

City of Alexandria, Virginia
BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BFAAC)

Monthly Meeting

April 14, 2026

Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center, Room #4
1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Summary Minutes

Committee Members Present: John Ruthinoski, Mayor Gaskins Designee (Chair); Randall Williams, Vice Mayor Bagley Designee (Vice Chair); Nancy Drane, School Board Designee (Secretary); Erica Kaster, Citizen-at-Large; Lester Simpson, Councilmember Greene Designee (Virtual); Mark Tonsetic, Citizen-at-Large (Virtual); Jake Truex, Chamber of Commerce Designee

Absent: Sonya Day, Citizen-at-Large; Mindy Lyle, Councilmember Elnoubi Designee

Staff Present: Morgan Routt, Director of the City of Alexandria Office of Management and Budget (Virtual); Meghan McGrane, Budget Management Analyst

Guest: None

1. **Call to Order:** Chair **Ruthinoski** called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 17, 2026 Meeting**

Drane made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026 meeting, seconded by **Simpson**. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote of those present.

3. **Follow-ups from the City Council Work Session.**

Williams and others present shared a consensus that the BFAAC presentation during the March 4 budget work session went well. Councilmembers shared positive feedback on the proposals contained in BFAAC's memo. [**Tonsetic** dropped AI-generated notes from the work session into the meeting chat.] With respect to the ACPS funding memo, Council suggested that BFAAC might benefit from some of the research conducted by the City Attorney in advance of the Council's resolution. [McGrane reported that the City Attorney would follow up with a proposal for meeting with relevant BFAAC members.] **Drane** walked through an outline she had prepared for the joint BFAAC-BAC memo to solicit feedback from BFAAC members. **Williams** shared that for him, the public engagement effort will be critical here to ensure that members of the public can effectively advocate for how they want the Council and/or the Board to allocate funding. **Drane** proposed that we have a few representatives from each body (BFAAC and BAC)

to form a subcommittee to work on the memo. **Williams** expressed an interest in working on the ACPS memo with **Drane**. In the meantime, **Ruthinoski** will take the lead heading up the budget framework memo and finalizing that. The third memo on debt policy is something that BFAAC could deliver in 2026-2027. (**Ruthinoski** also reminded BFAAC members that we had suggested another memo on collective bargaining in 2026-2027.) **McGrane** shared that there were some significant bills in the General Assembly that related to collective bargaining that might inform the memo.

Ruthinoski then shifted the discussion to completion of the BFAAC memo on the budget assessment framework. Council responded positively to the tools that we previewed during the work session. There was some good synergy at the work session, as there was an earlier presentation from the City's IT staff about investments and exploration of AI use among City staff and activities. **Truex** suggested that building out some of the tools could be a very helpful resource for Council. **Kaster** also felt that she and **Day** could expand the AI discussion and perhaps flag synergy with other City activities.

McGrane shared that OMB staff will be meeting with the City department responsible for surveying the public and collecting community feedback. She will share what she learns to the extent it might inform our discussion of community education and/or engagement.

Ruthinoski asked BFAAC members to share drafts with him by May 12 so that he can collect and then merge into a final memo.

Ruthinoski suggested that he would send a memo to Council in follow up addressing:

- ACPS Memo – confirm joint approach with BAC and confirm end-of-June delivery
- Budget Framework memo – confirm end-of-June delivery
- Debt Policy and Collective Bargaining – will be considered for 2026-2027
- Remind Council of our 2025 budget memo that discussed revenue projection (a topic that came up during the March 4 work session)

4. BFAAC Meeting Calendar

BFAAC members discussed adding a June 16 meeting to review our two June deliverables. We could consider moving this to a virtual meeting if appropriate.

5. Other Updates and Reports

McGrane reported that Council submitted their add/deletes that include increased funding for DASH, moving some funding from the Sheriff's department for a study, increase for rental

assistance, secret shopper program for Departments of Parks and Recreation, out-of-school time therapeutic program, 200 block of King Street, change in Chinquapin field to change from turf to natural surface. Sources of funding for the add/delete include BPOL increase, revenue re-estimate, and Council contingency. The add/delete and tax rate public hearing is scheduled for April 18, with the first add/delete on April 21 and second (if needed) on April 27. The budget vote is on April 29.

Tonsetic reported that the chair of the stormwater committee developed a memo to Council on funding implications on relevant projects. **Williams** shared that he continues to attend the City's IT Commission meetings, with a meeting coming up later this week where he asked if staff could cover some of the City's work around AI and developing internal AI policy. Finally, **Ruthinoski** reviewed current BFAAC vacancies. **Truex** shared that he was told there is a potential nominee for the open Chamber of Commerce position. **Ruthinoski** noted that we still have vacancies from Councilmember Chapman and Councilmember Agguire.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by **Kaster** and seconded by **Williams** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was then adjourned.

Upcoming Meeting(s) / Important Dates:

BFAAC Regular Meeting - May 19, 2026 – 6:30pm Lee Center, Rm #4 [*Noticed*]

BFAAC Regular Meeting - June 16, 2026 – 6:30pm Lee Center, Rm #4 [*Not Yet Noticed*]