

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 26-27 on Tuesday, August 25, 2026 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
Chris Sowell,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Kirk F. Roccaforte,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Robert Viator Jr.,	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

Absent was: Johnny A. Trahan, Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

The budget hearing was called to order at 9:00 A.M. for the following purpose, to-wit:

HEARING PURPOSE:

This is a public hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 Orange County Budget.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. DISCUSSION ONLY | Discussion and possible action on the Budget FY 2026-2027 for Orange County pursuant to Local Government Code §111.007. Possible action may be taken for adoption of the FY 2026-2027 Orange County Budget. |
| 2. DISCUSSION ONLY | Discussion and possible action regarding the Proposed Tax rate for FY 2026-2027 (Tax Code 26). Possible action may be taken for Adoption of the FY 26-27 Tax Rate. |

The Court spoke about all part-time employees, including the GIS Specialist and PRN Nurse at the Sheriff's Office a \$1.00 an hour raise.

Judge Gothia stated he is looking to adopt a budget with a .48 tax rate. The tax rate is currently at .49.

The Court went over a list of items requested from different departments. The list is as follows:

Capital Outlay

MIS – 8 laptops \$34,200.

Maintenance – generators, rolling the \$1 Million over for them; 1 additional vehicle; POD fans; maintenance shop fans = total \$1,096,000.

Sheriff Office – 2 boat shed lifts; vehicle allotment of \$350,000 to purchase whatever vehicles they want; APX radio \$7,500; range moving target system \$5,000; 2 covert cameras \$13,000; A1 automated gate at the bat cave \$9,200 = total \$413,700.

Jail – jail dorm dryer, 2 jail kitchen stove/ovens, jail kitchen ice machine = total \$31,500;

6 self contained breathing apparatus = total \$129,000.

Mosquito Control – Truck \$46,000; bedliner \$3,500; automatic gate opener \$8,000; tire changer \$6,000; wheel balancer \$5,000 = total \$68,500.

Software Services and Maintenance

MIS – migration of Watchguard server to cloud \$20,000.

Sheriff/Jail – Infirmary software \$39,440 total with recurring costs for 2 years following of \$13,400 for maintenance cost.

Mosquito Control – upgrade MS Stellar services \$13,000; Frontier Precision GIS software \$46,000 = total \$59,000.

Projects

R&B Mechanic Shop – Move remaining \$400,000 into this budget for completion.

VA Building with slab addition \$75,000; finishing work to VA & JP2 \$50,000 for upgrade to move JP2 out with VA office.

\$50,000 as a hold for new bathroom at the front of the Admin Building.

New flooring in sections of Admin Building (removing all carpet) \$50,000.

Concrete at PODS was in last budget but wasn't completed so carrying that over \$90,000.

Additional concrete at R&B offices for parking \$20,000.

Change wiring at PODS from 200 amp to 400 amp \$50,500.

Other

UPS backups for MIS \$72,000.

Repair/Rental/Construction

Fix overhead door at bat cave \$2,000.

Expo/New Health Facility parking, estimated \$350,000.

EDC – an additional \$200,000 has been committed to new project in City of Orange. It is set up to pay as they hit milestones in project.

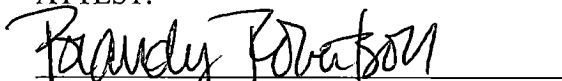
Bluebird Park property - \$150,000 for potential property purchase.

The Court also discussed a position in Adult Probation in which the County pays 50% of the salary and the other 50% is covered by fees collected. The workload won't support the 50% of the salary in next budget year so the County may have to contribute 75% of the salary.

There needs to be more discussion with the Director who wasn't able to attend this meeting.

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

ATTEST:



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

* * * * *