

Lafayette Consolidated Government

**BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, July 7, 2025

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Large Council Briefing Room, 705 W. University Ave., Lafayette, LA 70506

**Attendees:** Budget Committee members Ken Stansbury, Kenneth Boudreaux, Clerk of the Council Joseph Gordon-Wiltz, Associate Clerk for Operations & Citizen Advocacy Jeremy Richardson, Mayor-President Monique Boulet, CAO Rachel Godeaux, Chief Financial Officer Karen Fontenot, Budget Manager Denise Deville, Chief Budget Analyst Deosha Matthews, Senior Budget Analyst Jason Gilbert, Financial Analyst Laura Grettner, and Director's Executive Secretary Danielle Alleman

**Absent:** Budget Committee members AB Rubin and Thomas Hooks

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting began at 10:31am.

**2. Update on the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget**

Fontenot opened the meeting by announcing this year's budget book will have a new design based on the new ERP system, keeping the same format per GFOA requirements. Boudreaux requested a guide be provided to aide in navigating within the new layout and Fontenot responded saying a guide is being developed for that purpose.

Discussions on revenue assumptions began with announcing the budgeting of a 2% increase in ad valorem tax revenue for the Parish and a 1% increase in ad valorem tax revenue for the City. The sales tax revenue for the City is anticipated to have a 3% increase while the Parish sales tax revenue remains consistent therefore having zero percent increase.

Expenditure assumptions include a 2% pay increase for all LCG employees. Handouts were distributed reflecting the funding sources and detailed figures pertaining to this increase. Stansbury asked if the previous year's pay plan was a success and Godeaux answered saying yes, explaining there was a decrease in the job vacancy rate.

Fontenot advised that the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget includes a 7.5% decrease in Health Insurance premiums attributing a large savings to the rebates received through the new prescriptions program. A claims analysis was done and claims were down deeming the group health fund stable allowing for the decrease of costs to be budgeted.

Property tax insurance shows a reduction in premiums allowing for a 3% decrease of expenses. This decrease is also attributed to the removal of older vacant buildings that do not warrant being insured due to the deductible being more than the building's value.

Fontenot explained a couple of departmental adjustments included in the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget including 311 Service and Mailroom being moved under the management of IT. LFT Fiber now has a new section titled Sales and Marketing which will be seen in the budget this year.

Fontenot announced LCG has a balanced City General Fund budget, closing a five-million-dollar gap stemming from FY 2024-25. Both the City and the Parish General Funds are compliant with the fund balance policy.

A shift in certain areas of capital funding were discussed, including the Cajundome and jail capital outlay.

There was a brief discussion regarding the City-Parish allocation. Fontenot stated that all of the allocation methods were re-evaluated and the revenue-based methodology was completely removed.

According to a provision in the charter, the Planning Commission is awaiting receipt of the 5-year capital improvement plan prior to the introduction of LCG's budget. A special meeting is being held this week. Fontenot will submit required information to the Planning Commission as well as City and Parish councils for their review.

A discussion was held about important capital projects on the horizon.

**3. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.