

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF ORANGE

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Orange County Commissioners' Court held a Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Orange County Budget FY 25-26 on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 2:00 P.M. in the Orange County Commissioners' Courtroom, Orange County Administration Building, 123 South Sixth Street, Orange, Orange County, Texas, with the following in attendance:

John H. Gothia,	County Judge
Johnny A. Trahan,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Chris Sowell,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Kirk F. Roccaforte,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Robert Viator Jr.,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

The budget hearing was called to order at 2:00 P.M. for the following purpose, to-wit:

HEARING PURPOSE:

This is a public hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 Orange County Budget.

1. DISCUSSION

John Gothia stated the proposed budget is based on the No New Revenue rate. He has included the \$1.00 an hour raise for all full-time employees and contracted employees and a \$2,080 per year increase for the Elected Officials. It also includes the \$3,500 increase on the supplement pay for the District Judges and County Court at Law Judges as well as \$5,000 increase for the Sheriff. He is suggesting a \$600 increase on car allowances for Constables, Commissioners and Judges and \$300 for others. There was discussion on possibly purchasing vehicles for the constables. He is also proposing to adjust the matrix for NE7, E2, E3 and E4 positions by a \$.50 increase. The fund balance at the end of September will be \$32,000,000 and with all the proposals, the estimated fund balance at the end of next year is \$21,000,000.

ADD
POSITION

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve an additional NE2 position for the Vidor Tax Office, effective 10-13-2025.

Voted AYE: Johnny Trahan, Chris Sowell, John Gothia, Robert Viator
Voted NAY: Kirk Roccaforte
Motion Carried.

APPROVE
POSITION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve a part time position at the Expo Center.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

- APPROVE POSITION** Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve a GIS Intern position at \$20 an hour in the Emergency Management Department.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
- APPROVE OVERTIME AMOUNT** Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator approving the increase in Elections overtime.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
- APPROVE COLA** Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve the \$1.00 COLA for all county employees to include all contracted positions, the County Auditor, the County Auditor's Pay Matrix, the Purchasing Agent, all Court Reporters and AgriLife Extension Agent.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
- MATRIX ADJUSTMENT** Motion made by Johnny Trahan to approve the \$.50 increase adjustment on NE7, E2, E3 and E4 positions.
- Motion died for lack of a second.
- APPROVE RECLASSIFICATION** Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve moving the Transportation Director from E1, 5 year to E2, 5 year.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
- APPROVE RECLASSIFICATION** Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve moving the Elections Administrator from E1, 20 year to E2, 20 year.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
- APPROVE RECLASSIFICATION** Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve moving the Sheriff's Office Records Clerk from NE1 to NE3.
- All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
- NO ACTION** No action taken on moving the District Attorney's Office Manager from NE4, 5 year to NE5, 5 year.

APPROVE
RECLASSI-
FICATION

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve moving the Treasurer's Assistant Payroll Clerk from NE3, 5 year to Account Specialist at N4, 5 year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

APPROVE
RECLASSI-
FICATION

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Chris Sowell to approve moving the Deputy Treasurer from NE5, 20 year to NE6, 20 year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

APPROVE
RECLASSI-
FICATION

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Johnny Trahan to approve moving the Maintenance position from NE3, 5 year to Maintenance Tech NE5, 5 year.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

MATRIX
ADJUSTMENT

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Johnny Trahan to approve the \$.50 increase adjustment on NE7, E2, E3 and E4 positions.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION

John Gothia went over the list of equipment to be purchased as Capital Outlay expenditures in the proposed budget. Airport-generator at \$329,000. Constables-4 vehicles. Maintenance-generator for all buildings with a \$1,000,000 generator fund if the grants are not approved; POD generators at \$80,000; Expo Center battery backup \$19,000; trailer to haul scissor lift \$35,000; F150 4x4 crew cab truck; blueprint printer at \$3,000; battery backup for servers for Courthouse \$40,000. Mosquito Control-pickup truck with fiberglass bedliner at \$50,000. Parks-camera system for all parks at \$120,000; F250 pickup at \$56,000; mower at \$13,650. Records Management-shredder at \$3,500. Road and Bridge-two dump trucks at \$270,000; mini excavator with concrete breaker attachment at \$7,500; pneumatic foot roller; pad foot roller at \$155,000. Sheriff's Office-5 pickup trucks for Patrol (completely outfitted) at \$416,600; Investigator pickup truck at \$81,800; 9 tough books at \$50,000; mower for shooting range; fuming chamber at \$9,500; 30 body worn cameras at \$42,000 and 8 Cradlepoints at \$14,500. Jail-2 washing machines at \$38,500; paper shredder at \$2,000; camera system in jail at \$62,500. MIS-NET increase Motorola Cloudbase Watchguard video upload systems at \$133,000 but with proceeding with Motorola the actual cost would be \$57,400; equipment and software total, in addition to all our software packages increase \$2,618,150. These will be approved in the budget when it is approved. They will bring up the DA reclassification in the next hearing. Johnny Trahan asked to allocate \$10,000 for Historical Preservation under the County Judge to help the Historical Commission with historical markers.


BUDGET Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan to not approve the budget at this time.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

ADJOURN There being no further business, a motion was made by Chris Sowell, seconded by
HEARING Robert Viator to adjourn the Public Budget Hearing.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.
John Gothia adjourned the Public Budget Hearing.

ATTEST:



Brandy Robertson, County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the
Commissioners' Court

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