

BUDGET BRIEFING – CITY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025; 9:00 A.M.

705 West University Avenue, Council Auditorium, Lafayette, Louisiana

Fire & Police Civil Service, Cajundome, City Marshal, City Court, Fire, Police, Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture (PARC)

Councilmembers in attendance: Kenneth Boudreaux (City District 5 – Finance Chair), Thomas Hooks (City District 4 – Finance Vice-Chair), Elroy Broussard (City District 1), and Andy Naquin (City District 2)

Absent: Liz Hebert (City District 3)

Administration staff members in attendance: Mayor-President Monique Boulet, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Rachel Godeaux, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Karen Fontenot, Chief of Staff Christina Dayries, Budget Manager Denise Deville, Chief Budget Analyst Deosha Matthews, Senior Budget Analyst Jason Gilbert, Financial Analyst Laura Grettner, City Marshal Reginald Thomas, City Court Division B Judge Douglas Saloom, City Court Division A Judge Roya Boustany, Fire Chief Robert Benoit, Police Chief Paul Trouard, PARC Director Timothy Sensley, and staff members representing these and other departments/agencies

Council staff members in attendance: Joseph Gordon-Wiltz (Clerk of the Council) and Jeremy “Rich” Richardson (Associate Clerk for Operations & Citizen Advocacy)

(9:04) COMMENCEMENT:

City Finance Chair Kenneth Boudreaux called the budget briefing to order. He then asked Andy Naquin to offer the invocation and Elroy Broussard to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Boudreaux welcomed attendees to the departmental budget review, noting procedures for public comment, seating arrangements, and decorum (no food/drink; devices silenced). Public comments limited to departmental budgets; other matters should be directed to the Administration. Budget posted online at www.LafayetteLA.gov. Council may take one of three actions: general amendment, separate amendment, or mark for wrap-up discussion. Amendments tied to specific districts will generally be offered by that district’s Councilmember; general amendments by the Chair. He announced that City Councilwoman Liz Hebert would be unable to attend this morning’s briefing, but plans to attend today’s afternoon briefing.

Chair Boudreaux offered the following slate of amendments based on previous Wrap-Up requests:

CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To create Fund 1010 appropriation for Acadiana Center for the Arts capital project**

CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX ON BEHALF OF HEBERT – To add funding for 15 City bus shelters**

CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To remove Correctional Center disbursement from the City to the Parish and reallocate to Council District and Downtown capital projects**

CITY **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BROUSSARD – Administration to provide a list of what types of expenditures will qualify for District-specific capital expenditures**

FIRE & POLICE CIVIL SERVICE:

Operating Expenses

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

CAJUNDOME:

Operating Expenses

- *No action was taken in this section.*

5-Year Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

2026 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

CITY MARSHAL:

Operating Expenses

Page 163 – CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To adjust the salary and benefits for (1) City Marshal Lieutenant and (1) City Marshal Sergeant due to years of service within the City Marshal's O&M & Manning Tables; 08-12-2025 Amendment #17, as provided by Finance**

CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To add promotional dollars to promote (1) Deputy City Marshal I to (1) Deputy City Marshal II; 08-12-2025 Amendment #18, as provided by Finance**

2026 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

CITY COURT:

Operating Expenses

The following proposed amendment will be held over to the Public Hearing for Citizen Input on the Budget, scheduled for August 19, 2025:

JOINT **WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX – Hold proposed amendment to adjust salaries and benefits of (2) City Court Judges to align with the Louisiana Supreme Court's pay rates; 08-12-2025 Amendment #31, as provided by Finance**

2026 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Operating Expenses

Page 233 – **CITY **GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX – To transfer funding for training mistakenly placed in capital appropriations to operations (Housekeeping amendment); 08-12-2025 Amendment #19, as provided by Finance****

5-Year Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

2026 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Operating Expenses

Page 222 – CITY ****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – To add promotional dollars to promote (1) Police Officer to (1) Police Corporal; 08-12-2025 Amendment #20, as provided by Finance**

2026 Capital

- *No action was taken in this section.*

Manning Table

- *No action was taken in this section.*

► Comments from the Public

- *No citizens signed in to address the Council.*

PARKS, ARTS, RECREATION & CULTURE (PARC) DEPARTMENT:

Operating Expenses

Page 286 – CITY ****GENERAL AMENDMENT BY BOUDREAUX** – To adjust the salary and benefits for (1) Director's Executive Secretary due to Equity Pay Adjustment; 08-12-2025 Amendment #21, as provided by Finance**

CITY ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX** – PARC to provide more definitive status update/timeline on parks/recreation comprehensive plan**

5-Year Capital

Page 402 – CITY ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY NAQUIN** – PARC to provide information on line item 59 GIRARD PARK IMPROV AND DREDGING on page 402 in the amount of \$700,000 appropriated within PARC Department and whether it should all be allocated as PARC funding or whether Drainage and/or Public Works should share in this appropriation/effort**

CITY ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BROUSSARD** – PARC/PW/TRB to provide information on traffic measures that can be taken in order to mitigate instances of crashes that impact LCG assets (e.g. golf courses) through use of traffic calming devices, bollards, etc.**

Page 404 – CITY ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX** – PARC/Finance to provide an explanation of funding activity in line item 160 ATHLETIC FACILITIES on page 404**

2026 Capital

Page 432 – CITY ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX** – Finance to rename a corresponding capital line item for GOLF COURSE & FACILITY IMPROV for Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course that matches those for Vieux Chenes Golf Course and Wetlands Golf Course for consistency**

Manning Table

Page 457 – CITY ****WRAP-UP REQUEST BY BOUDREAUX** – PARC to provide financial information following assessment and evaluation of Small Engine Mechanic position to service all three (3) LCG golf courses; also include market study for one (1) Small Engine Mechanic position for each LCG golf course**

Broussard requested that the administration assess the feasibility of separating the Parks and Recreation functions from the Arts & Culture functions between the PARC Department.

► **Comments from the Public**

- **Chris Mitchell** addressed the Council to express support for indoor recreation facility at West Congress Street & Cajundome Boulevard, as well as for a water park in Lafayette.

Chair Boudreaux invited citizens to attend the Public Hearing for Citizen Input to address any matter related to the proposed budget, which will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 5:15 p.m. He declared the conclusion of this morning's briefing and stated that the next budget briefing will be held on this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. on City funds for LUS, LPPA, and LFT Fiber. There being no further business, the briefing was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.