

Town of River Bend



Fiscal Year 2021-2022

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

Fiscal Year 2021-2022
Annual Budget Message
And
Operating Budget Ordinance

Mayor

John Kirkland

Town Council

Don Fogle
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Morris "Buddy" Sheffield
Irving "Bud" Van Slyke, Jr.*

*also serves as Finance Officer and Mayor Pro Tempore

Prepared By:

Town Manager

Delane Jackson

Finance Department Staff

Margaret Theis
Mandy Gilbert

Budget Message

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

May 21, 2021

Pursuant to Section 159-11 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the Town of River Bend's proposed budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 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 21, 2021:

1. Provide a safe, dynamic, and attractive community for people of all ages, and continue to address the changing demographic composition of the Town.
2. 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.

These goals provide the foundation upon which the budget is built. Over the course of four budget workshops in May, 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 surrounding COVID-19 continued to impact the budget process. On March 10, 2020 Governor Roy Cooper declared a State of Emergency for North Carolina due to COVID-19. Subsequent Executive Orders from the Governor created many guidelines including limits on gatherings of people. One year later, many COVID-related limits continue. The nation-wide economic calamity caused by COVID-19 in 2020 continued to cause uncertainty for the fiscal year 2021-22 budget development process but in a much lower degree compared to last year. As of today, it is still unknown the severity or length of time COVID-19 will be impacting our town, state and nation but the outlook is much brighter now and the nation is recovering. Fortunately, from

a budgetary prospective, our local government has nearly fully recovered from Hurricane Florence. As expected, our property value has recovered from the decreases attributable to Hurricane Florence and are now higher than pre-Florence levels. I am estimating a property value increase of \$4,500,000 over last year. 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 lingering impacts from COVID-19, I am recommending no change in the tax rate and no changes to the residential water or sewer rates. The proposed tax rate is 26¢.

The annual budget process is influenced by external factors including the condition of the national, state, and local economies, the emergent and pre-emergent 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	\$ 1,891,341
Water Fund	\$ 585,500
Sewer Fund	\$ 659,500
Total Operating Budget	\$ 3,136,341

In addition to the three operating funds noted above, the town also has four minor funds that we operate for accounting purposes. They are- Capital Reserves for the General, Water and Sewer Funds, along with a Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund. The total of these four funds is \$121,243 and they are listed separately in the budget ordinance.

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 \$1,891,341. Overall, General Fund spending decreased \$440,869 as compared to the amended FY 20-21 budget. Revenue, as required by law, is balanced with the expenditure portion of the budget. This budget contains an appropriation from fund balance of \$244,602. A total of \$76,445 of the revenue is from a previously received grant to fund the costs of two grant-funded positions. This is the final year of funding and we expect the funds to be exhausted in March, 2022. Fund balance was significantly reduced in FY 19-20 due to the Building Utilization Strategy (BUS) project. The Town Council spent a considerable amount of time discussing the fund balance projections for the future and the need to rebuild the fund balance amount.

Expenditure Highlights by Department

While not attempting to cover specifics for all of the nineteen (19) departments within the General Fund, what follows are some highlights of the more significant expenditures and programs being proposed for FY 21-22. This year's proposed budget keeps capital spending at a relatively low level of \$107,000 following capital spending of only \$60,000 during the FY 20-21 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. These funds, Powell Bill by name, are appropriated by and are 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 \$122,000 to follow the plan developed by our engineer to maintain the integrity of our roadways. The total amount we expect to pay for contracted paving services is above the amount we expect to receive in Powell Bill funds; therefore, local revenue will be utilized to complete these projects.

Stormwater: Typically, we allocate \$30,000 of funding within the stormwater Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). During FY 20-21 we completed a sizeable drainage project in the Channel Run area, which was largely funded by FEMA but required nearly \$64,000 in local funds. Therefore, we have budgeted \$15,000 for the stormwater CIP and have no specific project identified. However, the Town Council recently took on the maintenance responsibility for the swales within the town's streets and this budget includes \$75,000 in funding for equipment to meet that responsibility.

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. Last year, the town's BUS project was completed. It included the construction of a new Municipal Building to house the Police Department and multi-purpose rooms for various community activities and renovations at Town Hall. The total project costs were \$1,300,000.

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. There are no major projects anticipated in Public Works this year.

Parks and Recreation: The budget being presented includes continued funding for our Parks and Recreation programs. In 2020, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board plans for special events throughout the year, the largest of which is the annual 4th of July parade and picnic were cancelled due to COVID. Hopefully, the normal activities will return during the FY 21-22 year. 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 six full-time and multiple part-time officers, vehicle maintenance, uniforms, fuel, equipment, Community Watch and more. We provide 24/7/365 police presence within the Town. The Police Department's budget of \$565,000 is the largest in the General Fund, representing 32% of General Fund expenditures.

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. The tax rate of 26¢ will remain in place for FY 21-22.

Requested projects and expenditures were kept to a minimum in order to develop a balanced budget. The revenues from some of the transfers are budgeted to be allocated in various CIPs and the Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund in the General Fund in order to provide more long-term stability to those plans.

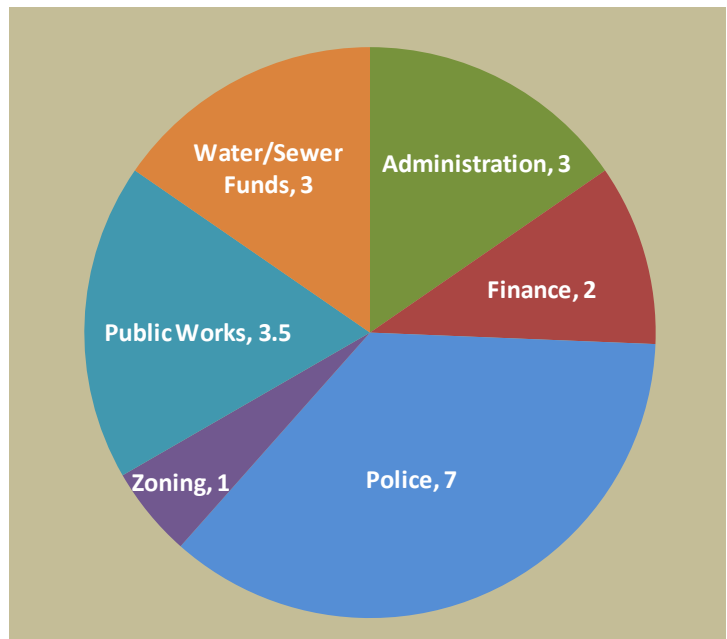
Recovery Grant: This is a temporary department which is being funded by a \$300,000 grant from the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency. The grant provided most, but not all, of the funding to hire two new employees and purchase a new vehicle during FY 19-20. The grant is for a 3-year period. FY 21-22 will be the last year for funding expenses associated with the grant.

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 do 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 112 towns in our group. The LGC compares the per capita expenditure for six functions for each town. Those six functions are: Utility, Debt Service, Transportation, General Government, Public Safety and Other. The 2020 data, (the most recent data from the LGC) is shown in the chart below.

Function	Average Per Capita Expenditure of Group	River Bend Per Capita Expenditure
Public Safety	\$443	\$240
Transportation	\$135	\$101
General Government	\$274	\$454
Utility	\$350	\$259
Debt Service	\$153	\$91
Other	\$310	\$386

One of the largest expenditures for River Bend and for most localities is the cost of personnel. Our professional staff allows the Town to continue to provide quality service to our residents. Excluding 2 grant funded positions, we currently have 18 full-time employees and 3 part-time employees, or 19.5 full time equivalents. Our projections indicate no need for additional staffing for at least the next five years. Our total personnel costs account for 45.52% of the combined operating budgets of the General and Enterprise Funds. This chart shows the number of full-time 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 thoroughly examined as this budget was prepared. A detailed allocation table was provided during the budget workshops.



Through operational efficiencies in the utilization of personnel, leveraging technology to mitigate staffing increases, receiving countless 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 2020 data from the North Carolina Local Government Commission, River Bend's per capita expenditure for personnel was \$350, which is \$93 less than the \$443 average of our peer group.

This budget, following the guidance of the Council, by their continued support of our compensation plan, includes a 1.4% cost of living allowance. There is also a 1% longevity increase 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

Fortunately, COVID-19 did not have the negative impact that we expected on the local and state economy. Revenues from local sales tax grew during FY21. We expect that trend to continue during FY22. General Fund revenues are budgeted at \$1,891,341, a 0.61% increase compared to projected revenue in the current budget. Fund Balance appropriation in the General Fund is \$244,602, which is a substantial reduction compared to last year's approved amount of \$446,048. However, a large portion of this reduction is attributable to one-time grants received in FY21.

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 generates \$796,963 or only 42.14% of the revenue for our General Fund in FY22. Of that amount, \$83,200 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 26¢, which is unchanged from last year. The property value is expected to increase by \$4,500,000 due mainly to continued recovery from Hurricane Florence.

According to the North Carolina Local Government Commission, the average effective tax rate among all reporting municipal governments in North Carolina as of June 30, 2019 (the latest available data) was \$0.4109 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 21-22, we have budgeted for a collection rate of 98.39%.

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.

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 master street maintenance plan.

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. The benchmark for fund balance that the LGC uses is 8% of total expenditures. If a unit falls below that level, the LGC may express concern to the unit and direct action to increase the balance. Due to the \$1,300,000 costs associated with the BUS project, we ended FY20 with a fund balance of \$1,784,997 or approximately 48%. The policy set by the Town Council is to maintain a fund balance of at least 50% of total expenditures. We project that fund balance will rebound by the end of FY21-22 to a level of approximately 55%. According to June 30, 2019 LGC data, the average fund balance for our peer group was \$3,790,377, or 77.89%. The fund balance for River Bend for that same period was \$3,057,034 or 206.76%. While, at that time, our fund balance percentage was considerably higher than our peer group average, our fund balance dollar amount was about \$733,000 below our peer group average. 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."

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.

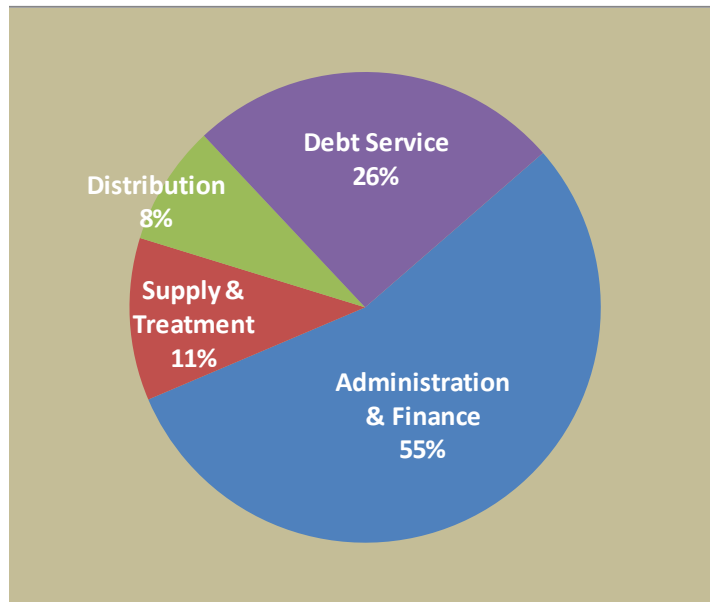
In FY2013, we refinanced the debt in order to take advantage of interest rates that were more favorable than we had in our prior debt structure. The result of this effort was a savings of nearly \$300,000 over the remaining life of the debt. In the process of this bond refunding we received an upgrade in our Standard & Poor's rating to AA- (subsequently

upgraded again in November of 2013 to AA+), and a Moody's A1 stable rating. 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 FY21-22 is \$582,000, a decrease of \$28,134 or 4.61% from the current 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.

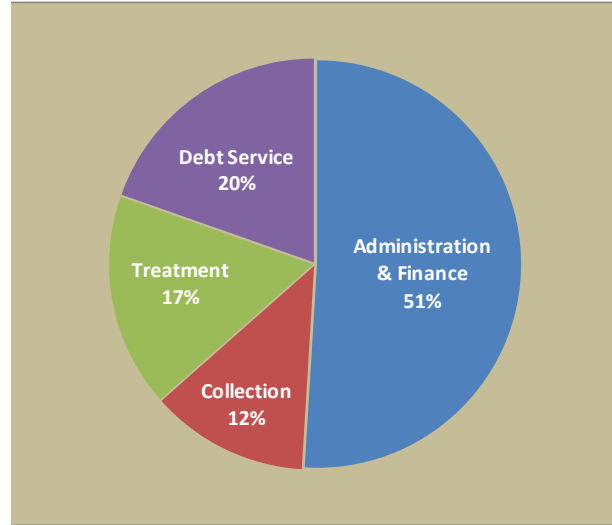
	Water	20-21	21-22	Change v. prior year	
		Budget	Proposed	%	\$
60-7125	Administration & Finance	447,734	469,000	4.75%	21,266
60-7132	Supply & Treatment	75,000	65,000	-13.33%	-10,000
60-7134	Distribution	87,400	48,000	-45.08%	-39,400
	TOTAL (less transfer and contingency)	610,134	582,000	-4.61%	-28,134

The chart above does not include transfers, which in the Water Fund this year, are \$3,500 into the CIP for future vehicle purchases. Including transfers, the total Water Fund expenditures for FY22 are \$585,500 as noted on page 3.

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.

Excluding, transfers, the total budgeted expenditure for the sewer enterprise in FY21-22 is \$656,000, a \$9,516 or 1.47% increase from the current fiscal year. The graph to the right, 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		20-21	21-22	Change v. prior year	
		Budget	Proposed	%	\$
61-7125	Administration & Finance	442,884	463,000	4.54%	20,116
61-7142	Collection	91,600	82,000	-10.48%	-9,600
61-7144	Treatment	112,000	111,000	-0.89%	-1,000
TOTAL(Less transfers & contingency)		646,484	656,000	1.47%	9,516

The chart above does not include transfers, which in the Sewer Fund this year, are \$3,500 into the CIP for future vehicle purchases. Including transfers, the total Sewer Fund expenditures for FY22 are \$659,500, as noted on page 3.

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, except for Class 9 customers, the water utility rates will not change for FY 21-22. The cash balance in this utility is sufficient to respond to many unknown conditions, and there are no currently identified long-term capital needs that require the continued building of cash reserves.

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 21-22. The current rate structure, combined with conservative expenditures, will allow the utilities to maintain an adequate level of reserves to respond to emergent needs if they arise during the year and for the next few years. 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 avoid any large increase in rates and fees. The budget being presented for your consideration accomplishes these goals. Each year we are faced with different challenges and opportunities. Last year, it was the on-going recovery from Hurricane Florence, the impact of BUS on the town's budget, plus the COVID-19 Pandemic. While Hurricane Florence and BUS projects are basically complete, there are still unknowns related to the effects of COVID-19 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 21-22 budget, specifically related to rebuilding the 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 recovering but still uncertain economy. National, state and local economies that were growing prior to COVID-19, are once again showing signs of increasing recovery. Town Council members accept their responsibility with great conviction and sincerity and strive to be well informed and engaged 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 contribution of Margaret Theis and Mandy Gilbert, of our Finance Department, 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Delane Jackson,
Town Manager

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, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022:

Summary

General Fund	1,891,341
General Capital Reserve Fund	107,187
Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund	13,545
Water Fund	585,500
Water Capital Reserve Fund	489
Sewer Fund	659,500
Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	<u>22</u>
Total	3,257,584

Section 1. General Fund

Anticipated Revenues

AD VALOREM Taxes 2021-2022	711,163
AD VALOREM Tax-Motor Vehicle	85,800
Animal Licenses	2,000
Sales Tax 1% Article 39	149,718
Sales Tax 1/2% Article 40	87,158
Sales Tax 1/2% Article 42	74,932
Sales Tax Article 44 105-524	10,235
Sales Tax Hold Harmless Distribution	86,068
Solid Waste Disposal Tax	2,200
Powell Bill Allocation	76,800
Beer and Wine Tax	13,225
Video Programming Sales Tax	53,600
Utilities Franchise Tax	111,000
Telecommunications Sales Tax	9,900
Court Refunds	500
Zoning Permits	5,000
Recovery Grant NCORR-FDLG-004	76,445
Miscellaneous	10,000
Interest-NCORR-FDLG-004 Investments	30
Interest- Powell Bill Investments	50
Interest-Gen Investments	500
Contributions	421
Wildwood Storage Rents	18,144
Rents & Concessions	18,000
Transfer From Capital Reserve Fund	43,850
Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>244,602</u>
Total	1,891,341

Town of River Bend, North Carolina
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Section 1. **General Fund (continued)**

Authorized Expenditures

Governing Body	32,000
Administration	262,000
Finance	129,000
Tax Listing	11,200
Legal Services	24,000
Elections	3,500
Police	551,500
Public Buildings	107,000
Emergency Services	4,000
Animal Control	11,000
Street Maintenance	191,000
Public Works	161,000
Leaf & Limb and Solid Waste	44,000
Stormwater Management	42,000
Wetlands and Waterways	3,000
Planning & Zoning	50,000
Recovery Grant NCORR-FDLG-004	76,475
Recreation & Special Events	7,500
Parks & Community Appearance	43,000
Contingency	17,667
Transfer To General Capital Reserve Fund	107,000
Transfer To L.E.S.A. Fund	13,500
Total	1,891,341

Section 2. **General Capital Reserve Fund**

Anticipated Revenues

Contributions from General Fund	107,000
Interest Revenue	187
Total	107,187

Authorized Expenditures

Transfer to General Fund	43,850
Future Procurement	63,337
	107,187

Town of River Bend, North Carolina
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Section 3. Law Enforcement Separation Allowance Fund

Anticipated Revenues:

Contributions from General Fund	13,500
Interest Revenue	45
Total	13,545

Authorized Expenditures:

Separation Allowance	1,517
Future LEOSSA Payments	12,028
Total	13,545

Section 4. Water Fund

Anticipated Revenues

Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2	199,710
Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4	8,949
Utility Usage Charges, Class 5	12,209
Utility Usage Charges, Class 8	3,586
Utility Customer Base Charges	231,472
Hydrant Availability Fee	20,496
Taps & Connections Fees	1,250
Nonpayment Fees	10,500
Late payment Fees	6,839
Interest Revenue	1,275
Sale of Capital Asset	0
Appropriated Fund Balance	89,214
Total	585,500

Authorized Expenditures

Administration & Finance [1]	469,000
Operations and Maintenance	113,000
Transfer To Fund Balance for Capital Outlay	3,500
Transfer To Water Capital Reserve Fund	0
Total	585,500

[1] Portion of department for bond debt service: 148,991

Town of River Bend, North Carolina
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Section 5. Water Capital Reserve Fund

Anticipated Revenues

Contributions From Water Operations Fund	0
Interest Revenue	489
Total	489

Authorized Expenditures

Future Expansion & Debt Service	489
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Section 6. Sewer Fund

Anticipated Revenues:

Utility Usage Charges, Classes 1 & 2	258,181
Utility Usage Charges, Classes 3 & 4	20,212
Utility Usage Charges, Class 5	27,576
Utility Usage Charges, Class 8	7,264
Utility Customer Base Charges	294,652
Taps & Connection Fees	1,250
Late payment Fees	7,902
Interest Revenue	1,919
Sale of Capital Asset	0
Appropriated Fund Balance	40,544
Total	659,500

Authorized Expenditures:

Administration & Finance [2]	463,000
Operations and Maintenance	193,000
Transfer to Fund Balance for Capital Outlay	3,500
Transfer to Sewer Capital Reserve Fund	0
Total	659,500

[2] Portion of department for bond debt service: 128,659

Section 7. Sewer Capital Reserve

Anticipated Revenues:

Contributions From Sewer Operations Fund	0
Interest Revenue	22
Total	22

Authorized Expenditures:

Future Expansion & Debt Service	22
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Section 8. Levy of Taxes

There is hereby levied a tax at the rate of twenty-six cents (\$0.26) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property as listed for taxes as of January 1, 2021, for the purpose of raising the revenue listed as "Ad Valorem Taxes 2021-2022" in the General Fund Section 1 of this ordinance. This rate is based on a valuation of \$278,000,000 for purposes of taxation of real and personal property with an estimated rate of collection of 98.39%. The estimated collection rate is based on the fiscal year 2019-2020 collection rate of 98.39% by Craven County who has been contracted to collect real and personal property taxes for the Town of River Bend. Also included is a valuation of \$33,000,000 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 2022, 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 1.4% 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.

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 2021-2022 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.

Town of River Bend
Schedule of Rates and Fees
(Attachment A to Budget Ordinance)
Effective July 1, 2021

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

Ad Valorem Tax	\$.26 per \$100 assessed valuation
Copies of Public Information	as specified by State Statute
Town Code, entire copy	\$75.00
Notary Fee	\$5.00 per signature after the first
Meeting Rooms	
Four hours or less	\$35.00
Over four hours	\$60.00
Returned Check Processing Charge	\$25, as allowed by G.S. §25-3-506
Administrative Fee for returned bank drafts	\$25.00

Public Safety

Pet License Fee	\$10.00
Town Ordinance Violation	
1st Offense	\$25.00
2nd Offense	\$50.00
3rd Offense	\$75.00
4th (and subsequent) offense	\$100.00

Ordinance permits penalties up to \$500. Penalties of this magnitude are reserved for serious infractions.

Golf Cart Registration Fee	\$10.00
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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)

Parks

Town Hall Pavilion Use

Up to 25 attendants	No charge
26 - 100 attendants	\$25
Over 100 attendants	\$50

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.

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.

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

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 th of the month
Interest Charge		1.5% monthly on outstanding balances

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Water and Sewer - Rates and Fees

	Water	Sewer
Class 1 and 2 - Residential ⁽¹⁾		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	13.24	24.18
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.02	9.08
Initial Connection (Tap) charge ⁽³⁾	1,250.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-
Class 3 and 4 - Commercial		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	72.32	141.99
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.02	9.08
Initial Connection (Tap) charge ⁽⁴⁾	3,500.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	100.00	-
Class 5 - Industrial		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	224.24	444.93
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.02	9.08
Initial Connection (Tap) charge ⁽⁴⁾	5,000.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	200.00	-
Class 6 - Early Bird (No longer available)		
Class 7 - Fire Hydrant Charge		
Availability Charge per year	183.00	-
Class 8 - 1" Water Service		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	25.90	49.43
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.02	9.08
Initial Connection (Tap) charge ⁽⁴⁾	1,500.00	1,250.00
Nonpayment Fee	100.00	-
Class 9 - Vacant /Out of Use Non-residential Property		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	13.24	24.18
Usage per 1,000 gallons	4.02	9.08
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-
Class 10 - Vacant Residences		
Customer Base Charge per month ⁽²⁾	13.24	-
Nonpayment Fee	70.00	-

Special Charges

Service Call - 2 hour minimum

\$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

Meter Testing Charge \$25 - no charge if meter defective

Special Charges (continued)

Returned Check Processing Charge \$25, as allowed by G.S. §25-3-506

Late Payment Charge 10% of amount overdue per month or part of month beginning 30 days after billing date

Irrigation Connection Inspection \$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.

(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

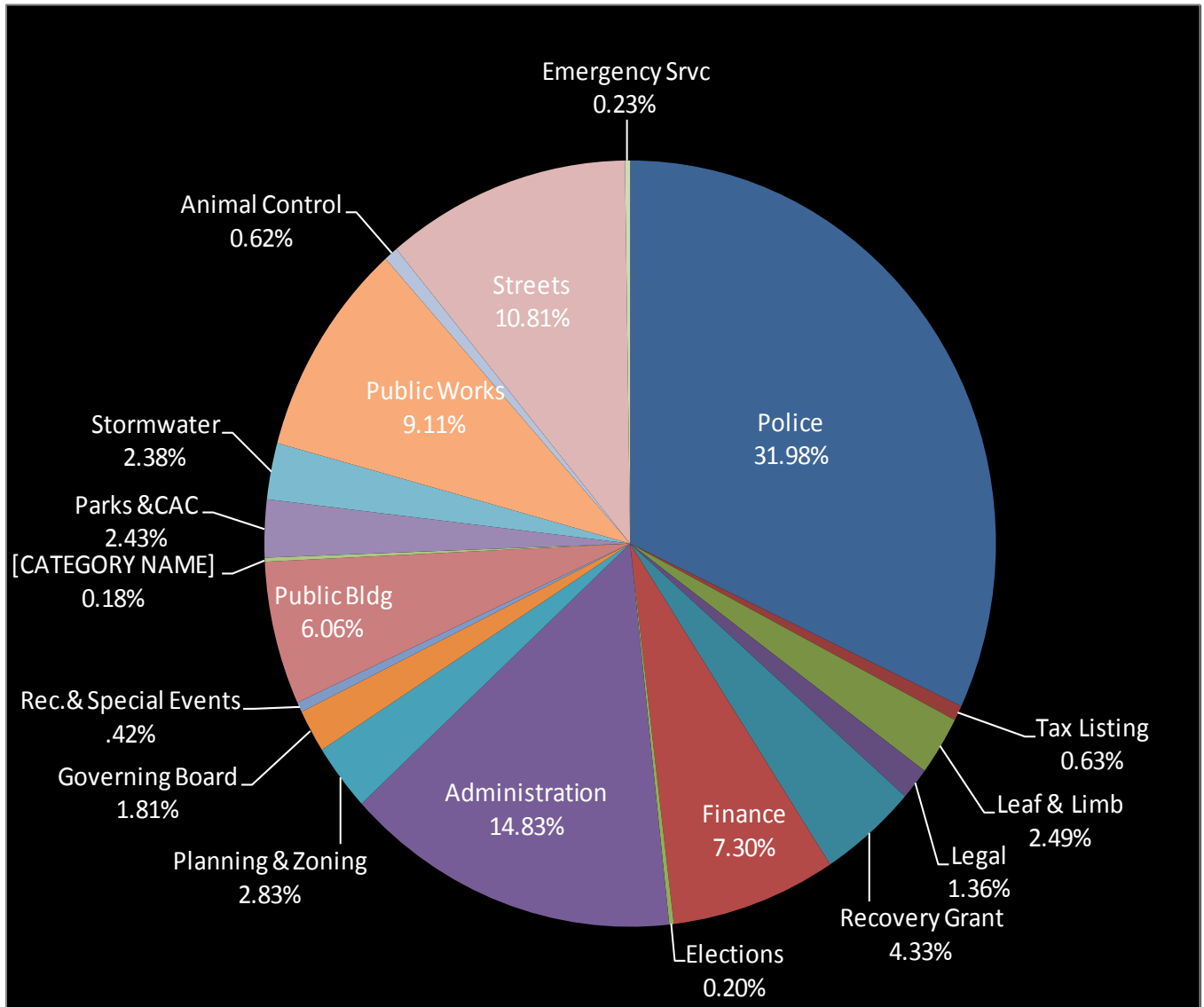
The chart shown below summarizes, by department, the actual, budgeted, projected, and proposed expenditures in the General Fund for the previous three fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the budget under consideration. This allows the reader to see how expenditures change in each of these departments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

General Fund Expenditure Summary						Change v. prior year	
		18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	%	\$
Dept #	Department Name	Actual	Actual	Current Budget	Proposed		
4110	Governing Body	21,043	21,105	28,700	32,000	11.50%	3,300
4120	Administration	242,423	243,271	268,691	262,000	-2.49%	-6,691
4130	Finance	155,517	1,060,513	120,181	129,000	7.34%	8,819
4140	Tax Listing	9,518	9,737	10,880	11,200	2.94%	320
4150	Legal Services	21,157	14,283	24,000	24,000	0.00%	0
4170	Elections	-	2,571	-	3,500		3,500
4310	Police*	533,778	568,989	602,407	565,000	-6.21%	-37,407
4190	Public Buildings*	122,672	102,918	169,208	107,000	-36.76%	-62,208
4330	Emergency Services	821,465	42,425	4,000	4,000	0.00%	0
4380	Animal Control	12,637	11,663	14,366	11,000	-23.43%	-3,366
4510	Street Maintenance*	173,130	145,054	218,686	191,000	-12.66%	-27,686
4560	Public Works*	146,665	155,071	160,240	161,000	0.47%	760
4710	Leaf & Limb and Solid Waste*	33,854	33,163	62,999	44,000	-30.16%	-18,999
4730	Stormwater Management*	21,740	29,924	221,371	42,000	-81.03%	-179,371
4760	Wetlands & Waterways*	20,077	733	72,000	3,000	-95.83%	-69,000
4910	Planning & Zoning	41,534	51,740	48,363	50,000	3.38%	1,637
6120	Recreation & Special Events*	6,125	1,998	3,500	7,500	114.29%	4,000
6130	Parks & CAC	37,614	77,712	50,370	43,000	-14.63%	-7,370
4915	NCORR Recovery Grant	42,637	86,601	100,780	76,475	-24.12%	-24,305
Department Expenditure Total		2,463,585	2,659,472	2,180,742	1,766,674	-18.99%	-414,068
	Contingency *(1% per policy)	16,639	11,509	17,968	17,667	-1.68%	-301
	Transfer to Capital Reserve	124,000	-	60,000	107,000	78.33%	47,000
	Transfer to BUS Capital Project Fund*	-	1,040,100	73,500			
* department amended since adoption as of 4-15-2021							
TOTAL		2,604,224	3,711,081	2,332,210	1,891,341	-18.90%	-440,869

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 2021-2022

This chart shows the percentage of funding that each department receives of the total budget.



Town of River Bend, North Carolina
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

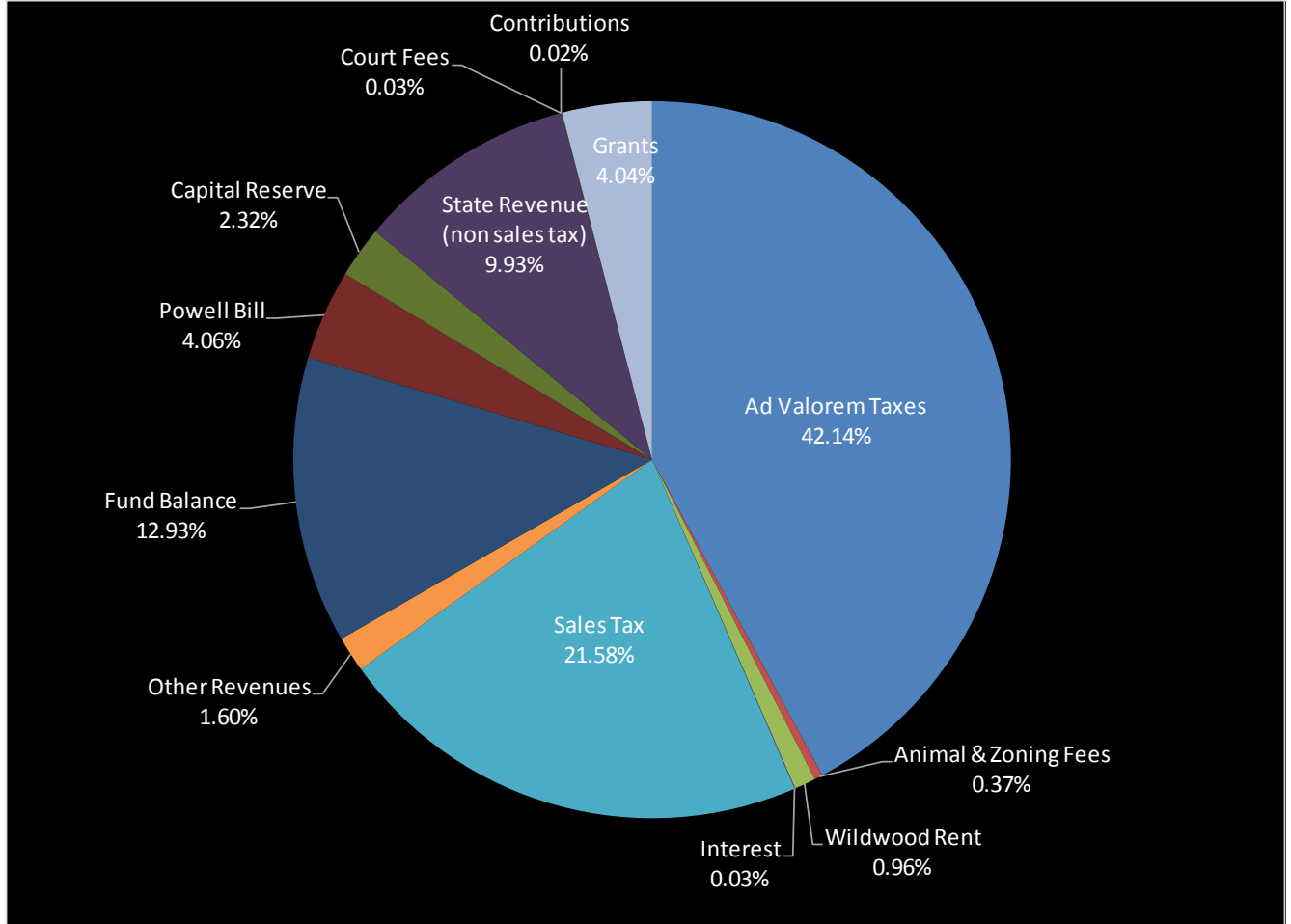
General Fund Revenue

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	
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	%	\$	
	Actual	Actual	Current Budget	Proposed			
Ad Valorem Taxes	728,213	740,181	796,447	796,963	0.06%	516	
Animal Licenses & Zoning Permits	16,079	7,984	7,400	7,000	-5.41%	-400	
Interest	39,340	24,186	11,017	580	-94.73%	-10,437	
Wildwood Rents	26,020	15,374	18,120	18,144	0.13%	24	
Other Revenue & Rents	66,173	42,375	34,000	30,200	-11.18%	-3,800	
Contributions	879	835	421	421	0.00%	0	
Powell Bill (includes appropriation)	86,045	87,033	84,500	76,800	-9.11%	-7,700	
State Revenue (other than sales tax)	202,530	191,618	191,771	187,725	-2.11%	-4,046	
Sales Tax Revenue	454,923	375,874	385,953	408,111	5.74%	22,158	
NCORR Loan/Grant Proceeds	1,097,855	0	0				
Government Grants (Fed, State & Count	56,984	1,042,743	191,370	76,445	-60.05%	-114,925	
Fees (court refund)	311	383	500	500	0.00%	0	
Charges to Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	
Transfer from Capital Reserve	117,470	34,800	164,663	43,850	-73.37%	-120,813	
Transfer from LESA Fund	0	0	0	0		0	
Appropriated Fund Balance	0	0	446,048	244,602	-45.16%	-201,446	
TOTAL	2,892,821	2,563,385	2,332,210	1,891,341	-18.90%	-440,869	

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

This chart shows the percentage each revenue type contributes to total General Fund revenue.

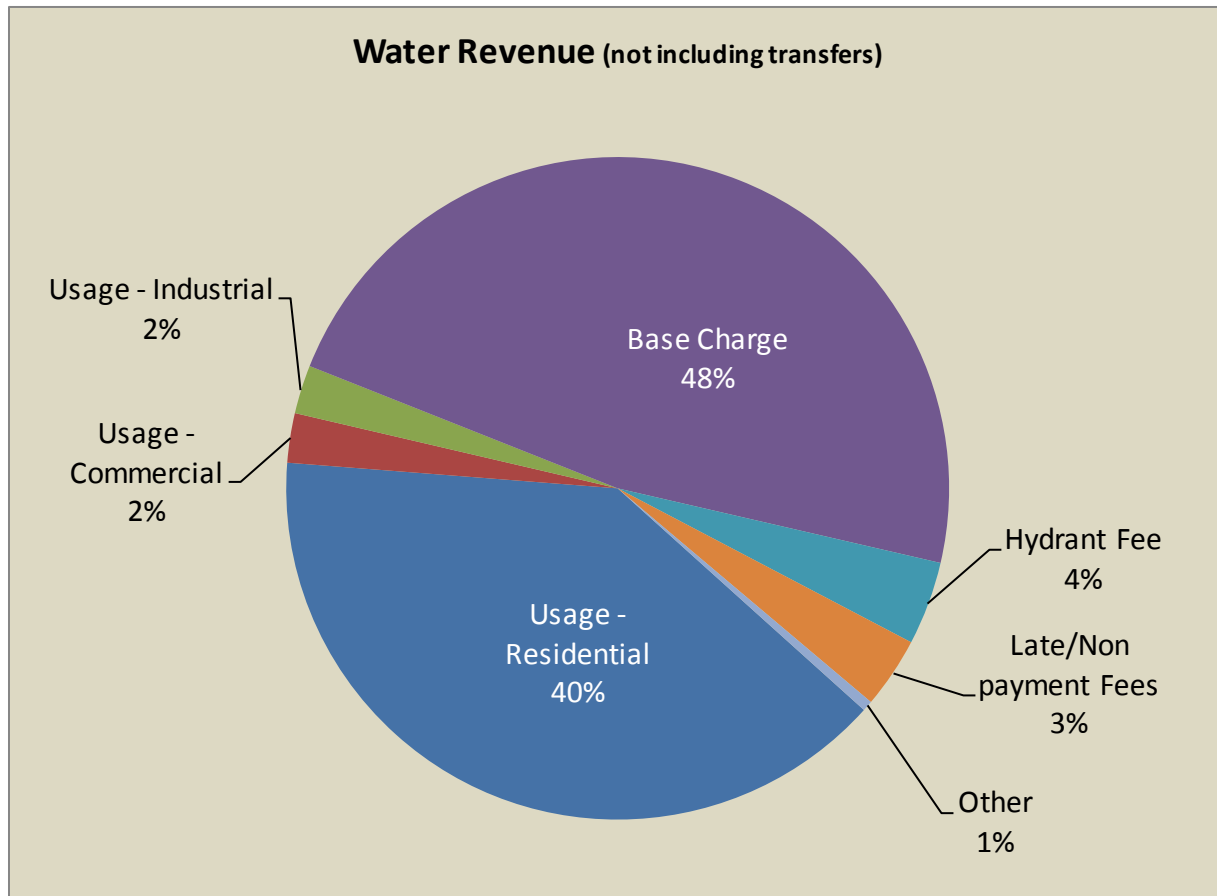


Water Fund Expenditures

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

Water		18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change v. prior year	
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed	%	\$
60-7125	Administration & Finance	406,910	411,512	447,734	469,000	4.75%	21,266
60-7132	Supply & Treatment	43,214	57,001	75,000	65,000	-13.33%	-10,000
60-7134	Distribution	40,139	36,689	87,400	48,000	-45.08%	-39,400
	TOTAL (less transfer and contingency)	490,263	505,202	610,134	582,000	-4.61%	-28,134

This chart shows the percentage each revenue type contributes to the total received by this enterprise.

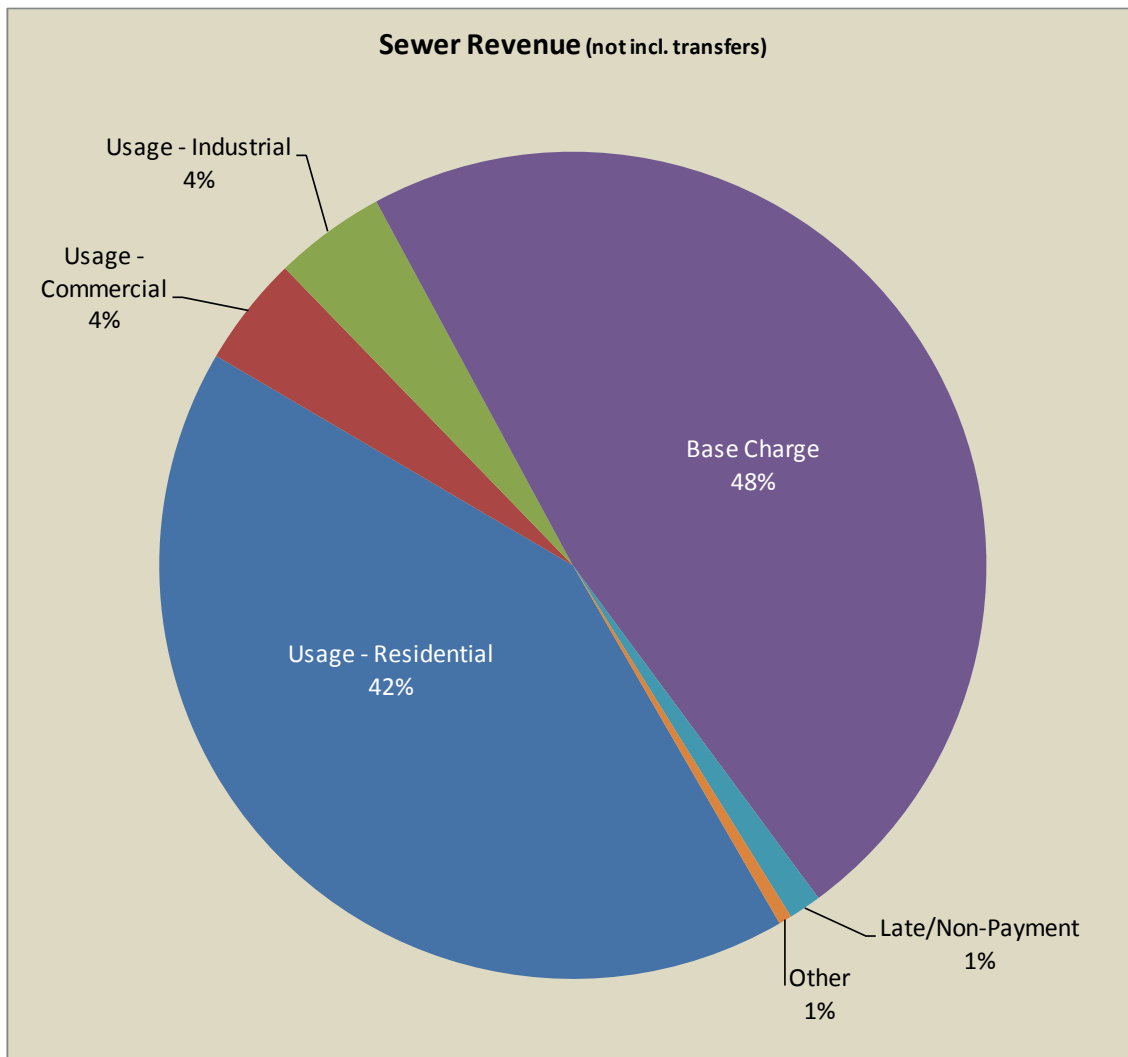


Sewer Fund Expenditures

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

	Sewer	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Change v. prior year	
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed	%	\$
61-7125	Administration & Finance	400,025	404,352	442,884	463,000	4.54%	20,116
61-7142	Collection	37,769	59,973	91,600	82,000	-10.48%	-9,600
61-7144	Treatment	89,481	95,595	112,000	111,000	-0.89%	-1,000
	TOTAL(Less transfers & contingency)	527,275	559,919	646,484	656,000	1.47%	9,516

This chart shows the percentage each revenue type contributes to the total received by this enterprise.



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 0.0026. This will show what you pay for the General Fund services that the Town provides.

According to the Craven County Tax Department, the current average assessed value of a home in River Bend is \$164,430 (note highlighted data).

Assessed Value	Annual Bill at 0.26
95,000	\$247
125,000	\$325
164,430	\$428
190,000	\$494
200,000	\$520
250,000	\$650
300,000	\$780
350,000	\$910
400,000	\$1,040
500,000	\$1,300
600,000	\$1,560

The following table shows the proposed residential 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. Business, commercial, and industrial base rates and fees are different from the residential base rate and fees. In 2020, the average water customer used 3,106 gallons of water per month.

Charges for 3,000 gallons per month			
		Current	Proposed
Water	Base	13.24	13.24
	Use	12.06	12.06
Sewer	Base	24.18	24.18
	Use	27.24	27.24
Monthly Per-Bill		76.72	76.72
		153.44	153.44
Monthly Difference			0.00
Per Bill Difference			0.00
			0.00%

Town of River Bend, North Carolina
Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

This table 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

Annual Costs	
Water/Sewer Fees (3,100 gal/month)	\$ 921
Real Estate Tax (\$164,430 home)	\$ 428
TOTAL	\$ 1,348
Average Per Day Cost for water/sewer/tax	\$ 3.69

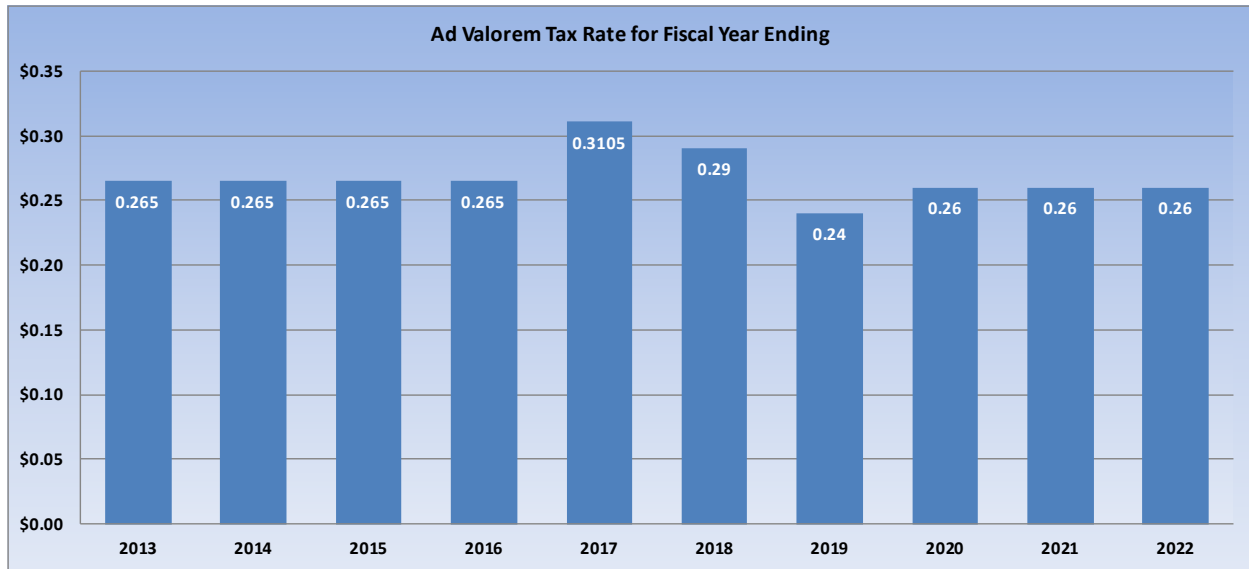
\$164,430 and water and sewer fees for 3,000 gallons usage per month. For \$3.69 per day, our average water and sewer user living in our average valued home, receives potable water, wastewater treatment, 24/7 police protection, stormwater management, animal control, planning, zoning, code enforcement, 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 \$3.67 per day. For the average resident, it will cost 2¢ more per day or \$7.30 more per year for these items in River Bend compared to last year.

Where are my tax dollars spent?

This table breaks down the proposed tax rate to show how much of that rate goes to fund each of the functions in the General Fund. The total proposed tax rate is 26¢ per one hundred dollars of assessed value.

Department	Cents per Hundred
Governing Body	0.440
Administration	3.602
Finance	1.773
Tax Listing	0.154
Legal	0.330
Elections	0.048
Police	7.767
Public Buildings	1.471
Emergency Services	0.055
Animal Control	0.151
Street Maintenance	2.626
Public Works	2.213
Leaf and Limb/Solid Waste	0.605
Stormwater Management	0.577
Wetlands and Waterways	0.041
Planning and Zoning	0.687
Recovery Grant	1.051
Recreation and Special Events	0.103
Parks and CAC	0.591
Contingency	0.243
Transfer to Cap. Res.	1.471
Tax Rate	0.26

Tax Rate History



The chart above shows the 10-year history of the tax rate for the Town of River Bend, including the proposed rate of 26¢ per \$100 of assessed value for FY 21-22. The proposed tax rate is unchanged from last year and is less than it was in 6 of the previous 9 years.

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:

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

2010 to present- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. Last year, we received our eleventh in a row for fiscal year beginning 2020.

2011 to present- Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. Last year, we received our ninth in a row for fiscal year ending 2019. We have applied for and expect to receive our tenth award for fiscal year ending 2020 soon.