

City of Live Oak
City Council Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2026

The Live Oak City Council met Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall located at 101 SE White Ave., Live Oak, Florida 32064. The following officials were present: Council President Vanessa Robinson, Councilmember Adam Collins, Councilmember Matt Campbell, Councilmember Gladys Owens, Councilmember David Alford. Mayor Frank Davis, City Clerk John Gill, City Manager Larry Sessions, and City Attorney Todd Kennon.

Council President Robinson called the meeting to order.

Mayor Frank Davis led the Invocation followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Finance Director Tammie Girard presented the 2026-27 operational budget.

Public Comment: Phylis Rotolo representing a local organization providing showers, hygiene supplies, and meals to people experiencing homelessness, asked the city to consider assistance for the program and possible shelter resources.

Addison Snyder addressed the Police Department's Flock camera contract.

2026-27 Operating Budget: Finance Director Tammie Girard presented a streamlined operating budget developed after department and management review. Staff reported that the proposed budget was approximately \$7 million below the prior year's budget before the additional requests discussed at the workshop. Staff also recommended a 4% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for employees and explained that the additional requests totaled a little over \$1.8 million, including approximately \$61,365 for outside agencies.

Department Requests: Council reviewed requests involving fire, police, finance, planning, building, garage, water, sewer, gas, and sanitation operations. Major items discussed included additional Fire Department staffing, police building expansion and patrol vehicle needs, software and server upgrades, a shared planning/building receptionist, diagnostic equipment, water-system equipment, sewer pump-station improvements, a gas department trailer, and a residential garbage-truck lease.

Fire Department Staffing and Facilities: The Fire Department requested approximately \$300,000 for three additional positions, one per shift, to improve minimum staffing, reduce overtime, and provide greater operational safety. Council also discussed a senior firefighter position/stipend, damaged flooring and foundation concerns at the fire station, and a request for a UTV. Staff explained that grant opportunities were being pursued for the UTV. Council discussed potentially beginning with funding for one firefighter position rather than the full three positions, but no final budget action was taken at the workshop.

Water System Equipment: Staff discussed a proposed \$200,000 valve insertion tool and related equipment. The tool would allow staff to isolate sections of live water lines without shutting down larger portions of the system. Staff cited prior incidents involving significant water loss, difficulty isolating thin-wall pipe, and potential public-safety concerns when water pressure is reduced at hydrants. The Council also discussed the alternative of hiring outside contractors, noting that emergency response could be delayed and prior emergency repairs had been costly.

Sanitation: Council discussed a proposed approximately \$72,000 annual lease for a residential rear-loader garbage truck. Staff explained that the current residential equipment is increasingly unreliable and that the sanitation fee associated with garbage cans is intended to support sanitation operations. Council discussed using those dedicated sanitation revenues for the truck lease.

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Building Improvements: Council discussed proposed renovations and reconfiguration of office space in the building department facility. Councilmember Robinson suggested obtaining an estimate for demolition and construction of a new facility, while staff explained that recent exterior improvements had improved the existing building and that the proposed work was primarily intended to improve interior layout and functionality.

Infrastructure Priorities: Council emphasized that the savings generated by reducing the operating budget should allow more funding to be directed toward infrastructure. Helvenston Street was repeatedly identified as a priority, particularly because of needed stormwater and utility work. Council discussed completing the necessary infrastructure work in coordination with the county, with the county expected to address paving. Pinewood and previously planned Sixth Street work were also discussed. Engineering cost information for Helvenston was still pending, and the Council stressed that the project should be reflected in the fiscal-year planning even if the work could not all be completed within one year.

Outside Agencies: Council reviewed approximately \$61,365 in requests from outside agencies. Members expressed support for the listed community organizations and agreed that the amounts should be carried as working figures in the budget.

Budget Direction and Consensus: Staff requested direction so the Finance Department could rerun the budget with the additional requests and prepare for the upcoming budget hearings. Council clarified that the workshop discussion and consensus to include items in the working budget did not constitute final approval. Council reached general consensus to include the approximately \$1.8 million in additional requests in the working budget so the Finance Director could evaluate the maximum expenditure level against projected revenues. Items could be reduced or removed during the formal budget hearings.

County Coordination: Council discussed the need for a written interlocal agreement with the county regarding infrastructure and Helvenston Street. Members emphasized that verbal discussions with county officials should be followed by a formal written agreement. The Council President indicated that she would work with the City Manager to arrange a meeting with county officials.

Flock Camera Contract: Council again discussed the Flock camera contract. Members raised concerns about privacy and constitutional liberties, while acknowledging the law-enforcement benefits of the system. Council discussed the possibility of non-renewal when the contract expires and potential cancellation costs. Staff was asked to provide the contract for review and to identify the amount budgeted under police miscellaneous contractual services and the options and consequences associated with cancellation or non-renewal.

Adjournment: With no further items presented, the budget workshop was adjourned.

Councilmember Vanessa Robinson
City Council President

Attest: Mr. John Gill
City Clerk