City Spotlights

Budgeting

Artificial intelligence is beginning to support municipal budgeting by helping cities review financial data, forecast revenues, and spot spending trends. While budgeting remains a human-led process, AI tools can quickly process large datasets and model financial scenarios to help staff explore trade-offs and produce more accurate projections. Below are examples of how local governments in Florida are putting these tools to work.

Jacksonville: The city contracted with C3.ai to analyze spending patterns and improve budget forecasting across three departments: Public Works, Public Libraries, and Parks, Recreation, and Community Service. The AI system ingests three years of revenue and expense data to flag vendor duplications, overspending, and revenue trends.

Collier County: The county partnered with Tyler Technologies to implement AI-powered priority-based budgeting on Amazon Web Services (AWS). The system identified nearly 500 county programs and their costs, uncovering millions in savings by aligning spending with community priorities.

Miami-Dade County: The county published an AI roadmap that includes analytics to support financial forecasting and operational planning. The county is exploring tools to analyze economic trends, historical spending, and service demand data to help departments estimate future costs.

Tamarac: The city uses Gravity (now part of ClearGov), an AI-enabled finance platform, for budgeting, financial reporting, and planning. The system connects budgeting data with disclosure reports and transparency tools. Staff use it to automate compliance reporting and reduce manual work.

City Tips

- **Start with financial data analysis.** Use AI to review historical spending, vendor payments, and revenue trends before applying it to full budget forecasting.
- **Use AI as decision support.** Budget priorities should remain the responsibility of elected officials and finance staff. AI should inform decisions, not make them.
- **Focus on forecasting.** Revenue projections, service demand modeling, and infrastructure cost forecasting are strong early use cases.
- **Pilot within one department.** Finance, public works, or utilities departments often have the most structured data to support early pilots.

- **Measure outcomes.** Track improvements such as forecasting accuracy, staff hours saved in financial analysis, or clearer reporting for policymakers and residents.