



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

To: City Council Members  
From: Dr. Melissa Reichert, City Manager  
Date: October 16, 2025  
Subject: FY 2026 Adopted Budget

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Members of City Council,

The adopted millage rate is 3.8686 mills, matching the proposed budget and presented at public hearing. This is the rolled-back rate and a decrease of .0814 mills from the prior fiscal year.

The final adopted budget approved September 24, 2025 was \$203,669,943. Net of interfund transfers, the approved budget is \$186,176,573. This was a decrease of \$1.6 million (\$2.3 million net of interfund transfers). \$1.5 million was an adjustment to financing and transfers that were updated in the Utilities funds and \$0.1 million to move the Public Safety Fencing to FY 2025 to begin the project.

The Strategic Plan for 2026 was also adopted on September 24, 2025. It is the City's roadmap for the future. It outlines the community's shared vision, priorities, and measurable goals, ensuring that resources are aligned with what matters most to residents and businesses. The Strategic Plan included key milestone dates for accountability, and Council will review the progress quarterly. Financial status reports will also be provided quarterly as a part of furthering transparency.

Negotiations with the police officer bargaining unit have been ongoing and we have now reached an agreement that will be brought to Council for approval. That is one of the unbudgeted costs that we plan for with use of additional reserves.

The FY 2026 priorities include long-term infrastructure planning and funding, growth management, impact fee adjustments, investment in water, sewer, and drainage systems, and maximizing grant opportunities to offset local costs.

I am proud to work alongside an actively engaged City Council, a talented and committed workforce, and a community that values careful stewardship of its resources. Our approach combines a practical, data-driven budget with a strategic vision—positioning Punta Gorda to maintain service excellence, meet infrastructure needs, and continue building a bright future.