

**MINUTES OF FINANCE MEETING  
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2026**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Finance Meeting on January 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. with President Donahue presiding.

**PRESENT:** Buschbach, Mottl, Stalker, Zumhagen and Donahue  
A quorum was present.

Ron Badali, Superintendent of Finance, reported that the FY'27 budget process began in October 2025. During October and November, staff reviewed the financial reports and submitted recommended adjustments to revenues and expenses for the upcoming fiscal year.

Badali presented the FY'27 Preliminary Budgets for the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Debt Service Fund. Badali said these funds support districtwide operations, capital improvements, and debt obligations. Badali noted that the preliminary budgets remained subject to change as updated operating results were received.

The General Fund budget reflected an anticipated operating deficit of approximately \$312,000, primarily attributed to a scheduled ARS bond interest payment. The budget included a proposed restructuring of management with the addition of two superintendent positions to improve operational oversight and allow the Executive Director to focus on long-term strategic initiatives. General Fund expenses were projected to increase due to staffing, wages, benefits, and insurance costs, while revenues reflected modest property tax growth and reduced investment interest earnings due to a lower interest rate environment.

The Board asked follow up questions regarding the proposed superintendent positions, including the scope of responsibilities and the anticipated timeline for hiring. Director Hartwig discussed a proposed organizational chart layout and how the new positions would fit within the district.

The Debt Service Fund budget was balanced by design, with property tax revenues levied to match annual bond principal and interest obligations. Expenses included payments related to the 2024 ARS Bonds and the 2025 Annual GO Bonds, along with scheduled fund transfers from the Corporate and Capital Projects Funds to meet ARS bond requirements.

The Capital Projects Fund Preliminary Budget reflected expenditures exceeding revenues due to the completion of major infrastructure work at the Racquet Center and the continuation of grant-funded projects, including the Lakeshore Park Renovation and the Wolfe Wildlife Bike Path. To maintain a healthy fund balance and meet best-practice standards, Badali proposed fund balance transfers from the Recreation Fund and Special Recreation Fund. An anticipated \$900,000 grant from the Village of Oak Lawn for the Senior Center at Memorial Activity Center was included in the preliminary budget.


Badali stated that updated preliminary budgets would be presented in March, at which time the Board would be asked to place the FY'27 Budget on public display. Final budget approval was anticipated in April 2026. Badali also noted that the district would continue to assess and schedule maintenance and capital improvement projects to ensure high quality facilities and park spaces for the community.

**ADJOURN:**

Mottl motioned to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.; Buschbach seconded.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Ryan Donahue, President

  
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Tracey Gallik, Recording Secretary