

CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 15, 2025
AFTER-ACTION REPORT – Fiscal Year 2025-26

Discuss the City Manager’s Proposed Balanced Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

OVERVIEW

The FY 2025–26 budget session focused on reaffirming the City Council's priorities, including *public safety, infrastructure improvements, economic development, and ensuring financial resilience*. Key updates and council directives are summarized below.

KEY COUNCIL DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

a. Water and Wastewater Rates

- Initial Proposal: A 15% increase in water rates was proposed to support infrastructure investments and operational needs.
- Council Direction:
 - Inclusion in Budget: Water rate increases to be formally included in the adopted budget.
 - Implementation Plan: The Public Works Department is tasked with developing a detailed implementation plan for the rate changes, outlining operational and financial impacts.

b. Discounted Water Rates for Residents with Disabilities

- Council Request:
 - Residents with disabilities should be eligible for discounted water rates, expanding the current assistance programs.
 - Automatic Application: These discounted rates should be automatically applied to qualifying residents' utility bills, reducing administrative barriers and improving access.

c. Employee Compensation

- Initial Proposal: A decrease in employee raises to 2%.
- Council Action: Council increased employee pay raises back to 3%, emphasizing the importance of maintaining competitive compensation and employee retention.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRESENTATION

- Public Safety Investments: Over \$1.2M allocated for streetlights, traffic signals, beacons, and lane striping enhancements.
- Economic Development: \$450K allocated for economic incentives, including an engineering study and Firehouse Theatre sponsorship.
- Infrastructure Commitment: \$5.8M to \$9M investment planned for aging water/wastewater systems.
- Technology and Facilities: Funding allocated for blockchain/AI assessment and city facility evaluations.
- Staffing: 5 new positions added in the Police Department.

NEXT STEPS

- Public Works to deliver a detailed rollout strategy for water rate changes.
- Finance and Utility Billing teams to coordinate with IT and Legal to ensure automatic application of discounted rates for residents with disabilities.
- Final adoption of the budget, tax rate, and fee schedules is scheduled for September 16, 2025.

BUDGET ENGAGEMENT/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Budget 101 Video & Trifold Handout
- Email campaigns & social media
- Budget survey to seek residents' feedback
- Infographics and Budget Pie Charts
- Budget Town Hall Meeting (August 26)
- Formal presentation at the town hall
- Encouragement of resident Q&A and surveys

NEXT STEPS

- July 25 – Tax roll certification (Dallas County)
- July 31 – Proposed budget submission by City Manager
- August – Public hearings and Budget Town Hall
- September 16 – Council adoption of budget and tax rate



FARMERS BRANCH
TEXAS

BUDGET DISCUSSION – FY 2025–26

Presented By: City Management, City of Farmers Branch

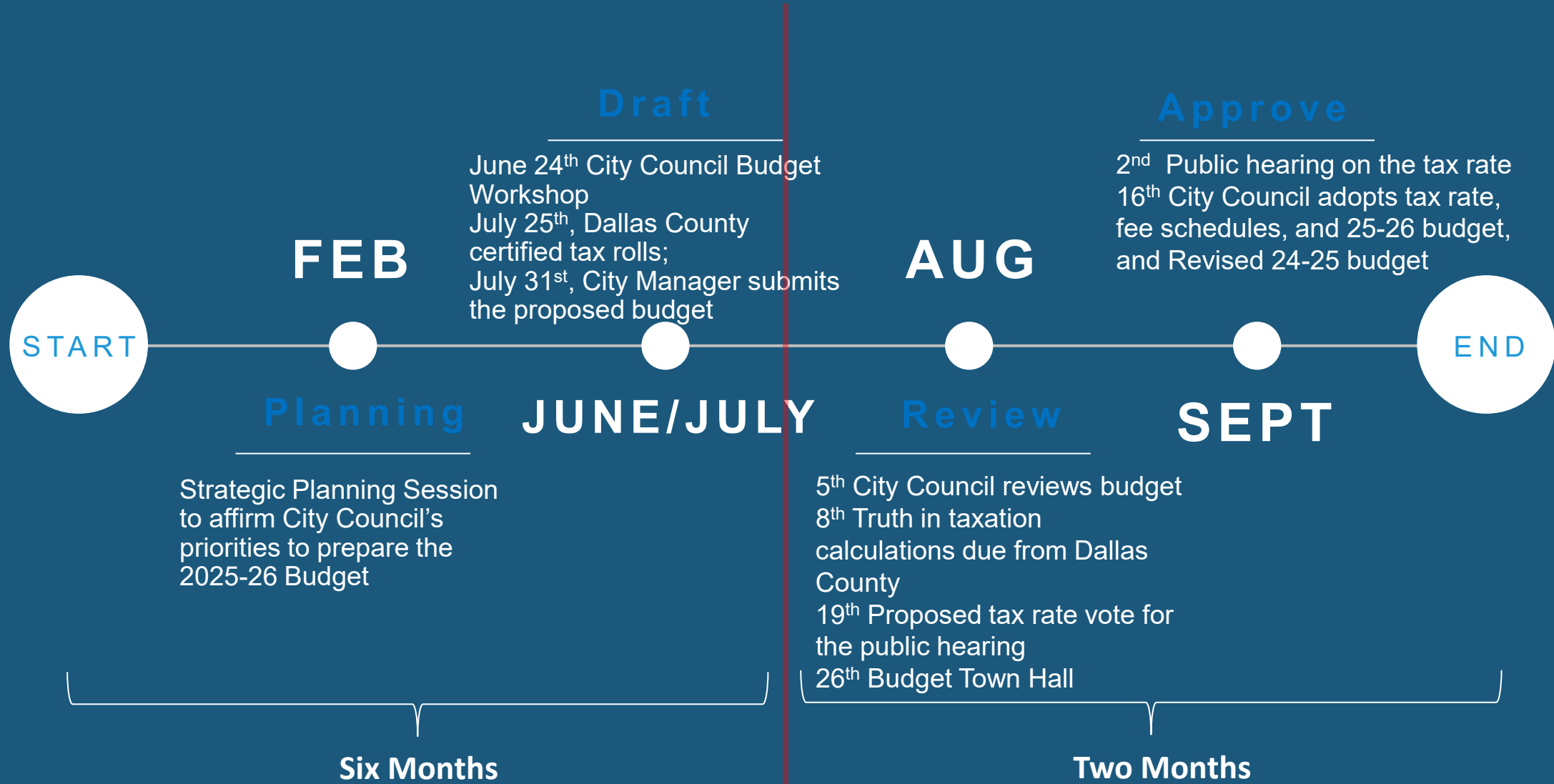
JULY 15, 2025



FY 2025-26 Budget Goals

- 1** Council & Community Priorities
- 2** Priorities: Public Safety, Public Infrastructure, Economic Development & Neighborhoods
- 3** Ensure financial resilience now & into the future
- 4** Keeping the process open, honest, and transparent

BUDGET TIMELINE



BUDGET PRIORITIES

✓ PUBLIC SAFETY

- ❑ **Streetlights = \$100k** – allocating to enhance public safety by reducing accidents & protecting pedestrians, LED to reduce cost
- ❑ **Traffic Signals & School Beacons ~ \$840k + Traffic Assessment ~\$340k** – review & upgrade traffic signals & school beacons to improve public safety, ensure compliance with federal standards, reduce long-term cost & manual labor cost through energy efficiency, and lower maintenance
- ❑ **Lane Striping = \$130k to \$300k** – allocated to improve road safety by enhancing traffic & speed control, reducing road accidents, ensuring compliance w/ traffic regulations

✓ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & NEIGHBORHOODS

- ❑ **Increase in ED funds = \$200k** – to enhance economic development efforts
- ❑ **TIF 2 Engineering study = \$200k** – for the Station Area to support future development
- ❑ **Economic Development Grant Request = \$50k** – for the Firehouse Theatre sponsorship

✓ INFRASTRUCTURE

- ❑ **City's aging infrastructure = \$5.8MM to \$9MM** – Increase in investment in water/wastewater infrastructure
Water rates increase by 15%
- ❑ **Fleet Replacement per schedule = \$2.8 MM** – Bring the fleet replacement schedule up to date within 4 years.
- ❑ **Blockchain & AI Integration = \$100K** – to assess the possibility of integrating blockchain & AI to enhance data security, transparency, & decision-making efficiency, enabling more accountable government operations.
- ❑ **City Facilities' Assessment = \$150K** – allocating in budget to assess City's facilities to ensure public safety, prevent costly emergency repairs, & prioritize necessary upgrades based on structural integrity & code compliance.

✓ POSITIONS & COMPENSATION

- ❑ 5 positions for the Police Department
- ❑ Decrease in employees' raises to 2%

PROPOSED FEES

DEPARTMENTS	PROPOSED FEE
COMMUNITY SERVICES	Special Events Permit \$50/permit Vacant Building = \$500 per application & inspection Vacant Building = \$500 quarterly inspection after issuance of license
FIRE	☐ EMS – Fee change for residents EMS mileage fee increase from \$15/mile to \$24/mile for transport from the nearest City limit to any hospital outside of the City. ☐ Annual Fire Inspection – Change in fee based on the square foot to each occupancy type & number of floors
PUBLIC WORKS	☐ Fats, Oils, and Grease Permit Fee: \$50.00 ☐ Grease Trap Inspection Fee: \$350.00 ☐ Grit Trap Inspection Fee: \$350.00 ☐ Grease Trap/Grit Trap Reinspection Fee: \$200.00

Future Meeting August 2025 – Fee Changes

Farmers Branch FY 25-26 Budget Overview

WATER/WASTEWATER RATES

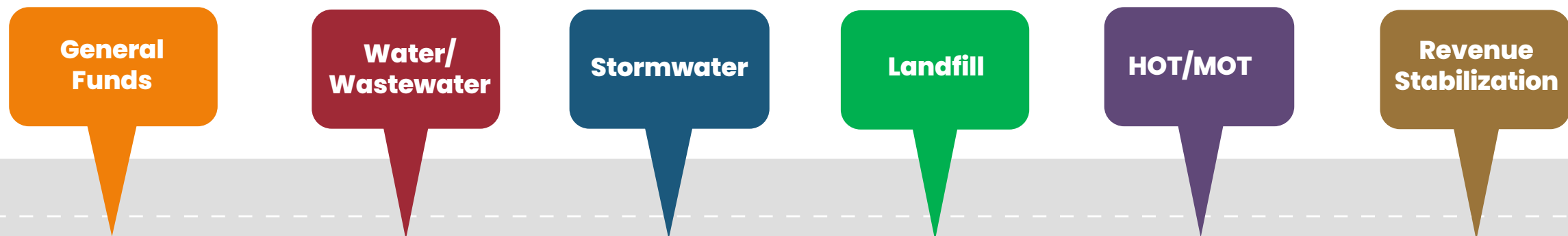


Dashboard						
Water	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Meter Charge	0.00%	15.00%	12.00%	12.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Volumetric Charge	0.00%	15.00%	12.00%	12.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Wastewater	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Meter Charge	0.00%	15.00%	12.00%	12.00%	15.00%	10.00%
Volumetric Charge	0.00%	15.00%	12.00%	12.00%	15.00%	10.00%

Water	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Fixed Charge Revenue (%)	36.47%	35.70%	35.16%	34.72%	34.46%	34.21%
Volumetric Charge Revenue (%)	63.53%	64.30%	64.84%	65.28%	65.54%	65.79%
Wastewater						
Fixed Charge Revenue (%)	51.64%	51.93%	52.15%	52.39%	52.39%	53.83%
Volumetric Charge Revenue (%)	48.36%	48.07%	47.85%	47.61%	47.61%	46.17%

Revenues (\$)						
Water	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Change in Net Assets	\$ 6,924,888	\$ 13,509	\$ 772,869	\$ (2,265,828)	\$ 913,237	\$ 3,542,515
Ending Fund Balance	9,991,169	10,004,678	10,777,547	8,511,719	9,424,956	12,967,470
Wastewater						
Change in Net Assets	\$ (2,549,373)	\$ (4,884,500)	\$ (1,789,655)	\$ 1,743,040	\$ 199,326	\$ (1,616,138)
Ending Fund Balance	516,908	(4,367,592)	(6,157,247)	(4,414,207)	(4,214,881)	(5,831,019)
Combined						
Change in Net Assets	\$ 4,375,515	\$ (4,870,992)	\$ (1,016,786)	\$ (522,788)	\$ 1,112,563	\$ 1,926,377
Ending Fund Balance	10,508,078	5,637,086	4,620,299	4,097,511	5,210,074	7,136,451

FUND SECURITY



\$20.5MM

\$4MM

\$1MM

\$38MM

\$1MM

\$10MM

Target Balances

BUDGET COMMUNICATION PLAN



PLATFORMS

- Budget Survey
- Budget 101 video
- Trifold handout
- E-newsletters & Email
- Infographic
- Social media



THEMES

- Compared to other cities
- Keep the same tax rate
- Dollar chart with breakdown
- Pie Charts for Budget
- CFBISD Information



TOWNHALL

- The Branch Connection
- Show Budget Video
- Budget Presentation
- Boards on easels
- Q & A
- Email questions

Questions



FARMERS BRANCH
TEXAS

PREPARING FOR END OF YEAR

A close-up photograph of a person's left hand holding a light-colored wooden block. The block is rectangular and has the word "WANTS" printed on it in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the thumb and index finger gripping the block. The background is a solid, dark blue-grey color.

WANTS

A close-up photograph of a person's right hand holding a light-colored wooden block. The block is rectangular and has the word "NEEDS" printed on it in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the thumb and index finger gripping the block. The background is a solid, dark blue-grey color.

NEEDS

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

WATER/WASTEWATER RATES

Additional Data

Water Customer Bill Impact

	Usage (Gallons)	Current	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
WATER								
<u>3/4"</u>								
Residential Bill Impact								
Monthly Bill	2,000	\$ 21.99	\$ 21.99	\$ 25.29	\$ 28.32	\$ 31.72	\$ 33.31	\$ 34.97
Year over year increase			\$ -	\$ 3.30	\$ 3.03	\$ 3.40	\$ 1.59	\$ 1.67
Year over year increase (%)			0.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Monthly Bill	7,500	\$ 55.05	\$ 55.05	\$ 63.30	\$ 70.90	\$ 79.41	\$ 83.38	\$ 87.54
Year over year increase			\$ -	\$ 8.26	\$ 7.60	\$ 8.51	\$ 3.97	\$ 4.17
Year over year increase (%)			0.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%	5.0%	5.0%
Monthly Bill	10,000	\$ 70.07	\$ 70.07	\$ 80.58	\$ 90.25	\$101.08	\$106.13	\$111.44
Year over year increase			\$ -	\$ 10.51	\$ 9.67	\$ 10.83	\$ 5.05	\$ 5.31
Year over year increase (%)			0.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%	5.0%	5.0%
SEWER								

<u>3/4"</u>								
Residential Bill Impact								
Monthly Bill	2,000	\$ 22.99	\$ 22.99	\$ 26.44	\$ 29.61	\$ 33.16	\$ 38.14	\$ 41.95
Year over year increase			\$ -	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.55	\$ 4.97	\$ 3.81
Year over year increase (%)			0.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%	15.0%	10.0%
Monthly Bill	7,500	\$ 63.42	\$ 63.42	\$ 72.93	\$ 81.68	\$ 91.48	\$105.20	\$111.86
Year over year increase			\$ -	\$ 9.51	\$ 8.75	\$ 9.80	\$ 13.72	\$ 6.66
Year over year increase (%)			0.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%	15.0%	6.3%
Monthly Bill	10,000	\$ 81.79	\$ 81.79	\$ 94.06	\$105.35	\$117.99	\$135.69	\$143.64
Year over year increase			\$ -	\$ 12.27	\$ 11.29	\$ 12.64	\$ 17.70	\$ 7.95
Year over year increase (%)			0.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%	15.0%	5.9%

