

May 12, 2025

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEWISTON, IDAHO, met in a Special Meeting – Budget Session #1 in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Bell Building at 215 D Street. Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

I. CALL TO ORDER

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Mayor Johnson; Councilor Forsmann (Zoom); Councilor Klein (Zoom); Councilor Schroeder; Councilor Spickelmire (Zoom); Councilor Wright (3:11 p.m.).

COUNCILORS EXCUSED: Council President Kleeburg.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

IV. BUDGET ITEMS

A. PERSONNEL COSTS

City Treasurer and Finance Director Aimee Gordon opened the first FY2026 budget session and encouraged Council to review the provided binders, which include background on the internal budget process.

Human Resources Director Nikki Province discussed personnel costs and responded to Council's data requests. She reported an 18.43% employee turnover rate, with pay as a key factor, and recommended a salary study. PERSI employer contributions are increasing, and a 2.5% COLA is budgeted for FY2026. A projected 2% increase in health insurance premiums was also noted in the City's benefit plan review.

B. INTERNAL SERVICE RATES

Internal Service Funds were discussed, including Workers' Compensation, Fleet, and Information Systems & Security. Workers' Comp reserves are targeted to return to \$2.5 million, with revenues expected to exceed expenses.

Fleet Services Manager Roben Braun reviewed budget priorities, including

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personnel, repairs, and scheduled vehicle replacements.

Information Systems & Security Director Dustin Spooner reviewed major software expenses, capital needs, and upcoming security upgrades across departments. He noted that staff are closely monitoring software usage and needs. Both Fleet and ISS requested a 6% budget increase.

C. INSURANCE

The City's insurance package was reviewed, with an anticipated 18% cost increase and the potential for a similar future rise. Risk Manager Gene Forsmann is exploring alternative options. The Council discussed private insurance tools, such as safe driving apps, and Councilor Wright referenced examples of state shared revenues, including alcohol licenses and sales tax.

V. BUDGET DISCUSSION

This is an opportunity for Councilors to ask questions, have discussions and provide direction to staff related to the fiscal year 2026 budget – Action Item

Councilor Spickelmire confirmed that binders will be available at City Hall.

Councilor Forsmann highlighted transportation, building maintenance, and employee pay as her biggest budget concerns, emphasizing cost-effective solutions for taxpayers.

VI. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. CITY COUNCILOR COMMENTS:** Comments shall not be related to an item currently before the City Council or an item that may come before the City Council in the foreseeable future, and shall be limited to comments, not discussion.

Councilor Forsmann shared insights from training in Boise, recommending other Councilors attend. She noted that other cities are facing budget challenges and issues with forgone taxes.

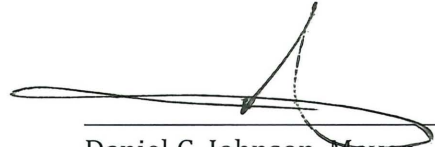
B. MAYOR COMMENTS

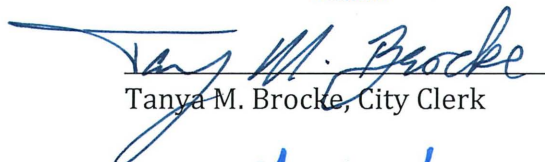
Mayor Johnson noted he will share materials from the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) outlining City budgeting basics and Council roles and responsibilities. The info is brief but useful for preparing for the upcoming budget and related policy decisions.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - Action Item

There being no further business to come before the Lewiston City Council, Councilors Wright and Schroeder moved and seconded, respectively, to adjourn the May 12, 2025 Budget Session #1. The motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.




Daniel G. Johnson, Mayor


Tanya M. Brocke, City Clerk
