City of Marathon Florida

Press Release # 005-25 | **CITY OF MARATHON**
9805 Overseas Highway Marathon, Florida 33050
305-743-0033

Marathon City Council approved city budget with a rollback for the Third Consecutive Year while Adding Services and Continuing Infrastructure Projects

MARATHON, Fla. (Sept. 24, 2025) - The Marathon City Council unanimously approved the final budget for fiscal year 2025-26 that includes a property tax rollback for the third consecutive year, while improving city services and continuing work on several infrastructure projects.

The council rejected a proposed millage rate of 2.2235 mills, which would have generated a 7.77% increase in property taxes, **in favor of** the rollback rate of 2.0631 mills. The rollback rate means property owners will pay $206.31 per $100,000 of taxable property value, the same tax burden as the current fiscal year.

Strong Financial Position Enables Tax Relief

The rollback was possible due to ongoing careful budget management that has placed the city in a strong financial position. The city's general fund reserves have accumulated to approximately $26 million, enough to support operations for more than a year.

"Only a handful of municipalities throughout Florida were able to achieve a rollback rate for three consecutive years," said City Manager George Garrett.

Short Summary of Key Expenditures and Projects

Marathon Fire Rescue

The budget brings Marathon's fire rescue staffing to 48 employees, meeting National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1500) standards for the first time. These positions were already allocated in the prior year's budget but were not filled for various reasons.

The fire department will receive a new $1,072,909 engine truck in November 2026 to replace an older 2007 model (truck was ordered in February 2024), and a new $320,000 fire/rescue transport vehicle scheduled to arrive in May 2026 (truck was ordered in February 2025).

Infrastructure and Public Works Improvements

The city is replacing three aging public works trucks and started using a new system to track vehicle maintenance, helping trucks last longer and run more efficiently.

Public works crews have recently taken on additional responsibilities from FDOT, including maintaining roads and landscaping throughout the city. The new trucks and expanded crew are already working daily across Marathon.

Multiple projects are underway, including:

- Skate Park Construction
- Splash Pad with New Bathroom and Concession Window
- Information and Security Station at Sombrero Beach
- New Maintenance/Storage Building at Community Park
- Seven Mile Marina Improvements
- Pickleball Courts
- Quay Property Park Development
- Replacement of Three Bridges in Little Venice
- Construction of a Dual-Use Boat Ramp at the Quay

Most of these projects are supported by grants.

Marathon also faces a federally mandated requirement to develop a deepwater well for wastewater treatment as part of a five-year plan. City officials are already seeking state and federal grants to complete the project. The council also required staff to complete an analysis of the utilities efficiencies as we build the new deep well and continue to manage otherwise aging infrastructure.

Staffing Levels and Efficient Operations

The City of Marathon operates with 139 full time employees, (48 are Marathon Fire Rescue personnel), serving approximately 9,000 residents. By comparison, the Village of Islamorada has 114 full time employees serving approximately 5,400 residents while the City of Key West employs around 500 employees serving approximately 22,000 residents and over 2 Million visitors every year.

The fiscal year runs from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

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