

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026, AT 6:00 PM IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 181 NORTH 9TH STREET, SHOW LOW, NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Leech called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Leech, Vice Mayor Kakavas, Councilman Adams, Councilman Clark (arrived at 6:44 p.m.), Councilman Hatch (arrived at 6:44 p.m.), Councilman Judd, and Councilman Whipple

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: F. Morgan Brown, City Manager; Anna Atencio, City Attorney; Justin Johnson, Deputy City Manager; Greg Westover, Police Chief; Shane Hemesath, Public Works Director; Justen Tregaskes, Planning and Zoning; Chris Reid, City Engineer; Jacob Allen, Airport Manager; Mike Mariscal, Community Services Director; Rick Austin, Public Works Operations Manager; Mischa Steinbrecher, Finance Manager; Terri Nikolaus, Recreation Supervisor; Grace Payne, Communications Manager; Kendra Ables, Library Services Manager; Mike Butora, Police Commander; Becca Seely, Aquatics Pool Manager; Scott Tipton, City Magistrate; Jeff McNeil, Police Commander; and Rachael Hall, City Clerk.

GUESTS: Doug Roberts.

3. Budget Town Hall and Review of Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027.

No citizens attended the Budget Town Hall.

Mr. Johnson said tonight's study session was to present a budget review of the recommended department budgets, including a synopsis of anticipated revenues and expenditures for fiscal year 2027. If needed, additional budget reviews were scheduled for April 23 and April 30. He said staff would present an overview of the tentative budget on May 19, including any changes to the recommended budget per the Council's direction. The final budget would be adopted on June 16, and the City would adopt the secondary property tax levy on July 21.

A copy of the recommended budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 was attached to the minutes.

Magistrate Court

Mayor Leech asked Judge Tipton if there were any needs for the Court at this time. Judge Tipton said no, there were no anticipated needs at this time in Court.

Planning and Zoning

No questions.

City Attorney

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked for statistics on caseloads to justify the additional staff request and asked whether a paralegal was needed or if a clerical position would suffice.

Ms. Atencio provided an overview of increasing workload trends within the department to support the request for additional staffing. Historical contract data showed a steady rise in activity over the past several years. Since 2023, contract activity has increased significantly by more than 53% from 2022. This upward trend continued in 2024 with a 15.5% increase, and in 2025 an overall increase of approximately 35%.

Ms. Atencio said in addition to contract growth, the Magistrate Court had experienced an increase in caseload. Year-to-date, there had been 92 cases filed, with 43 active and 49 closed. This increase was partly attributed to animal control cases and code enforcement cases.

Ms. Atencio said a significant new workload factor had been the regulation and enforcement of short-term rentals. To date, approximately 95 cases have been filed, with an estimated 50 additional cases pending. These cases added substantially to the existing court workload and required considerable coordination and administrative support.

Ms. Atencio also highlighted the implementation of the Origami insurance tracking system in 2023, as recommended by the City's risk pool. While the system had improved the City's ability to monitor contract compliance and insurance coverage, it had also revealed numerous deficiencies, including expired or missing insurance documentation. Addressing these compliance issues had created a substantial additional workload, largely managed by existing staff.

Ms. Atencio said support staff, including the part-time legal assistant, had played a critical role in managing increased demands by preparing case documentation, coordinating service of complaints, and assisting with compliance tracking. However, despite these efforts, the overall workload had grown significantly, and additional staffing was necessary to maintain service levels and ensure all required duties were completed effectively.

Councilman Adams asked for clarification on the existing position that was

shared between the city clerk's office and city attorney's department. Ms. Atencio said the position was labeled as "deputy city clerk", which was held currently by Kathy Clements, and was under the supervision of the city clerk's office. She said the position also was to provide support to the city attorney's department. She said ideally, it would be a 50/50 split between the two departments, but that did not always happen, and at this point, the workload has made it unsustainable.

Mayor Leech inquired whether there would be sufficient workload to support a full-time position within the department.

Ms. Hall responded that there was adequate work to support the position. She explained that, over the past several years, there had been extended periods when Ms. Clements had been dedicated exclusively to legal duties, requiring Ms. Hall to assume the full responsibilities of the deputy city clerk role. During those times, other responsibilities, including support to the city manager, were delayed or deferred.

Ms. Hall noted that workload increases had been consistent across multiple areas. Public records requests alone had increased by approximately 42%, with demand continuing to rise. She also highlighted the contributions of Ms. Hudson, a contract employee, who had assisted with airport-related lease agreements, legal support tasks, and clerical duties such as agenda packet preparation when additional support was needed. However, Ms. Hall indicated that Ms. Hudson's availability was limited and may not be sustainable long-term due to other commitments.

Ms. Hall further explained that the legal assistant position had historically been a part-time role for over a decade prior to recent organizational changes. She emphasized that, given the current volume of work, both positions would remain fully utilized. She concluded that current staffing levels were insufficient to meet the growing workload and compliance demands, and that additional support was necessary to maintain operational effectiveness.

Mayor Leech stated that, prior to the presentation, he had not fully understood the extent of the department's workload. He noted that monthly reports provided to the Council were typically high-level and did not previously reflect the level of activity presented. While acknowledging the significant workload, he expressed a desire to further evaluate the request and consider alternative approaches.

Mayor Leech emphasized that other departments had requested additional staffing in the past and were deferred, and he would like to ensure consistency in evaluating such requests. He suggested exploring the option of initially implementing a part-time position to assess workload demands before committing to a full-time position. He also requested that future monthly reports include more detailed workload data to better inform the Council.

Vice Mayor Kakavas commented that the duties described appeared to be more clerical in nature and aligned more closely with a legal assistant role rather than a paralegal, which typically required a higher level of certification. She expressed support for considering a part-time legal assistant position as an initial step.

Community Services

- Administration

Councilman Adams requested clarification on a \$25,000 increase related to the Tree City USA program.

Mr. Mariscal said the City had participated in the program for 28 years. He said a program requirement was maintaining a \$25,000 annual budget to plant new trees, trim trees, and remove trees. He said the current expenses were spread across multiple accounts, and establishing a dedicated budget line would simplify tracking, improve transparency, and provide a clearer accounting of tree-related expenditures.

Councilman Whipple inquired whether the proposed funding amount would be sufficient to address the increasing number of trees impacted by bark beetle infestation and drought conditions throughout the community.

Mr. Mariscal responded that the allocated amount of approximately \$25,000 was intended specifically to meet the requirements of the Tree City USA program and would likely not be sufficient to address the broader tree loss concerns. He noted that additional funding for tree replacement was addressed separately within the department's budget.

Mayor Leech clarified that the proposed funding pertains only to Tree City USA requirements and indicated that further discussion may be needed to ensure adequate funding was allocated for overall tree management efforts.

Councilman Adams asked whether grant funding was available to support these efforts. Mr. Mariscal stated that while some grant opportunities may exist, the current funding was not tied to any grants and was primarily intended to meet program requirements.

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked whether the City was coordinating with Timber Mesa Fire and Medical District regarding tree removal efforts related to bark beetle and drought conditions. Mr. Mariscal confirmed that coordination had occurred to some extent and noted that the City proactively removed trees identified as affected. He added that approximately 30 trees were currently being removed in the City park.

Mr. Brown further stated that the City was collaborating with Timber Mesa, as well as with private property owners, the U.S. Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish, and State Parks to address tree removal in affected areas, including locations near Fools Hollow and along Needles Creek. He noted that while some grant opportunities existed, they were often costly and required matching funds from property owners. He said the City would continue to pursue available resources and remove affected trees within public rights-of-way as needed.

- Library

Mayor Leech asked for clarification regarding the request to convert a part-time position to full-time.

Ms. Abel explained that the City currently had a part-time position in the computer lab. For many years, the City benefited from Don Vogel, who had retired prior to relocating and began working at the library, where he helped establish the computer lab. Because he preferred part-time work, the position remained part-time for several years.

Ms. Abel said as services expanded, the City increased staffing to two part-time positions prior to his retirement. After his departure, staffing was reduced to one part-time position. However, demand had continued to grow. Ms. Ables noted that staff had been tracking reference questions, and more than 40 percent were related to computer assistance. She also stated that the IT Department was frequently called to address issues that could be handled by a full-time computer lab staff member, rather than diverting IT resources from City Hall.

Councilman Judd asked for clarification on the request for an accordion security gate. Ms. Abel explained that there was a metal gate across the lobby entrance that was closed during Council meetings when the library was not open. She noted that the gate was unfortunately deteriorating and beginning to fail.

- Recreation

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked for information about the after-school program and whether the City coordinated with local schools.

Ms. Nikolaus explained that the program partnered with the schools as drop-off locations, specifically working with Nikolaus Homestead and Whipple Elementary. The program was fully operated by City staff, though it was conducted in coordination with the schools.

Vice Mayor Kakavas then asked how many students participated in the program. Ms. Nikolaus responded that enrollment averaged between 20 and 30 students per month, depending on the time of year.

Vice Mayor Kakavas also asked whether there was a fee for parents. Ms. Nikolaus confirmed that there was, with options to pay weekly, monthly, or quarterly, and indicated that the fees largely helped cover program costs.

- Aquatics
No questions.
- Public Information
Vice Mayor Kakavas asked for clarification regarding the mention of a drone fleet, specifically whether the City currently operates multiple drones.

Ms. Payne explained that the City currently operates one drone, which is designed for outdoor use, including high-altitude and large-area applications. She added that the proposed addition would be a smaller, more agile drone intended for indoor use and for capturing sporting events.

Councilman Adams asked about the age of the camera equipment currently in use.

Ms. Payne responded that the department was working toward establishing a regular replacement cycle to keep the equipment current. The first camera was purchased in 2022, and the most recent was purchased in 2023. She noted that the typical useful life of the cameras was approximately three to six years.

Ms. Payne explained that warranties were purchased to allow for manufacturer repairs when needed, but the equipment also experienced normal wear due to frequent use. As a result, staff would like to implement a replacement schedule of either annually or every other year, with a “one in, one out” approach.

Mayor Leech asked whether older equipment could be sold. Ms. Payne replied that the cameras were eligible for the City's auction when they reached the end of their useful life, though the City did not intend to retire or auction them prematurely.

Ms. Payne added that the cameras were used for both photo and video production, including filming “Stop” content and other media projects, making them a versatile tool beyond photography alone.

Police

- Operations
Mayor Leech asked about the replacement cycle for the six fully marked patrol units and when the department last updated that fleet.

Chief Westover responded that several units were acquired last year, and the current request for six new vehicles was intended to replace older Chevrolet Impalas with high mileage. He noted those vehicles were outdated, two-wheel drive, and not well suited for local winter conditions and terrain. He added that the department's swing vehicles were also in poor condition and becoming increasingly expensive to maintain.

Mayor Leech asked whether the retired vehicles were typically auctioned or repurposed. Chief Westover explained that they were usually sent to auction, though in some cases they may be transferred through cooperative arrangements with partner or sister agencies when appropriate.

Mayor Leech referenced prior discussions about reallocating older vehicles that were no longer meeting departmental standards and suggested there may be opportunities for alternative use before disposal.

Mayor Leech asked whether the position for the drone pilot program was already filled and in training. Chief Westover explained that the drone pilot role would initially be a collateral duty assigned to existing personnel, allowing the department to assess operational demand before potentially requesting a dedicated position in the future. Mayor Leech expressed concern about adding additional duties to already limited staffing levels, and Chief Westover acknowledged that concern.

Councilman Adams asked about the duration of the grant funding for School Resource Officer (SRO) positions. Chief Westover explained that the grant operated on a three-year cycle and was regularly renewed, with the state continuing to support the program. He noted the department had successfully renewed the grant twice and anticipated another cycle would begin this year. Mr. Johnson added that the Show Low School District submitted the grant application with assistance from city staff, and funding had generally been sufficient to maintain positions. He also noted a prior issue where a late submission required the City to temporarily partner in funding.

Councilman Judd commented positively on the SRO program, noting strong community support. Chief Westover affirmed the strong relationship between SROs and the schools.

- Investigations
No questions.
- Administration/Operational Support
No questions.
- Communications

Councilman Judd asked how the billing structure worked for the dispatch center.

Chief Westover explained that all costs associated with the center were compiled, including personnel and equipment expenses. He noted that a revolving account had been established within the capital budget to fund major equipment replacements, which helped avoid requesting large contributions from partner agencies during the fiscal year. He stated that total costs were then divided by the total number of calls handled across all agencies to determine a cost per call.

Councilman Whipple asked whether there had ever been issues with agencies failing to pay their share. Chief Westover responded that there had not been any issues to date, and that partner agencies had been appreciative of the opportunity to participate under the agreement.

- Animal Control

Chief Westover explained that the current animal control vehicle had been frequently in the shop and that the transport box was deteriorating. He stated that the vehicle was reaching the end of its useful life and needed replacement. When the primary vehicle was unavailable for repairs, staff had been relying on a backup canine unit, which he said was not ideal for animal control operations.

Mayor Leech recalled previous concerns regarding the decision to install a new engine in the same vehicle the prior year. He noted frustration that approximately \$15,000 had been spent on a motor replacement despite the vehicle's overall condition and questioned the timing of that investment, given ongoing replacement discussions. He added that, in his view, it would have been preferable to address the vehicle's structural issues at that time rather than invest in the engine.

Chief Westover responded that the engine replacement had provided a functional benefit and allowed the City to maintain a usable backup vehicle. He explained that this enabled both animal control officers to remain operational when the primary unit was out for maintenance, improving service capacity.

Mayor Leech asked whether additional repairs could be made to the older vehicle, including the transport box, in order to extend its life. He expressed concern about replacing it entirely and potentially sending it to auction after recent investments.

Chief Westover clarified that there was no intention to send the vehicle to auction and that it would remain in service as an additional asset for animal control operations. He noted that animal control calls represented the

department's highest call volume, averaging several hundred calls weekly, though he did not have exact daily figures available at the time.

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked for clarification on how those calls were factored into other reporting metrics. Chief Westover explained that animal control calls were included in the department's cost-per-call calculations for the City.

Public Works

- **Engineering**

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked about the valve turner and generator and how they were being used within the engineering department.

Mr. Reid explained that the engineering group had two inspectors and that those pieces of equipment were intended to support their work, particularly given the number of waterline replacement projects scheduled for the current and upcoming years. He noted that the inspectors regularly operated valves to shut off large water mains and that the physical effort required for that work was significant.

Mr. Reid added that the valve operations were becoming increasingly demanding and that the inspectors had requested this equipment for several years. As a result, the items were included in the current budget proposal. He explained that the valve turner was used to operate water system valves, and the generator was used to power the valve turner.

- **Airport**

Councilman Clark asked how many passengers were processed through the airport each year and requested totals for both the current and prior years.

Mr. Allen stated that under prior carriers such as Southern Airways Express and Boutique, the airport averaged approximately 2,000 to 2,500 enplanements per year, which equated to roughly 5,000 total passengers when deplanements were included. He added that under Contour Airlines, enplanements had increased to approximately 10,000 per year, or roughly 20,000 total passengers annually.

Councilman Clark asked about private aircraft operations, including landings and takeoffs, and whether those numbers were also increasing.

Mr. Allen explained that the airport had recently implemented ADS-B software and antenna systems to better track aircraft activity. He noted that ADS-B technology had become a requirement for most aircraft, particularly commercial operators, and provided detailed flight data, including tail numbers and ownership information. He stated that the airport subscribed to a system called "FlightAware 1200 Aero," which, along with installed

antennas, allowed staff to collect and analyze operational data. He explained that the system provided valuable insights, such as runway usage and the number of daily landings, and that the airport now had approximately three years of data available. He noted that prior to this system, staff had manually recorded landings. He added that he could export and share reports and that the data showed continued growth in both commercial and private operations, though he would need to review specifics on the origin of private flights.

Mr. Allen also addressed questions about proposed helipads. He explained that the helipads were intended for public use and would be eligible for FAA funding. He clarified that they would not be restricted to any single user but were primarily designed to support large firefighting aircraft, including Chinooks and Skycranes, which routinely operated in the area during wildfire season. He added that the pads could also accommodate larger military helicopters, while existing helipads at the airport were limited to smaller aircraft such as medical helicopters and Robinson models.

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked about the planned terminal expansion and the size of the additional passenger holding area. Mr. Hemesath responded that the expansion was approximately 1,500 square feet.

Mr. Hemesath added that the expansion was planned toward the north side of the terminal, though options to the west were also being evaluated. He noted that coordination with project engineers was ongoing to develop alternatives. He also mentioned that the western side of the building included a fuel-related area that required careful consideration due to safety concerns.

- Parks/Facilities Maintenance

Mayor Leech expressed concern that the proposed \$80,000 allocation for the Frontier Park bathroom project appeared to be more of a temporary fix than a long-term solution. He noted that the facility was heavily used, particularly during community events, and described it as one of the most frequently used restrooms in the area. He stated that he was skeptical that the issues, including odor and overall condition, could be adequately addressed within the proposed budget. He emphasized that he did not want to see funds spent on what he characterized as a “band-aid” approach and questioned whether the investment would meaningfully resolve the underlying problems.

Mr. Johnson responded that constructing a new restroom facility would cost approximately \$170,000, providing context for the repair-versus-replacement discussion.

Mr. Hemesath explained that staff had evaluated multiple options for the

restroom building, including expanding the existing structure by converting storage and concession space into additional restroom capacity. He noted that while this would improve restroom function, it would reduce available storage needed for events such as soccer.

Mayor Leech raised concerns about moisture issues in the storage area walls and questioned whether the underlying structural problems could be fully resolved through renovation.

Mr. Hemesath responded that the plan included replacing interior walls, pressure washing and chemically treating the space, and applying an epoxy floor coating. He clarified that the renovations would involve significant rebuilding of interior components.

Mayor Leech questioned whether it would be more practical to defer repairs and pursue a new facility in the future, rather than investing in the existing structure.

Mr. Hemesath noted that a new restroom facility was also already planned for the site, consisting of a standard three-unit men's, women's, and family restroom building to be installed on the opposite side of the field, which would allow the site to have two restroom facilities.

Mr. Johnson clarified that the project included both a new \$170,000 restroom on the west end of Frontier Park and a separate remodel of the existing restroom facility.

Mayor Leech reiterated concerns about whether the remodel would adequately address persistent plumbing issues, noting that toilets frequently backed up and did not function properly during events. He questioned whether there were deeper infrastructure issues, such as sewer line problems or root intrusion, that would not be resolved through fixture replacement alone.

Mr. Hemesath acknowledged the concern and stated that staff planned to evaluate the system further, including using camera inspections of the lines to determine whether more significant issues existed. He added that if major underground problems were identified, they would be brought back for further review rather than proceeding solely with fixture replacement.

Councilman Clark asked about the Frontier Park parking lot expansion and what was meant by the need to update the area master plan.

Mr. Hemesath explained that the concept had been discussed previously, including potential roadway connections and future development options in coordination with adjacent county facilities. He stated that earlier concepts

had included a roadway alignment running from the area in front of the Reidhead House, looping around the large tree, and connecting into the expanded parking lot area. He noted that some of those plans had since evolved or been reconsidered.

Mr. Hemesath stated that the overall project was estimated at approximately \$1.5 million. He also noted that several large events previously held in the area had decreased or been discontinued, which affected overall usage. He expressed concern that the investment could result in a parking lot that might be underutilized for portions of the year. He stated that with the scale of investment, staff needed to carefully evaluate how future development would integrate, including the potential relocation or incorporation of the museum and coordination with utilities such as power lines. He noted that undergrounding utilities and determining the appropriate placement of structures were still under consideration. He added that staff had questioned whether proceeding with the full scope of the project at that time was premature without a finalized long-term plan. He emphasized that while the improvements would be beneficial, they needed to ensure the design was fully coordinated and properly executed.

Councilman Clark said that despite some perceived decreases in certain events, the area remained heavily used for sports and other community activities, and parking demand during those times was significant. He noted that vehicles were frequently observed parking in dirt areas and along undesignated spaces. Mr. Hemesath stated that expanding parking could be completed in phases and could begin without immediately resolving all future development questions. He also emphasized the importance of creating a secondary access point for safety and traffic flow.

Councilman Clark added that he would support including the Frontier Park parking lot expansion in the budget, even if some elements, such as roadway development, were deferred pending further planning of the surrounding quadrant. He also referenced the large tree within the proposed development area, noting its visual prominence.

Councilman Clark also discussed the Meadow parking expansion, stating that he believed direction had been previously given to proceed, but that it warranted reconsideration due to ongoing parking challenges during major events. He noted that parking overflow had created safety concerns, including vehicles parking along main roadways. He recommended restoring the Meadow expansion to the budget in order to proactively address anticipated demand rather than waiting until conditions worsened.

Mayor Leech asked whether sufficient space was available to support expansion at the Meadow site.

Mr. Hemesath explained that expansion would likely require extending beyond the existing fence line and potentially relocating or modifying fencing and gate access to allow overflow parking. He added that lighting improvements would also be needed if the area was expanded.

Mayor Leech agreed that additional parking would be beneficial, noting past challenges during events when overflow areas were not sufficient.

Mr. Johnson noted that staff would incorporate the discussed changes into the project notes. He also reminded the Council of the City's remaining expenditure capacity, stating there was approximately \$3 million remaining under the expenditure limitation, though adjustments and reprioritization of other budget items may still be necessary.

Vice Mayor Kakavas noted that significant work had already been completed on the Frontier parking lot in recent years and expressed that the existing dirt parking area was adequate for visitors at this time, as other priorities required more immediate attention.

Councilman Clark added that there may also be an opportunity to reconsider the Frontier Park restroom building, suggesting that expanding the facility could better serve high-use events. He questioned whether investing in a limited remodel was sufficient given the level of use and suggested that a larger facility or expanded footprint might provide a more effective long-term solution.

Mayor Leech agreed that the west-end restroom facility would still see heavy use.

Mr. Hemesath suggested that expanding the existing restroom footprint into adjacent parking areas could be a more practical long-term solution, though it would require reconfiguring parking spaces. He also estimated the building to be approximately 15 years old.

Mr. Johnson concluded that staff had taken note of the requested adjustments for further review and incorporation into budget considerations.

- Streets/HURF

Councilman Clark asked for clarification on why the East Woolford Road extension off Penrod, totaling approximately \$6.5 million, had been removed.

Mr. Johnson responded that the item was still included in the budget and indicated that if it was not reflected in the current document, it was an oversight that would be corrected. He confirmed that the project remained part of the overall budget.

Councilman Clark then asked about the Country Club Manor Unit 2 project and whether it had been removed from the CIP list as a slurry seal project.

Mr. Johnson clarified that it had originally been planned as a repave project, but adjustments were made due to budget constraints. He explained that the CK Peterson project was approximately \$518,000, and Country Club Unit 2 was over \$800,000, so staff adjusted the sequencing to balance available funding. He noted that staff had coordinated with engineering to evaluate whether Unit 2 required more immediate attention than Unit 1. He also stated there was potential to complete CK Peterson in the current year and defer Country Club Units 1 and 2 to the following year, along with Pine Glen funding considerations.

Mayor Leech asked whether vehicle replacements were additions to the fleet or replacements for existing equipment.

Mr. Austin responded that most were replacements for older equipment. He noted that a new bucket truck represented an addition to the fleet, intended for smaller streetlight work rather than larger highway operations. He added that a crack seal machine was a replacement, and an F-550 would replace a 2002 Dodge.

Mayor Leech asked whether retired vehicles were sold at auction.

Mr. Austin confirmed that surplus vehicles were sent through auction and noted that a recent auction had generated approximately \$86,000.

Mayor Leech asked whether the City received a report detailing auction results and proceeds.

Mr. Johnson responded that the auction provider supplied a detailed list of items sold and proceeds, which were then distributed to the appropriate departments through Finance. He added that this information had been shared with Council in the past and could be provided again.

- **Wastewater**

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked about the bio barge and whether automation had already been implemented at the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Austin explained that the proposed bio barge was intended for use in the biolac basins at the treatment facility. He noted that staff currently used a custom-built, makeshift platform constructed from barrels and other materials to access equipment in the basins. He explained that the basins contain aerators with diffusers that extend approximately twelve feet into the water to provide oxygenation. He stated that during maintenance, staff had to lift the diffusers for cleaning and replacement, which had been done using

the existing improvised system. He explained that the new barge was specifically designed for this purpose, allowing the equipment to be safely raised, serviced, and then returned to the water. He added that the system would improve safety and efficiency compared to the current setup.

- Water

Mr. Johnson introduced a new proposed item for fiscal year 2027: participation in a WIFA program to implement an advanced metering infrastructure system. He explained that the system would upgrade all water meters citywide and allow staff to monitor and manage usage remotely from City Hall. He stated that this would eliminate the need for field meter readers and would allow staff to turn water service on and off remotely, resulting in significant operational efficiencies.

Mr. Johnson added that the program had been in existence for several years and was believed to offer approximately a 50% grant match, although he had also heard that some recent projects had received up to 75% funding. He explained that for a roughly \$2.5 million project, receiving partial grant funding would make it a strong opportunity for a system-wide upgrade that would reduce staff time and improve meter technology. He noted that the system included updated communication technology installed at the meter that transmits usage data to a central reading system.

Mr. Hemesath added that the system would include radio-read devices installed on city wells and other locations, allowing staff to read the entire system remotely with the push of a button and control service as needed.

Mr. Johnson further explained that the system would also provide real-time alerts for unusual water usage. He noted that this would allow the City to identify problems much more quickly than the current monthly billing cycle.

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked whether a staff member would be responsible for monitoring the system. Mr. Johnson responded that the utility billing clerk would likely handle initial monitoring, with workload evaluated over time.

Councilman Adams asked whether water service could still be shut off at the meter in the future. Mr. Johnson confirmed that it would still be possible, though he clarified that such actions would be handled appropriately and in accordance with policy.

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked about the duty van and what the \$110,000 cost covered.

Mr. Austin explained that the vehicle was a heavy-duty van used to carry stocked emergency parts so staff could respond quickly when equipment failed in the field. He stated that it effectively replaced a 2002 pickup truck

that had previously been outfitted with a utility-style box.

Vice Mayor Kakavas asked whether the cost included the parts stored in the vehicle.

Mr. Austin responded that the parts themselves were already on hand and were not included in the vehicle purchase price. He clarified that the \$110,000 cost was for the van itself and noted that four-wheel drive was necessary for the intended use.

Street Lighting District

No questions.

Cemetery

No questions.

Refuse

No questions.

General Fund/Streets Debt Service

No questions.

Self-Insurance Fund

No questions.

Show Low Bluff CFD

No questions.

Capital Projects/Grants

No questions.

Administrative Services

- Human Resources
No questions.

- Information Systems
No questions.

- Administrative Services/Finance
No questions.

- Public Transportation
No questions.

Administration

- City Council

No questions.

- General Operations
No questions.
- City Manager
No questions.
- City Clerk
No questions.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the community requests.

Mr. Johnson said that since the budget review was completed, there would be no need for the meetings scheduled for April 23 or April 30. The next budget meeting would be on May 19, 2026 where the overview of the tentative budget with changes to the recommended budget would be presented.

4. Adjournment

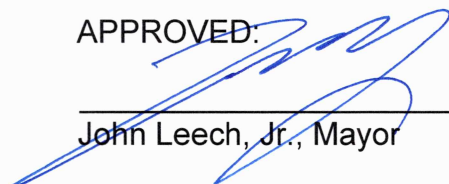
There being no further business to be brought before the Council, **MAYOR LEECH ADJOURNED THE STUDY SESSION OF THE SHOW LOW CITY COUNCIL OF APRIL 16, 2026, AT 8:24 P.M.**

ATTEST:



Rachael Hall, City Clerk

APPROVED:



John Leech, Jr., Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Show Low held on April 16, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of May, 2026

(SEAL)



Rachael Hall, City Clerk