



# **Town of River Bend**

**Fiscal Year  
2025-2026**

**Proposed Budget Summary**

**June 19, 2025**

# Town of River Bend

## Mayor and Town Council Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025-26



# FY 25-26 Budget Calendar

January 16- Budget Kick-Off Meeting

## Budget Workshops 2025

April 28

May 1

May 6

May 8

*Average Public In Attendance- 6*

May 15- Budget Message and Proposed Budget Ordinance presented to Council

May 15- Minutes of all budget workshops published and adopted

June 12- Public Hearing on Proposed Budget

June 19- Adoption of Budget Ordinance (hopefully)

July 1- Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Begins

# Budget Material was provided on Town's Webpage



Town of  
**River Bend, NC**

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## Finance

- Budget Preparation FY25-26
- FY24-25
- FY23-24
- FY22-23
- FY21-22
- Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (Which Includes Audit Report)
- 5-Year Comparison

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## Budget Prepartation FY25-26

[Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Preparation Workshops](#)

[Budget Kickoff January 16, 2025](#)

[Budget Workshop April 28, 2025](#)

[Budget Workshop May 1, 2025](#)

[Budget Workshop May 6, 2025](#)

[Budget Workshop May 8, 2025](#)

[Notice of Public Hearing](#)

[FY 2025-26 Budget Message](#)

[Five Year Comparison as of May 29, 2025](#)

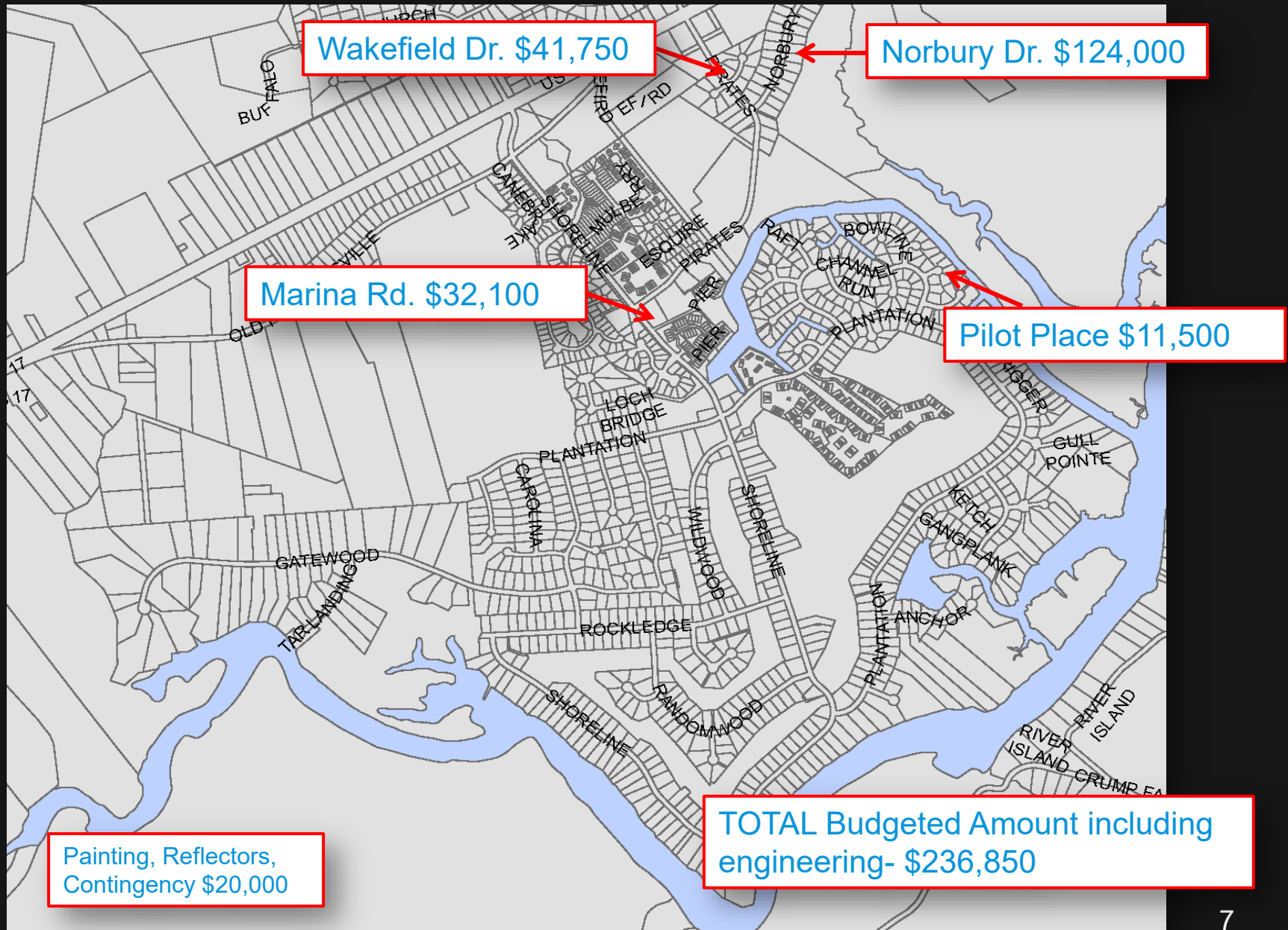


Town of River Bend, NC  
45 Shoreline Dr

## General Fund Summary

- Represents a 9.6% increase in spending over FY25 (+\$236,693)
- **Increases tax rate to 28¢ (+4¢) and creates new \$10 vehicle fee**
- Maintains all current programs and services
- First full year of funding for 1 additional FT employee in PW
- Includes CIP funding of \$152,000 (+\$65,243 vs. in FY25)
- Contains no funding for LESA
- Provides 2.8% COLA for all employees, plus 1% longevity (standard)
- Provides \$229,350 for street paving program (+\$68,096 vs. FY25)
- Maintains conservative revenue estimates
- Includes \$50,000 discretionary funding, \$94,000 for 2 vehicles, \$42,000 for stormwater projects, and more
- Includes \$201,350 appropriation from fund balance (-\$123,805 or -38% vs. FY25)
- Projects a fund balance of 86% (which is over \$1,700,000) at year end FY26
- Establishes new \$40,000 funding for future P&R projects in CIP and establishes funding line for future street projects beginning in FY26-27

# Street Maintenance

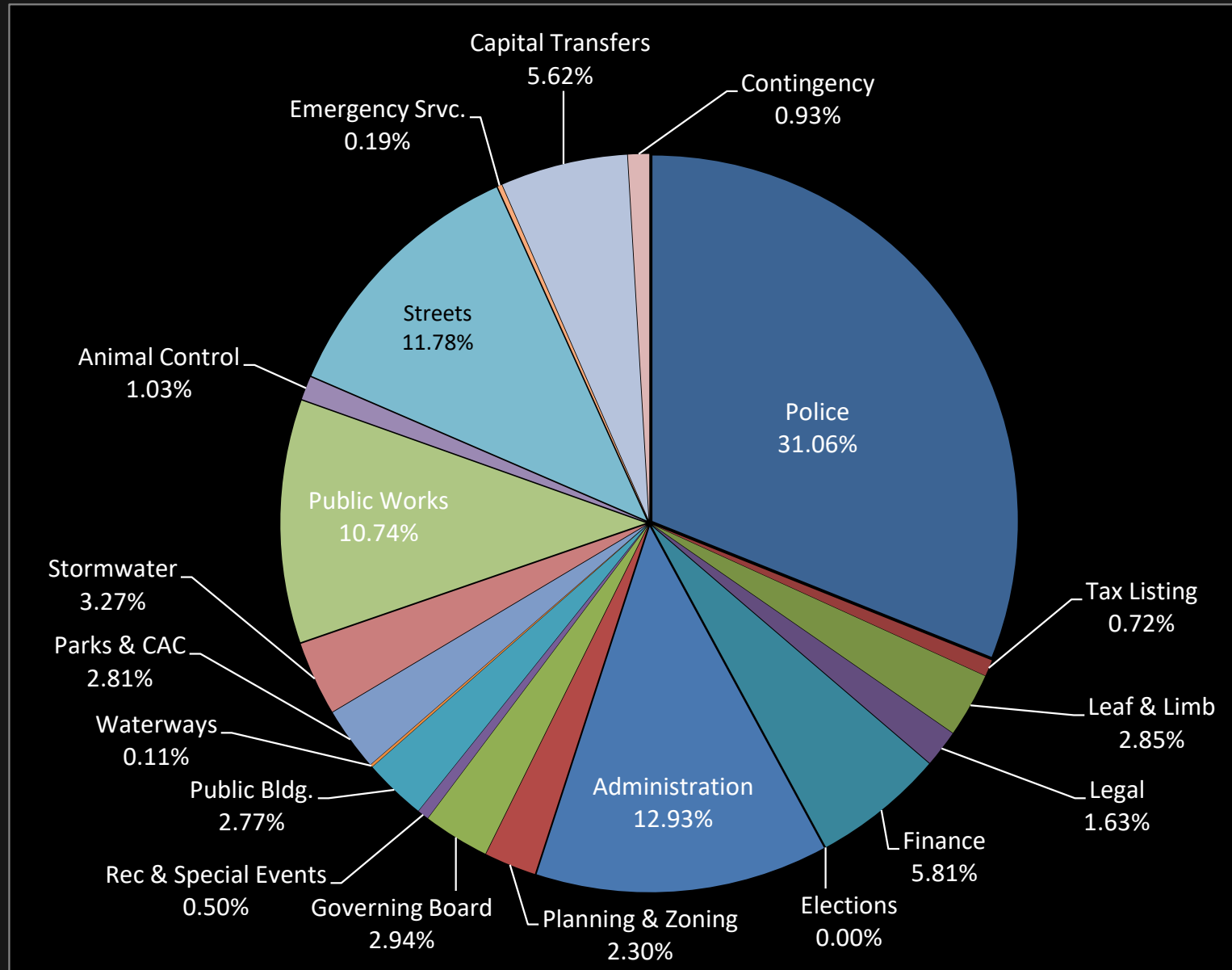


# General Fund Expenditure Summary

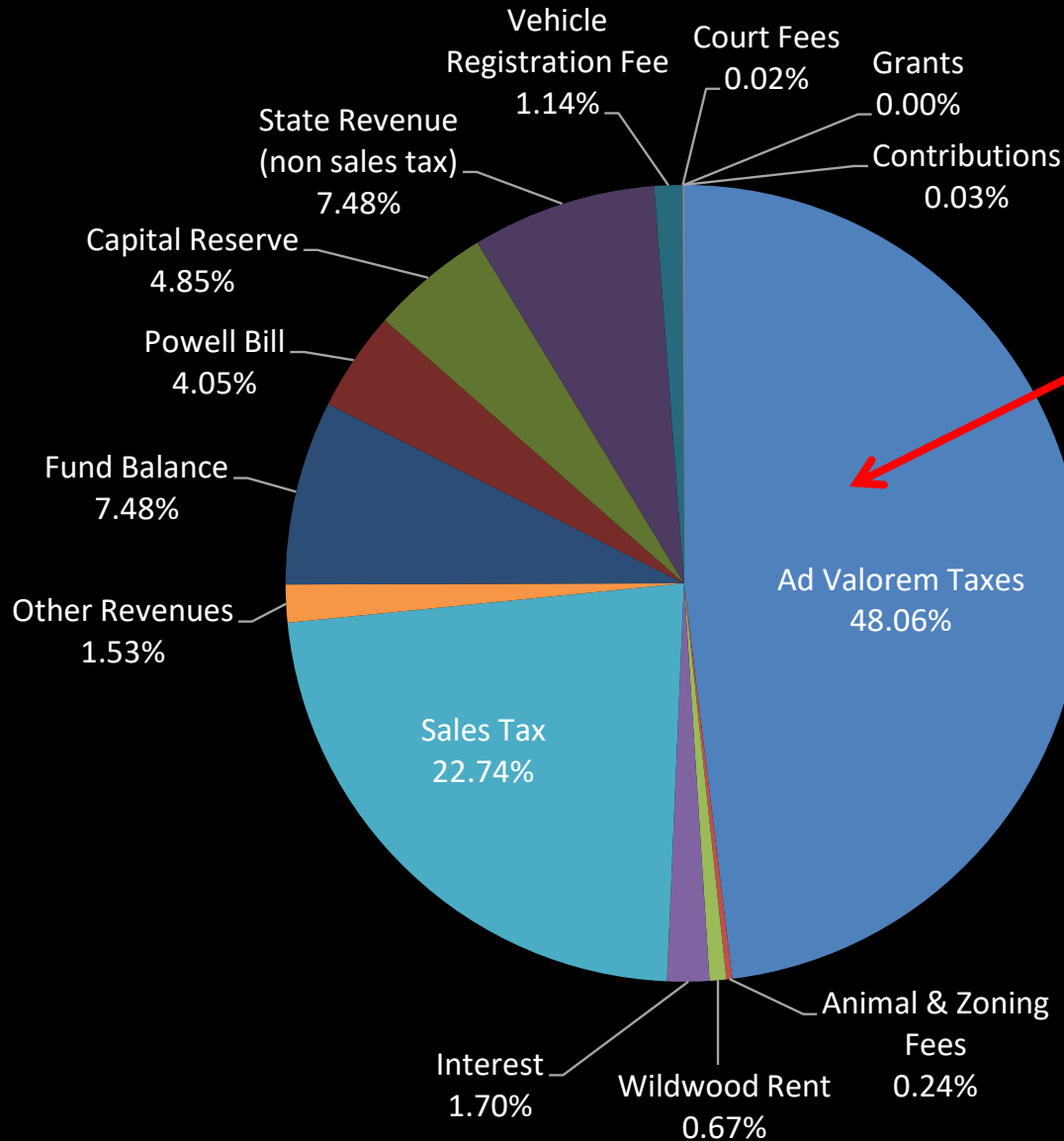
General Fund Expenditure Summary				Change v. prior year		
	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	%	\$
Department Name	Actual	Actual	Current Budget	Proposed		
Governing Body	25,534	25,980	69,500	79,200	13.96%	9,700
Administration	288,649	321,476	331,200	348,000	5.07%	16,800
Finance*	127,789	134,093	148,972	156,500	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



# General Fund Expenditure Summary

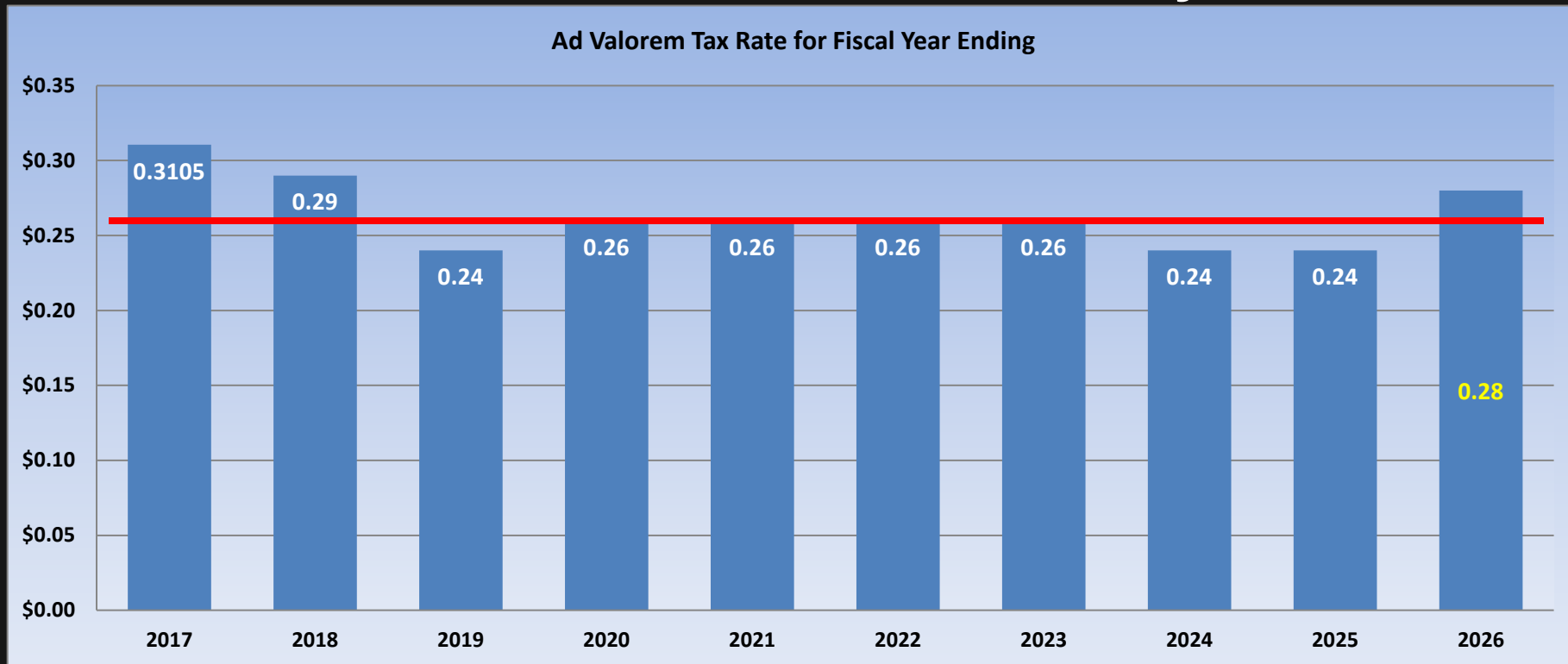


# General Fund Revenue Summary



Note that less than 1/2 of our revenue stream comes from ad valorem tax.

# General Fund Revenue Summary



This chart shows the 10-year tax rate history in River Bend. The red line represents the average tax rate over that period, which is 26.4¢

Current Average Tax Rate in Craven County is 39.3¢

# General Fund Revenue Summary

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>

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.

# Enterprise Funds

These funds operate as a business by having all revenues and expenditures accounted for separately from other functions and by having user fees established to fund the cost of operations. Tax revenue does not support these operations.

➤ Water Fund

➤ Sewer Fund

# Water – System “Snapshot”

Three groundwater wells with a combined capacity of 925,000 gallons per day.

Two elevated storage tanks with a combined capacity of 400,000 gallons.

In FY 2024 we treated 122,955,000 gallons of water (average of 335,937 gallons per day).

Water is transmitted to 1,489 current users (meters) through 19 miles of pipe ranging in size from 2 to 8 inches in diameter.

There are 109 hydrants located throughout the system in order to give the fire department ample access to water for their work.





# Sewer – System “Snapshot”

Currently serving 977 users.

Transmitted via approximately 11 miles gravity and force main pipes.

Eight lift stations pressurize portions of the system so the waste is efficiently moved to our treatment facility on Gull Pointe Drive.

Treatment plant permitted capacity of 330,000 gallons per day and discharges treated effluent to the Trent River.

In FY 2024, we treated 37,370,000 gallons of wastewater (average of 102,096 gallons per day or 31% of capacity).



# Enterprise Fund Summary

- Represents an overall 4.93% increase in spending over last year (+\$70,188)
- No fee or rate increase
- Maintains all current programs and services
- Funds all employee compensation costs as discussed in General Fund
- Provides funding for \$249,100 for debt service
- Includes \$30,961 for water tank maintenance contract
- Includes \$111,651 of appropriated fund balance in water (-28% vs. budgeted in FY25)
- Includes \$10,200 funding for equipment purchase
- Includes \$94,606 of appropriated fund balance in Sewer Fund (+62% vs. budgeted in FY25)
- Includes \$50,000 in CIP funding for water line extension and lift station upgrade



# Comparison of water and sewer funds current vs. proposed

These figures include transfers to capital reserves

	Current	Proposed	Change %	Change \$	Bond Debt Service
<b>Water</b>	\$716,406	\$708,500	-1.10%	-\$7,906	\$133,671
<b>Sewer</b>	\$706,406	\$784,500	11.06%	\$78,094	\$115,429
<b>Total</b>	\$1,422,812	\$1,493,000	4.93%	\$70,188	\$249,100

# Enterprise Fund Debt



For every dollar proposed to be spent in the Enterprise Fund, about 17¢ goes toward retirement of bond debt for the purchase of the water and sewer systems. In addition to the bond debt, the water fund also has \$5,750 in debt service for the 0% loan associated with the water meter replacement project. This will be year 3 of 20 for that debt.

## Debt as a Percentage of Total Expense in FY 25-26

**Water = 19% ( \$133,671 )**

**Sewer = 15% ( \$115,429 )**

**TOTAL \$249,100**

**Both mature in 2027**

Current Rates		
<b>Water</b>		
	Customer	\$4.80
	Demand	\$10.44
	Use(0-4,000 gallons)	\$4.22
	4,001-20,000	\$4.50
	20,001+	\$4.55
<b>Sewer</b>		
	Customer	\$7.35
	Demand	\$16.83
	Use	\$9.30
<b>Charges for 3,000 gallons usage</b>		
<b>Water</b>		
	Base	\$15.24
	Use	\$12.66
<b>Sewer</b>		
	Base	\$24.18
	Use	\$27.90
<b>Monthly</b>		<b>\$79.98</b>
<b>Per-Bill</b>	<b>( two months)</b>	<b>\$159.96</b>
<b>Charge for various gallons usage per month for water and sewer combined</b>		
	0	\$39.42
	1,000	\$52.94
	2,000	\$66.46
	4,000	\$93.50
	5,000	\$107.30

No changes to water or sewer rates.  
Average water use in 2024 was 3,225 gallons per customer per month.

Assessed Value	Annual Bill at 0.28
95,000	\$266
125,000	\$350
246,722 *	\$691
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

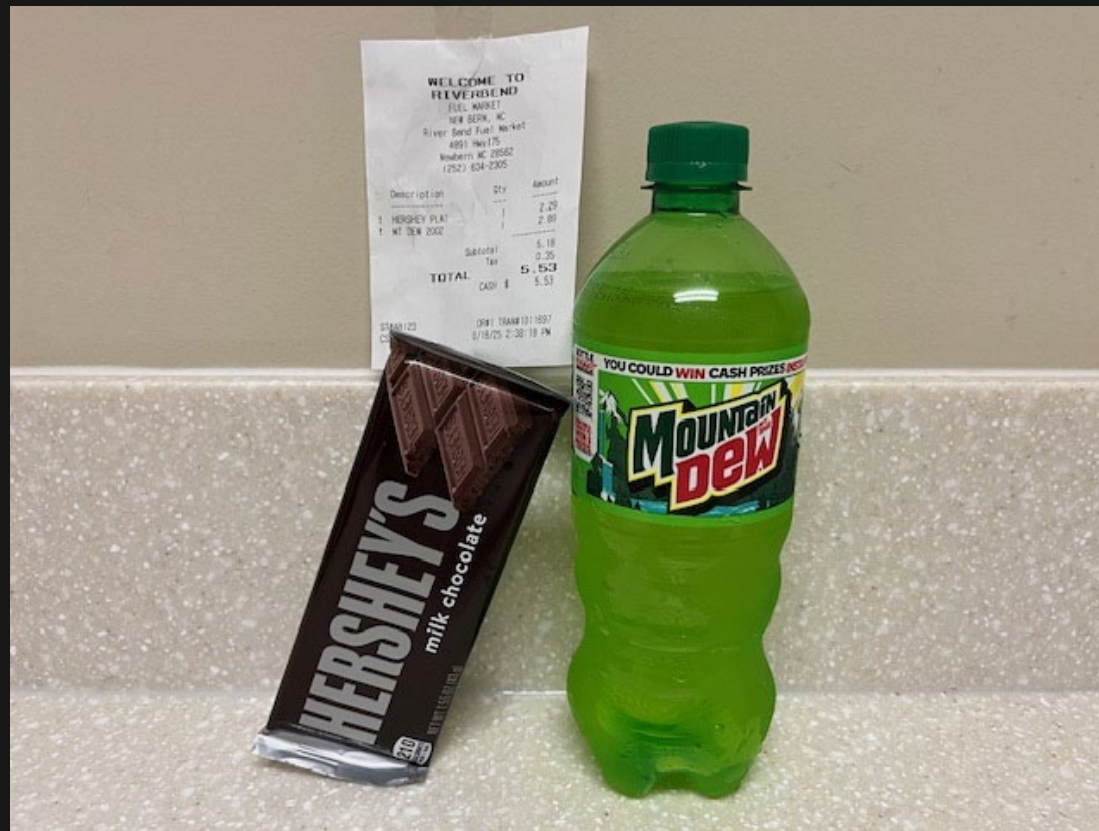
Q.- On average, what does it cost per day for water, sewer and property taxes in River Bend ?

A.- On average, for \$4.52 per day you receive water, sewer, police, animal control, planning, parks, street lights, street maintenance, leaf & limb removal, and many other services (AKA-the essentials)

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	17.52%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,651</b>	<b>\$ 1,548</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>6.65%</b>
Average Per Day Cost for water/sewer/tax	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.24	\$ 0.28	6.60%

\* Average home value in River Bend

For comparison, the tasty, yet non-essential items shown below were purchased at the River Bend Fuel Market yesterday at a cost of \$5.53, which is \$1.01 more than the per day cost for water, sewer and property taxes for the average homeowner/utility customer in River Bend.



# Summary

General Fund	\$2,692,000
Water Fund	\$ 708,500
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 784,501</u>

Operating Budget \$4,185,000

*In addition to these three major operating funds, the town also has four minor funds, which we operate for accounting purposes. For FY26 they total \$205,684 which bring the Grand Total Budget to \$4,390,684.*

## Closing Remarks

- The budget process in River Bend is an open, public, transparent and team effort.
- Thanks to the entire staff, Mayor and Town Council for their role in this process.
- Thanks also to the members of the public who attended the budget work sessions this year. We had discussion, debate and a few laughs along the way.
- This was my 27<sup>th</sup> municipal budget in North Carolina and I can honesty say that it was my most recent.