

AUGUST 2026

MONTHLY REPORT



CITY TAXPAYER INVESTMENT AT WORK

432

Traffic Enforcement Actions

20+

Work Orders Completed in Public Works

39

Public Records Requests Received and Completed

141

Accounts Payable Transactions Processed

\$435,732

Grant Reimbursement Funds Requested

156

Hours of Police Overtime Saved

250

Business Tax Receipt Renewals Processed

13

New Business Tax Receipt Applications Received

15+

Community Engagements

12+

Project and Operational Meetings

14+

Council and Intergovernmental Meeting Participation

15

Active development projects in General Services tracking



Drainage maintenance using a backhoe to clear an overgrown drainage corridor and restore access and flow.



DRAINAGE

WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW

Heavy rain is a part of life in Okeechobee — and so is a team that works hard to keep our community moving.



HEAVY RAIN BRINGS CHALLENGES

During significant rainfall, large volumes of water enter the drainage system at once. It's normal for water to temporarily collect in streets, yards and low-lying areas.



THE SYSTEM IS WORKING

Our drainage system is designed to move water away from roads and properties. As long as the water recedes after the rain event, the system is generally performing as intended.



IT TAKES TIME

Drainage doesn't happen instantly. The speed at which water recedes depends on the amount of rain, soil conditions, lake levels and the capacity of the system at that moment.



OUR TEAM STAYS ACTIVE

Public Works crews continuously clear and maintain drainage ditches, culverts, inlets and swales. During and after major rain, they work around the clock to keep water moving and address problem areas.



STANDING WATER DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN A PROBLEM.

Temporary standing water is expected during heavy rain. The key is that the water drains down once the rain stops.

DO YOUR PART

Keep storm drains clear of debris and yard waste.

HELP US HELP YOU

Report drainage concerns so we can take a look. Email cityadmin@cityofokeechobee.com

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

A safer, stronger and more resilient Okeechobee starts with a well-maintained community.

Thank you to our Public Works team for their hard work and dedication!

- **Advanced major capital and infrastructure initiatives**, including Public Safety Building hardening, the Lumen project, landscaping procurement, and the potential acquisition of the American Legion building.
- **Strengthened cybersecurity and technology planning** through coordination with IT, ICS, CivicPlus and the City's cybersecurity grant effort.
- **Coordinated City operations and organizational responsibilities**, including Public Works and General Services responsibilities and staff preparation for Council meetings.
- **Engaged with community, regional and intergovernmental partners**, including the County Tourist Development Council, BOCC, Planning Board, Healthy Start, Emergency Management, Florida League of Cities and regional organizations.
- **Invested in organizational leadership**, including staff meetings, individual leadership check-ins, Culture of Collaboration activities and planning for upcoming leadership training.
- **Supported City governance and budget development**, including facilitating the August Council meetings, two budget workshops, and preparing the July monthly report for Council.



- **Completed Open Enrollment** for 84 employees and retirees, processing policy changes, coverage increases, verification documents and voluntary benefit payroll updates.
- **Supported employee needs and personnel administration**, including three employment verifications, two new FMLA requests and the closure of an additional FMLA request.
- **Advanced recruitment efforts**, including receiving five applications and responding to 22 inquiries for Maintenance Operator and beginning recruitment for a Certified Police Officer.
- **Recognized employee service**, preparing two 20-year longevity awards for Council presentation.
- **Updated personnel policies and position development**, including work on the Drug Free Workplace and Alcohol Policy, employee pay policies, the City Clerk position and a new Crime Scene Technician/Evidence Clerk position.
- **Prepared for expanded leadership development**, coordinating the leadership training program scheduled to begin September 9.



- **Maintained the City's core financial operations** through processing of 141 accounts payable transactions, 54 payments and three payrolls.
- **Requested \$435,731.92 in grant reimbursement** funds, bringing outside funding back into City operations and projects.
- **Continued development of the FY 2026/27 budget**, including participation in the first and second budget workshops and ongoing revisions to the proposed budget.
- **Completed key fiscal controls**, including July journal entries and reconciliation of 10 bank accounts.
- **Prepared for fiscal year-end** and the upcoming annual audit, while beginning preparations for the new fiscal year.
- **Supported local businesses and property-based revenue programs**, processing 250 Business Tax Receipt renewals, 13 new applications and adding 23 properties for the Garbage Assessment tax roll.

- **Advanced development and planning processes**, assisting the City Planner and City Attorney with ordinances addressing Technical Review Committee dissolution, administrative plat approvals, administrative deviations and traffic impact statements.
- **Improved zoning and permitting efficiency**, updating zoning applications, implementing zoning reviews for applicable building permits and assisting Code Enforcement with zoning-related citizen complaints.
- **Supported development activity**, advancing projects including Diamond R Fertilizer, Applewood Estates and multiple Technical Review Committee projects.
- **Processed significant building activity**, issuing **49** permits representing **\$2.73 million** in construction valuation, including five new residential construction permits.
- **Administered impact fee collection**, processing \$163,750.68 in impact fees, with **\$2,384.73** retained by the City for collection services.
- **Strengthened City purchasing and operational processes**, publishing the Landscaping RFP, developing ITB/RFP/RFQ procedures and coordinating the transition of maintenance responsibilities to Public Works.





- **20+ work orders completed** across the City, with drainage and stormwater response making up the department's primary workload.
- **Responded to significant rainfall** and standing-water events, including after-hours response and work in flooded conditions.
- **Cleared and maintained drainage systems**, including ditches, culverts and drainage corridors to restore water flow.
- **Addressed roadway and infrastructure needs**, including asphalt repairs, potholes, vegetation removal, lighting and facility maintenance.
- **Provided rapid response** to neighborhood drainage concerns, including work on SW 17th Street, NW 4th Street, NE Park Street and SW 6th Street/SW 12th Avenue.



Public Works crew responding to roadside standing water with vacuum equipment and traffic control.



Culvert and ditch maintenance/repair using vacuum and excavation equipment to restore drainage function.



After-hours drainage response at a signalized intersection during wet weather conditions.



Asphalt repair operation with crew placing and leveling hot-mix asphalt.



- **Processed 39 public records requests**, including complex requests requiring research and coordination across departments.
- **Supported City governance**, including preparation and follow-up for two Council meetings and related official records.
- **Advanced the 100-Year City Hall Celebration**, including event planning, sponsorship development, historic vehicle coordination and community partnership outreach.
- **Managed the 2026 City election process**, including qualifying, candidate reporting, election website updates and Primary Election support.
- **Completed the sale** of the East Half of Tract A at City Commerce Center, including closing documentation and transfer of funds.
- **Advanced records management improvements**, including destruction of 4.75 cubic feet of records and evaluation of automated public-records tracking.
- **Strengthened institutional continuity**, developing SOP tracking, a year-at-a-glance calendar and staff training to preserve organizational knowledge.

- **Traffic enforcement increased roadway safety**: Officers issued 125 citations and 307 warnings, with targeted enforcement in the SW section and Park Street.
- **Traffic safety remained a significant focus**: The department responded to and documented 35 crashes during August.
- **Staffing adjustments improved operational efficiency**: Supervisors and part-time officers helped cover staffing gaps, saving 156 hours of overtime.
- **Community engagement expanded**: Officers participated in a back-to-school backpack giveaway, two ribbon cuttings and Spanish-language radio outreach.
- **Officer safety was strengthened**: \$2,300 was invested in replacement ballistic vests for expired equipment.
- **Recruitment efforts continued**: The department began recruitment for a Certified Police Officer while managing staffing shortages.



LOOKING AHEAD

The City of Okeechobee is currently in the recruitment process for a new City Clerk. Applications can be found at City Hall and must be submitted before 1pm on Friday, October 9, 2026

"IF I WERE MAYOR" ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

In honor of
Florida City
Week

Imagine you were elected **Mayor of the City of Okeechobee**! What would you do to make our City an even better place to live, work, and have fun? Write your own original essay (up to 300 words) explaining what you would do if you were Mayor of the City of Okeechobee.



All School age students are eligible!



**Submissions Due:
October 14, 2026 @ 4:30 PM**



Send essays to:
assistantdc@cityofokeechobee.com
or bring a hardcopy to Jess @ City Hall
City Clerk's Office
55 SE 3rd AVE, Rm 200

All essays must include the student's name, grade, school, teacher's name, and an email address for confirmation.

Good luck,
Future Leaders!

The top three Elementary, Middle School, and High School grade essays will be featured on the City's Facebook page and be recognized at the October 20, 2026, City Council meeting. One overall winner will be invited to join the Mayor on stage and light the Christmas tree at the Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2, 2026!



**SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES ARE
AVAILABLE!**



CITY HALL 100-YEAR BUILDING CELEBRATION AND FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



Join us as we celebrate 100 years of our historic City Hall!
Enjoy food, music, local vendors, and more as we bring together residents, visitors, local organizations, and businesses for an evening of entertainment, culture, family activities, and community pride.

HONORING OUR PAST ♦ CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT ♦ BUILDING OUR FUTURE

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