

City Council
August 4, 2025

A Work Session of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Waxahachie, Texas was held at the Waxahachie Civic Center, Crape Myrtle Room, 2000 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie, Texas, on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Billie Wallace, Mayor, Council Member Place 4
Patrick Souter, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Member Place 2
Tres Atkins, Council Member Place 1
Chris Wright, Council Member Place 3
Travis Smith, Council Member Place 5

Others Present: Ricky Boyd, Interim City Manager
Albert Lawrence, Deputy City Manager
Amber Villarreal, City Secretary

1. Call to Order

Mayor Billie Wallace called the meeting to order.

2. Discuss City of Waxahachie Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Chad Tustison, Senior Director of Finance, provided a budget update since the July 7th Work Session.

- Added 3.0% COLA + \$1.27M
- Added Code Enforcement Officer & Vehicle + \$136K
- Added Health Inspector & Vehicle + \$136K
- Added Safety Sensitive Drug Training + \$4,800
- Added Grant Writer Contract + \$86K
- Removed 5.0% Merit – (\$375K)
- Removed City Contribution to The Heights – (\$125K)
- Updated Health Rates – (\$230K)
- May Sales Tax Update
- Payroll updates through June

He reviewed the following other compensation considerations:

- 15-Year Civilian Step Pay Plan
 - Implementation mid-year
 - Year 1 cost: \$400K (General Fund)
 - Year 2 cost: \$340K (General Fund)
- New and Existing Certification Pay
 - Increase current certification for Police, Fire, & Utilities
 - Add certification for non-civil service

The City Council emphasized the importance of supporting city employees and has consistently advocated for their well-being. Council members expressed unanimous support for the proposal and affirmed their commitment to ensuring that all employees are treated fairly and equitably.

Mr. Tustison also explained the FY 2026 General Fund by Function, Tax Rate by component, and the General Fund Working Budget.

Council Members discussed the bond issuance proposal, including the possibility of allocating funds and developing a plan to address the need for an animal shelter in Waxahachie.

{Meeting recessed at 5:11 p.m.} {Meeting reconvened at 5:25 p.m.}

Staff provided a brief overview of the recommended funded and unfunded FY 2026 requests, followed by an in-depth discussion with City Council.

{Meeting recessed at 6:50 p.m.} {Meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.}

After a thorough review, City Council reached a general consensus to consider updating the proposed budget to reflect the following changes:

Remove from proposed budget:

Department Name	Budget Request	FY 2026
Parks & Recreation	Penn Park Concession Stand	100,000
Optimist Pool	Optimist Pool Improvements	58,000
Chautauqua Auditorium	Conditions Assessment	43,000
Economic Development	Economic Incentive	250,000
General Items	FFE for City Hall *reconsider once renovation is nearing completion	875,000
Community Services	Health Inspector Vehicle	55,000
Community Services	Code Enforcement Officer Vehicle	55,000

Add to proposed budget:

Department Name	Budget Request	FY 2026
General Fund Departments	15-Year Civilian Step Pay Plan	400,000
General Fund Departments	Certification Pay Plan Program	200,000
Civic Center	Furniture & Fixtures (Event Inventory/Tables) 3	25,358
Sports Complex	Replace Existing Barrel Trash Cans and Tables – Ph 5	50,000
Sports Complex	Installation of Fishing Pads	50,000
Sports Complex	Shade Structure at Fishing Pads	15,000
Animal Control	Spay and Neuter Services	50,000
Central Garage	Add Mechanic II	96,281
Comm & Marketing	Multimedia Content Specialist *focusing on Economic Development and CVB	128,053
Comm & Marketing	Video Creation & Editing Tool	6,000
Downtown Development	Add Maintenance Worker *reporting to Recreation Manager	69,751

Fire	Add 3 Pump Engineers to staff Blocker 2 (3 months)	8,711
Fire	Add Blocker 2	228,800
Fire	Add New Fire Engine 5	1,280,000
Fire	Replace Light-Duty Trailer with Heavy-Duty *repurpose for city-wide use	11,500
Parks & Recreation	Add Recreation Manager *New Downtown Maintenance Worker and current Downtown Resource Coordinator to report to Recreation Manager	134,579
Planning	Add GIS Technician	86,056
Police	Virtual Reality Training System	200,000
Police	Add Special Response Team Members (2)	31,198
Public Works	Add Graduate Engineer	118,361

Staff is requested to review and provide information on the following items:

1. City-wide car wash membership – Evaluate available options and associated costs.
2. Sports Complex security cameras – Research camera systems to gain a better understanding of pricing and specifications.
3. Convenience Station operating schedule –Adjust the schedule to close on Sundays and Mondays.
4. Develop a comprehensive plan for Animal Services to address current concerns
5. Evaluate the potential historical designation of the Rodeo Grounds
6. Review and compare bids for city-wide mowing services
7. Distribute new website demos and design examples to City Council for review
8. Include restoration of funding for the Economic Development Incentive in the FY 2027 budget

3. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Villarreal
City Secretary