



City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date: September 2, 2025

From: Jennifer Waggoner, Finance Director/Treasurer

Item: Public Hearing on Proposed 2026 Budget

Motion:

- 1.) Hold a public hearing to receive public comment regarding the proposed 2026 budget. **(Voice Vote)**
 - 1a.) (Optional) Consider a first reading of an Ordinance adopting the 2026 Budget for the City of Arkansas City. **(Roll Call Vote)**

Background:

The final two steps of the budget process are to hold a public hearing and adopt the budget. State law requires the budget to be adopted and certified to the County Clerk by **October 1, 2025**, with the public hearing held no later than **September 20, 2025**.

- Notice of Hearing was published in the *Courier Traveler* on **August 19, 2025** and posted on the City's website, as required by statute.
- Two public work sessions were held with the Commission and department heads. Each department submitted budget requests, and staff reviewed options to cut costs, create competitive wages, delay projects, and extend the useful life of vehicles and equipment, while maintaining service levels.
- The proposed budget includes a **decrease in the mill levy from 62.590 to 58.274 mills**, while still generating an estimated **\$73,967 increase in property tax revenue** due to valuation growth.
- By law, the adopted budget cannot exceed the published amounts of expenditures or ad valorem tax in any fund.

Commission Options:

The Commission has the following options:

1. Hold the public hearing and then approve the Budget either as presented or as modified.
2. Open the public hearing and then table to continue the public hearing at the next regular commission meeting on September 16, 2025 to allow for additional public input, at which time the Ordinance would be approved and the budget would be adopted as presented or modified.

Fiscal Impact: None

Attachments: Ordinance & 2026 Draft Budget Adoption docs.

Approved for Agenda by:

Randy Frazer, City Manager