



Board of Directors

- Robert Taylor, Board President
- Dale White, Vice President
- Wyatt King, Secretary/Treasurer
- Matt Herb, Member
- Robbe Boren, Member

Budget Committee

- Alesanne Dugan
- Allen Forster
- Jeff King
- Tom Oliver (via Zoom)
- Kerry Whitlatch

Staff

- John Tacy, Fire Chief
- Mark Fitzwater, DC of Operations
- Candace Hedding, Fire Marshal
- Russell Duerr, DC of Training
- Desiree Barker, Chief Administrative Officer

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:10 PM

FLAG SALUTE

Chief Tacy led the flag salute.

CONVENE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Agenda Item #1 - Elect Budget Committee Chair

Chief Tacy asked the current Budget Committee members if they will return next year. All members said yes, but Dugan's caveat was she may change her mind.

Vice President White opened nominations nominating Member Herb for Budget Committee Chair over the Budget Committee.

There were no further nominations. Nominations were closed. Secretary/Treasurer King 2nd the nomination.

Vote:

- Budget Committee Member Dugan - Yea**
- Budget Committee Member Forster - Yea**
- Budget Committee Member J. King - Absent**
- Budget Committee Member Oliver - Yea**
- Budget Committee Member Whitlatch - Yea**

Motion approved.

Member Herb convened the Budget Committee at 5:12 pm and turned the meeting over to Chief Tacy for the budget presentation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Budget Committee Chair Member Herb declared the Public Hearing/Citizen Comments open at 5:13 pm. There were no citizen comments.

Member Herb closed the Public Hearing/Citizen Comments at 5:14 pm and resumed the session.

BUDGET PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Agenda Item #2 – Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Proposed Budget

Chief Tacy provided some updates to the budget compared to what was posted on-line.

- Budgeted amounts were not changed.

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- The proposed budget excluded the prior year column on the department sheets. That column is a reference staff uses to build the budget. Prior year amounts are still on the fund summary pages.

Chief Tacy summarized the changes to the budget from prior years.

- Changes to the technical terms now align with Oregon Budget Law
- Added an additional Expenditure Summary Chart page displaying the expenses outpacing our revenue at over \$931,000.
- Unfunded needs were added to show what we need but cannot fund this year.

Chief Tacy highlighted the proposed budget.

- Chief Tacy reviewed the primary sources of revenue, including levying property taxes at \$2.26/\$1000.
- Primary sources of revenue were included and we are pursuing grants.
- CWDG is a new grant in the budget.
- The budget is balanced and transparent.
- This budget adds to the structural deficit.
- Other grants may be awarded next fiscal year but were not included.
- Capital items have \$277,000. It was budgeted for last year but will not be spent due to the engine refurbishment delay. It was added into this budget since we'll receive the engine in October.
- Contingency was added to protect us.
- The budget document was intended to simplify the public's interpretation.
- We streamlined expenses.

Chief Tacy addressed Committee Member Forster's question regarding a levy. It could help our shortfall, and we can do things differently.

- Chief Tacy believes we can provide better education for the public. Leadership team is educating people. Understanding government budgets is complex. Transfers inflate the numbers by counting it twice.
- New building in town. Urban renewal districts affect our tax income, measure 50 capitation.
- Our consultant last time had experience politically with people, not on operational levies.
- Because we failed last time it shouldn't stop us from trying again.

At some point we require an increase in revenue.

Chief talked with strategists, and most wouldn't consider assisting us with a November levy, instead recommended spring. There isn't enough time, but it's unlikely to pass. The Rural Healthcare Transformation grant may fund additional people and may change the need for a levy.

Secretary/Treasurer King had some comments and questions.

- He questioned the cuts in recruitment, expressing his concerns. We are in negotiations now and may need to hire. Chief Tacy noted we have funds available for advertising if needed.
- He appreciates the tight and streamlined budget and the effort staff made to think forward. Some things we didn't fund, and others we increased due to the cost increases.
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Committee Member Dugan appreciated the effort to have money for cash carryover.

A general consensus was having the prior year available helpful. Member Herb stated how the budget is not easy for the layman to understand. Talking points for the board when addressing budget questions would be helpful.

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Committee Member Forster agreed on the absence of OFDDA dues. Chief Tacy explained how we don't utilize it enough and so it didn't make the cut. SDAO provides better presentations, and it would be duplicating services.

Budget Chair Herb asked for a motion to approve the 2026/2027 budget as presented (including the \$2.26/\$1000) tax rate so the budget committee can vote to move the budget forward to the LFD Board of Directors to approve the budget.

Secretary/Treasurer King made a motion to approve the 2026/2027 Budget as presented (including the \$2.26/\$1,000 tax rate). Member Boren second the motion.

Motion approved.

Budget Committee Vote:

Budget Committee Member Dugan - Yea
Budget Committee Member Forster - Yea
Budget Committee Member J. King - Absent
Budget Committee Member Oliver - Yea
Budget Committee Member Whitlatch - Yea

Board of Directors Vote:

Board President Taylor - Yea
Vice President White - Yea
Secretary Treasurer King - Yea
Member Herb - Yea
Member Boren - Yea

Chief Tacy appreciates the budget committee's time and effort.

ADJOURN BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:46 PM.

Robert Taylor, Board President

John Tacy, Fire Chief