

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 and Tax Rate, on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 9:00 A.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 meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. for the following purpose, to-wit:

1. DISCUSSION ONLY
Discussion on the Budget FY 2025-2026 for Orange County pursuant to Local Government Code §111.007. Possible action may be taken for adoption of the FY 2025-2026 Orange County Budget.
2. DISCUSSION ONLY
Discussion on the Proposed Tax Rate FY 2025-2026 for Orange County pursuant to Local Government Code §111.007. Possible action may be taken for adoption of 2025-2026 Tax Rate.

John Gothia stated we are not at the level to adopt the budget and tax rate just yet and they will be going over items they may potentially accept in Court to be put into the budget. There are a few remaining things to see if they want to add or subtract. There is one reclassification left to decide on and the rest is basically capital outlay equipment. Right now, the ending fund balance for 9-3-2026 is estimated to be right at \$25,000,000 and that is based off the No New Revenue Tax Rate. It could change but his proposal is the No New Revenue Tax Rate.

APPROVE
RECLASSI-
FICATION

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to approve the DA Office Manager reclassification from NE4 to NE5.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

John Gothia added and updated pricing on the pad foot roller at \$167,300; the pneumatic foot roller at \$155,000; \$35,000 for boat, motor and trailer for working on the swing bridge from the water. Kirk Roccaforte asked if we had a line item for bridge repair. They decided to allocate \$100,000 for repairs specifically for the swing bridge.

ACCEPT
INTO
BUDGET

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Robert Viator to accept all items for Road & Bridge into the budget.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

Pennee Schmitt stated the lift gate wasn't included in the items for Maintenance. They added the lift gate for the truck into the Maintenance items.

ACCEPT
INTO
BUDGET

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Kirk Roccaforte to accept all items for Maintenance into the budget.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

Items for Maintenance Operations has courthouse battery backup, truck with fiberglass bedliner, camera systems for Parks estimated at \$120,000, F250 pickup truck and mower.

ACCEPT
INTO
BUDGET

Motion made by Chris Sowell, seconded by Robert Viator to accept all items for Maintenance Operations into the budget.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

ACCEPT
INTO
BUDGET

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to accept all items in Sheriff's Office into the budget.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

ACCEPT
INTO
BUDGET

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to accept all items in Sheriff's Office-Jail as amended reducing the washing machine quantity down to one into the budget.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

ACCEPT
INTO
BUDGET

Motion made by Kirk Roccaforte, seconded by Johnny Trahan to approve all software into the budget.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

John Gothia stated line item changes of Historical Preservation for historical markers at \$10,000; Citizens Collection Station Junk Tire Program at \$10,000; Electronics Cleanup Program at \$2,000 and Parks at \$100,000 for each precinct. He also put the Mechanic Shop money back in.

ACCEPT
INTO
BUDGET

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to accept the line items changes as presented into the budget.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

ACCEPT
INTO
BUDGET

Motion made by Johnny Trahan, seconded by Chris Sowell to accept the generator fund of \$329,000 for the Airport into the budget.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

The Court discussed options of raising car allowance for Constables or purchasing vehicles for their use. The vehicles would be four identical pickup trucks with the same markings with exception of precinct numbers. They also discussed insurance, fuel and maintenance on these vehicles. If the vehicles are bought, the Constables would not get a car allowance. They also discussed having the Constables sign an agreement regarding using the vehicles with its parameters. The vehicles would go under the Fleet Department.

PURCHASE
VEHICLES

Motion made by Robert Viator, seconded by Johnny Trahan to purchase the 4 pickup trucks under the Fleet Department for Constables' use upon signature of agreement and a fuel card and maintenance will be provided and also with the understanding the auto allowance the Constables are currently receiving will go away, once they take use of the vehicle.

All Voted AYE. Motion Carried.

The Court will not vote on adopting the budget today due to a new law of having to have the newly adopted budget posted on the County website on the same day as adopted. They are planning to adopt in court on September 23, 2025.

The budget was prepared on the No New Revenue Rate of .49287 per \$100 evaluation but they could go up to the Voter Approval Rate of .505 which would give additional money. John Gothia thinks we are in good shape to do a No New Revenue Rate this year. He believes the last time we had a tax rate of .49 was probably back in 2000. He could not find any evidence of the County ever doing a No New Revenue Rate.

There being no further business, John Gothia adjourned the Public Hearing.

ATTEST:



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

* * * * *