in our budget to ensure it matches our balance in the bank account.

2. Why is the MSU referendum funding not included in your ending balance?

Our carryover amount at the beginning of this year already includes the MSU referendum funding in it. On our income tally, we have listed the number as a reference for next year, but have indicated it is not included so as to not add it twice.

Last year's ending balance did not include the MSU referendum funding for the 2021-2022 amount due to how late we received it; it was instead directly added to the income of the 2022-2023 budget rather than previous years' income.

3. What is the google drive for? How much storage do you need?

a. Would you consider the free OneDrive we have access to?

Since McMaster Marching Band is a Bylaw 9 group and not a club, we do not have an @mcmaster.ca email address, nor access to a club OneDrive to store Band documents. Our Google Drive serves as an archive to all past files dating back to 2009, when the Band was founded. If we used the OneDrive that we have access to as students, the files would not carry over and we would not be able to access past years' documents as references or templates. The payment for the Google Drive also includes access to the added business features of Google such as additional storage and the ability to use our domain name, @mcmastermarchingband.com for emails on the gmail platform.

Paying for the Google Drive has been revisited this year due to the increase of the GSuite fees, and although it is already budgeted for until the end of the year, we may be able to move to another provider, GoDaddy, to save costs. In the meantime, the benefits we have with access to Google's products and access to the past ten years of Band documents and information is well worth the cost. In addition, Google has given us 4.5 months of free access to this platform, so the amount budgeted for does not reflect this year's actual cost and we will be under budget of what is projected.

4. Elaborate on the type of instrument purchases

a. If there is a depreciation schedule of some kind being used to map out how on a year-to-year basis new instruments are bought while old ones are phased out that would be super helpful to look at

We purchase instruments based on their demand as the Band's membership continues to grow. The Band has been holding rehearsals for a few weeks now, so this budget may be allotted to two or three more trumpets, flutes, and alto saxophones, as those are the instruments that we are currently short. We plan on purchasing these

instruments in the new year, once prices have decreased following the return of school and the holiday season. The Band aims to provide accessible musical education to all, so this includes being able to provide all members with an instrument. In order to best conserve funds, we typically buy instruments at a discounted price, similar to schools. We have also bought instruments second-hand in the past.

We do not have a depreciation schedule for these instruments. If they are cared for properly, these instruments are able to last upwards of twenty years. We also try to repair our instruments as much as possible to extend their lifetime. Over the past five years, we have only retired one tenor saxophone, which we were able to sell at a discounted rate. This instrument only had to be retired due to a burst water main in the ceiling of the room which stored instruments. As an added precaution, we no longer store instruments in that room.

5. Lyres – is it a rental or a purchase?

Lyres are purchased. With every lyre we purchase there is a high degree of care that is taken with these items, however, lyres are fragile and we must purchase new lyres every year.

6. What is the election for?

The election is for selecting our executives for the following year. This takes place in April. Election supplies include paper and door prizes. Our constitution specifies that we require a simple majority of our members in good standing to meet quorum prior to holding our general meeting and election, so we also provide some small door prizes as incentive for attendance.

7. What's other equipment

'Other equipment' is our safety buffer for any unforeseen costs incurred during the purchasing of band materials, such as additional import taxes, shipping and handling fees, etc. This is also to cushion our budget for anything that we had not previously planned on purchasing from our *MMB Wishlist*, an itemized list of everything we plan to buy throughout the year and its predicted cost. A second page of entries tracks what we would like to buy, but we have not budgeted for for the upcoming year. This way we have an ongoing reference as to what should be planned for in future years. A copy of that document may be provided upon request.

8. What is the \$800 deposit for Forge FC?

Our revenue for the Forge FC soccer game includes pre-buying 40 seats to their game and selling them at a higher rate to our members and their families. The \$800 is buying forty seats at \$20 apiece (valued at \$35) for the event. Since sending you our initial budget, we have been able to sell some of these tickets and have already made a profit on the investment.

9. Why are the bussing estimates different? Is it because of distance?

Yes. The bussing estimates are based on what we roughly paid for a bus at our last event to Toronto. Further distance to the event as well as longer event length (time during which the bus is waiting for the Band) both increase the cost. We do spend a significant amount of time getting quotes from various bus companies to get the best price for bussing possible.

10. The committee formed a general consensus that if there are no major plans to increase spending it would be wise to reimburse this year's fee.

Even though on paper, we receive this money during the current fiscal year, in practice, it is received too late for it to be any good.

For instance, the fee levied in September 2021 was technically a part of the Band's budget for the May 2021 – April 2022 fiscal year, but since the Band received the money in April, last year's Executive was not able to make any purchases with those funds. As a result, the September 2021 fee is the foundation of our May 2022 – April 2023 budget, and we expect that the September 2022 fee will form the basis for the Band's May 2023 – April 2024 budget.

This has been the case for at least the past five years, which has led to seemingly yearly large carryovers on paper.

If the MSU is able to provide to the Band the money from the fee sooner, we would gladly increase spending, for instance, making purchases of drum major's maces, practice pads for our tenor drums, and more uniforms from our wishlist. However, since this funding is received so late in the fiscal year, we are unable to plan to purchase these items.