

I would like to thank the citizens of Mandeville for trusting me and giving me the honor of a second term. I feel our team has indeed accomplished much during this last term, however, we still have much work to do. I will continue to Lead by Listening and always know that I am willing to meet with you or take your call, text, or email. The 2024-2025 fiscal year budget prioritizes your desires, your vision, and your feedback. The City of Mandeville is in an extremely strong financial position. Our funding and budget capabilities are the envy of the region and the state for a municipality of our size. As a result, we are able to pay our employees, including our police department, a competitive wage to attract the best and brightest individuals, while also allowing us to perform regular maintenance and fund new infrastructure such as lift stations, curbs, sidewalks, ditches, culverts, and roads. Our financial strength allows us to fund recreational opportunities such as parks and bike paths, as well as area beautification projects, all of which citizens both request and enjoy.

Mandeville continues to see significant new business growth. During this next budget year, we expect to gain a new family fun centered bowling alley along with a host of new restaurants. As I mentioned before about the greatness of raising a family in Mandeville, our existing and new businesses indeed provide premium entertainment, quality, and convenience for our residents in their own hometown, which is a win-win.

I am extremely relieved that my three small children are growing up in the safety the City of Mandeville provides through its first-rate Police Department. My administration and the City Council work with Police Chief Todd Schliem and his department to fully fund their needs annually. While this budget does contain upgrades of everyday police equipment and needs such as new police cars to replace aged ones, it also continues to make ongoing police training a top priority. We feel so strongly about the funding needs of our police department, we have been successful in working with our state legislative delegation to apply for and receive state funding through the capital outlay process, something Mandeville had missed out on in years past. Through our great working relationships with our state senators and state representatives who represent Mandeville, we were able to secure significant funding for a new High Water Rescue Vehicle and about 70% of the cost of a new Police Station Headquarters building. Our officers need and deserve a proper building to operate from, and with the state funding we have received, this project will move forward in this budget.

This budget contains the necessary funding for our Planning Department to lead us through one of the most important initiatives of this term in the update of the Comprehensive Master Plan. Additionally, during the last term we completed a number of studies and plans. This budget year we will fund Mandeville's first "stormwater park", an initiative that came out of our Resiliency Plan, to aid in drainage and add and improve capacity. Funding is also slated in this budget for the development of one or more new parks, as outlined in our Recreational Master Plan, as well as improvements to our existing parks. Additionally, this budget contains funding for bike paths and sidewalk improvements promulgated by our completed Multi-Modal study. Lastly, in this budget we will complete a beautification project at the "Four Corners" intersection of Highway 22 and North Causeway.

Our Public Works Department continues to work hard in the elements to both maintain and repair, as well as improve our drainage, sewerage, and water systems with new projects. Please do me the favor and thank our hardworking Public Works employees if you see them out and about. Drainage will continue to be a top funding priority in this budget. Moreover, our engineering team has been busy designing neighborhood-wide drainage improvement plans for areas such as Fontainebleau, Old Golden Shores, Beau Rivage, Woodstone and various areas of Old Mandeville. This budget contains funding for these neighborhood drainage plans, as well as larger scale drainage improvement projects such as the Highway 22 Drainage improvement project, another major project that we received significant state funding to complete. Additionally, this budget contains funding for significant waterline replacement projects in both Old Mandeville and Golden Glen. Lastly, this budget has funding slated for the first phase of the Mandeville Lakefront Seawall Repair project. Equally important, this budget contains funding for traffic safety and efficiency projects from our completed Safety Study. Funding will allow for curbing, signage, and striping improvements while also introducing new safety measures such as “speed tables”, which are larger and broader speed bumps that reinforce traffic calming.

Lastly, I want to stress my Administration’s focus in this budget and in our daily operations on fiscal responsibility. We are committed to correcting audit findings, forecasting for the future, making the appropriate budget decisions, and exploring new ways to improve the returns on our investments. We must plan carefully for the future, and this is my commitment to you.

I want to thank all of our hardworking department directors for their help with the budget. Thank you to the City Council who I look forward to working with through the budget process. Thank you again to our hardworking employees-at City Hall, in our Public Works Department, and in our Police Department, who perform the hard work of operating our city on a daily basis. Lastly, thank you to the citizens of Mandeville. It is in honor to serve as your Mayor!

Best,
Mayor Clay Madden