



**BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
July 16, 2025  
5:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting - June 11, 2025
- B. Finalize Budget Recommendations for FY 2026
- C. Create a campaign to encourage residents to attend Budget Advisory Board Meetings

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (WORKPLAN)**

**6. PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- A. Announcement of Budget Workshop July 30, 2025

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board, Agency, or Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (FS 286.0105)

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the City Clerk's Office at (954) 535-2705 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service by using the following numbers: 1-800-955-8770 or 1-800-955-8771.

**CITY OF LAUDERDALE LAKES**  
**JOINT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WITH COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 - 5:30pm

Location – 4515 N State Road 7, Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319

**1.** Call to order. Meeting call to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Dr. Nethel Stephens.

**2.** Roll Call

Committee Members: (quorum reached)

- A. Dr. Nethel Stephens – Present
- B. Janine Young – Present
- C. Barbara Smith – Present
- D. Simone Shepard – Present
- E. Earle Esdelle – Present

City Staff:

Bobbi Williams, Financial Services Director

Heidi Brocks, Budget Officer, BAC Liaison

No meeting minutes were approved at this time.

**3.** DISCUSSION

a. The Joint Meeting with Commission with Budget Advisory Committee:

- A. The Financial Services Director gave an overview of City Commission Strategic Goals developed during the retreat at the top of the year.
- B. Each member posed their questions/concerns with Commission regarding budgetary items
- C. BSO presented their FY 2026 budgetary needs as well as addressed Committee and Commission concerns

**4.** NEW BUSINESS

- A. No new business

**5.** Future Agenda Items –

- TBD

**6.** Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Submitted by Ms. Barbara Smith, Secretary



**City of Lauderdale Lakes**  
**2026 Budget Advisory Committee**  
**Budget Report:**

**City's Fiscal Year 2026**  
**Budget Recommendation**

**2026 Appointed Budget Advisory Committee Members**

Dr. Nethel Stephens, Chair  
Janine Young, Vice-Chairman  
Barbara Smith, Secretary  
Earl Esdelle, Member At Large  
Simone Shepherd, Member At Large

**City Board Liaison**  
Heidi Brocks, Budget Officer

The members of the Budget Advisory Committee would like to thank the Mayor and Commission for allowing residents the opportunity to serve on the Budget Advisory Committee as well as provide feedback on the City's 2026 Budget. The committee members included Dr. Nethel Stephens - Chair, Janine Young – Vice-Chair, Barbara Smith - Secretary, Earl Esdelle – Member At Large, Simone Shepherd - Member At Large. The Budget Advisory Committee continues to be very diligent and committed to the goals, gravity, and responsibility of our appointment. The City's Budget Advisory Committee held six (6) meetings to review budget materials on the City's current year budget experiences and results. These meetings were held on February 12, 2025, March 12, 2025, April 23, 2025, May 14, 2025, June 11, 2025 (Joint Commission Meeting), July 16, 2025.

We recognize the efforts of the Financial Services staff for providing the Budget Advisory Committee with thorough explanations of budget item, which created a seamless process for this year's budget review. In addition, we thank the team for their tireless efforts in supporting this Committee in achieving its goal of presenting the recommendations to the Commissioners as well as providing relevant information, scheduling the meetings and ensuring that the committee meetings were efficiently.

In conclusion, the Budget Advisory Committee determined that it would serve the residents and businesses of the City of Lauderdale Lakes to provide a comprehensive list of recommendations. This report contains a summary of the committee's recommendations, and other considerations for your review.

It is with great pleasure that we submit the recommendations for the FY 2026 Budget. We look forward to providing oversight of this budget. Thank you again for allowing us to serve on the 2026 Budget Advisory Committee

Respectively Submitted,

Dr. Nethel Stephens,  
2026 Budget Committee Chair

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After reviewing the information provided by staff the Budget Advisory Committee would like to submit the recommendations below:

**FY 2026 Budget Recommendations (we support):**

- Adopt FY 2026 City Budget with a 8.6000 millage rate
- No increase to the Fire Assessment, however the committee recommends an independent Fire Rate Study be done for next year
- Stormwater Rate Study to ensure cost recovery of services
- Replacement plan for major equipment
- Budget Program Modifications we support:
  - Project Manager (PW)
  - Munis Training
  - Transcription Software
- Allowance for Loss Revenue considerations:
  - No recommendations/changes to this budget

Engineering Needs:

- Contractor design projects
- Construction Engineering Inspector

**Other Budget Considerations:**

- Establish the Budget Advisory Board which would commence January through July that would not only assist with the development of the budget but will also provide continuous year-round monitoring of the budget.
- Conduct an operational audit of all City operations.
- Citywide Studies: (if applicable available on City's website for transparency)
  - Feasibility Study for operating our own Police Service
  - Conduct a study of the method the City collects revenue from traffic citations to ensure we are receiving the proper ratio of the revenue compared to other municipalities.
- Utilize a replacement and maintenance plan for all city vehicles and equipment.
- Analysis of purchase versus lease of fleet vehicles
- Utilize a replacement plan for all Fire Equipment (City owned) - i.e. fire engine - to be proactive and not reactive to major City expenses.
- Reinstitute Citizen on Patrol (COPS) Program
- Full analysis of all positions
- Continue to review departmental level budgets for opportunities to reduce costs.
- Explore new revenue sources, i.e. grant opportunities to supplement services to residents.
  - CARES ACT Funding:
    - Medicaid
    - Economic and recovery funding
    - PEMT (Public Emergency Medical Transport)