



Town of River Bend Fiscal Year 2026-27



January 15, 2026

Town of River Bend

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Budget Kick-Off

AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks from Mayor
2. Remarks from Manager/Budget Officer
3. Discussion of Vision Statement-Priorities
4. Discussion of Budget Workshop Schedule & Budget Calendar (expedited as we did last year)
5. Preview Proposed Workshop Agendas
6. Preview Budget Brochure
7. Comments from Council

Comments From Mayor- Mark Bledsoe



January 14, 2026

All,

The Council's work in developing the annual budget is likely the most important work that the Council performs on an annual basis. It impacts all areas of the town's operations. The development of the budget under the Council-Manager form of government has specific direction in the North Carolina General Statutes. Following that direction, the Manager is designated as the Budget Officer. In that role, he is responsible for preparing a proposed budget and presenting it to the Council for consideration and revision as they may direct, in accordance with the North Carolina Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

Before its adoption, the Council must hold a public hearing on the proposed budget. That hearing is tentatively scheduled for the June 11th work session. The tentative schedule is to vote on the adoption of the FY 2026-2027 budget at the June 18th Council Meeting. This approach meets all of the mandates of the General Statutes. This process has worked well for many years, and I recommend that we follow it again this year.

Mark Bledsoe,
Mayor

Comments from Town Manager/Budget Officer



This will be my 28th municipal budget overall, and my 12th in River Bend. Budgets are predictions and are subject to change, especially as long as the General Assembly is in session.

All of these are components of our budget process



Financial and Budgetary Policies

Town of River Bend, NC Financial and Budgetary Policies



Effective May 17, 2018

I. Introduction

The Town of River Bend maintains comprehensive financial policies covering a broad range of the elements of the Town's financial plans and financial systems that underlay the management of overall financial resources. These policies have major objectives to be achieved that include:

1. To link long-term financial planning with short-term daily operations and decision-making.
2. To maintain and improve the Town's financial position.
3. To maintain and improve the Town's credit ratings by meeting or exceeding the requirements of rating agencies through sound financial policies.
4. To maintain and increase investor confidence in the Town and to provide credibility to the citizens of the Town regarding financial operations.
5. To comply with the North Carolina Budget and Fiscal Control Act and the policies of the North Carolina Local Government Commission (the "LGC").
6. To effectively conduct asset-liability management of the Town's balance sheet.

II. Operating Budget

1. The Town's Annual Budget Ordinance will be balanced in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (G.S. 159-8(a)).
2. The Town's Annual Budget Ordinance will be adopted, by fund and department, by each July 1 (G.S. 159-13(a)).
3. In order to force a higher level of planning throughout all levels of Town government, the annual budget process will focus on future needs through a Capital Improvements Plan, as discussed later in this document.
4. The annual budget process will consist of a series of public meetings where Council and staff discuss needs in relation to the Town's mission statement, and Council's adopted priorities.

III. Revenue Policy

1. Ad Valorem Tax – As provided by the North Carolina Budget and Fiscal Control Act, estimated revenue from the Ad Valorem Tax levy will be budgeted as follows:

Assessed valuation will be provided by the Craven County Tax Assessor

Some North Carolina Law Concerning Budget Preparation

Manager's Role

NCGS 160A-148 Powers and Duties of Manager

(5) He shall prepare and submit the annual budget and capital program to the Council

159-11 Budget and Fiscal Control Act

(a)..... the budget shall be balanced.

(b) The budget, together with a budget message, shall be submitted to the governing board no later than June 1.

Council's Role

159-13

(a) Not earlier than 10 days after the day the budget is presented to the board and not later than July 1, the governing board shall adopt a budget ordinance making appropriations and levying taxes for the budget year in such sums as the board may consider sufficient and proper, whether greater or less than the sums recommended in the budget.

Town of River Bend

Mayor and Town Council Priorities as approved for Fiscal Year 2025-26

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.

Continue to cooperate regionally and with other municipalities and, where appropriate, share ideas and resources.

Continue to work with advisory boards as a means to encourage citizen participation in Town government.

Continue to be good stewards of the natural environment through planned stormwater and floodplain management efforts.

Our Vision Statement

River Bend is a dynamic and uniquely located waterfront and golfing community well prepared to benefit from the area's historical and natural resources. By protecting its assets and actively fostering a diverse multi-aged population, the River Bend community will continue to be a safe, attractive place to live and will be competitively positioned to participate in the broader area's economic and population growth.

Continue to employ sound fiscal management practices to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Town.

Continue to operate wastewater treatment facilities to maintain regulatory compliance and serve the current and future needs of the Town.

Provide a safe, dynamic, and attractive community for people of all ages, and continue to address the changing demographic composition of the Town.

Maintain a visionary posture, acknowledging that change is inevitable.

Continue to conduct the business of the Town with complete transparency and integrity.

Provide safe drinking water and quality treatment of wastewater through sound maintenance of the current systems and continued prudent fiscal management of the utilities.

Proposed Budget Workshop Calendar

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 	29	30 	1	2

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 	13	14 	15	16
17	18	19 	20	21 	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

 = NCLM Conference in Raleigh (May 5-7)

 = scheduled workshop date

 = extra workshop date if necessary

Other Important Proposed Budget Dates

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

www.CrabCalendar.com

These dates are subject to change, but the budget must be adopted by July 1

May 29- Budget Message & Proposed Budget Released

June 11 - Public Hearing on Budget

JUNE 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	
28	29	30				4

June 18- Budget Adoption

Proposed Agenda Items

APRIL 28, 2026

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

- Pay Plan Review
- Retirement / 401K / LESA
- Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

LABOR ALLOCATIONS AMONG DEPARTMENTS & FUNDS

- Staffing Projections
- Allocation Table

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

- General Fund
- Vehicle Replacement Plan
- Information Technology Replacement Plan

ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND FUEL PRICES

GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTS

GOVERNING BODY

- Association Dues, Training, Contributions

ADMINISTRATION

- Property and Liability Insurance, Training, Association Dues

FINANCE

- Information Technology

TAX LISTING

- County Provided Services, Collection Projections, Fees

LEGAL SERVICES

- Attorney

ELECTIONS

STREET MAINTENANCE

- Roadway Improvement Plan

STORM WATER MAINTENANCE

- Prioritized Drainage Concerns
- Scheduled Maintenance

PUBLIC WORKS

- Capital Outlay

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

- Building Maintenance

APRIL 30, 2026

GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTS CONTINUED

POLICE

- Community Watch, Fuel, LESA, Capital Outlay

RECREATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- July 4th Plans, Recreation Programs

PARKS AND CAC

- Parks, Community Appearance Commission Projects

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Contingency Funding

ANIMAL CONTROL

WETLANDS & WATERWAYS

- Pond and Canal Maintenance
- Environment and Waterways Advisory Board

LEAF & LIMB AND SOLID WASTE

- Contract Costs

PLANNING AND ZONING

GENERAL FUND—REVENUE/ EXPENSE

GENERAL FUND—FUND BALANCE

MAY 12, 2026

ENTERPRISE FUND DEPARTMENTS

WATER AND SEWER FUND CASH LEVELS

- Debt Service
- Capital Reserve Funds
- Capital Improvement Plan/ Water and Sewer

WATER FUND DEPARTMENTS

- Administration
- Water Supply & Treatment
- Water Distribution

SEWER FUND DEPARTMENTS

- Administration
- Sewer Collection
- Sewer Treatment

UTILITY FINANCIAL MODEL

- Rate History
- Consumption Trends
- Revenue & Expense—Cash Balances
- Rate Scenarios

WATER AND SEWER— REVENUE/EXPENSE

MAY 14 2026

TAX RATES, UTILITY RATES AND OTHER FEES

- Ad Valorem Tax Rate
- Utility Rates and Fees
- Schedule of Rates and Fees

MAY 19, 2026

MEET IF NECESSARY

MAY 21, 2026

OVERVIEW

DRAFT-BUDGET MESSAGE, ORDINANCE and SCHEDULE OF FEES

The proposed topics shown in this schedule does not represent an all-inclusive, exact list of topics for those dates and departments. These are proposed topics. Some of them may be omitted, while other topics and/or items related to those departments may be added for discussion. A time for public comment, as designated by Council, will be included in each session.



Revised 12/25

Proposed Budget Brochure

Our Budget Preparation Process

The Town of River Bend employs an open and transparent budget development process that allows for significant participation from elected officials, advisory boards, staff, and the public. This tentative schedule of budget workshops outlines the dates of these sessions and the proposed topics to be discussed during each session.

While the Town Council and staff do their best to adhere to the printed schedule, there are times when deviation is necessary in order to accommodate adequate discussion of items scheduled for consideration. Therefore, if time or information does not allow for complete discussion of a scheduled item, that item may be taken up at the beginning of the next session.

The Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Public Hearing is tentatively set for Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Documents pertaining to the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget preparation will be posted on the Town's webpage prior to each budget workshop. All budget related documents shall remain as draft and are subject to change until the Budget Ordinance is officially adopted by the Town Council.

Mayor and Town Council

Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026-27

"It's all about resources"

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.

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.

Continue to operate wastewater treatment facilities to maintain regulatory compliance and serve the current and future needs of the Town.

Continue to work with advisory boards as a means to encourage citizen participation in Town government.

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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.

Continue to employ sound fiscal management practices to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Town.

Maintain a visionary posture, acknowledging that change is inevitable.

Town of River Bend



Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Preparation Workshops

All Budget Workshops will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Dates & times are tentative and may change if necessary.

**Town of River Bend
45 Shoreline Drive
River Bend, NC 28562
252-638-3870**

On the Internet at: www.riverbendnc.org

Notable On-Going & Potential Projects

On-Going

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Water Treatment Plant (P/D)

Water Wells (P/D)

Water AIA

Sewer AIA

Stormwater AIA

Kirkland Creek Subdivision (P/D)

(P/D)= planning/development

Potential

Kirkland Creek Construction

Pickleball Court Construction

Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase II

Stormwater Engineering

Test Wells Construction

Some of these are multi-year and/or multi-million-dollar projects (aka: time consuming/demanding, cash flow concerns)

Public Comments



Mayor & Council Comments



Town of River Bend

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Kick Off



All budget work sessions are open to the public and allow opportunity for public input. Come join us!

KEEP
CALM
AND
COME TO THE
MEETING