

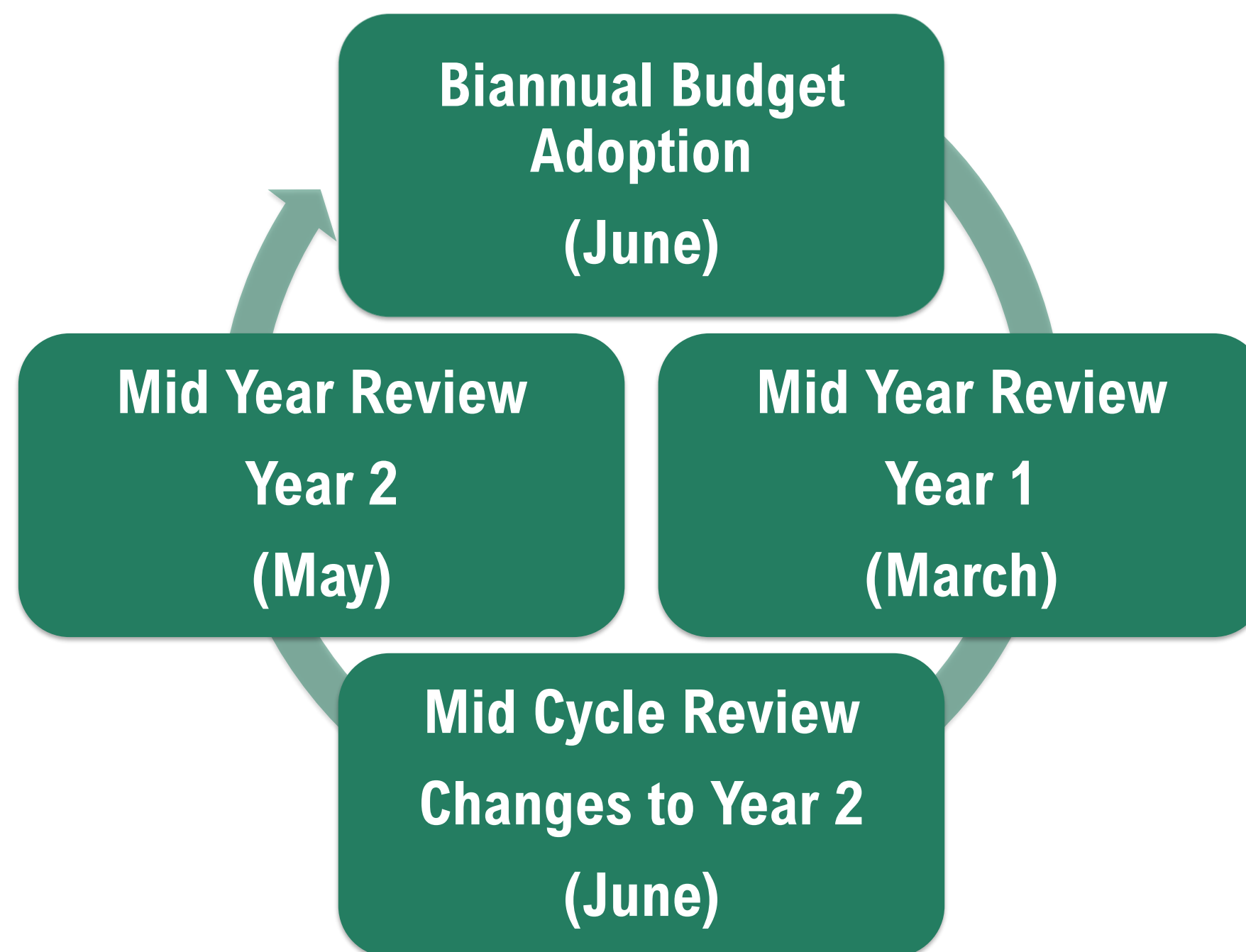


Finance & Technology Department

2026/27 & 2027/28 Budget Discussion

November 3, 2025

BIANNUAL BUDGET CYCLE



**Annual Financial Report
presented to Council -
review prior year actuals
(January)**

BUDGET DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

The City uses the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) best budgeting practices to create the budget document and has received the Distinguished Budget Award for the past 30+ years.

GFOA requires your document to meet a list of criteria. Some requirements to receive the award are:

- Strategic Budget Document
 - Establishing strategic goals and showing how they are being met throughout the document
- Department Performance Measures
- City Priorities and Issues
- Impact of capital projects on the operating budget
- Debt Discussion
- Long range financial plans
- Citizen involvement

BUDGET DOCUMENT

- The budget document consists of:
- Current Financials (priorities and challenges)
- Future Forecast
- Department Summaries
 - Dept Description, Financials, Performance Measures, Accomplishments, Goals
- 6 Year Capital Plan
- Financial Policies
 - Debt, Investments, Reserves, Budget Ordinance Documents
 - Allocated Positions/Salary Schedule

BUDGET PROCESS TIMELINE

Budget Activity	Month Due
Citizen Input - survey/forum	August
Council Strategic Goals Work Session	November
Budget Kick Off/Baseline Budgets created	October- November
Departments submit capital	December
Departments submit budget requests & Mid Year Projections	January
Finance review departments submittals	February
Capital Work Sessions with Council	February - May
Mid Year Presentation	April
Budget Document Adoption	June

STRATEGIC GOALS FOR THE BUDGET DOCUMENT

Typically, the strategic goals are broad and focus mainly on future.

Structure:

- Up to 5 categories
- No more than 5 points under each category
- Icons for each category
 - These are used throughout the document
 - Icons are shown in department sections to show how goals are being met

CURRENT STRATEGIC GOALS 24/25 & 25/26

Quality of Life



- Maintain quality of life for the citizens of Visalia
- Continue City efforts to reduce homelessness while collaborating and advocating regionally as appropriate.
- Provide diverse housing through a variety of programs and policies for all income levels
- Provide diverse community experiences and personal enrichment for all ages
- Continue to improve parks, recreational amenities, open space, and trailways for a connected community

Infrastructure & Growth



- Plan for the development of future infrastructure
- Maintain, improve, and replace assets and infrastructure within the City
- Ensure safe, reliable infrastructure that benefits the community
- Seek grant funding to maintain and expand City infrastructure to meet the community's needs
- Manage, maintain, and enhance the City's roadways to provide a safe and effective transportation system

Fiscal Strength



- Continue to maintain the City's good fiscal health and sustainability
- Adopt a balanced budget
- Continue to maintain the General Fund Emergency Reserve at 30% of operating expenditures.

Organizational Excellence



- Provide excellent public service that is efficient, accessible, and responsive to all
- Provide high-quality essential City services
- Attract and retain a talented, diverse, and engaged workforce across the entire City organization
- Utilize and add technology to increase efficiencies for City services
- Continue to make improvements that equip the City to deliver excellent services to the community

Economic Vitality



- Promote a vibrant economy that provides an equitable opportunity for all
- Facilitate programs to develop, attract, and retain businesses
- Foster economic development in both commercial and industrial



RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends using the current strategic goals for the FY 26/27 & 27/28 Budget

Or

Per Council's modifications

