



# City of Carthage, Missouri

## **BUDGET WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

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May 20, 2026 - 5:30 PM  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to Order**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alan Snow, Beth Kang, David Thorn, Juan Topete, Ron Wells

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Mayor David B. Flanigan, Robin Harrison

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Administrator Traci Cox, Administrative Assistant Dorothy Weber, City Clerk Miranda Deal, Fire Chief Jason Martin, Police Chief Chad Dininger, Parks Director Richard Bonine, Public Works Director Josiah Bayless, IT Director Michael Keith

Chair Alan Snow called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

#### **2. Old Business**

##### **1. Approval of May 13, 2026 Minutes**

**ACTION:** Motion to approve May 13, 2026 minutes by Juan Topete  
Motion passed with a 5:0

**AYES:** Alan Snow, Beth Kang, David Thorn, Juan Topete, Ron Wells

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

#### **3. Citizens Participation**

(Citizens wishing to speak should notify Department Head or Committee Chair in advance)

#### **4. New Business**

##### **1. Continue Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget perfection**

The Committee discussed employee retention, different rate changes and budget goals. Mrs. Kang asked what was included in the general revenue fund. The Committee discussed possible solutions and outcomes with regard to the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Cox discussed budget totals with reserves. Mr. Snow opened the floor for discussion on putting the full step increase back into the FY 26/27 budget. Mr. Topete and Mrs. Kang wanted to know what the plan to recoup the cost would be. Mr. Thorn spoke about employee morale. Mr. Wells

spoke about being in a deficit for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Thorn asked how we got to the point of being in a deficit. The Committee and Ms. Cox discussed taxes and how the price of goods and services have sky rocketed since 2020. The Committee discussed the things that have been put off previously and how it's created a situation for the current council and administration. Ms. Cox explained that the City's liability insurance has gone up \$170,000.00 in two years.

**ACTION:** Motion to put the full step increase back into the FY26/27 budget by David Thorn.  
Motion failed with a 2:3

**AYES:** David Thorn, Alan Snow

**NOES:** Beth Kang, Ron Wells, Juan Topete

**ABSTAIN:** None

Mr. Snow asked if there are any other cuts to be made. The Committee discussed the taxes that are sunseting. Mr. Snow asked Chief Dinger about any capital fund cuts. Chief Dinger explained that he had already presented a cut budget. He emphasized that he was not willing to cut vehicle replacements because he is prioritizing the safety of his officers. Chief then explained that no other cuts are available as everything else in his capital is a contracted expense. Chief Martin explained that his operational budget is the same that it was in 2022. Things have gotten more expensive but he has not raised his operational costs. Mrs. Kang asked about the fire district. Mayor Flanigan said that he was in contact with the fire district board. Ms. Cox and the Committee discussed different avenues for cost recovery and different ways to cut expenses. The Committee discussed priority-based budgeting. The Mayor spoke about personnel costs and health insurance costs. Mr. Bonine spoke about his capital and how the majority of it comes from grants. Mr. Bayless discussed a new dump truck for his department. The current one is a 2004 and is currently not running. Mr. Bayless spoke about the needs at Recycling. The Committee and Mr. Bayless discussed the fees for services at Public Works and Code Enforcement.

**ACTION:** Motion to forward budget with COLA increase on July 1, 2026 and a longevity step in January 2027 to Council by Juan Topete  
Motion passed with a 4:1

**AYES:** Alan Snow, Juan Topete, Beth Kang, David Thorn

**NOES:** Ron Wells

**ABSTAIN:** None

## 2. Staff Reports

## 5. Adjournment

<b>ACTION:</b>	Motion to Adjourn at 7:01 by Alan Snow
	Motion passes with a 5:0
<b>AYES:</b>	Alan Snow, Beth Kang, David Thorn, Juan Topete, Ron Wells
<b>NOES:</b>	None
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	None