Town of Orange Park
Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
6:00 PM
Agenda

1. Call to Order / Verification of Quorum

2. Approval of Minutes
    a. Approval of Minutes from the May 6, 2026 Committee Meeting

3. FY 2026/2027-2030/2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Presentation
    a. Public Works Department CIP Requests

4. Audience Comments

5. Adjournment

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Randy Anderson, Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee. Committee Members in attendance were Vice-Mayor Winnette Sandlin, Councilman Doug Benefield, Councilman Kenneth Vogel, Councilman Glenn Taylor, Ms. Melissa Harris, and Mr. Chuck Smithers.

Others in attendance included: Town Manager Joe Taylor, Finance Director John Villanueva, Fire Chief John Contestabile, Assistant Police Chief Cody Monroe, and Town Clerk Courtney Russo.

2. 2026/2027-2030/2031 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATION-FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department reviewed its upcoming needs, beginning with FY 26–27, which includes replacing a 2015 Tahoe, purchasing new extrication tools, and completing a two-year kitchen upgrade. They also discussed replacing aging cardiac monitors and related EMS equipment, noting significantly rising costs and the option of multi-year payment plans that combine maintenance contracts. Chief Contestabile explained equipment lifespans, trade-in values, and the growing maintenance burden on older tools. Long-range planning included major apparatus replacements: Engine 19 (ordered in 28–29) is expected to cost close to $900k–$1M due to inflation, with lease-purchase options presented. The ladder truck—currently 20 years old with high repair costs—was not in the existing CIP and will need to be added sooner than planned; pricing now approaches $1.75M–$1.85M, with potential savings if purchasing a pre-spec'd dealer unit. Significant discussion followed on rising apparatus costs, sustainability of long-term fire service funding, and the potential need for fire assessment fees or cost-sharing with the county. Concerns were raised about ISO insurance rating impacts if the Town does not maintain adequate equipment. Members acknowledged the need for difficult future policy decisions regarding reserves, revenue sources, and service delivery models.

3. 2026/2027-2030/2031 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) PRESENTATION-POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department presented a comparatively stable CIP, continuing the planned replacement cycle of two patrol vehicles per year, ongoing taser replacement payments, and contracted body-worn camera costs. Their costs remain consistent with the established plan, with modest fluctuations tied mainly to vehicle prices. Competitive bidding has helped reduce recent vehicle costs. No major increases were proposed.

4. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

During the audience comments portion of the meeting, Sandra DiGiovanni addressed the committee.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.