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Chicago Mayor's Campaign Plans Collide With \$538 Million Deficit.

- **Mayor Johnson set to release 2024 budget proposal on Wednesday**
- **City's costs from pensions to caring for migrants are climbing**

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson is set to reveal his 2024 budget on Wednesday, which will be a delicate balancing act between his campaign promises and the city's financial realities.

Rising crime, a half-a-billion dollar deficit, a \$35 billion pension hole and soaring costs to care for the more than 18,000 migrants who have arrived in the Windy City since last August are all confronting the first-time mayor as he unveils his inaugural spending plan.

Johnson was elected in April on a progressive platform pledging to increase taxes on corporations, enhance public safety, and invest in poorer neighborhoods while arguing that the city's wealthiest should pay more to address the longstanding challenges. Businesses have since warned that they may consider leaving if they face new taxes, and the cost of caring for a growing influx of migrants has surged to \$345 million, many of whom are sleeping at the airport and in police stations.

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