

City Manager update on borrowing authority

Regular Commission Meeting, April 21, 2026



NORTH PORT
FLORIDA

Clarifying the decision and addressing community concerns

- A decision was made at the April 7 Commission Meeting regarding borrowing priorities
- Since May 2025, the city has been working to reduce borrowing while figuring out a solution
- A court and judge are being asked to review the City Charter language that appears to be inconsistent



What the City Charter says about borrowing

Sec. 1.02. (b)

The City of North Port may borrow money, contract loans and issue bonds (general obligation or revenue) from time to time to finance the undertaking of any capital or other project for the purposes permitted by the State Constitution and may pledge the funds, credit, property and taxing power of the municipality for the payment of such debts and bonds. No general obligation or revenue bonds shall be issued by the City of North Port unless approved by majority vote of the voters of the City of North Port voting on the issuance of those bonds in a primary, general, or special election.



Capital Needs Summary (FY27 - FY36)

Top 10 unfunded projects

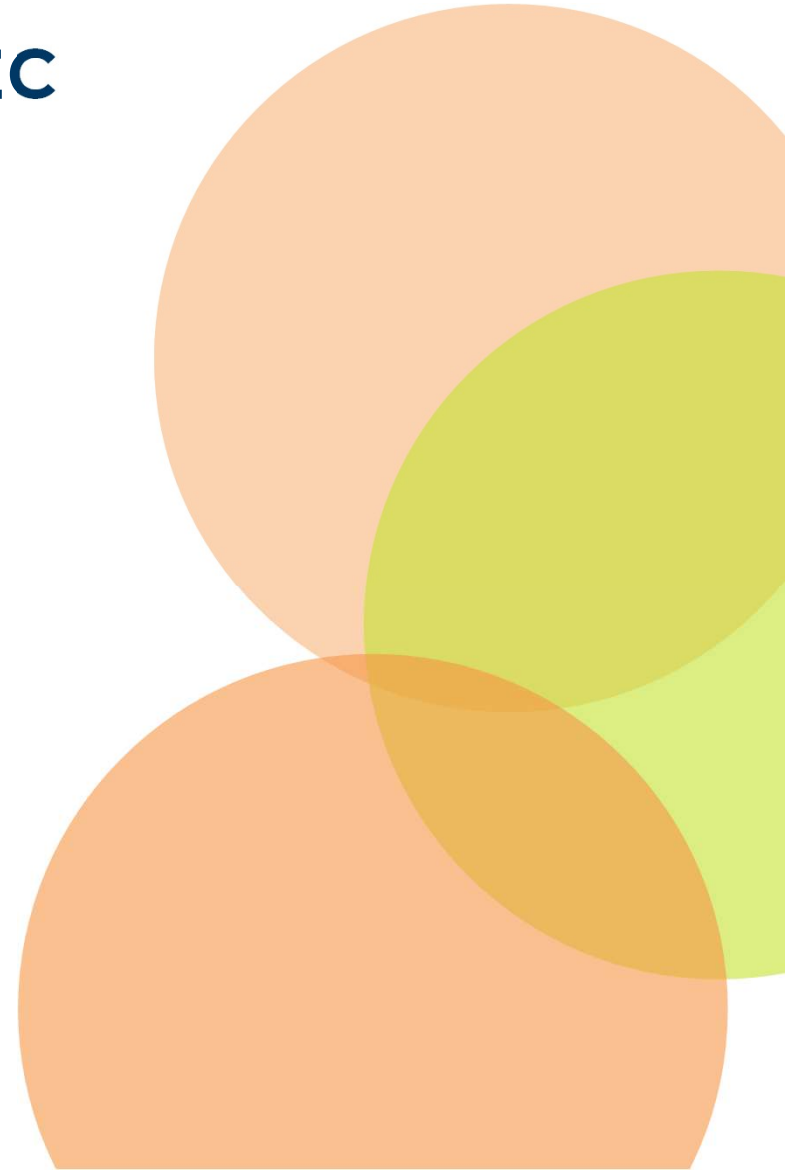
Project #	Project Title	Unfunded portion	Total Project Estimate	Year(s) needed
PD21PE	New Police Headquarters	130,625,875	139,100,429	FY2028
PD29MR	Mobile Radio Replacement - In Vehicle	1,650,000	1,650,000	FY2029
I27VIR	Virtual Infrastructure Replacement	666,670	1,000,000	FY2027
I31UPS	UPS Replacement	200,000	200,000	FY2031
F24S87	Future Fire Station A with Apparatus	9,161,160	14,500,000	FY2027
F31FSB	Future Fire Station B with Apparatus	2,945,000	16,175,000	FY2031
R23S57	Water Control Structure FW 157	710,000	2,149,293	FY2027
GM20AT	Phased ADA Transition Plan	426,000	776,350	FY2030/FY2032
FM27TP	Facility ADA Transition Plan	500,000	500,000	FY2027
I25ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems Replacement	10,000,000	10,000,000	FY2028

Criteria used for ranking:

Regulatory and Compliance | Health, safety or environment | Asset condition and operational efficiency | Capacity and growth | Financial impacts
 Customer service or quality of life | Strategic & master plan alignment | Project feasibility or readiness

Dallas White Cultural Center & CEC

- Two current and former City-owned buildings need to be addressed:
 - The Dallas White Cultural Center, formerly used by the North Port Art Center (now demolished)
 - The Community Education Center (currently the Awaken Food Pantry)
- They are funded by the City's general fund
- The City has an obligation to address them as a priority because they are occupied by non-profits serving our community.



Community Education Center



Exterior roof panel openings, exposing the interior to the elements



Water damage on the ceiling



Perimeter purlin corrosion causing openings in roof deck

Dallas White Cultural Center



BEFORE



CURRENT

Police Department Headquarters

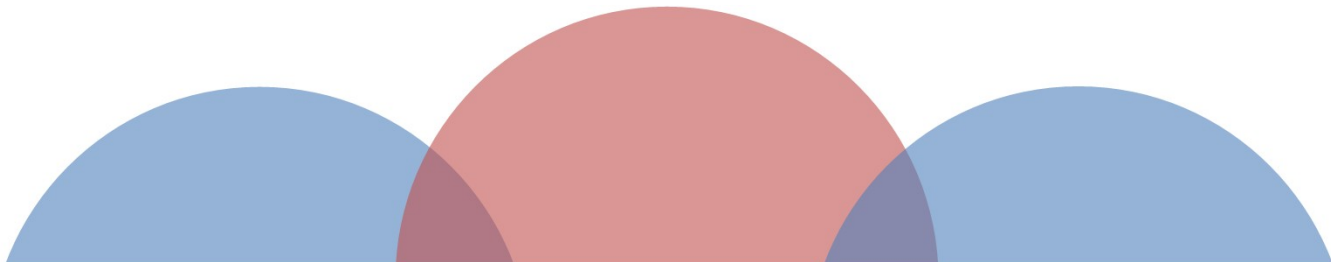
Voters rejected a bond referendum in 2025

A compromise

The need still exists; break the project into smaller phases, thus smaller dollar amounts

With taxpayers in mind

This plan addresses the need to keep the city running but does not raise taxes, acknowledging the external pressures of the economy



Bond validation process

- Includes the three aforementioned buildings
- Commission Resolution
- Community Engagement
- Court Decision

