

# **Town of River Bend**



**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

## **Annual Budget Message**

**(A summary of the Annual Budget)**

**And**

## **Annual Operating Budget Ordinance**

Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
45 Shoreline Drive  
River Bend, NC 28562

252-638-3870

[www.riverbendnc.org](http://www.riverbendnc.org)

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**Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

**Annual Budget Message**

**And**

**Operating Budget Ordinance**

**Mayor**

Mark Bledsoe

**Town Council**

Morris "Buddy" Sheffield\*

Brian Leonard

Jeff Weaver

Lisa Benton

Kathy Noonan

\*also serves as Mayor Pro Tempore

**Prepared By:**

**Town Manager**

Delane Jackson

**Finance Director**

Mandy Gilbert

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## Budget Message

Honorable Mayor and Members of Council  
Town of River Bend, North Carolina:

May 15, 2025

Pursuant to Section 159-11 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the Town of River Bend's proposed budget for the Fiscal Year (FY) beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 is hereby submitted for your consideration. This budget represents the commitment of the Council to the vision statement and responds to the goals the Council developed at the Budget Kick-Off meeting on January 16, 2025:

1. Continue to provide a safe, dynamic, and attractive community for people of all ages, and continue to address the changing demographic composition of the Town.
2. Continue to provide safe drinking water and quality treatment of wastewater through maintenance of the current systems and continued prudent fiscal management of the utilities.
3. Continue to operate wastewater treatment facilities to maintain regulatory compliance and serve the current and future needs of the Town.
4. Continue to work with advisory boards as a means to encourage citizen participation in Town government.
5. Continue to be good stewards of the natural environment through planned stormwater and floodplain management efforts.
6. Continue to cooperate regionally and with other municipalities and, where appropriate, share ideas and resources.
7. Maintain a commitment to the Council-Manager form of government, and to support an adequate and well-trained staff to serve the current and future needs of the community.
8. Continue to employ sound fiscal management practices to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Town.
9. Maintain a visionary posture, acknowledging that change is inevitable.
10. Continue to conduct the business of the Town with complete transparency and integrity.

Over the course of four budget workshops in April and May and following numerous hours of staff research and development, this budget was explained in detail and each expenditure and revenue item considered relative to the long-term goals of this community. The uncertainty created by the slowing state economy, the war in Ukraine and tariff issues continues to impact the budget process. As of today, it is still unknown how long and to what degree inflation and other conditions will be impacting our town, state and nation. As always, two major considerations during budget preparation are the tax rate and utility rates. After reviewing all proposed expenditures and revenues, and considering the economic outlook, this proposal includes a tax rate of 28¢, which is a 4¢ increase. It also contains a new vehicle registration fee of \$10.00. The water and sewer rates remain unchanged.

Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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The annual budget process is influenced by external factors including the condition of the national, state, and local economies, and the needs identified in our community by the elected body, staff, and advisory boards, and the goals noted above. All these factors are considered in this budget, and armed with the knowledge that this document represents a significant amount of careful consideration and study, we are confident that it will allow the Town to meet its obligations, fulfill its goals, and remain fiscally strong.

**Overview**

The budget being presented for your consideration is balanced in accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The total operating budget for the three major funds are:

General Fund	\$ 2,692,000
Water Fund	\$ 708,500
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 784,500</u>
Total Operating Budget	\$ 4,185,000

In addition to the three, major operating funds noted above, the town also has four minor funds that we operate for accounting purposes. They are- Capital Reserves for the General Fund(\$154,144), Water Fund (\$25,000) and Sewer Fund (\$26,000), along with a Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund (\$540). The total allocation to these four funds in FY26 is \$205,684 and they are listed separately in the budget ordinance.

The grand total for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget is **\$4,390,684.**

**General Fund**

The General Fund is used to account for resources traditionally associated with government which are not required legally or by sound financial management to be accounted for in another fund. This fund is established at the inception of a government and exists throughout the government's life. Expenditures are divided into functional departments in order to present a clear understanding of the costs of providing certain services. Personnel assigned to a specific functional area are paid from that department. We use a labor allocation formula to more accurately reflect the work being performed by each staff member within each of the three major funds.

The total expenditure budget for the General Fund, including transfers, is \$2,692,000. Overall, General Fund spending increased \$236,693 as compared to the amended FY 24-25 budget (as of May 9, 2025). Revenue, as required by law, is balanced with the expenditure portion of the budget. This budget contains an appropriation from fund balance of \$201,350, which is a 38% decrease from the amended FY 24-25 fund balance appropriation of \$325,155.

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## **Expenditure Highlights by Department**

While not attempting to cover specifics for all of the eighteen (18) departments within the General Fund, what follows are some highlights of the more significant expenditures and programs being proposed for FY 25-26. This year's proposed budget keeps capital spending at a relatively low level of \$130,500 following capital spending of \$72,650 during the FY 24-25 budget.

Street Maintenance: The Town owns and maintains over 17 miles of streets. Each year our engineer reviews an evaluation he performed of all our streets in order to determine the priority for our paving funds. Powell Bill funding is used to support street maintenance. It is appropriated by and received from the State based upon our population and number of miles of town-maintained roads. This revenue source has been relatively level in recent years, while costs continue to escalate.

This year we are budgeting \$229,350 to follow the plan developed by our engineer to maintain the integrity of our roadways. Historically, the total amount we expect to pay for contracted paving services exceeds the amount we expect to receive in Powell Bill funds; therefore, local revenue will be utilized to complete these projects.

Stormwater: We have allocated \$30,000 of funding within the stormwater Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), but have no specific project identified.

Public Buildings (Facilities): We plan to continue our efforts to be good custodians of our public facilities by making a few needed repairs and some modest improvements.

Public Works: The Department of Public Works pays for, among other items, the cost to operate streetlights and the cost to operate and maintain two vehicles.

Parks and Recreation: The budget being presented includes continued funding for our Parks and Recreation programs. Excluded from the Parks and Recreation budget again this year is funding for the River Bend Community Organic Garden. It is an educational community garden operated and maintained by a group of volunteers but functions as a component of Parks and Recreation.

Police: Expenditures for the Police Department include salaries and benefits for seven full-time and multiple part-time officers, vehicle maintenance, uniforms, fuel, 1 new vehicle, equipment, Community Watch and more. We provide 24/7/365 police presence within the Town. The Police Department's budget of \$836,200 is the largest in the General Fund, representing 31% of General Fund expenditures.

Elections: Due to a recent Town Charter amendment, the town's municipal elections were moved to even-numbered years. This change resulted in a substantial reduction in the

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Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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town's cost for elections. The first election under this new format was held in November, 2022. The next town election will be held in November, 2026.

Governing Board: This year's budget contains \$50,000 to fund special projects that may receive Council approval during the fiscal year.

Throughout the budget process, Council and staff were mindful of the need to control costs while continuing to provide necessary services and maintain our infrastructure. Our efforts resulted in budgeted expenditures that are quite lean while maintaining the current level of services.

Requested projects and expenditures were kept to a minimum in order to develop a balanced budget and operate with no significant increases in taxes or fees. The revenues from some of the transfers are budgeted to be allocated in various CIPs in the General Fund in order to provide more long-term stability to those plans.

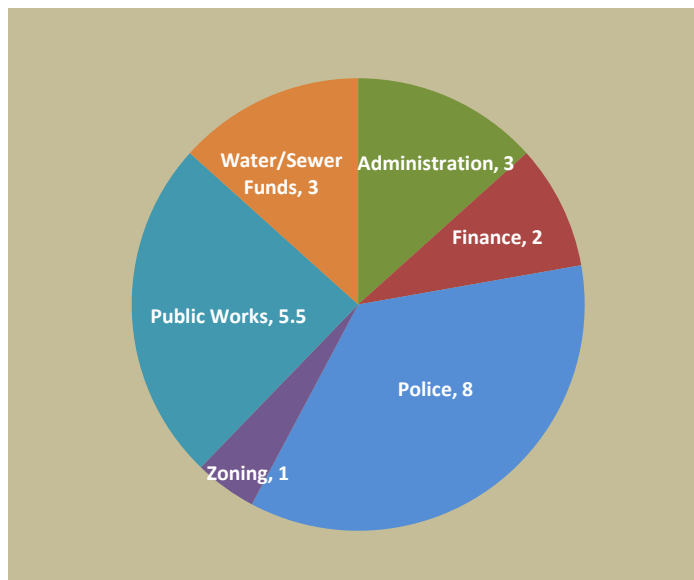
## Expenditures by Category

The North Carolina Local Government Commission (LGC) collects, maintains and compares financial data from all municipal governments in North Carolina. For comparison purposes, they group towns by population. This prevents small towns, such as River Bend, from being compared to large towns, such as Raleigh and Charlotte. They also separate towns that own electrical distribution systems, from those that do not own electrical distribution systems. We fall into the 2,500-9,999 population group that do not operate an electrical distribution system. There are 125 towns in our reporting group. In addition to lots of other data, the LGC compares the per capita expenditure for six functions for each town. Those six functions are: Public Safety, Transportation, General Government, Utility, Debt Service and Other. The 2024 data, (the most recent data from the LGC) is shown in the chart below. See more LGC data on page 32.

Function	Average Per Capita Expenditure of Group	River Bend Per Capita Expenditure
Utility	\$420	\$338
Debt Service	\$132	\$94
Transportation	\$151	\$82
General Government	\$305	\$574
Public Safety	\$529	\$238
Other	\$453	\$144
Total	\$1,990	\$1,470

One of the largest expenditures for River Bend and for most localities is the cost of personnel. After adding 1 full-time Public Works employee last year, we now have 21 full-time employees and 3 part-time positions, or 22.5 full-time equivalents (FTE). Our total personnel costs account for 47% of the combined operating budgets of the General and Enterprise Funds. This chart shows the number of FTE employees working in each department. It does not, however, show the allocation of labor between the General Fund and

Enterprise Funds that we use to account for work done outside of an employee's primary department. We use allocations in order to arrive at a more accurate cost of providing certain services and these allocations were examined as this budget was prepared. A detailed allocation table was provided during the budget workshops.



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Through operational efficiencies in the utilization of personnel, leveraging technology to mitigate staffing increases, receiving many hours of volunteer assistance, and other management strategies, we are able to maintain a staffing profile below that of comparable localities. In fact, according to 2024 data from the North Carolina Local Government Commission, River Bend's per capita expenditure for salaries and wages was \$420, which is \$112 less than the average of our peer group, which was \$532.

This budget, following the guidance of the Council, by their continued support of our compensation plan, includes a 2.8% cost of living allowance and a 1% longevity increase, both are only for eligible employees in accordance with the plan. An additional merit pool is available to be used to recognize outstanding performance of individual employees.

### **Sources of Revenue**

Revenues from local sales tax grew during FY25. We do expect that trend to continue during FY26, but at a much lower rate. Excluding fund balance appropriation, General Fund revenues are budgeted at \$2,490,650. Fund Balance appropriation in the General Fund for FY 25-26 is \$201,350 which is a decrease of 38% vs. last year's budgeted amount of \$325,155. As of May 14, 2025, the 2024 LGC data for fund balance has not been released.

The General Fund receives revenue from several sources, the largest of which is Ad Valorem taxes. Ad Valorem, from the Latin phrase meaning "according to value," is levied upon the property, and measured by the value of the property, not the owner's ability to pay. While important, Ad Valorem tax revenue is forecast to generate \$1,293,846 or only 48% of the revenue for our General Fund in FY26. Of that amount, \$140,000 is attributable to taxes on motor vehicles. That means that more than half of the services that we provide in the General Fund are paid for with sources other than local property tax revenue. State law limits the rate a locality may charge for this tax to \$1.50 per \$100 of valuation. Our proposed tax rate is 28¢, which is a 4¢ increase. The property value is expected to increase by \$2,921,122.

According to the North Carolina Local Government Commission, the average tax rate among municipal governments in our group for Fiscal Year 2023, (the latest available data) was \$0.3366 per hundred. At that time, our tax rate was \$0.26 per hundred. The range was \$0.0275 to \$0.89 per hundred. River Bend contracts with the Craven County tax office to collect our taxes. This enables our residents to receive one tax bill and remit payment to one place. It also allows us to enjoy an excellent collection rate for real and personal property taxes. In FY 25-26, we have budgeted for a collection rate of 99.72%.

The next largest source of revenue comes from our share of the sales tax that we all pay. These are essentially two tax types: the Sales Tax on the retail sale or lease of tangible personal property, services, the rental of hotel rooms, and the Use Tax, which is an excise tax on the right to use or consume property in North Carolina or elsewhere. All taxes are pooled by the State and shared, in accordance with statutory formulas, by all 100 counties.



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Each county, in turn, shares their portion of the sales tax proceeds with the incorporated cities and towns in that county.

In addition to sales tax revenue, the Town also receives revenue from the State reflecting our statutory portion of tax revenues from telecommunication services, video programming, beer and wine sales, and others. With the exception of funding received under the terms of the Powell Bill, State revenues can be used for any legitimate government function. Powell Bill funding, by law, is restricted for uses related to the maintenance of streets. Historically, River Bend uses 100% of this funding to continue to follow our Roadway Evaluation Survey.

### **Fund Balance**

The North Carolina Local Government Commission (LGC) monitors the level of fund balance each unit maintains as a sign of their relative financial strength. Sufficient fund balance is essential to ensure a unit of local government has ample funds to respond to emergencies and opportunities. While not official, the historical benchmark for fund balance that many units recognize as the minimum is 8% of total expenditures. If a unit approaches that level, the LGC may express concern to the unit and direct action to increase the balance. Our audit shows we ended FY24 with a fund balance of \$1,502,649 or approximately 76%. The policy set by the Town Council is to maintain a fund balance of at least 50% of total expenditures. Our unaudited projection for fund balance at the end of FY25 is 60%. According to June 30, 2023 LGC data (the latest available data) the average fund balance for our peer group (Those with General Fund Expenditures of \$1,000,000-\$9,999,999) was \$3,424,691, or 92.89%. The fund balance for River Bend for that same period was \$1,202,358 or 54.03%. I believe the dollar amount of fund balance is more important than the percentage of fund balance. I often say, "Percentages do not pay the bills, dollars do." Also, the average tax rate for this group was 33.66¢. At that time our tax rate was 26¢. There were 188 towns in this group. Only 37 of those levied a lower tax rate than River Bend.

### **Enterprise Funds**

In addition to the General Fund, covering all typical government operations, the Town of River Bend operates two enterprises: the water system and the sewer system. These two enterprises are operated as businesses by having all revenues and expenditures accounted for separately from other functions of the Town and by having rates established that cover all expenditures of the enterprise. River Bend purchased these two businesses from a private company, Carolina Water Service, in 1995. As a result of this purchase, a significant portion of the revenue we receive is dedicated to cover the debt incurred, and amortized with annual payments through fiscal year 2027.

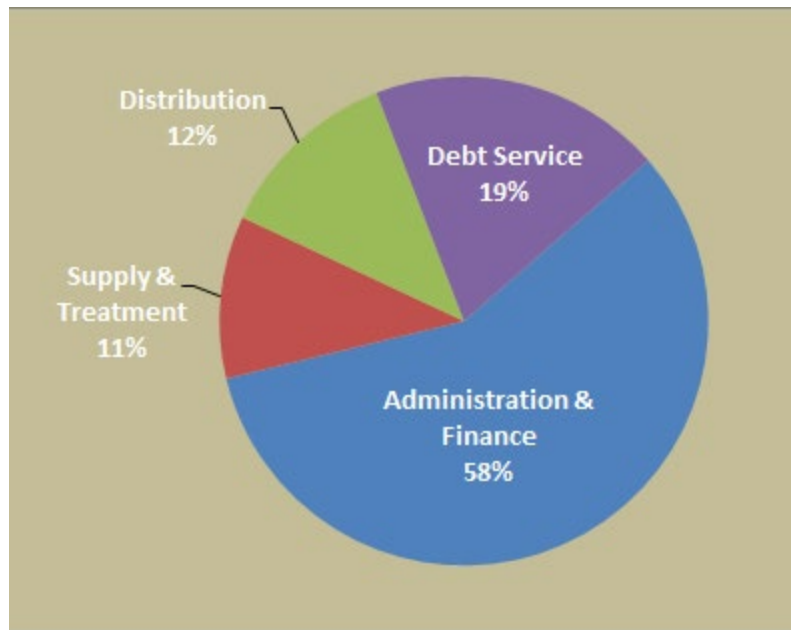
In FY 2013, we refinanced the debt in order to take advantage of interest rates that were more favorable than we had in our prior debt structure. The result of this effort was a

savings of nearly \$300,000 over the remaining life of the debt. Following a 2021 review, our Standard & Poor's rating was AA+. Following a 2023 review, our Moody's rating was Aa3. Both ratings remain the same today. These ratings are further evidence of good financial performance.

### Water Enterprise Expenditures

Expenditures in the Water Fund are divided according to function. There are costs specifically associated with supply and treatment (taking the water from the ground and treating it to make it safe to drink) and costs associated with distributing it to the customer. Other costs, in the administration and finance area, include personnel, vehicles, office rent, utilities, and bond debt service.

As noted earlier, debt service is a large expenditure for this enterprise and is divided from the Administration and Finance department in the chart to illustrate its proportion to overall expenditures. The total budgeted expenditure for the water enterprise in FY25-26 is \$708,500, a decrease of \$7,906 or 1.1% from the current, as amended, fiscal year budget. The graph to the right shows the percentage of the expenditures that each department represents within the Water Fund.

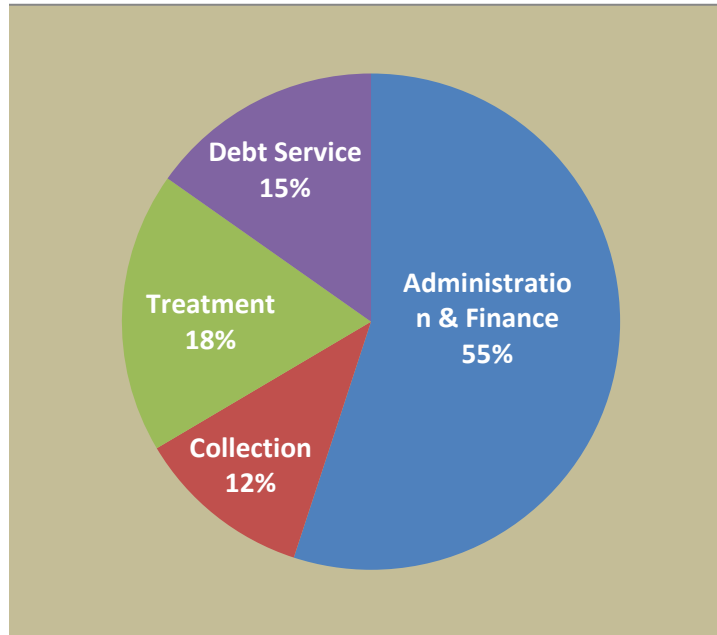


The chart below shows the comparison of the current budget vs. the proposed budget.

Water	24-25	25-26	Change v. prior year	
	Budget	Proposed	%	\$
Administration & Finance	495,618	530,000	6.94%	34,382
Supply & Treatment	142,788	74,000	-48.17%	-68,788
Distribution	58,000	84,000	44.83%	26,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	20,000	20,500	2.50%	500
<b>TOTAL (including CIP)</b>	<b>716,406</b>	<b>708,500</b>	<b>-1.10%</b>	<b>-7,906</b>

## Sewer Enterprise Expenditures

Similar to water expenditures, those for the sewer enterprise are also divided according to function. Costs specifically associated with collection (pipes and lift stations) are separated from those associated with operating the wastewater treatment plant. Other costs, in the administration and finance area, include personnel, vehicles, office rent, utilities, and bond debt. As noted earlier, debt service is a large expenditure for this enterprise and is divided from the Administration and Finance department in the chart to illustrate its proportion to overall expenditures. The total budgeted expenditure for the sewer enterprise in FY25-26 is \$784,500, a \$78,094 or 11.06% increase from the current, as amended, fiscal year. The graph above shows the percentage of the expenditures that each department represents within the Sewer Fund.



The chart below shows the comparison of the current budget vs. the proposed budget.

Sewer	24-25	25-26	Change v. prior year	
	Budget	Proposed	%	\$
Administration & Finance	490,618	533,000	8.64%	42,382
Collection	55,788	87,000	55.95%	31,212
Treatment	135,000	139,000	2.96%	4,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	25,000	25,500	2.00%	500
<b>TOTAL (including CIP)</b>	<b>706,406</b>	<b>784,500</b>	<b>11.06%</b>	<b>78,094</b>

## Enterprise Fund Revenue

The budget for these two enterprises received attention in our budget workshop sessions with proposed revenues for current and future years being scrutinized in light of anticipated expenditures. We are fortunate to have a professionally designed rate model for each utility so the impact of the proposed expenditures can be compared to revenue at various rate levels. Based upon the proposed expenditures, proposed revenues from user fees and cash balance, the water utility rates will not change for FY 25-26.

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Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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Likewise, both current and future revenues and expenditures for sewer were considered during the budget work sessions. The sewer utility rates will not change in FY 25-26. The current rate structure, combined with conservative expenditures, will allow both utilities to maintain a reasonably adequate level of reserves to respond to emergent needs if they arise during the year and through FY25-26. The cash balance in both funds was substantially reduced in FY 23 due to each fund contributing \$515,879 to fund their portion of the cost of the new Public Works Building. Due to that project being completed under-budget, part of that funding was returned to both funds. Each year, the Council looks at current and long-range needs of both systems. Next year, the Council will do the same and will consider any necessary rate changes to keep the funds sound.

### **Conclusion**

It is important to concentrate our annual budgeting efforts on maintaining current levels of services and maintenance of Town-owned property and infrastructure, while attempting to maintain a low tax rate and avoid substantial increase in fees. In my opinion, the budget being presented for your consideration accomplishes those goals. Each year we are faced with different challenges and opportunities. This year, federal government restructuring and tariffs are having substantial impacts on our national, state and local economies and budgets. A considerable amount of discussion was devoted to the difficulty of predicting such effects on the town's FY 25-26 budget, specifically related to a slowing economy and on-going efforts to retain quality staff while also building fund balance.

Maintaining our critical infrastructure and essential services comes at a cost, and River Bend, like towns throughout the State, must manage in a fiscal climate marked with a still uncertain economy. Town Council members should accept their responsibility with great conviction and sincerity and strive to be well-informed and engaged as they exercise their legislative role in the operation of this government. This budget reflects the Council's commitment to maintaining and improving this community and positioning it to be financially sound in the future. I believe it to be worthy of your consideration and approval.

I thank the Mayor, Town Council, and Town staff for their commitment to and participation in this budget process. I want to recognize the considerable contributions of Mandy Gilbert, our Finance Director, in the development of this year's budget. However, every member of the staff at Town Hall, along with the Department Heads contributed in some degree to the budget development process. This annual budget represents a true team effort as we all work to preserve the future of this great community. The legally required Public Hearing for the Proposed FY 25-26 Town Budget is schedule for June 12 at 5 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Delane Jackson,  
Town Manager

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**Proposed Annual Budget Ordinance**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of River Bend, North Carolina that the following anticipated fund revenues and departmental expenditures, together with certain fees and schedules, and with certain restrictions and authorizations, are hereby appropriated and approved for the operation of the Town government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

**Summary**

General Fund	2,692,000
General Capital Reserve Fund	154,144
Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund	540
Water Fund	708,500
Water Capital Reserve Fund	25,000
Sewer Fund	784,500
Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	26,000
Total	<hr/> 4,390,684

**Section 1. General Fund**

Anticipated Revenues

AD VALOREM Taxes 2025-2026	1,153,846
AD VALOREM Taxes-Motor Vehicle	140,000
Vehicle Registration Fee	30,800
Animal Licenses	1,500
Sales Tax 1% Article 39	225,177
Sales Tax 1/2% Article 40	132,451
Sales Tax 1/2% Article 42	112,435
Sales Tax Article 44	16,436
Sales Tax Hold Harmless Distribution	125,643
Solid Waste Disposal Tax	2,200
Powell Bill Allocation	109,000
Beer and Wine Tax	13,490
Video Programming Sales Tax	45,303
Utilities Franchise Tax	135,931
Telecommunications Sales Tax	6,530
Court Refunds	500
Zoning Permits	5,000
Miscellaneous	9,000
Interest-Powell Bill Investments	5
Interest-General Fund Investments	45,859
Contributions	900
Wildwood Storage Rents	18,144
Rents & Concessions	18,000
Sale of Capital Assets	12,000
Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	130,500
Appropriated Fund Balance	<hr/> 201,350
Total	2,692,000

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Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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Authorized Expenditures

Governing Body	79,200
Administration	348,000
Finance	156,500
Tax Listing	19,500
Legal Services	44,000
Elections	0
Police	836,200
Public Buildings	74,500
Emergency Services	5,100
Animal Control	27,800
Street Maintenance	317,000
Public Works	289,000
Leaf & Limb and Solid Waste	76,700
Stormwater Management	88,000
Wetlands and Waterways	2,900
Planning & Zoning	62,000
Recreation & Special Events	13,500
Parks & Community Appearance	75,600
Contingency	25,156
Transfer to General Capital Reserve Fund	151,344
Transfer to L.E.S.A. Fund	0
Total	<hr/> 2,692,000

**Section 2. General Capital Reserve Fund**

Anticipated Revenues

Contributions from General Fund	151,344
Interest Revenue	<hr/> 2,800
Total	<hr/> 154,144

Authorized Expenditures

Transfer to General Fund	130,500
Future Procurement	<hr/> 23,644
Total	<hr/> 154,144

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Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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**Section 3. Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Trust Fund**

Anticipated Revenues:

Contributions from General Fund	0
Interest Revenue	540
Total	<u>540</u>

Authorized Expenditures:

Separation Allowance	0
Future LEOSSA Payments	540
Total	<u>540</u>

**Section 4. Water Fund**

Anticipated Revenues

Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2	200,120
Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4	18,239
Utility Usage Charges, Class 5	12,854
Utility Usage Charges, Class 8	4,933
Utility Customer Base Charges	283,169
Hydrant Availability Fee	17,934
Taps & Connections Fees	1,250
Nonpayment Fees	10,500
Late Payment Fees	7,790
Interest Revenue	15,060
Sale of Fixed Asset	0
Transfer from Capital Reserve Fund	25,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	111,651
Total	<u>708,500</u>

Authorized Expenditures

Administration & Finance [1]	530,000
Operations and Maintenance	158,000
Transfer to Fund Balance for Capital Outlay	0
Transfer to Water Capital Reserve Fund	20,500
Total	<u>708,500</u>

*[1] Portion of department for bond debt service: 133,671*

Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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**Section 5.           Water Capital Reserve Fund**

Anticipated Revenues

Contributions from Water Operations Fund	20,500
Interest Revenue	350
Appropriated Fund Balance	4,150
Total	<u>25,000</u>

Authorized Expenditures

Transfer to Water Operations Fund	25,000
Future Expansion & Debt Service	0
Total	<u>25,000</u>

**Section 6.           Sewer Fund**

Anticipated Revenues:

Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2	255,040
Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4	39,981
Utility Usage Charges, Class 5	28,328
Utility Usage Charges, Class 8	10,146
Utility Customer Base Charges	298,921
Taps & Connection Fees	1,250
Late Payment Fees	8,222
Interest Revenue	23,006
Sale of Capital Asset	0
Transfer from Sewer Capital Reserve	25,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	94,606
Total	<u>784,500</u>

Authorized Expenditures:

Administration & Finance [2]	533,000
Operations and Maintenance	226,000
Transfer to Fund Balance for Capital Outlay	0
Transfer to Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	25,500
Total	<u>784,500</u>

*[2] Portion of department for bond debt service: 115,429*

**Section 7.           Sewer Capital Reserve**

Anticipated Revenues:

Contribution from Sewer Operations Fund	25,500
Interest Revenue	500
Total	<u>26,000</u>



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Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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Authorized Expenditures:

Transfer to Sewer Operations Fund	25,000
Future Expansion & Debt Service	1,000
Total	<hr/> 26,000

**Section 8. Levy of Taxes**

There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of twenty-eight cents (\$0.28) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2025, for the purpose of raising the revenue listed "Ad Valorem Taxes 2025-2026" in the General Fund Section 1 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a valuation of property for purposes of taxation of \$413,245,000 and an estimated rate of collection of 99.72%. The estimated collection rate is based on the fiscal year 2023-2024 collection rate of 99.72% by Craven County who has been contracted to collect property taxes for the Town of River Bend. Also included in this rate is a valuation of \$50,000,000 for purposes of taxation of motor vehicles with a collection rate of 100% by the North Carolina Vehicle Tax System.

**Section 9. Fees and Charges**

There is hereby established, for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 various fees and charges as contained in Attachment A of this document.

**Section 10. Special Authorization of the Budget Officer**

- A. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to reallocate any appropriations within departments.
- B. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interfund and interdepartmental transfers in emergency situations. Notification of all such transfers shall be made to the Town Council at its next meeting following the transfer.
- C. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interdepartmental transfers in the same fund, including contingency appropriations, not to exceed \$5,000. Notification of all such transfers shall be made to the Town Council at its next meeting following the transfer.

**Section 11. Classification and Pay Plan**

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees shall be 2.8% and shall begin the first payroll in the new fiscal year.

The Town Manager is hereby authorized to grant merit increases to Town employees, when earned, per the approved Pay Plan.

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**Section 12. Utilization of the Budget Ordinance**

This ordinance shall be the basis of the financial plan for the Town of River Bend municipal government during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The Budget Officer shall administer the Annual Operating Budget and shall ensure the operating staff and officials are provided with guidance and sufficient details to implement their appropriate portion of the budget.

**Section 13. Copies of this Budget Ordinance**

Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to the Clerk, Town Council, Budget Officer, and Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for their direction in the disbursement of funds.

Adopted this 19th day of June, 2025.

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Mark Bledsoe, Mayor

Attest:

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Kristie J. Nobles, Town Clerk

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**Town of River Bend**  
**Schedule of Rates and Fees**  
**(Attachment A to Budget Ordinance)**  
Effective July 1, 2025

Amounts due are based upon the Fees and Charges Schedule in effect at the time of payment. It is the Town Council's intention that the Fees and Charges Schedule be revised as needed by July 1st of each year. Some fees and charges may be adjusted during the year as circumstances change.

**GENERAL FUND**

**Administrative**

<b>Ad Valorem Tax</b>	\$ .28 per \$100 assessed valuation
<b>Copies of Public Information</b>	As specified by State Statute
<b>Town Code, entire copy</b>	\$75.00
<b>Notary Fee</b>	\$10.00 per signature after the first
<b>Meeting Rooms</b>	
Four hours or less	\$40.00
Over four hours	\$80.00
<b>Returned Check Processing Charge</b>	\$25, as allowed by G.S. §25-3-506
<b>Administrative Fee for returned bank drafts</b>	\$25.00

**Public Safety**

<b>Pet License Fee</b>	\$10.00
<b>Golf Cart Registration Fee</b>	\$10.00
<b>Vehicle Registration Fee</b>	\$10.00

**Nuisance Abatement Administrative Fee**

<u>Cost of Abatement</u>	<u>Fee</u>
\$1 – 1,000	\$50.00
\$1,001 – and up	5% of total abatement cost (maximum fee \$2,000)

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**Planning and Zoning**

**Special Exception Use Permit**                      \$200 plus cost of required legal advertisement and postage to notify abutting land owners

**Variance**    \$200 plus cost of required legal advertisement and postage to notify abutting land owners

**Appeal to Board of Adjustment**                      \$200 plus cost of required legal advertisement and postage to notify abutting land owners

**Residential Application**                              Based on amount of project as follows:

Base Fee                      \$30

\$2 for every \$1,000 of project value after first \$1,000 and up to \$100,000; plus,  
\$1 for every \$1,000 above \$100,000 (All values rounded up to nearest \$1,000)

*Zoning Administrator can use any appropriate means to verify project valuation.*

**Residential Flood Plain Application with Zoning Permit**

40% of the fee for the Town's residential zoning permit and shall be additional to the zoning permit fee for enclosed structures (fences, decks, and other similar exempt from additional fee).

**Commercial Application**                              Based on amount of project as follows:

Base Fee                      \$50

\$4 for every \$1,000 of project value after first \$1,000 and up to \$100,000; plus,  
\$2 for every \$1,000 above \$100,000 (All values rounded up to nearest \$1,000)

*Zoning Administrator can use any appropriate means to verify project valuation.*

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**Commercial Flood Plain Application with Zoning Permit**

40% of the fee for the Town's commercial zoning permit and shall be additional to the zoning permit fee for enclosed structures (fences, decks, and other similar exempt from additional fee).

**Residential Flood Plain Application without Zoning Permit**

Based on amount of project as follows:

Base Fee        \$30

\$2 for every \$1,000 of project value after first  
\$1,000 and up to \$100,000; plus,  
\$1 for every \$1,000 above \$100,000 (All values  
rounded up to nearest \$1,000)

*Zoning Administrator can use any appropriate means to verify project valuation.*

**Commercial Flood Plain Application without Zoning Permit**

Based on amount of project as follows:

Base Fee        \$50

\$4 for every \$1,000 of project value after first  
\$1,000 and up to \$100,000; plus,  
\$2 for every \$1,000 above \$100,000 (All values  
rounded up to nearest \$1,000)

*Zoning Administrator can use any appropriate means to verify project valuation.*

<b>Engineering Review</b>	Charged to applicant at the actual cost of the service as billed by the contracted engineer.
<b>Zoning Amendment Request (Map or Text)</b>	\$200 plus cost of required legal advertisement and postage to notify abutting land owners
<b>Sign Permit</b>	\$30
<b>Tree Harvest Permit</b>	\$50
<b>Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances</b>	\$25 per set

Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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**Wildwood Storage Rental Rates**

Unit Number	Unit Size	Monthly Rent
BB 01	5x20	\$35
BB 02	5x20	\$35
BB 03	5x20	\$35
BB 04	5x20	\$35
BB 05	10x20	\$75
BB 06	10x20	\$75
BB 07	10x20	\$75
BB 08	10x20	Town Occupied (TO)
BB 09	10x20	TO
BB 10	10x20	TO
BB 11	10x20	TO
BB 12	10x20	TO
GB 15	10x16	\$65
GB 16	10x16	\$65
GB 17	10x16	\$65
GB 18	10x16	\$65
GB 19	10x16	\$65
GB 20	10x16	TO
GB 21	10x16	TO
GB 22	10x16	TO
OP	Open Spaces (40)	\$25
Late Payment Charge	\$10, assessed after the 10 <sup>th</sup> of the month	
Interest Charge	1.5% monthly on outstanding balances	

Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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**ENTERPRISE FUNDS**

**Water and Sewer - Rates and Fees**

	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sewer</b>
<b>Class 1 and 2 – Residential <sup>(1)</sup></b>		
Customer Base Charge per month <sup>(2)</sup>	15.24	24.18
Usage per 1,000 gallons	-	9.30
Usage 0-4,000 gallons	4.22	-
Usage 4,001-20,000 gallons	4.50	-
Usage 20,001+ gallons	4.55	-
Initial Connection (Tap) charge <sup>(3)</sup>	1,250.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-
<b>Class 3 and 4 - Commercial</b>		
Customer Base Charge per month <sup>(2)</sup>	88.32	141.99
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.22	9.30
Initial Connection (Tap) charge <sup>(3)</sup>	3,500.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	100.00	-
<b>Class 5 - Industrial</b>		
Customer Base Charge per month <sup>(2)</sup>	276.24	444.93
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.22	9.30
Initial Connection (Tap) charge <sup>(3)</sup>	5,000.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	200.00	-
<b>Class 6 - Early Bird (No longer available)</b>		
<b>Class 7 - Fire Hydrant Charge</b>		
Availability Charge per year	183.00	-
<b>Class 8 - 1" Water Service</b>		
Customer Base Charge per month <sup>(2)</sup>	30.90	49.43
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.22	9.30
Initial Connection (Tap) charge <sup>(3)</sup>	1,500.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	100.00	-
<b>Class 9 - Vacant /Out of Use Non-residential Property</b>		
Customer Base Charge per month <sup>(2)</sup>	15.24	24.18
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.22	9.30
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-
<b>Class 10 - Vacant Residences</b>		
Customer Base Charge per month <sup>(2)</sup>	15.24	-
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-

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**Special Charges**

<b>Service Call - 2 hour minimum</b>	\$35 per hour - signed by customer to initiate work outside of scheduled work hours of 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on weekdays and 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on weekends
<b>Meter Testing Charge</b>	\$25 - no charge if meter defective
<b>Returned Check Processing Charge</b>	\$25, as allowed by G.S. §25-3-506
<b>Late Payment Charge</b>	10% of amount overdue per month or part of month beginning 30 days after billing date
<b>Irrigation Connection Inspection</b>	\$20

(1) Residential customer deposit may apply. Please refer to Water Resources Department Policy Manual.

(2) Base charges do not include any usage.

(3) The published Initial Connection (Tap) charges are based on the historic River Bend average cost that has been experienced in making connections. There will be cases when, because of the local depth of the service main pipe to which the connection is to be made, or other site specific differences from the norm, the published connection fee will not cover the actual cost of the tap. When the Water Resources Superintendent encounters such conditions, he shall notify the applicant requesting the tap that the cost may exceed the published fee. In those cases, a record of cost associated with the specific tap will be accounted for and if the total cost exceeds the published fee, then the applicant shall pay a fee equal to the actual cost. Initial connection charges are based upon the size of the meter and charged as shown in the appropriate Class above.

(4) The necessary equipment will be provided to the resident at cost. The resident is responsible for installing the irrigation meter on the resident's side of the regular water meter. After installation, the work will be inspected by a Water Resources Department employee.



## Budget “Snapshot”

What follows is a brief “snapshot” of the budgets of all three major funds. These are briefly explained in the Budget Message that precedes these pages and were discussed in detail during the budget sessions.

### General Fund Expenditures

The chart shown below summarizes, by department, the actual, budgeted, projected, and proposed expenditures in the General Fund for the previous two completed fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the budget under consideration for next year. This allows the reader to see how expenditures change in each of these departments over the course of several years.

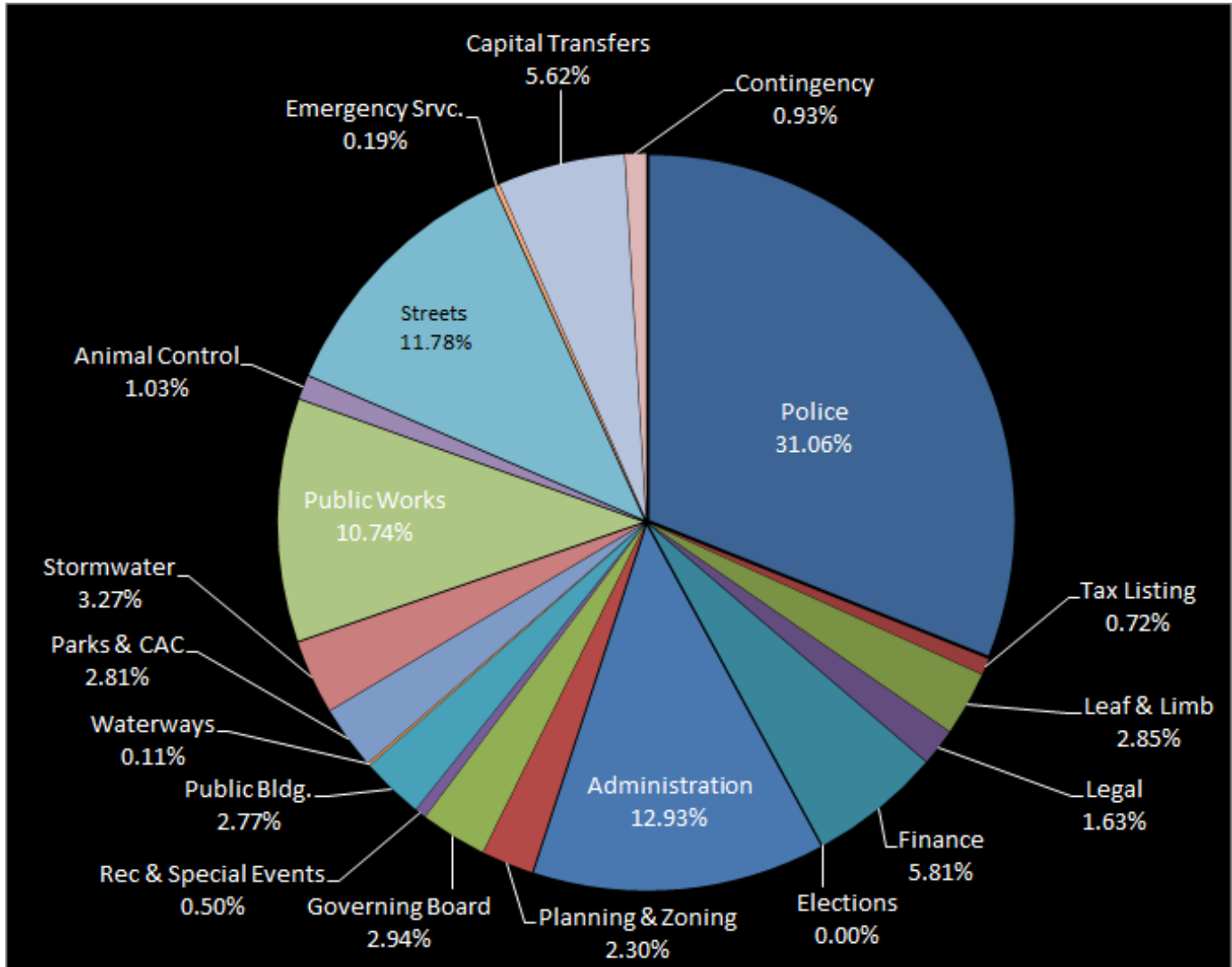
General Fund Expenditure Summary				Change v. prior year		
	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	%	\$
Department Name	Actual	Actual	Current Budget	Proposed		
Governing Body	25,534	25,980	69,500	79,200	13.96%	9,700
Administration	288,649	321,476	331,200	348,000	5.07%	16,800
Finance*	127,789	134,093	148,972	156,500	5.05%	7,528
Tax Listing	10,823	13,756	14,700	19,500	32.66%	4,800
Legal Services	30,286	33,373	49,000	44,000	-10.20%	-5,000
Elections	477	-	600	-	-100.00%	-600
Police*	664,422	677,590	867,795	836,200	-3.64%	-31,595
Public Buildings*	79,366	100,001	84,500	74,500	-11.83%	-10,000
Emergency Services	2,712	2,854	5,800	5,100	-12.07%	-700
Animal Control*	13,032	15,072	22,555	27,800	23.25%	5,245
Street Maintenance*	186,443	236,435	246,385	317,000	28.66%	70,615
Public Works*	165,953	185,670	218,738	289,000	32.12%	70,262
Leaf & Limb and Solid Waste	54,641	75,923	87,500	76,700	-12.34%	-10,800
Stormwater Management*	310,789	39,122	58,031	88,000	51.64%	29,969
Wetlands & Waterways	2,506	737	2,900	2,900	0.00%	0
Planning & Zoning	52,947	52,942	60,000	62,000	3.33%	2,000
Recreation & Special Events	7,263	9,945	11,000	13,500	22.73%	2,500
Parks & CAC*	92,011	50,386	66,331	75,600	13.97%	9,269
NCORR Recovery Grant	-	-				0
<b>Department Expenditure Total</b>	2,115,642	1,975,356	2,345,507	2,515,501	7.25%	169,994
Contingency (1% per policy)	17,931	20,807	23,043	25,155	9.17%	2,112
Transfer to Capital Reserve	60,000	55,000	86,757	151,344	74.45%	64,587
Transfer to Capital Project Fund	482,189	-	-	-		0
* amended since adoption as of 03/10/2025						
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,675,763	2,051,163	2,455,307	2,692,000	9.64%	236,693

The last two columns compare the proposed budget to the current year’s budget.

Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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This chart shows the percentage of funding that each department will receive of the total budget (including contingency and transfer) in the next fiscal year.



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### General Fund Revenue

The chart shown below summarizes the actual, budgeted, and projected revenue, by type, in the General Fund. Similar to the chart for expenditures, this worksheet gives the reader some historical perspective regarding the changes in sources of revenue.

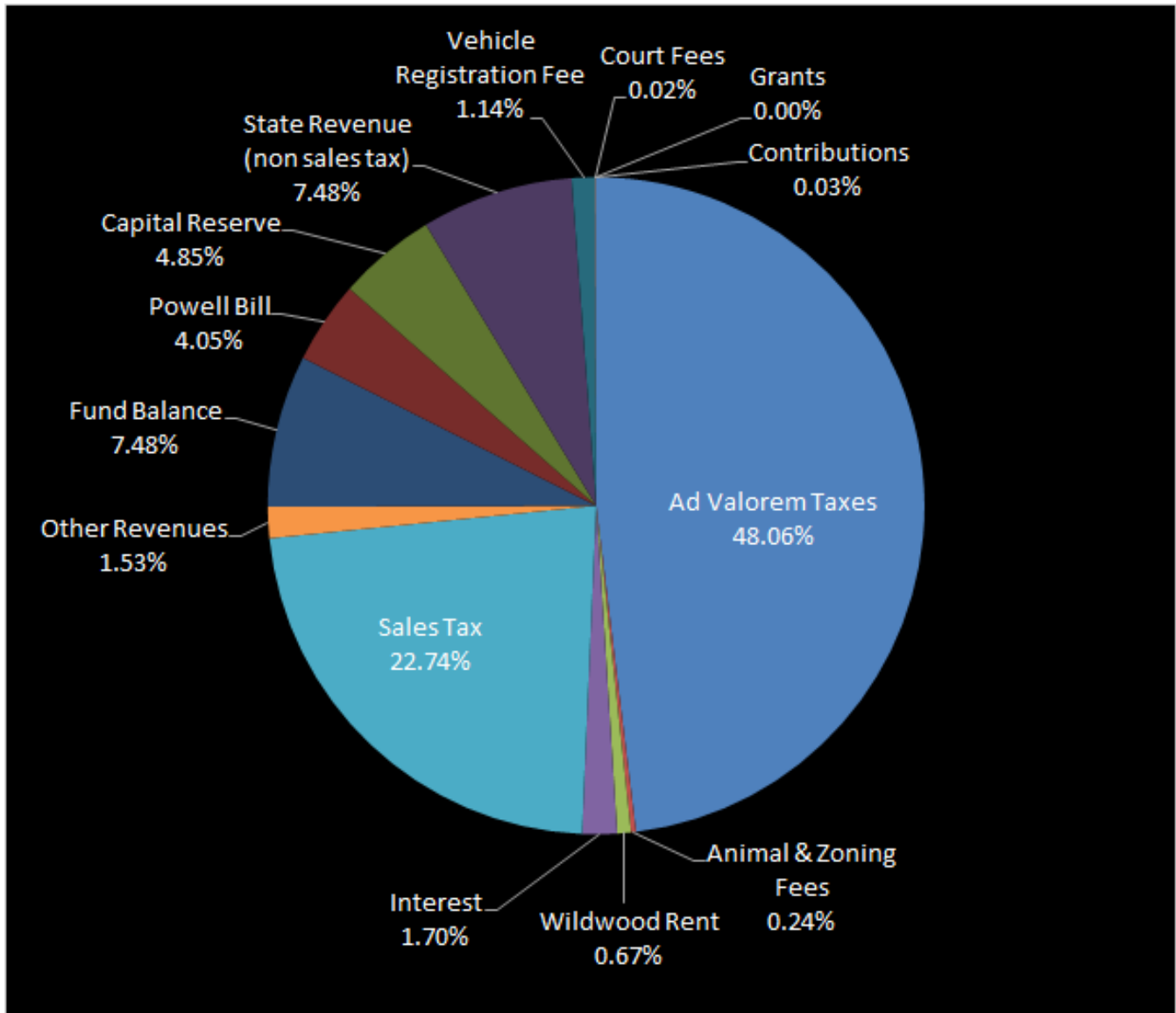
General Fund Revenue Summary					Change v. prior year	
	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	%	\$
	Actual	Actual	Current Budget	Proposed		
Ad Valorem Taxes	833,878	1,100,557	1,084,565	1,293,846	19.30%	209,281
Animal Licenses & Zoning Permits	12,063	14,232	8,500	6,500	-23.53%	-2,000
Interest	36,439	55,787	44,583	45,864	2.87%	1,281
Wildwood Rents	19,651	19,649	18,144	18,144	0.00%	0
Other Revenue & Rents	64,836	69,084	35,200	41,200	17.05%	6,000
Contributions	1,043	640	900	900	0.00%	0
Powell Bill (includes appropriation)	93,732	102,235	101,000	109,000	7.92%	8,000
State Revenue (other than sales tax)	185,667	189,294	183,201	201,254	9.85%	18,053
Sales Tax Revenue	528,076	535,482	557,545	612,142	9.79%	54,597
NCORR Loan/Grant Proceeds	0	0	0	0		0
Government Grants (Fed, State & County)	275,221	525	23,364	0	-100.00%	-23,364
Fees (court refund)	501	515	500	500	0.00%	0
Vehicle Registraion Fee	0	0	0	30,800		30,800
Transfer from Capital Reserve	72,787	43,504	72,650	130,500	79.63%	57,850
Transfer from LESA Fund	0	0	0	0		0
Transfer from ARPA Fund	482,300	0	0	0		0
Transfer from PW Capital Proj Fund	0	57,720	0	0		0
Appropriated Fund Balance	0	0	325,155	201,350	-38.08%	-123,805
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,606,195	2,189,224	2,455,307	2,692,000	9.64%	236,693

The last two columns compare the proposed budget to the current year's budget.

Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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This chart shows the percentage that each revenue type is anticipated to contribute to total General Fund revenue in the next fiscal year.



Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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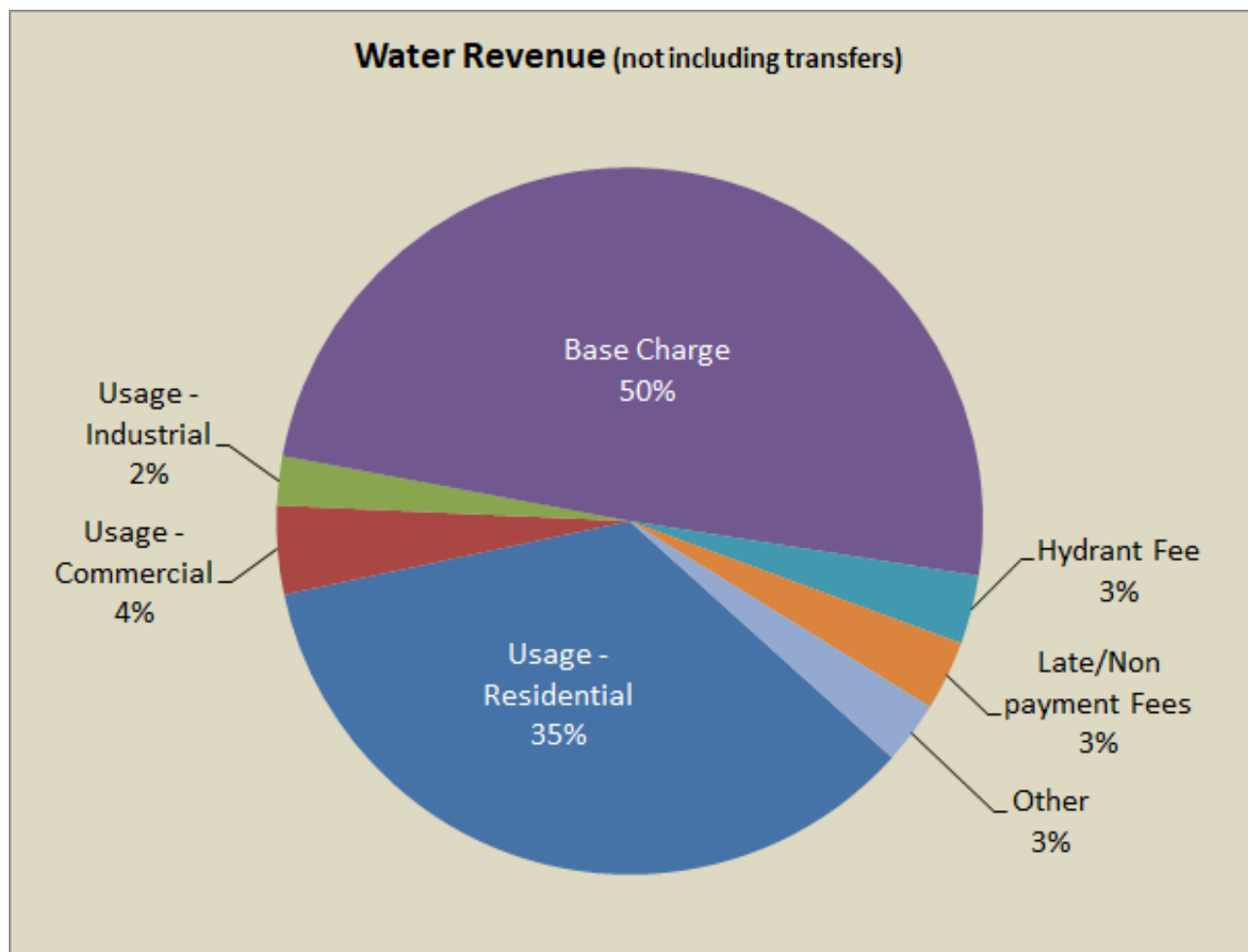
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### Water Fund Expenditures

The worksheet shown below summarizes the actual, budgeted, and projected expenditures, by department within the Water Enterprise Fund.

Water	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	Change v. prior year	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed	%	\$
Administration & Finance	481,136	490,108	495,618	530,000	6.94%	34,382
Supply & Treatment	46,982	48,992	142,788	74,000	-48.17%	-68,788
Distribution	47,703	60,815	58,000	84,000	44.83%	26,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	0	0	20,000	20,500	2.50%	500
<b>TOTAL (including CIP)</b>	<b>575,821</b>	<b>599,915</b>	<b>716,406</b>	<b>708,500</b>	<b>-1.10%</b>	<b>-7,906</b>

This chart shows the percentage each revenue type is anticipated to contribute to the total received by this enterprise in the next fiscal year.



Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

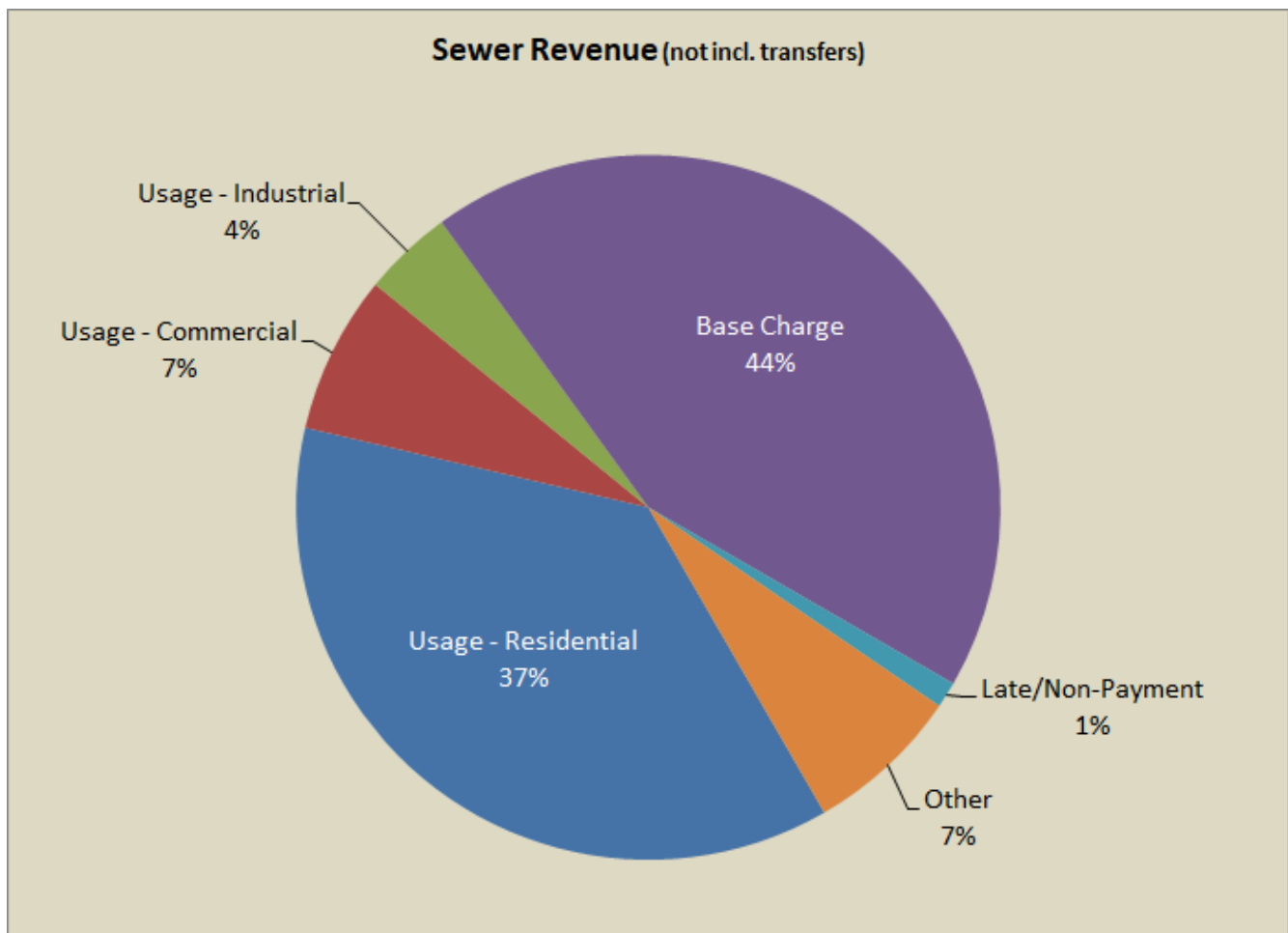
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### Sewer Fund Expenditures

The worksheet shown below summarizes the actual, budgeted, and projected expenditures, by department within the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Sewer	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	Change v. prior year	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed	%	\$
Administration & Finance	472,911	481,228	490,618	533,000	8.64%	42,382
Collection	22,472	35,585	55,788	87,000	55.95%	31,212
Treatment	105,271	122,334	135,000	139,000	2.96%	4,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	0	0	25,000	25,500	2.00%	500
<b>TOTAL (including CIP)</b>	<b>600,654</b>	<b>639,147</b>	<b>706,406</b>	<b>784,500</b>	<b>11.06%</b>	<b>78,094</b>

This chart shows the percentage each revenue type is anticipated to contribute to the total received by this enterprise in the next fiscal year.



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### What Will I Pay?

This table shows the real estate tax one would pay based upon the assessed value of their property.

To calculate your actual Town tax, multiply the total assessed value of your property by 0.0028. This will show what you pay for the General Fund services that the Town provides.

According to the Craven County Tax Department, the current (April, 2025) average assessed value of a home in River Bend is \$246,722 (note highlighted data).

<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Annual Bill at 0.28</b>
95,000	\$266
125,000	\$350
<b>246,722</b>	<b>\$691</b>
190,000	\$532
200,000	\$560
250,000	\$700
300,000	\$840
350,000	\$980
400,000	\$1,120
500,000	\$1,400
600,000	\$1,680

The following table shows water and sewer rates and their effect upon a residential customer using 3,000 gallons per month. The proposed rates represent no changes in the rates that are in effect as of today. Business, commercial, and industrial base rates and fees are different from the residential base rate and fees. In FY 24, the average water customer used 3,225 gallons of water per month.

<b>Charges for 3,000 gallons per month</b>		
	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Water</b> Base	15.24	15.24
Use	12.66	12.66
<b>Sewer</b> Base	24.18	24.18
Use	27.90	27.90
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>79.98</b>	<b>79.98</b>
<b>Per-Bill</b>	<b>159.96</b>	<b>159.96</b>
Monthly Difference		<b>0.00</b>
Per Bill Difference		<b>0.00</b>

Town of River Bend, North Carolina  
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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Annual Costs	FY26	FY25	Change	%
Water/Sewer Fees (3,000 gal/month)	\$ 960	\$ 960	0	0.00%
Real Estate Tax (\$246,722 home)	\$ 691	\$ 588	103	17.49%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,651</b>	<b>\$ 1,548</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>6.64%</b>
Average Per Day Cost for water/sewer/tax	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.24	\$ 0.28	6.64%

The table above combines the cost of real estate taxes and the cost of water and sewer to show the total amount a resident of River Bend would pay in a year for real estate taxes on a home valued at \$246,722 and water and sewer fees for 3,000 gallons usage per month. For \$4.52 per day, our average water and sewer user, living in our average valued home, receives potable water, wastewater treatment, 24/7 police protection, stormwater management, animal control, planning, zoning, code enforcement, parks, recreational events, street lights, street maintenance, leaf & limb removal, and a host of other services. Our goal is to continue to deliver high quality services at a reasonable price to all who make River Bend their home. Last year, the cost was also \$4.24 per day. For the average resident, it will cost 28¢ more per day for these items in River Bend than it did last year. Inflation over the last year (March-March) was 2.39%. If our rate had only kept pace with inflation, the cost for these services in FY26 would have been \$1,585. It is important to note that we have expanded our operations since last year.

### Where are my tax dollars spent?

This table breaks down the proposed tax rate to show how much of that rate is needed to fund each of the functions in the General Fund. The total proposed tax rate is 28¢ per one hundred dollars of assessed value. The figures shown represent the portion of the tax rate attributable to each department based on that department's percentage of the overall general fund budget. For example, the Police Department's budget represents 31.06% of the overall general fund budget in FY26. Therefore, 31.06% of the tax rate is equal to 8.697¢. It is important to note that property tax revenue represents only 48% of general fund revenues.

Department	Cents per Hundred
Governing Body	0.824
Administration	3.620
Finance	1.628
Tax Listing	0.203
Legal	0.458
Elections	0.000
Police	8.697
Public Buildings	0.775
Emergency Services	0.053
Animal Control	0.289
Street Maintenance	3.297
Public Works	3.006
Leaf and Limb/Solid Waste	0.798
Stormwater Management	0.915
Wetlands and Waterways	0.030
Planning and Zoning	0.645
Recreation and Special Events	0.140
Parks and CAC	0.786
Contingency	0.262
Transfer to Cap. Res.	1.574
<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>0.28</b>

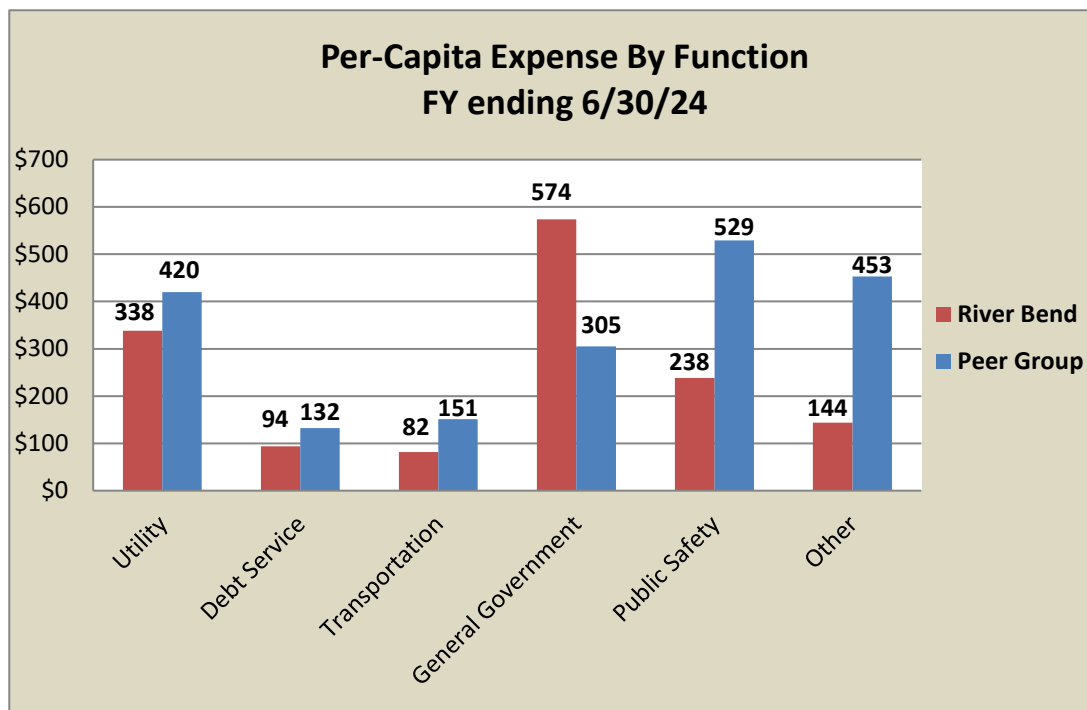


### North Carolina Local Government Commission – Expenditure and Revenue Per Capita Data

The North Carolina Local Government Commission (LGC) compiles data based upon a required independent audit and other reports submitted to them for review and approval. This data is collected from all counties and municipalities in the State and is reported by locality, and offers comparisons for per capita expenditures and revenue with other similar localities. The charts reflect the latest LGC data, which is as of June 30, 2024.

To make the comparisons fair, the LGC divides all municipalities into groups by population and they further divide them into groups that do and do not operate their own electric system. The population groups are: 499 and below, 500-999, 1,000-2,499, 2,500-9,999, 10,000-49,999 and 50,000+. There are 551 municipalities in North Carolina. There are 479 units that do not operate electric systems and 72 that do operate electric systems.

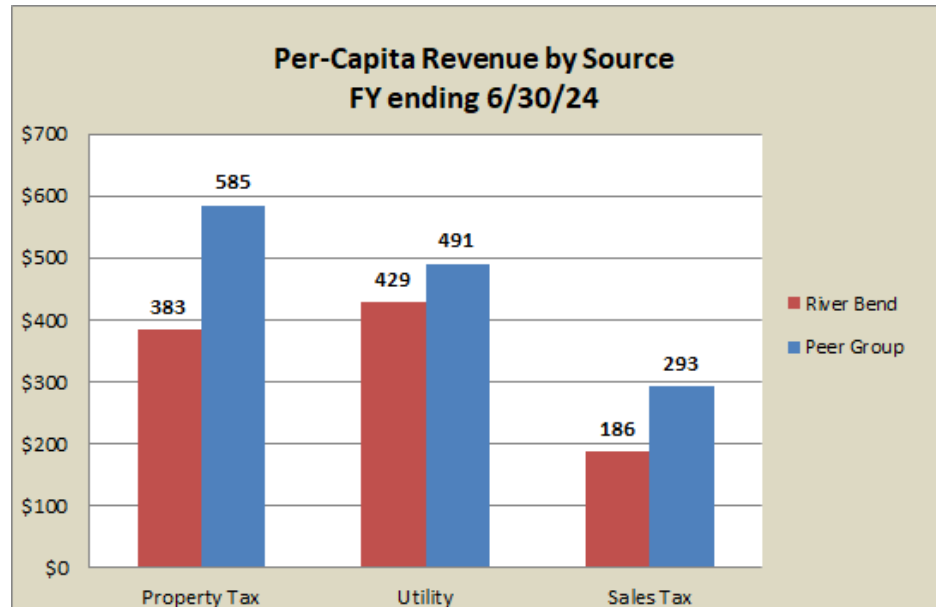
Our peer group is localities with a population between 2,500 and 9,999 residents that do not operate an electric utility. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, there were 125 localities in our peer group.



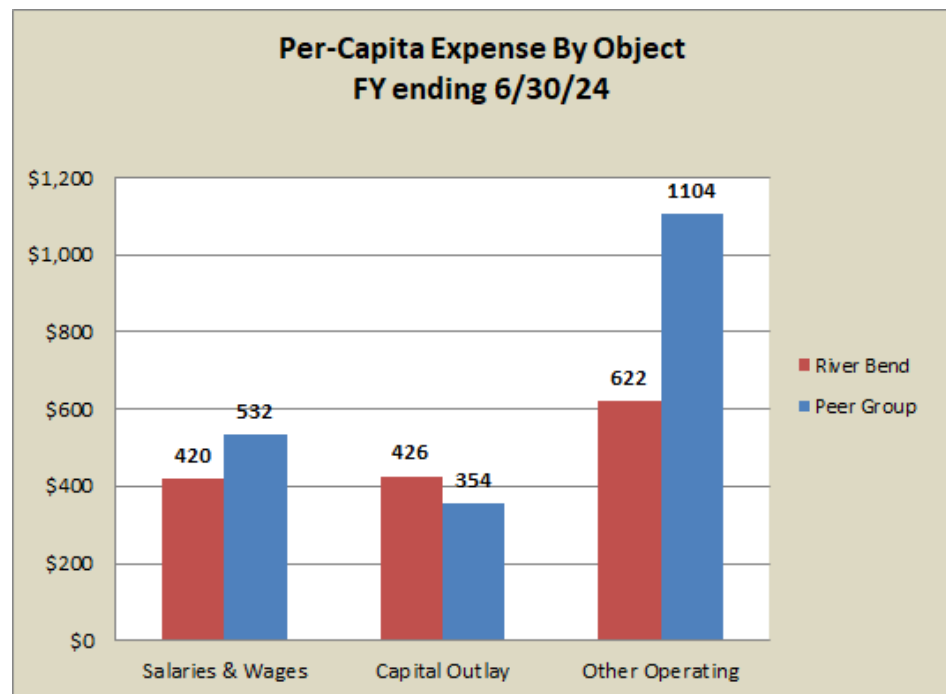
Data from the LGC shows that River Bend's per-capita expenditures in 2024 were \$1,470 (up \$63 from the previous year) compared to \$1,990 (up \$113 from the previous year) for localities in our peer group. The chart above shows some of the significant expenditures by function and how our expenditures compare with those of our peers. The reader will note that River Bend spent \$520 less per capita overall, and less in 5 of the 6 categories, compared to our peer group.

Data from the LGC also indicates how we compared with our peer group in fiscal year 2024 in terms of per-capita revenue. The data shows that our total per-capita revenue was \$1,349 compared to \$2,335 for our peers. This means that River Bend residents paid \$986 less than residents in our peer group.

This chart shows 3 of the 7 major revenue categories and how we compared with our peers in each. The reader will note that in all 3 categories our revenue is lower than that of our peers. Our property tax revenue amount was \$202 less per capita than our peer group. Our utility revenue was \$62 less per capita than our peer group.

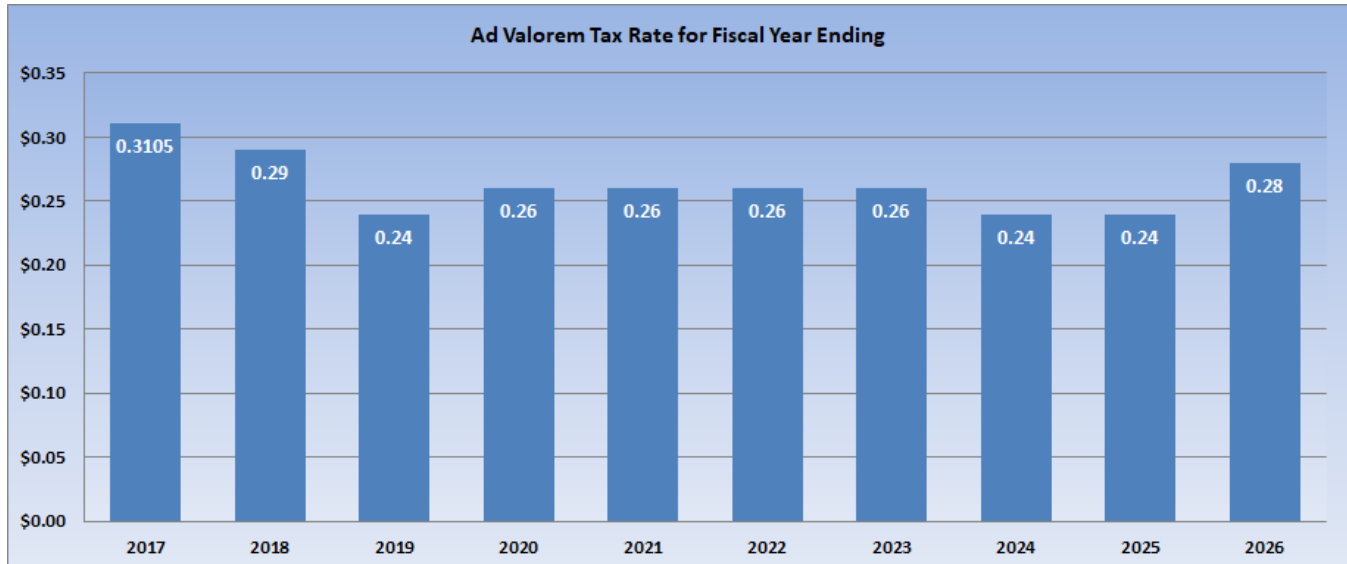


This chart shows 3 major expense categories and how we compared with our peers. The reader will note that we spent less per capita in 2 of the 3 categories, compared to our peer group. Typically, we spend less in all three. However, recently we have had several large capital projects, many of which were grant-funded. Overall, we spent \$522 less per capita than our peer group.



### Tax Rate History

The chart below shows the 10-year history of the tax rate for the Town of River Bend, including the proposed rate of 28¢ per \$100 of assessed value for FY 25-26.



### Budget and Finance Recognition

The Town Council realizes that the budget preparation process is likely the most important aspects of operating a municipal government. The budget sets the priorities for not only the next fiscal year but also for future years as well. A considerable amount of planning goes into the annual budget preparation process. After the budget has been approved by the Council, it is handed over to the Town Manager for implementation. Maintaining budget compliance is a year-long responsibility. During the fiscal year, the Council is updated at least monthly on the financial condition of the Town. The Council is ultimately responsible for the financial condition of the Town and takes that responsibility very seriously. The Town of River Bend has often been recognized for its budget preparation, financial reporting and transparency. Some of those recognitions are listed below:

**Excellence in Accounting and Financial Management-** from the NC State Treasurer 2010

**Distinguished Budget Presentation Award-** from the Government Finance Officers Association. We received 12 in a row from fiscal year beginning 2010-2021.

**Excellence in Financial Reporting Award-** from the Government Finance Officers Association. We recently received our 13<sup>th</sup> in a row for fiscal year ending 2023. We have applied for and expect to receive our 14<sup>th</sup> award for fiscal year ending 2024 soon.