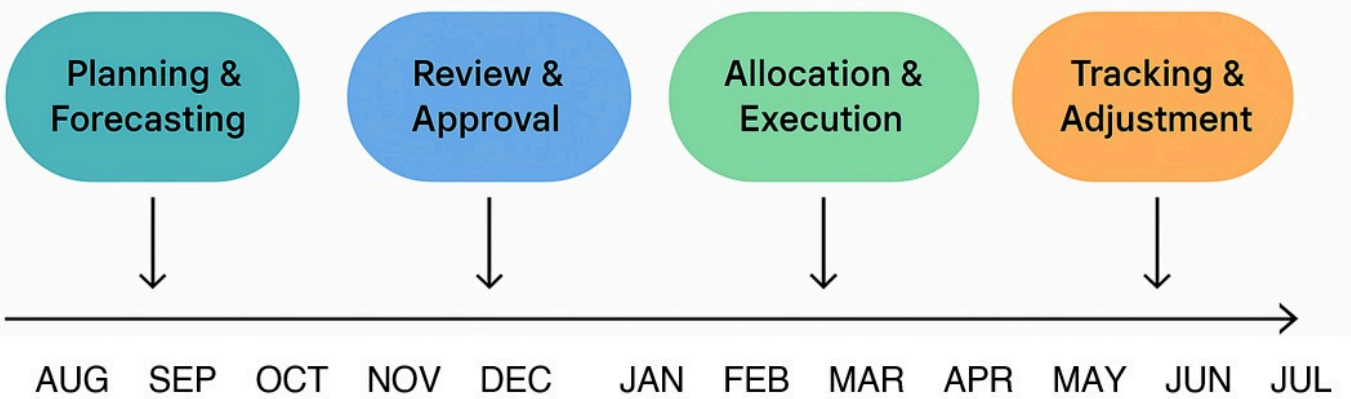




Pre-budget readiness checklist for FinOps Leads

IT Budgeting Lifecycle



Planning & Forecasting

Before kicking off the Forecasting & Planning phase of your cloud budget, make sure the following are in place:

Ownership & Accountability

- All services and environments have defined owners
- Shared services have identified stewardship or allocation models
- Responsibility map exists for every anticipated cost category

Usage & Cost Data

- 3–6 months of historical usage and billing reports collected
- Usage is broken down by project/team using tags or linked accounts
- Anomalies or gaps in data have been cleaned or noted

Tagging Strategy

- Tagging standards are documented and enforced
- Tag coverage meets at least 80–90% for cloud resources
- Cost allocation rules exist for non-tagged or shared resources

Visibility & Tooling

- All budgeting participants have access to dashboards or forecasting tools
- Stakeholders trained or briefed on tool usage

Business Context & Drivers

- Product and BU roadmaps reviewed for expected cloud impact
- Growth plans, seasonality, or experimental initiatives identified

Financial Policies

- CapEx vs OpEx distinctions clarified
- Approval thresholds and escalation paths documented
- Management reserve amount defined outside of team budgets

Commitments & Contracts

- Commitments & Contracts
- Active RIs, Savings Plans, and vendor discounts documented
- Renewal or rollover dates tracked

Planning
Timeline

- Forecasting cadence agreed upon (e.g., monthly, quarterly)
- Calendar created with deadlines, reviews, and checkpoints

Forecast
Methodology

- Standardized forecasting approach shared with all teams
- Inputs and assumptions clearly documented

Team
Enablement

- Stakeholders briefed on the *purpose* of budgeting
- Communication materials prepped to encourage collaboration