



**Board of Commissioners
Budget Workshop
Monday, April 27, 2026, 10:00 AM
City Hall**

Call to Order

Mayor Winecoff called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

Attendance:

Mayor Jeff Winecoff
Commissioner Kim Sherwood
Commissioner Todd Ausborn
City Manager, Gordon Hargrove
Finance Director, Brandon Stevens
City Clerk, Tanya Shannon

Absent:

Commissioner Hall (excused)
Commissioner Lovin (excused)

- The preliminary budget was presented to the board, with no tax increases recommended at this time. The budget is not set in stone and is open for discussion and adjustments.
- Significant discussion occurred regarding the VC3 contract for IT services, with concerns raised about the high cost and the perceived lack of value. The board is considering exploring competitive bids for these services.
- The demolition abatement budget was adjusted. A previous plan to handle this in-house was revisited, and the budget was reduced from \$30,000 to \$10,000 to account for potential legal costs.
- The Planning Department budget includes the creation of a Development Services Director position, which is a reassignment of the current Assistant City Manager, and the hiring of one new planner. This aims to improve efficiency and facilitate a rewrite of the UDO.- The Stormwater Department is requesting significant material and equipment funding, nearly a quarter of a million dollars, which is proposed to be drawn from the Powell Bill to balance the budget. This funding is justified by the need to address primary ditches and replace failing culverts.

- Several budget line items were questioned and potentially reduced, including telephone and postage, generator maintenance, and various capital outlays, indicating a focus on cost-saving measures and ensuring expenditures align with actual needs.
- The use of Powell Bill funds for street paving and maintenance was discussed, with the city needing to develop a plan to identify eligible roads and potentially shift equipment costs to this fund. The city is also considering not renewing a contract for mowing state roads due to it being a financial loss.
- Board salaries are confirmed to remain the same, with no increase for the current budget year.
- The budget includes a new "Employee of the Year" award program, granting a \$1,000 bonus and a day off to one recipient from each building.
- Legal fees have increased by \$20,000, and collection fees/taxes have been raised to \$19,000, with further discussion on associated software costs and potential consolidation.
- Several line items were reviewed for potential reductions, including legal advertising, volunteer appreciation, office supplies, and janitorial supplies, with adjustments made based on past spending and current needs.
- Significant discussion occurred regarding election expenses, with clarification sought on whether certain elections are local and thus the town's responsibility to fund.
- The budget for Public Safety saw adjustments, including a shift from part-time to overtime wages and the addition of a new patrol officer position, alongside the proposed leasing of four new police vehicles to replace older, high-mileage city-owned ones.
- Revenue projections were adjusted based on actual historical data, particularly for ad valorem taxes, motor vehicle fees, and utility franchise taxes, with a notable increase anticipated for sales tax distributions.

Adjourn– 2:16 pm

Jeff Winecoff, Mayor

Tanya Shannon, City Clerk