CITY OF WESTFIR BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 4, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
In person at City Hall and via audio/video teleconference

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:
Chairperson Deretta Huey called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:
City Recorder/Budget Officer Nicole Tritten called roll.

Present in Council Chamber: Mayor Richard Watson, Councilor Deretta Huey, Randy Stark and D'Lynn Williams.

Present remotely via Zoom: Councilor Dylan Cheatham, Councilor Linda M. Love and Councilor Jara Mouracade.

Absent: Neal Choiniere

Nicole stated that there were 7 of 8 members of the Budget Committee in attendance and the majority required for the Committee to take action.

OLD BUSINESS: APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2026:
Ms. Williams made a motion to approve the Budget Committee meeting minutes of May 19, 2026. Councilor Mouracade seconded, and the motion carried, 7–0.

AYES: Watson, Huey, Cheatham, Love, Mouracade, Stark, Williams
NAYS: 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY2026–2027:
There were no members of the public present in the Council Chamber. Westfir property owner Adam Kennedy, present via video, proposed setting aside some money in the budget to remove legacy stormwater infrastructure, such as damaged sewer pipes and damaged culverts, which impedes residents from improving stormwater management on their property. The Committee decided to consider the request later in the meeting during discussion and revision of the budget. There were no further public comments.

RECEIVE BUDGET MESSAGE ADDENDUM:
Budget Officer Nicole Tritten presented an addendum to the budget message. The addendum addressed additional funding to remedy a budget shortfall.

Fortunately, the County agreed to an exchange of their General Fund with Westfir's Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funds, but only an amount sufficient to address the budget deficit this year. She stated that the exchange with the County did not include funds to cover repayment of the Interfund Loan from the Sewer Reserve Fund to the Sewer Fund. The City was denied a loan by its bank because of negative cash flow, so that option was not available for the Interfund Loan repayment. However, she requested that the County increase the amount of the SRS funds exchange by $28,000, and she was waiting to hear back. She listed changes to the proposed budget in the following funds:

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GENERAL FUND:
Under resources, $40,000 was added for the SRS funds exchange with the County General Fund; and $6,000 was added for the annual loan payment from the Sewer Fund. A line *Transfer to Sewer Fund (5-year loan)* for $27,000 was added to Interfund Transfers. An Interfund Transfer to the Water Fund for $7,000 was added; the non-loan Interfund Transfer to the Sewer Fund increased to $41,000; and $10,000 was added to Reserve for Future Expenditures.

WATER FUND:
Under resources, a transfer of $7,000 from the General Fund was added to cover insufficient cash on hand. Under requirements, the *Testing* line was increased by $700 to cover new sampling requirements for PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals."

SEWER FUND: Under resources, a bank loan was replaced by a loan from the General Fund for $27,000. The proposed loan was for a 5-year term at 4% interest. Under Debt Services, the first-year loan payment of $6,000 was added. The non-loan transfer from the General Fund was increased to $41,000. The Interfund Transfer to the Sewer Reserve Fund decreased to $27,000, the amount the City spent on additional wastewater plant maintenance in the current fiscal year.

CITY HALL BUILDING FUND: An Interfund Loan to the General Fund for $27,000 was added. Under requirements, *Land Development Services* decreased to $2,000 and *Site Plan* decreased to $0.

The revised total of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026–2027 was $1,513,233.

DISCUSS AND REVISE THE PROPOSED 2026–2027 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:

REVIEW CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING:
The Committee reviewed the changes described in the budget message addendum in the General Fund. The Committee considered Mr. Kennedy's request to budget for the removal of an old culvert pipe blocking drainage improvement. His request to address a damaged sewer tile was not considered because the remedy and cost were not known. The Committee added a line in Special Payments, *Culvert Removal* for $500 and decreased Facilities *Repair and Maintenance* to $4,000, with no change to total General Fund requirements.

The Committee reviewed the changes described in the budget message addendum, and additional minor changes to requirements, in the Water Fund, Sewer Fund and City Hall Building Fund. The Committee discussed the division of labor expense among the funds in the budget and whether the Highway Fund should be covering more of the cost of personnel services.

APPROVE BUDGET:
Mr. Stark moved that the Budget Committee of the City of Westfir approve the budget for fiscal year 2026–2027 in the amount of $1,513,233. Ms. Williams seconded, and the motion carried, 7–0.

AYES: Watson, Huey, Cheatham, Love, Mouracade, Stark, Williams
NAYS: 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

APPROVE TAX LEVY:
Mr. Stark moved that the Budget Committee of the City of Westfir approve property taxes for the

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2026–2027 fiscal year at the rate of $9.3036 per $1,000 of assessed value for the permanent rate tax levy. Ms. Williams seconded, and the motion carried, 7–0.

AYES: Watson, Huey, Cheatham, Love, Mouracade, Stark, Williams
NAYS: 0 **ABSTENTIONS:** 0

ADJOURN MEETING:
Chairperson Huey adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Watson, Mayor	ATTEST: Nicole Tritten, City Recorder	DATE

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