



Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget

Village Manager's Office –
Communications & Engagement
Dan Yopchick, Chief Communications Officer
November 6, 2025

Mission Statement



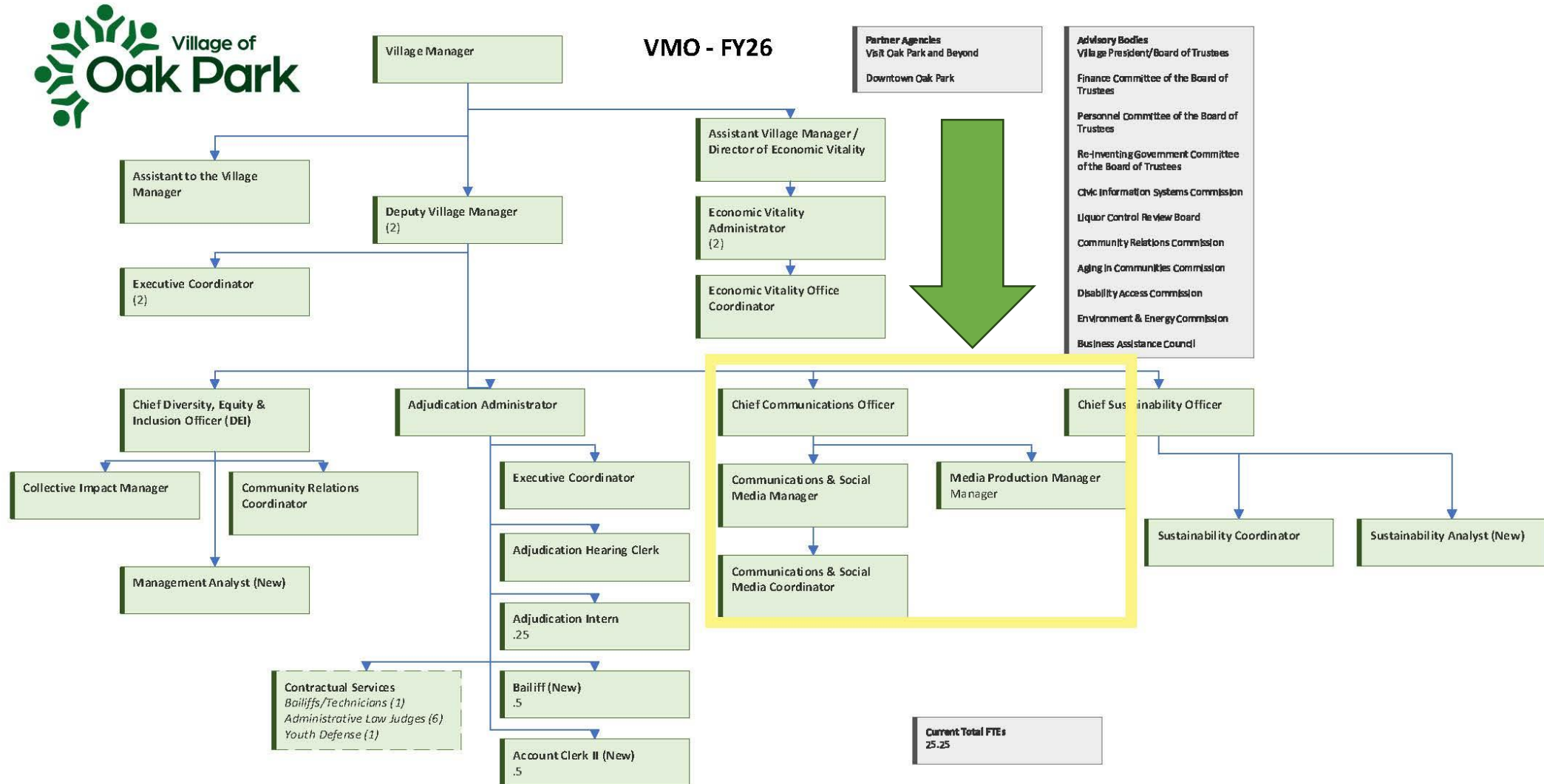
The Village of Oak Park's Office of Communications and Engagement is dedicated to fostering a vibrant and connected community. Our mission, operating within the Village Manager's Office, is to provide residents and stakeholders with timely, transparent and relevant information while actively engaging them in the decision-making processes that shape our future. Through targeted communication, collaboration and a commitment to inclusivity, we aim to strengthen trust, enhance participation and promote Oak Park as a thriving and inclusive place to live, work, and play.

Executive Overview



The Office of Communications & Engagement operates within the Village Manager's Office and manages all formal conduits of information between Village program administration and the community, playing a key role in all efforts to ensure transparency in policy making, implementation and oversight. Responsibilities include both external and internal communications, informing the public about municipal government programs, services and activities, and providing employees with information relevant to their duties and responsibilities. Department staff uses a wide range of proven public information tools, including social media, the web, print and broadcast/streaming media to carry out its mission.

Organizational Chart



Fiscal Year 2026 Priorities



- **Execution and evaluation of Oak Park University curriculum**
- **Implement the comprehensive strategic communications plan**
- **Refine crisis communications plan for rapid deployment**
- **Implement baseline media training for key Village staff**
- **Utilize data to identify gaps, refine messaging and target areas of focus**
- **Develop innovative storytelling platform (i.e. digital town hall or regular podcast)**
- **Advance marketing efforts to spotlight Oak Park as destination for cultural assets and a vibrant local business community**
- **Expand use of tools (i.e. infographics and dashboards) as a visual mechanism to make data more accessible.**
- **Explore existing and emerging channels and tools (i.e. AI) to keep community informed on programs, services and activities.**

Fiscal Year 2026 Recommendations



2025 Amended Budget: \$ 851,902

2026 Recommended Budget: \$ 831,138

- **FY26 Recommended Budget includes a decrease of \$20,764 from FY25 Amended Budget.**

Notable changes:

- **Support for Oak Park University shifted to Neighborhood Services**
- **Support for Language Access assistance shifted to DEIO**

Fiscal Year 2026 at a glance



	FY25 Amended	FY26 Requested	Variance
Salaries	\$352,445	\$373,594	\$27,149
Conferences/Training	\$12,000	\$18,000	\$6,000
General Contractuals	\$114,700	\$119,503	\$4,803
External Support	\$142,700	\$83,000	-\$59,700
Printing	\$31,500	\$31,500	
Membership Dues	\$1,500	\$1,850	\$350
Postage	\$29,550	\$29,550	
Travel and Mileage	\$50	\$50	
Books and Subscriptions	\$250	\$250	
Office Supplies	\$500	\$500	
Operational Supplies	\$10,000	\$1,200	-\$8,800
Equipment	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Software	\$4,000	\$4,000	



Questions?

Thank you for your time and consideration