

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL  
June 11, 2026

A workshop of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held at the Council Chambers, located at 6116 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas, at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2026. A teleconference was held via Zoom.

Present and composing a quorum were:

Mayor Albert Honigblum  
Mayor Pro Tem Lawson Jessee  
Councilmember Karl P. Baker  
Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke  
Councilmember Trey Jacobson

Also attending were:

City Manager Buddy Kuhn arriving at 11:30 a.m.  
Assistant City Manager Phillip Laney  
City Secretary Elsa T. Robles  
Finance Director Kristine Horton  
Police Chief Rick Pruitt  
Fire Chief Allen Ottmers  
Deputy Police Chief Cindy Pruitt  
Public Works Director Frank Orta  
Community Development Services Director Lety Hernandez  
Community Development Services Senior Planner Tyler Brewer

Not attending:

Councilmember Blake M. Bonner  
Assistant to City Manager Jennifer Reyna

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Mayor Albert Honigblum opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

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*Item # 1* Mayor Honigblum read the following caption.

**Discuss the Strategic Action Plan for FY 27**

Assistant City Manager Phillip Laney welcomed City Council and stated he would be presenting on behalf of City Manager Buddy Kuhn. He noted the Strategic Action Plan work session is an opportunity for staff to give Council an update on where the city is at with some projects as well as bring forth some ideas/initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year. Additionally, listen and get Council feedback and direction on potential projects.

Mr. Laney stated first and foremost he would focus on the most important city asset, the employees. Leadership is proposing to start with a 3.5% baseline cost of living adjustment (COLA) in FY 27 for all employees based on market conditions and inflation, but additional research is needed.

Mr. Laney stated Health Insurance proposals would be forthcoming in September 2026; however, staff built in a 20% increase for health insurance and Next Level Prime. He provided information on current employee benefits and utilization which is down 22% from October 2025. The current loss ratio is 83.9%, down from 106%. Medical claims paid are down \$82,966 from May 2025 perhaps due to the option of using Next Level Prime as an alternative to traditional primary doctor visits for urgent care, radiology, x-rays, primary care, labs, mental health, and weight loss services. He added since January 2026, there has been 47% utilization with 113 out of 240 employees or dependents going for visits.

Mr. Laney updated Council on the Lower Broadway Improvement Project stating he, Mayor Honigblum, and Mr. Kuhn recently met with the district engineer and additional leadership staff to discuss potential design solutions which will be discussed with City Council during an upcoming executive session. He noted stormwater is one of the biggest concerns with this project, and is one of the key drivers that staff is looking at along with internal infrastructure, and water & sewer lines staff is hoping to bundle with this project.

Mr. Laney provided an update on FY24/25 projects. The City's beautification efforts include the current construction on Broadway at Ogden which should be completed by August 2026 in time for the next school year and the AH Pool Pocket Park also under construction, slated to open to the public on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Laney continued and stated staff is in the process of finishing up ADA accessibility website enhancements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. He commented on the new water meter installation project with VASS Solutions. The project will take approximately 12 months to complete. Staff will ensure residents are aware and understand impacts this project may have. Concurrently, staff is also working on the water main relocation project that has been ongoing since 2010 with a deadline to complete of 2030.

Mr. Laney discussed the FY26 Community Improvement Grant stating \$50K were awarded in FY 2026 for three (3) projects and organizations. The Alamo Heights Little League - \$25,228 for replacement & upgrade of field lighting to LED lights on Fields 4 & 5; Friends of Hondondo Creek - \$21,000 for trail improvements to existing section of trail network to improve trail condition & longevity; and Green Space Alliance, on behalf of Alamo Heights Community Garden - \$3,772 to purchase four (4) durable picnic tables to replace existing, decaying wood tables at AH Community Garden.

Mr. Laney stated Mayor Honigblum had spearheaded a proposed park at the corner of Viesca and Argo. The AH Little League agreed to release part of the subleased area for this initiative. Staff is currently working on design to move forward with this project.

Mr. Laney presented FY27 initiatives/ideas and asked Council to consider the following:

Continue funding:

- Continuation of Grace McEwan support
- Volunteer appreciation event
- Community Improvement Grant

New Initiatives:

- Selection of a PR firm – public communication
- Public Art

- Community Fall Event
- Heights Pool repair – immediate need
- Streaming of all City Boards including council – view only
- Credit card fee charge
- Water use assessment – market-based incentives, water capacity needs & enforcement efforts
- Water & sewer rate study – possible increases
- Remodel of Community Development – wall removal
- City-wide Scanning Services to backlog old files and free up some space
  - o Document scanning for easier access for open records, auditors, and City Staff
- Household Hazardous Disposal Program
  - o Paint, oil, batteries, antifreeze, aerosol cans (foaming & non-foaming)

Mr. Laney continued with the city’s 5-Year SAP Priorities list for Council to consider. He stated the Street Maintenance Plan (SMP) goal continues to be at \$1M per year; however, in the current fiscal year, Council decided to increase it to \$1.2M which enabled staff to incorporate alleyways into the plan. He stated included in the 5-Year priorities is interest in Water Rights Acquisition with a 5-year plan to purchase \$5M or \$1M annually funded with future debt issuances. Additionally, staff seeks Council ideas for neighborhood projects such as pocket parks, pedestrian lighting, new sidewalks on Tuxedo (potential partnership w/ COSA), and/or La Jara/southern Alamo Heights Blvd.

Mr. Laney updated City Council on the city’s fiscal picture. Currently, the General Fund is approximately \$1.088M over budget in FY 27 baseline budget due to the reduction of \$622K less revenue for School Resource Officers (SRO) in FY26 & FY27 and inflation of expenses due to solid waste tipping fees, fuel; flat/lowered revenues particularly in property tax which has decreased overall in this region, COSA is projecting 2.13% decline in revenue growth. He noted the unrestricted fund balance remains healthy with approximately 7 months of operating reserves.

Mr. Laney provided possible solutions to address the current deficit. To help balance the budget, expenditure cuts and potential additional revenues are needed.

- Comp Plan funds for Broadway @ Ogden to offset SRO revenue loss - \$622K
- If we forgo added transfer for Fire Truck down payment - \$200K
- If we forgo 2 police vehicles for FY27 - \$135K
- Increase Solid Waste fee for residential & commercial customers  
\$5/mo. increase generates \$160K; smaller increase of \$1/mo. increase generates \$32K

Mr. Laney asked Council for any questions before moving forward with the presentation. Mayor Pro Tem Jessee commented on the 20% health insurance increase budgeted for FY27. Mr. Laney explained staff elects to budget conservatively in hopes that the city receives favorable rates.

Council briefly discussed the necessary repairs for the AH pool. Mr. Laney stated staff was investigating the cause and cost for repairs as well searching for any possible warranties still in effect from the previous 2020 pool repairs. Councilmember Jacobson commented there could be an opportunity for a “cost share” between the pool lessee and the city. Council asked for a

refresher on the responsibility details of the contract between the city and lessee. Mr. Laney stated staff would arrange that in the near future.

Council discussed concerns with the cost of remodeling the second floor of City Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Jesse stated it could be costly depending on the scope of the project. Councilmember Jacobson suggested thinking outside the box and suggested staff explore leasing nearby office space to accommodate staff. Mayor Honigblum stated this could be considered for offsite storage instead of staff. He did not think it would be a good idea to separate departments.

Mayor Honigblum shared his frustration with the lack of live streaming for Council meetings. Mr. Laney stated technology staff expert Jennifer Reyna was not in attendance and he did not have a good explanation, but assured Council Ms. Reyna was working on resolving this issue.

Mayor Honigblum questioned the necessity of purchasing the two proposed cars for AHPD. He did not want to risk being non-compliant if these were part of a safety regulation should Council decided to forgo 2 police vehicles for FY27.

Police Chief Rick Pruitt stated other than maintaining the current police vehicles, there was no other regulation that would be a concern if the cars were not purchased in FY27. He added they would inspect the working condition of the older cars and let Council know if it was necessary to purchase additional vehicles in the near future.

Mr. Laney continued presenting on the FY27 solid waste fee options stating the current fee is \$29 per month for residential and \$45 for commercial and generates about \$1.05M per year. The city's upcoming anticipated operating expenses are approximately \$1.2M. Roughly 87% of the city's expenses are to be paid for by the revenues being collected to date with the current rates. He reviewed potential options.

<b>FY 2027 Solid Waste Fee (Residential / MF &amp; Commercial)</b>	<b>Projected Fee Revenues</b>	<b>FY 2027 Operating Expenses</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>% Expenses Pd by Fees</b>
\$29/\$45 Fee (Current)	\$1,044,180	\$1,204,508	(\$160,328)	86.7%
\$32/\$48 Fee (Fees Fund ~90%)	\$1,140,772	\$1,204,508	(\$63,736)	94.7%
\$34/\$50 Fee (Fees Fully Fund)	\$1,205,606	\$1,204,508	\$1,098	100.0%

Mr. Laney explained the solid waste fee increase supports the current pick-up frequency and schedule which is twice a week for garbage (M/Th or Tue/Fr) and once a week for recycling (Wed). If Council opts to have fees fully fund this service, it will cost approximately \$2.62 per pick-up. Tipping costs are to increase a minimum of 4% annually per contract agreement, with 5% rate increases in 2026 and 2027. He noted COSA charges \$30.75 per month for a 96 gallon cart, \$396 annually, and pick up 1 garbage, 1 recycling, and 1 organics per week.

After a brief discussion, Council agreed to attempt recoup 100% of the operating costs and charge commercial accounts per garbage bin like residential customers. They suggested staff explore setting funds aside to purchase garbage trucks similar to police vehicle replacement funds.

Public Works Director Frank Orta stated garbage trucks increased \$90K in the last two years and cost approximately \$370K and noted aging trucks still in service. Council agreed there should be a way to set funds aside to be able to purchase these trucks at least every 5 years.

Mr. Laney reviewed the FY27 Legislative Session priorities of the Governor and Lt. Governor.

1. Capping local spending growth to the lesser of population plus inflation or 3.5%;
2. Requiring two-thirds voter approval on all local property tax increases;
3. Allowing a petition signed by 15% of registered voters to trigger a rollback election to lower tax rates;
4. Requiring all properties to be appraised once every five years instead of annually; and
5. Lowering the homestead appraisal cap from ten percent to three percent and extending the cap to all properties;
6. Lowering the senior homestead exemption eligibility age from 65 to 55, called “Operation Double Nickel”;
7. Increasing the homestead exemption on school district property taxes another \$40,000 (the current school property tax homestead exemption, approved by voters in November, is \$140,000); and
8. Imposing limits on local government tax increases while still allowing for reasonable growth for cities, counties, and special districts.

Council requested staff create a “pitch” sheet outlining the implications of these bills and how they impact city governments. Mr. Laney agreed this would be beneficial in communicating with legislators and constituents.

Mayor Honigblum requested data for the past 5 years on the impact of property taxes revenues from residents claiming senior homestead exemptions.

Councilmember Baker suggested Council consider increasing property taxes instead of fees to help protect the city from proposed future legislation.

Councilmember Jacobson agreed Council should be open-minded and added other cities are contemplating significant property taxes increases to help get ahead of situation. He suggested forecasting numbers to see what it would look like.

Mr. Laney concluded with additional 5-Year SAP priorities noting keeping property tax rate as low as possible by reducing debt service rate to 5.7 from 5.9 cents. The original 2021 voter approved rate is 7 cents. Staff suggested continuing with maximum transfers to the Capital Replacement Fund for capital equipment and maintain the city’s S&P AAA Bond Rating.

Council weighed in whether to move forward with past initiatives and proposed ideas.

- Continuation of Grace McEwan support - Yes
- Volunteer appreciation event – Yes, with further discussion
- Community Improvement Grant – Yes, but should be weighted on the impact to the city and should not be mandatory to award every year if proposed projects are not merited

- Selection of a PR firm – Yes to promote city initiatives/events and educate the community
- Public Art - Yes
- Community Fall Event – Yes
- Heights Pool repair – Yes, with further research/discussion

Council took brief break from 10:48 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. and continued reviewing potential initiatives.

- Streaming of all City Boards including council – view only – Yes
- Credit card fee charge – Yes
- Water use assessment – market-based incentives, water capacity needs & enforcement efforts – Yes
- Water & sewer rate study – possible increases – Yes, a more detailed discussion will be presented at the next City Council meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Remodel of Community Development – wall removal – Yes
- City-wide Scanning Services to backlog old files and free up some space – Yes
  - o Document scanning for easier access for open records, auditors, and City Staff
- Household Hazardous Disposal Program – Yes, with further discussion
  - o Paint, oil, batteries, antifreeze, aerosol cans (foaming & non-foaming)
- Street Maintenance Plan – goal continues at \$1,000,000/yr. – Yes, increasing it to \$1.2M/yr. to include alleyways
- Water Rights Acquisition
  - o Year 1 of 5-Year plan to purchase \$5,000,000 in water rights
  - o \$1,000,000 in FY2027 – would be funded by future debt issuance

Mayor Pro Tem Jessee stated he had FY27 SAP requests.

- Petition SARA to put in a trash collection system at Basse and Jones Maltsberger Rd. to collect all the trash from recent rains
- Irrigate and sod field next to the butterfly garden to add green space, suggested using TifTuf 419 versus sod
- Continuing talks with COSA to install a sidewalk along New Braunfels to Austin Hwy / install a crosswalk at Cloverleaf
- Spraying for mosquitos

Mayor Honigblum requested to add a sidewalk/trail from Corona to Alamo Heights Blvd in front of the dog park.

Council briefly discussed not reducing the debt service rate to help with infrastructure improvements and exploring raising property taxes to get ahead of the legislative initiatives. They discussed staff not deferring too much on vehicle replacements to avoid sticker shock in the future.

Public Works Director Frank Orta presented an update on the status of projects approved for the current fiscal year, FY 2026, and presented a plan for FY 2027 to ensure the safety of roadways, sidewalks and water infrastructure under Public Work's responsibilities. He stated the PW department is currently engaged in several multi-year projects to improve City's infrastructure that includes the Street Maintenance Program (SMP) for streets. For

utilities, it includes the Water Meter Replacement, Water Service Relocation, Sewer Main Rehabilitation, Utility Asset Management Assessment, Water Tower Improvements, Proactive Sewer Rehabilitation, and Water Rights Acquisition.

Mr. Orta recapped the FY26 SMP and noted the following streets/alleys are currently in progress.

Streets:

- Claywell Dr. – Broadway to New Braunfels Ave.
- E. Oakview Pl. – Broadway to New Braunfels Ave.
- E. Edgewood Pl. – Broadway to New Braunfels Ave.
- E. Elmview Pl. – Broadway to New Braunfels Ave.
- Vanderhoeven Dr. – Claywell Dr. to 50' South of E. Elmview Pl.

Alleys:

- Between Blue Bonnet Blvd. and Redwood St. – Henderson St. to New Braunfels Ave.
- Between Harrigan Ct. and Katherine Ct. – Broadway to New Braunfels Ave.
- Between Katherine Ct. and Burr Rd. – Broadway to New Braunfels Ave.
- Between Albany St. and Montclair St. – Broadway to Ashcroft Ave.

Mr. Orta reviewed the proposed FY27 SMP locations.

Streets:

- Jones Maltsberger, E. Basse to AHB
- Devine, City Limits to AHB
- St. Lukes, Corona Ave to Cardinal Ave.
- Columbine, Tuxedo to Dead End
- Canyon Dr, Tuxedo to Dead End
- Stone Crest, Canyon Dr. to Dead End
- Allen St, Estes to Dead End (Includes curb installation)

Alleys:

- Cloverleaf, Broadway to New Braunfels
- Rosemary, Broadway to New Braunfels

Mr. Orta recapped the FY26 Utility projects noting the Water Meter Replacement Contracts had been executed for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) solution and installation. The construction efforts will begin in August 2026 and are estimated to be completed by May 2027.

The Water Service Relocation contract was also executed to install yard piping from the existing water meter located in back yards/alleyways to new meter boxes located in front yards. The locations were Sylvan Hills (East of Broadway on Claywell, Oakview, Edgewood & Elmview), and Bluebonnet Hills (East of Broadway on Rosemary, Cloverleaf, Wildrose, Wintergreen & Buttercup). The project is to complete a significant portion of remaining locations not compliant with TCEQ-mandated separation of water/sewer lines. Construction is set to begin in August 2026 and is estimated to be completed by January 2027.

Mr. Orta continued and recapped the Sewer Main Rehabilitation project stating the contract had been executed to rehab 0.6 miles of existing sewer main from Argo/AH Blvd to

Olmos Dam. The construction for this project is to begin in July 2026 and anticipated to be completed by November 2026.

The contract for Asset Management Program for Water & Sewer was also executed to map all 43 centerline miles of water/sewer lines and supporting infrastructure, into a single GIS database. It will also include water mains, manholes, water valves, fire hydrants, and services lines. The information will include the infrastructure material, its age, and compliance information. The study began in May 2026 and is anticipated to be completed by December 2026.

Mr. Orta reviewed the potential FY27 initiatives for Utilities. Staff seeks to focus on City Water Tower Improvements and propose structural maintenance/rehabilitation of 3 elevated water towers to keep integrity, prevent leaks, and preserve water quality. The total projected cost of \$1,843,000 will be funded by utilizing a combination of 2026 Certificates of Obligation and future debt/operating budget.

Additionally, staff proposes continuing the Water Service Relocation project to achieve TCEQ compliance. This will complete the remaining limited water service relocation efforts to achieve the separation of water and sewer by the end of 2027. The remaining locations include: Stonecrest, Canyon, and portions of Patterson and Encino.

Mr. Orta reviewed other proposed staff initiatives which included a Proactive Sewer Rehabilitation which will target the rehabilitation of aged sanitary sewer with a total cost of \$1,588,000 to be funded by future debt issuance. He stated the SAWS Interconnection project for emergency use of water service line is currently in the design stages and will be discussed during the SAWS board hearing in the Summer of 2026 with anticipated RFP in the Fall of 2026.

PW Staff proposes to include Public Relations & Awareness for water resiliency & sustainability. It will focus on construction coordination and marketing campaign for upcoming Capital Improvements, especially water meter replacements and water service line relocations. This initiative will enhance public outreach to promote services, resources, conservation, and stormwater pollution. The PW website will be updated with information.

Mr. Orta stated for the FY27 Vehicle Replacement Plan staff proposed to purchase a Crew truck Chevy 2500 - \$65,000 for the Park's Department and a Solid Waste Truck - \$370,000. For Utilities, staff propose to purchase a Crew truck International CV515 Chassis & Body - \$140,000 and Jetter/Vac combo trailer - \$285,000. All proposed vehicles will replace aging/outdated service vehicles.

Mr. Orta discussed the department's 5-year SAP maintenance priorities which included expanding the SMP and utilize the Asset Management Program to balance street improvements with preservation and structural applications. Enhance the crack sealing program and alley maintenance with a percentage of yearly SMP funding.

Staff seeks to expand and utilize the Asset Management Program and determine infrastructure improvement priorities based on data and condition assessments. In 2028 focus on the storm water system, including drain boxes, inlets, outfalls, and natural creek ways. In 2029 focus on pavement markings, traffic boxes/lights, guard rails, traffic and sewer signs. A street network condition is recommended every 3 years, was first completed in 2024.

Additional 5-year SAP maintenance priorities include the implementation of a Utility Maintenance Plan to develop a long-term maintenance plan based on 2026 asset assessment and continue proactive maintenance of aged water/sewer mains and service lines. The plan will implement a sewer manhole maintenance plan including lining and service 1/3 of all assets every year. The plan will help develop a yearly water tower maintenance plan for a proactive and cost-effective approach.

The 5-year SAP priorities also include focusing on the Lower Broadway Water & Sewer initiatives to help coordinate opportunities for utility partnerships and identify cost-effective utility enhancement opportunities.

Mr. Orta reviewed 5-year SAP capital purchase priorities which include purchasing vehicles.

Public Works:

- Replace Motor Grader - \$180,000
- Replace 2, 1-Ton Pickups - \$135,000
- Garbage Truck - \$370,000
- Front End Loader - \$160,000

Utilities:

- Replace Skid Loader - \$120,000

Council discussed the proposed water tower maintenance. Councilmember Jacobson stated there was an opportunity to possibly use the public art fund to illuminate the top of the tower and create a city identifier such as "Alamo Heights" or do something special.

Councilmember Baker shared his concerns with the proposed FY27 PW vehicle purchases. To help Council understand the high-ticket items and justify approving such purchases, he requested staff provide detailed information such as how often the requested equipment is used and provide a cost-benefit or alternatives. He asked staff to explore renting equipment, e.g. Jetter/Vac combo trailer vs. buying. Mayor Pro Tem Jessee noted renting a Jetter/Vac runs about \$4,000 per day.

Director of Community Development Services Lety Hernandez presented a summary of the department's FY26 SAP initiatives in technology. She explained staff completed the transitioning of all licensing to MyPermitsNow (MGO). Staff continue with digitizing plan reviews, permits, and inspection processing/results integrated with GIS allowing access to projects, in one place, including staff review comments delivered electronically at time of completion. Staff continue to offer in-person assistance to those who are unable to access the online system, or prefer to deal with staff in person.

Proposed FY27 technology goals include continuing to transition all permit applications to MGO, and phase out use of the Incode Community Development Module. Additionally, staff is continuing to implement the MapLink map software that incorporates locations and its relevance to City ordinances/regulations. It will allow the public to access on the city's website to pertinent information for city properties regarding zoning ordinances or regulations that may apply.

Ms. Hernandez continued with Code Compliance FY27 SAP initiatives and stated staff proposes a comprehensive Zoning Code review to focus on zoning, building, and other non-

development related codes and potential recommendations. This will help to address inconsistencies caused by previous revisions and eliminate out of date information. Staff may utilize external stakeholders for the review. Staff seeks to revise the current Schedule of Development Fees and propose introducing re-review fees for plan review and permits. For Community Preservation, there will be an ongoing review of approaches to encourage redevelopment of older homes and/or structures.

Ms. Hernandez continued to summarize FY26 SAP efficiency. She noted staff provided feedback for plan reviews within twenty-one (21) business days with the help of an increased internal support staff member through a reclassified position. Staff strive to complete requested inspections within one (1) working day unless specified and providing support to boards and commission to facilitate review of cases.

The department's FY27 Goals include the reduction of turnaround time and increased efficiency for staff review/response of applications. Staff will assist applicants with code compliant solutions to reduce board cases and proactively identify and address code compliance and building related issues.

In conclusion, Ms. Hernandez noted her department has a vacant position in Code Compliance that will be filled soon. She thanked AHPD and AHFD for helping with code compliance related issues during this vacancy.

Council briefly discussed efforts for historic preservation of homes in the city. They revisited options to move forward and decided to set a time a time to have a meeting to discuss in detail and decide if there is a consensus to move forward or not.

Mayor Honigblum commented this would need a designated person to oversee this effort and added would have to be a third party person/firm, not a full-time city employee. He asked staff to keep it on the FY27 SAP initiatives and added Council would have to make it an affirmative decision.

Police Chief Rick Pruitt summarized FY26 SAP initiatives. He stated the AHPD Community Engagement Initiative has been accomplished and is on-going. Officers continue patrolling neighborhoods and make an effort to stop and talk to residents. They engage in social gatherings, block parties, the little league fields, school events, and park areas. Staff patrols business district using the fire/police UTV which has been well received by the community.

Police Chief Pruitt stated AHPD staff continues to study strategies and initiatives in an effort to retain qualified, experienced, and trained police officers/dispatchers. The department is exploring shift preference and pay differentials. The department implemented longer shifts or less days worked (10 hr/4 day), special assignments, and CID rotations to help retain employees. They will continue to study ways to improve longevity through certification and education incentives. He noted recent turnover has not been an issue.

Police Chief Pruitt noted the department had no unanticipated capital improvement items in FY26, but worked on the lease purchase plans for body-worn and mobile video cameras. He continued and stated FY27 SAP proposed initiatives are to successfully complete the department's 5th Re-Accreditation in September 2026, offer multiple training events at local AHISD Campuses integrating response times for Police, Fire, and EMS, conduct a Multi-Agency

Emergency Services Drill offering tabletop and live exercise efforts with neighboring sister cities.

Other AHPD FY27 SAP proposed initiatives include Technological Modernization to install small electronic speed signs with breakaway poles for temporary usage on smaller interior streets. They collect downloadable data like the larger versions but are small enough to move around. The approximate cost for three (3) is under \$14K.

Police Chief Pruitt stated staff proposes to offer Criminal Investigations Training to improve knowledge, skills, and abilities of patrol officers in field investigation skills through integrated training assignments with Detectives. Additionally, the department has about two more years left on the lease/buy payments for the Axon - Body worn cameras (x25) - \$28,316 and Axon - Mobile video cameras (x10) - \$32,092 (final year). He spoke briefly about the request for three (3) Explorer Police Units for a total price of \$157,500 which includes a non-transferable equipment projection.

Police Chief Pruitt focused on the department's 5-year SAP priorities and stated staff proposed a feasibility study of fixed or temporary surveillance cameras at strategic locations for police investigation of criminal offenses. He noted staff was still researching the cost for these surveillance cameras. They propose to study on-going police reforms; adjust operations/policies/training as mandated; maintain Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and TPCA accreditation standards and take a progressive approach to resolving current and anticipated on-street parking issues such as an increase in high school on-street parking. He closed by stating the AHPD will continue to seek ongoing community engagement project opportunities through the efforts of Sergeant Ruthilen Robles.

Council briefly discussed temporary signage on Elmview and lack of consistency with other street signage which is creating confusion. They also discussed current surveillance cameras around the school campuses. Police Chief Pruitt noted AHPD had access to view video footage from these cameras. Council questioned if the AHISD was installing additional cameras as part of their budget bond package. Mayor Honigblum stated he would discuss further with the AHISD Superintendent.

Fire Chief Allen Ottmers presented a summary of the FY26 SAP for the AHFD stating the department continuously updates the Emergency Management Annexes in Texas all Hazards Planning Systems Program which enables the department to stay current on their annexes and basic plan in order for the city or municipality to receive state or federal funding in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. He noted the department renewed the EMS Billing Contract with Schertz EMS; however, about a month ago they were informed Schertz EMS is no longer doing EMS billing due to staffing. Additionally, the department completed the Texas Commission on Fire Protection Inspection in FY26.

Fire Chief Ottmers reviewed proposed FY27 SAP initiatives which include the renewal of the Emergency Medical Services Contract with Terrell Hills & Olmos Park, renewal of Contract with the Medical Director, renewal of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association Best Practices recognition program, enter into a contract with a new EMS billing company through RFP Process due to administration decision from Schertz EMS, and conduct City staff Emergency Management Drill.

The AHFD proposed 5-year CAPs include replacing ten (10) NFPA standard/recommended self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air packs - \$146,069 in FY26-27; Fire Extrication Tools (used in case of car accidents) - \$44,595 in FY27-28; six (6) SCBA air packs - \$87,641 in FY29-30.

Fire Chief Ottmers explained they were behind on the proposed EMS 5-year CAPs for an Ambulance Chassis (M3) - \$78,280 and Frazer Ambulance T1 12' Module (M3) - \$266,110 which are slated for FY27-28. He noted this unit will take about four (4) years to complete much like fire trucks.

Councilmember Jacobson discussed the proposed 3.5% COLA for employees in FY27 noting the current inflation being 4.5%. City Manager Buddy Kuhn stated this was the proposed starting point, but would be happy to bring different scenarios to consider. He added he takes into consideration different situations such as looming legislative update and balancing the budget.

Mayor Honigblum suggested staff start with a higher COLA of perhaps 5% and scale down as needed. He stated he understands Mr. Kuhn's logic, but noted the employees are the city's best asset and if other initiatives needed to be cut back then Council needed to discuss and consider this.

Councilmember Jacobson noted Council had discussed the possibility of increasing property taxes ahead of potential legislative implications. Mayor Honigblum added beside property taxes, Council had discussed a potential increase in a number of other things like a potential increase in garbage fees, COLA, etc. and cautioned Council staging these initiatives on a timeline to avoid a big impact to the community.

Mayor Honigblum asked Mr. Kuhn his opinion on Next Level's impact and the projection of a 20% health insurance increase. Mr. Kuhn stated it was practice to budget conservatively, but did not have a definite indication how Next Level would affect the bottom line. He added that number would be identified later this year.

In closing Mr. Kuhn stated he would discuss Council's suggestions and directions with staff and would build a balanced budget for Council's consideration.

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With no further business to consider, the workshop ended at 1:03 p.m.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2026.**

  
Elsa T. Robles, TRMC  
City Secretary



  
Albert Honigblum  
Mayor