

May 1, 2024

Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager  
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners  
12 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Ms. Lieberman,

Below please find the FY24 approved budget and the FY25 preliminary budget for the Alachua County Tax Collector’s Office.

	<b>FY 23/24 Approved Budget</b>	<b>FY 24/25 Preliminary Budget</b>
Personal Services	\$7,879,861	\$8,317,506
Operating Expenditures	\$2,514,453	\$2,537,239
Capital Outlay	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Budget	\$10,394,314	\$10,854,745
FTE’s	81.00	81.00
<b>BoCC General Fund – Expense</b>		
BoCC General Fund – Expense	\$5,737,694	\$5,971,780
<b>BoCC General Fund – Revenue</b>		
BoCC General Fund – Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 0

For your information, we submitted a budget which utilized the following criteria as provided in your Budget Guidelines, in establishing the FY25 budget:

- 6% pay adjustment - \$328,000 increase.
- Estimated retirement rates based on state budget proposal - \$51,000 increase.
- 5% Health insurance rate increase - \$23,000 increase.
- Estimated CORA based on OMB guidelines - \$7,000 decrease.

Our office fervently supports the 6% pay adjustment that is currently proposed for employees as we continue to compensate our skilled employees with competitive wages that aid in retention and help keep up with inflation.

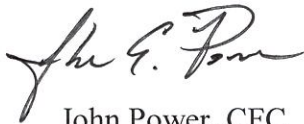
Our FY 25 preliminary budget also includes funding (\$522,000) for the BOCC loan repayment associated with the new Northwest Complex. Also, due to the increasing number of cyberattacks targeting the government sector, we continue to enhance our cybersecurity resources. Included is funding (\$1,800) for the KnowBe4 PhishER Plus platform. This tool will assist our IT department in strengthening the email security defenses and will act as an additional final layer in the event that existing secure email gateways and other cybersecurity layers fall short. Furthermore, the request has funding (\$12,550) to procure Internal Network Penetration Testing services. We will contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to perform the test. The objective is to find all types of vulnerabilities that could compromise the confidentiality and integrity of stored and exchanged data, as well as the continuity of our organization's activities. These two enhancements will allow us to better protect our systems and sensitive information, thus, serving our customers better.

Finally, due to operational efficiencies, we still anticipate generating more fees than our expenses. In keeping with our mission to serve the public with fiscal responsibility, the resulting surplus will be used to make an additional payment toward the outstanding principal on the BOCC loan, rather than distributed to the taxing authorities. Last year, the additional payment was \$700,000. We are slated to retire the loan earlier than the scheduled FY 30. We continue to be proud of the efficient services our office provides the citizens of Alachua County and look forward to continued success.

Be advised the FY25 budget is preliminary and additional adjustments may be necessary based on discussions with the Department of Revenue who still needs to review and approve our budget. Additionally, BOCC decisions made on millage rates will have an impact on revenue and expenses.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jon Costabile, Chief Deputy.

Sincerely,



John Power, CFC  
Tax Collector serving Alachua County

cc: Tommy Crosby, Assistant County Manager for Budget & Fiscal Services