CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS
AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: October 27, 2026

TO: Mayor David LaGrand & City Commissioners

Committee Liaison: Fiscal Committee
Molly Clarin, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Max Frantz, City Comptroller

SUBJECT: Small Claims Report – 3rd Quarter 2026

In the third quarter (July-September) of 2026 the city paid out a total of 21 small claims totaling an amount of $53,020.61. A summary of the claims by category is shown below. Detail for each individual claim is included on the following page ranked by incident date (oldest to newest).

Small Claims July-September 3rd Qtr. 2026		
Category	**# of Claims**	**Amount Paid**
Building Code Enforcement	1	$1,407.94
Parks and Rec	1	$1,000.00
Refuse	8	$7,070.45
Sewer	6	$22,302.62
Snowplow	1	$15,000.00
Streets	1	$1,300.00
Water	3	$4,939.60
Total	21	**$53,020.61**

Small Claims 3rd Quarter 2026
July 1 - September 30

Incident Date	Category	Claimant	Loc.	Amount Paid	Description
1/23/2026	Snowplow	Travco Insurance Company	Grand Rapids	$ 15,000.00	Snowplow struck utility pole and damaged home
9/10/2026	Refuse	Terry Mayweather	Grand Rapids	1,000.00	Refuse operator raised trash bin too high damaging garage soffit
4/4/2026	Sewer	Nancy Schulte	Grand Rapids	4,253.68	Hydraulic overload due to significant rainfall causing sewer backup
4/4/2026	Sewer	Brenda Fritts	Grand Rapids	1,000.00	Sewer backup in basement
4/5/2026	Sewer	Merideth Volkema	Grand Rapids	7,450.94	Sewer backup in basement causing damage to home
4/19/2026	Sewer	Gordon Wynsma	Grand Rapids	8,348.00	Sanitary main line backed up causing damage to duplex
5/5/2026	Water	Harry Dwan	Grand Rapids	2,735.74	VAR City vehicle w/ trailer struck claimant's vehicle
5/8/2026	Refuse	Irvena Applewhite	Grand Rapids	300.00	Refuse truck damaged fence while driving through alley
5/10/2026	Streets	Kimberly Schueler	Grand Rapids	1,300.00	Tripped and fell on sidewalk; hand broke fall; damaged ring
5/11/2026	Parks and Rec	Allison Waybrant	Grand Rapids	1,000.00	E-bike was damaged by City lawnmower
5/13/2026	Water	Jenny Taylor	Grand Rapids	810.00	While working on fire hydrant vehicle was sprayed causing damage, including flooding inside of vehicle
5/18/2026	Refuse	Lacey Daniel	Grand Rapids	1,074.00	Refuse truck ripped fence off hinges
5/19/2026	Refuse	Clark Retirement Community, Inc.	Grand Rapids	646.64	Refuse vehicle ran over green space damaging 3 sprinkler heads
5/21/2026	Water	David Nowakowski	Grand Rapids	1,393.86	VAR operator while giving way clipped side mirror of claimant's car
6/1/2026	Refuse	Qi Ren Chu	Grand Rapids	350.00	Refuse truck struck mailbox
6/12/2026	Refuse	Claire Knapp	Grand Rapids	2,120.00	Refuse truck damaged fence while driving through alley
6/12/2026	Sewer	Robert Rietema	Grand Rapids	1,000.00	Sewer backup in basement; sanitary main was blocked by roots
7/18/2026	Sewer	Kyle Bourcier	Grand Rapids	250.00	Sewer backup caused flood in basement
7/27/2026	Building Code Enforcement	Daniel VanMeurs	Grand Rapids	1,407.94	Claimant's vehicle struck by City vehicle damaging driver side bumper
7/31/2026	Refuse	Stephen Waterbury	Grand Rapids	80.00	Mailbox/post was hit by refuse truck
8/17/2026	Refuse	Joel Kits	Grand Rapids	1,499.81	Claimant's vehicle struck by City vehicle damaging bumper
21	Total Claims		Total	$ 53,020.61	