



Memorandum

Date: 4/14/2026

File No. CM 26-201

Meeting of: Committee of the Whole - Finance, Administration, and Communications

Type: Committee Memo

TO: Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor Angela Birney

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CONTACT(S):

Finance	Kelley Cochran	425-556-2748
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DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Finance	Haritha Narra	Deputy Finance Director
Finance	Hailey Zurcher	Financial Planning Manager

TITLE:

2027-2028 Budget Process Update: Community Engagement

OVERVIEW STATEMENT:

Council will be updated on the City’s community engagement efforts to inform priorities and proposed outcomes for the 2027-2028 budget. Staff will outline the approach, focus areas, and next steps for incorporating community feedback into the budget development process.

Additional Background Information/Description of Proposal Attached

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive Information Provide Direction Approve

REQUEST RATIONALE:

- **Relevant Plans/Policies:**
N/A
- **Required:**
N/A
- **Council Request:**
N/A
- **Other Key Facts:**
Supports the 2027-2028 budget development process by incorporating community input on priorities and outcomes.

OUTCOMES:

The City partnered with Fulcrum Strategy Group to conduct targeted focus groups with Redmond residents to gather qualitative feedback on priorities and proposed outcomes.

Two focus groups were held on March 31, 2026 (5:30-7 p.m. and 7:30-9 p.m.). Participants were recruited through a structured screening process to ensure a diverse mix of residents across age, gender, and perspectives. Each session included approximately 6-7 participants to support meaningful and balanced discussion.

The discussions followed a structured moderator guide and progressed from general community perspectives to targeted feedback on priorities and proposed outcomes, including how residents define success within each priority area. The moderator’s guide is attached for reference.

This effort will provide structured input from a diverse group of residents, along with targeted feedback on proposed outcomes and community perspectives on how success should be defined and measured. A summary report from Fulcrum Strategy Group will capture key themes and insights. The report will be shared at the upcoming Finance, Administration, and Communications (FAC) Committee of the Whole meeting on May 12, 2026.

This represents one phase of community engagement. Finance is partnering with Communications to expand outreach through budget questionnaires and promotion in Focus newsletters to encourage community participation. Additional opportunities for input will occur through Council study sessions, formal public hearings, and Items from the Audience prior to budget adoption.

COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:

- **Timeline (previous or planned):**
March 31, 2026
- **Outreach Methods and Results:**
Focus Groups
- **Feedback Summary:**
Will be provided for the May 12, 2026, FAC meeting.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Total Cost:

\$40,000

Approved in current biennial budget: Yes No N/A

Budget Offer Number:

297 Fiscal Accountability

Budget Priority:

Strategic & Responsive

Other budget impacts or additional costs: Yes No N/A

If yes, explain:

N/A

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Funding source(s):

General Fund

Budget/Funding Constraints:

N/A

Additional budget details attached

COUNCIL REVIEW:

Previous Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
N/A	Item has not been presented to Council	N/A

Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
5/12/2026	Committee of the Whole - Finance, Administration, and Communications	Receive Information

Time Constraints:

N/A

ANTICIPATED RESULT IF NOT APPROVED:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Moderator's Guide