



# **Town of River Bend**

**Fiscal Year  
2026-2027**

**Proposed Budget Summary**

**June 18, 2026**

# Town of River Bend

## Mayor and Town Council Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026-27



# FY 26-27 Budget Calendar

January 15- Budget Kick-Off Meeting

## Budget Workshops 2026

April 28

April 30

May 11

May 14

*Average Public In Attendance- 2.25*

May 21- Draft Budget Message and Proposed Budget Ordinance presented to Council & minutes of all budget workshops published and adopted

May 28- Budget Message Released to Public

June 11- Public Hearing on Proposed Budget

June 18- Adoption of Budget Ordinance (hopefully)

July 1- Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Begins

# Budget Material was provided on Town's Webpage



The screenshot displays the Town of River Bend, NC website. At the top left is the town's logo, a circular seal with a river and trees, and the text "Town of River Bend, NC". To the right of the logo are navigation buttons: "MAPS", "Emergency Info", and "Make A Payment". Further right are links for "New Customer Information", "Contact Us", and "Webpage & Social Media". A search bar is located on the right side of the header.

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Finance" and contains a list of links: "FY26-27 Budget Preparation", "FY25-26", "FY24-25", "FY23-24", "FY22-23", "Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports", "FY24-25 Audit Presentation", and "5-Year Comparison".

The right column features a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Departments / Finance". Below this is the main heading "FY26-27 Budget Preparation" in a large, bold font. Underneath the heading is a sub-heading "Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Preparation Workshops". This is followed by a list of workshop dates and minutes, each with a link: "Budget Kickoff January 15, 2026", "Budget Workshop April 28, 2026", "Minutes of April 28, 2026", "Budget Workshop April 30, 2026", "Minutes of April 30, 2026 Workshop", "Budget Workshop May 11, 2026", "Minutes of May 11, 2026 Workshop", "Budget Workshop May 14, 2026", "Minutes of May 14, 2026 Workshop", "Notice of Public Hearing", and "Budget Message and Ordinance".

Screenshot from town's webpage

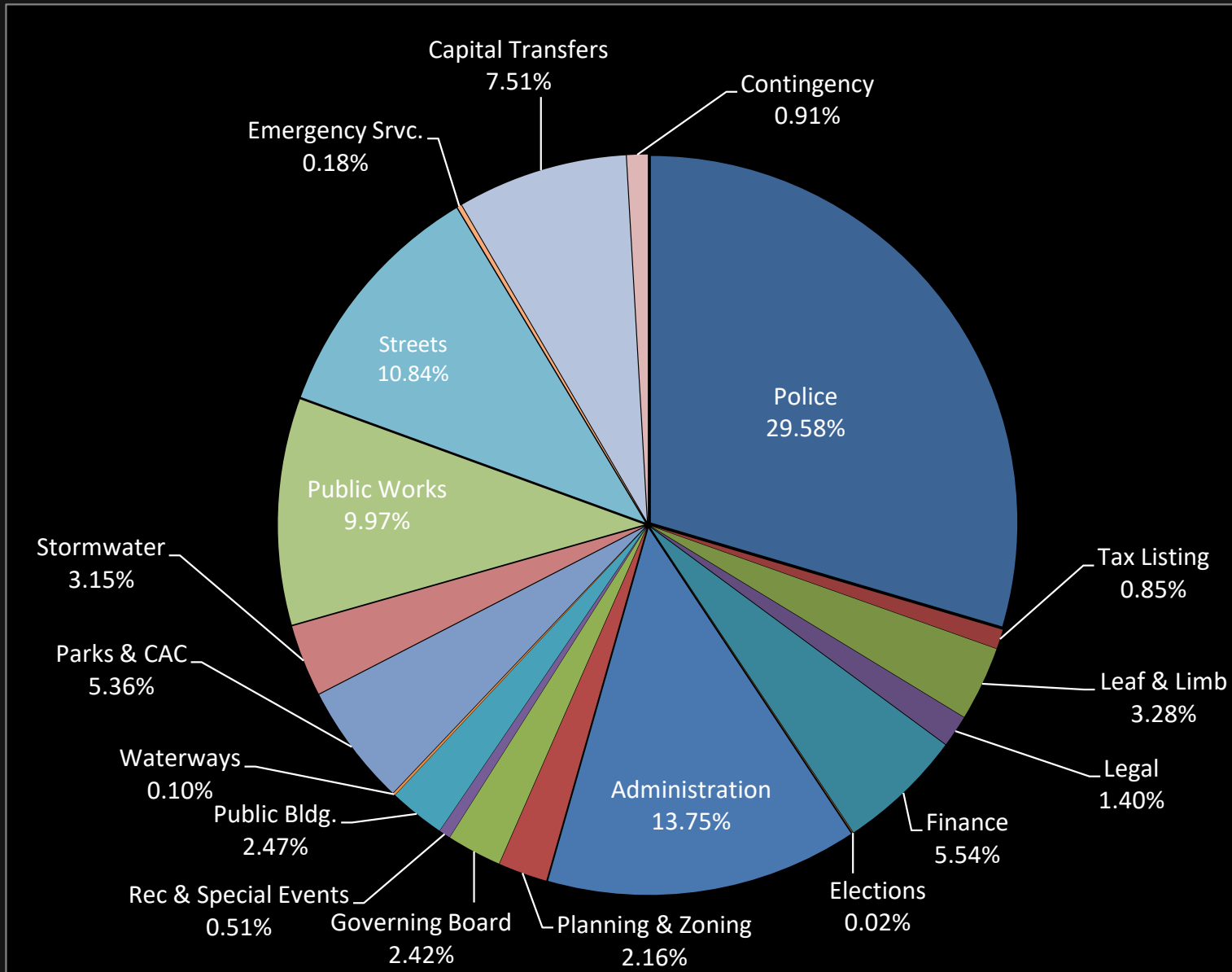
## General Fund Summary

- Represents a 10.62% increase in spending over FY26 (+\$287,605)
- Increases tax rate to 30¢ (+2¢)
- Maintains all current programs and services
- Includes CIP funding of \$224,900 (+\$73,556 vs. in FY26)
- Provides 2.2% COLA for all employees, plus 1% longevity (standard)
- Provides \$229,300 for street paving program (-\$50 vs. FY26)
- Maintains conservative revenue estimates
- Includes \$40,000 discretionary funding, \$50,000 for new police vehicle, \$34,000 for stormwater projects, and more
- Includes \$298,996 appropriation from fund balance (+\$93,116 or +45% vs. FY26)
- Projects a fund balance of 77.6% (which is over \$1,700,000) at year end FY27
- Includes \$88,000 for pickleball courts construction
- Anticipates \$108,000 in Powell Bill funding

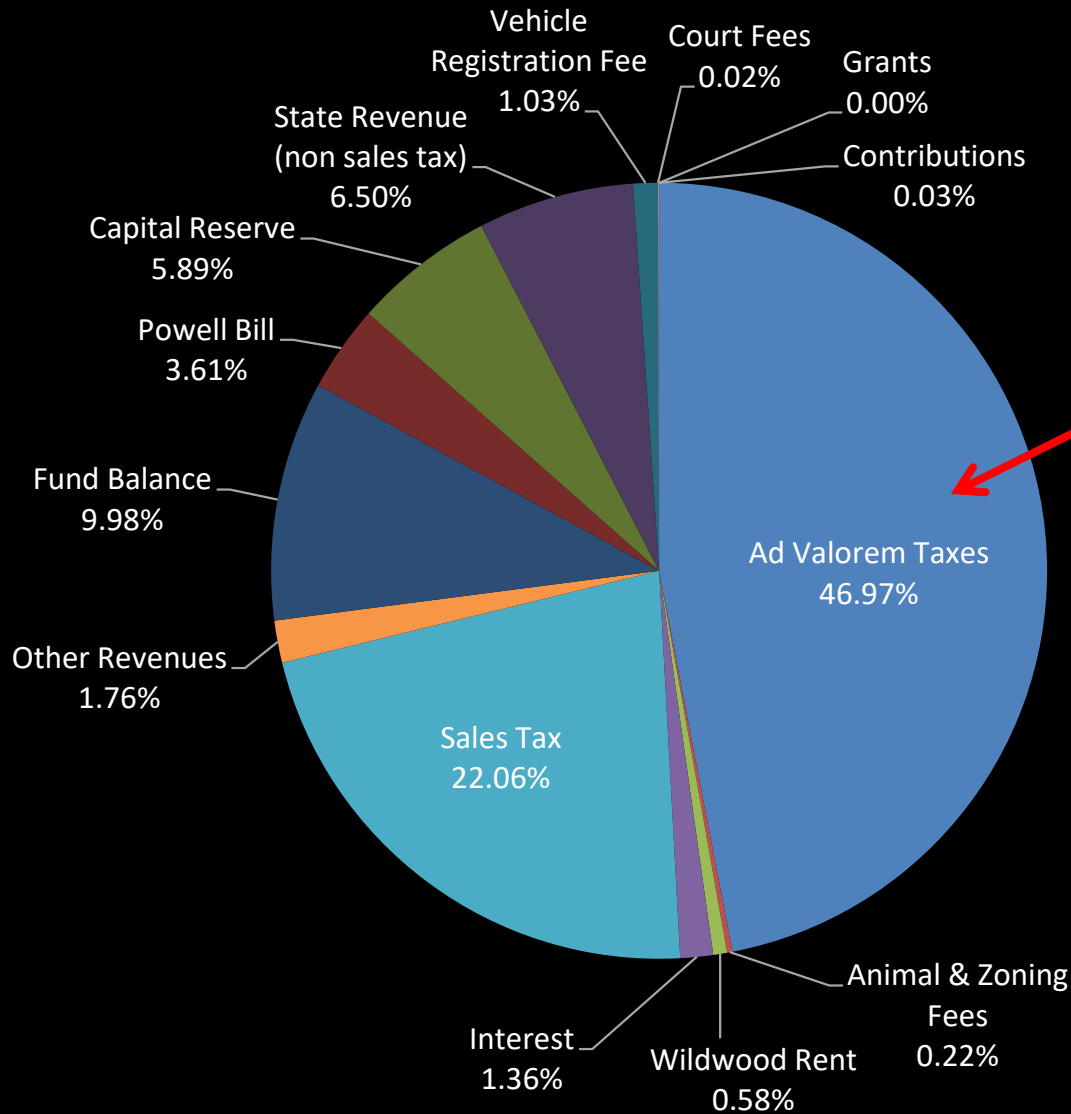
# General Fund Expenditure Summary

General Fund Expenditure Summary						Change v. prior year	
		23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	%	\$
Dept #	Department Name	Actual	Actual	Current Budget	Proposed		
4110	Governing Body*	25,980	61,178	81,200	72,500	-10.71%	-8,700
4120	Administration*	321,476	331,117	348,725	411,800	18.09%	63,075
4130	Finance*	134,093	143,417	161,290	165,900	2.86%	4,610
4140	Tax Listing	13,756	12,830	19,500	25,600	31.28%	6,100
4150	Legal Services*	33,373	22,755	34,000	42,000	23.53%	8,000
4170	Elections	-	491	-	700		700
4310	Police*	677,590	823,254	839,700	885,900	5.50%	46,200
4190	Public Buildings*	100,001	70,493	75,125	74,000	-1.50%	-1,125
4330	Emergency Services*	2,854	5,368	5,370	5,400	0.56%	30
4510	Street Maintenance*	236,435	237,132	317,675	324,700	2.21%	7,025
4560	Public Works*	185,670	215,724	290,325	298,500	2.82%	8,175
4710	Leaf & Limb and Solid Waste*	75,923	96,957	76,725	98,200	27.99%	21,475
4730	Stormwater Management*	39,122	48,892	88,300	94,500	7.02%	6,200
4760	Wetlands & Waterways*	737	899	3,025	3,000	-0.83%	-25
4910	Planning & Zoning*	52,942	56,527	72,315	64,700	-10.53%	-7,615
6120	Recreation & Special Events*	9,945	8,914	14,200	15,200	7.04%	1,000
6130	Parks & CAC*	50,386	45,293	76,000	160,500	111.18%	84,500
	<b>Department Expenditure Total</b>	1,975,356	2,201,149	2,531,295	2,743,100	8.37%	211,805
	Contingency (1% per policy)	20,807	23,043	25,156	27,400	8.92%	2,244
	Transfer to Capital Reserve	55,000	86,757	151,344	224,900	48.60%	73,556
	Transfer to Capital Project Fund	-	-	-	-		0
	* amended since adoption as of 04/09/2026						
	<b>TOTAL</b>	2,051,163	2,310,949	2,707,795	2,995,400	10.62%	287,605

# General Fund Expenditure Summary

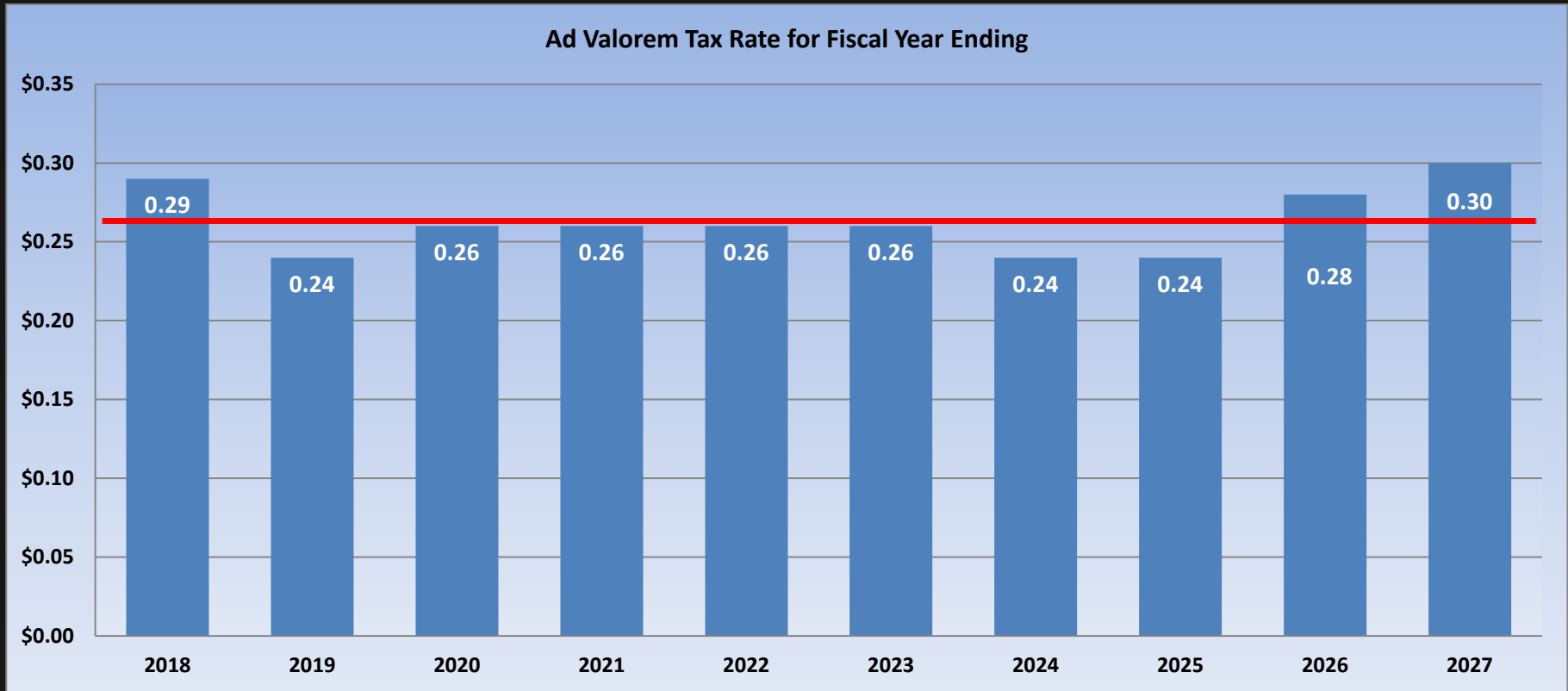


# General Fund Revenue Summary



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 26.3¢

**EFFECT OF TAX RATE CHANGE**

Property Value	Tax Bill at \$0.280	Tax Bill at \$0.300	Increase in bill per year
\$100,000	\$280.00	\$300.00	\$20.00
\$180,000	\$504.00	\$540.00	\$36.00
<b>\$247,519</b>	\$693.05	\$742.56	\$49.51
\$300,000	\$840.00	\$900.00	\$60.00
\$400,000	\$1,120.00	\$1,200.00	\$80.00
\$500,000	\$1,400.00	\$1,500.00	\$100.00
\$600,000	\$1,680.00	\$1,800.00	\$120.00
\$1,000,000	\$2,800.00	\$3,000.00	\$200.00

**Current Tax Rate** \$0.280

**Enter tax rate you wish to apply in green box (enter as decimal).** \$0.300

This chart shows how much the tax rate increase will increase the tax bill on various valued properties. The highlighted property value is the average residential property value. Its tax bill will increase \$49.51 per year or \$4.12 per month.

# General Fund Revenue Summary

Department	Cents per Hundred
Governing Body	0.726
Administration	4.124
Finance	1.662
Tax Listing	0.256
Legal	0.421
Elections	0.007
Police	8.873
Public Buildings	0.741
Emergency Services	0.054
Street Maintenance	3.252
Public Works	2.990
Leaf and Limb/Solid Waste	0.984
Stormwater Management	0.946
Wetlands and Waterways	0.030
Planning and Zoning	0.648
Recreation and Special Events	0.152
Parks and CAC	1.607
Contingency	0.274
Transfer to Cap. Res.	2.252
<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>0.30</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 30¢ 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 29.58% of the overall general fund budget in FY27. Therefore, 29.58% of the tax rate is equal to 8.873¢. It is important to note that property tax revenue only represents about 47% 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 2025 we treated 118,103,000 gallons of water (average of 323,373 gallons per day).

Water is transmitted to 1,492 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 2025, we treated 38,572,000 gallons of wastewater (average of 105,637 gallons per day or 32% of capacity).



# Enterprise Fund Summary

- Represents an overall 3.05% increase in spending over last year (+\$45,850)
- No fee or rate increase but replaces hydrant fee with availability fee. This is a terminology only change with no change in fee charged
- Maintains all current programs and services
- Funds all employee compensation costs as discussed in General Fund
- Provides funding for \$242,050 for bond debt service
- Includes \$30,961 for water tank maintenance contract
- Includes \$143,700 of appropriated fund balance in water (+28% vs. budgeted in FY26)
- Includes \$14,000 funding for equipment purchase
- Includes \$121,700 of appropriated fund balance in Sewer Fund (+28% vs. budgeted in FY26)
- Includes \$42,000 in CIP funding for water line extension and manhole lining

# 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>	\$712,800	\$744,500	4.45%	\$31,700	\$129,888
<b>Sewer</b>	\$788,550	\$802,700	1.79%	\$14,150	\$112,162
<b>Total</b>	\$1,501,350	\$1,547,200	3.05%	\$45,850	\$242,050

# Enterprise Fund Debt



For every dollar proposed to be spent in the Enterprise Fund, about 16¢ 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 4 of 20 for that debt.

## Debt as a Percentage of Total Expense in FY26-27

**Water = 19% ( \$129,888 )**

**Sewer = 15% ( \$112,162 )**

**TOTAL \$242,050**

**Both mature in 2027**

# Enterprise Fund Debt Service

Payment Date	Debt Service on Series 2013 Refunding Bonds				Debt Service Requirement
	Principal	Rate	Interest	Total	
6/1/2013		0.00%	15,043	\$ 15,043	\$ 188,542.92
12/1/2013	\$ 2,960,000	0.00%	755	\$ 34,275	38,650.00
6/1/2014	25,000	2.00%	4,275	59,275	238,650.00
12/1/2014	\$ 2,935,000	0.00%	34,025	\$ 34,025	34,025.00
6/1/2015	205,000	2.00%	34,025	239,025	239,025.00
12/1/2015	\$ 2,730,000	0.00%	31,975	31,975	31,975.00
6/1/2016	205,000	2.00%	31,975	236,975	236,975.00
12/1/2016	\$ 2,525,000	0.00%	29,925	29,925	29,925.00
6/1/2017	215,000	2.00%	29,925	244,925	244,925.00
12/1/2017	\$ 2,310,000	0.00%	27,775	27,775	27,775.00
6/1/2018	15,000	2.00%	27,775	242,775	242,775.00
12/1/2018	\$ 2,095,000	0.00%	25,625	25,625	25,625.00
6/1/2019	20,000	2.00%	25,625	245,625	245,625.00
12/1/2019	\$ 1,875,000	0.00%	23,425	23,425	23,425.00
6/1/2020	20,000	2.00%	23,425	248,425	248,425.00
12/1/2020	\$ 1,650,000	0.00%	21,175	21,175	21,175.00
6/1/2021	235,000	2.00%	21,175	256,175	256,175.00
12/1/2021	\$ 1,415,000	0.00%	18,825	18,825	18,825.00
6/1/2022	240,000	2.00%	18,825	258,825	258,825.00
12/1/2022	\$ 1,175,000	0.00%	16,425	16,425	16,425.00
6/1/2023	240,000	2.00%	16,425	256,425	256,425.00
12/1/2023	\$ 935,000	0.00%	14,025	14,025	14,025.00
6/1/2024	235,000	3.00%	14,025	249,025	249,025.00
12/1/2024	\$ 700,000	0.00%	10,500	10,500	10,500.00
6/1/2025	230,000	3.00%	10,500	240,500	240,500.00
12/1/2025	\$ 470,000	0.00%	7,050	7,050	7,050.00
6/1/2026	235,000	3.00%	7,050	242,050	242,050.00
12/1/2026	\$ 235,000	0.00%	3,525	3,525	3,525.00
6/1/2027	235,000	3.00%	3,525	238,525	238,525.00
Totals	\$ -		612,143	\$ 3,572,143	\$ 3,929,392.92



This chart shows our bond debt service amounts for FY 27 (highlighted)



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>		\$79.98
<b>Per-Bill</b>	( two months)	\$159.96
<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. They have remained unchanged since 2023.

The cost for 3,000 gallons of water and sewer is \$1.26 more than it was in 2018.

Average water use in 2025 was 3,110 gallons per customer per month.

Assessed Value	Annual Bill at 0.30
95,000	\$285
125,000	\$375
* 247,519	\$743
190,000	\$570
200,000	\$600
250,000	\$750
300,000	\$900
350,000	\$1,050
400,000	\$1,200
500,000	\$1,500
600,000	\$1,800

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

A.- On average, for \$4.66 per day you receive water, sewer, police, animal control, planning, parks, street lights, street maintenance, zoning, leaf & limb removal, and many other services (AKA-the essentials)

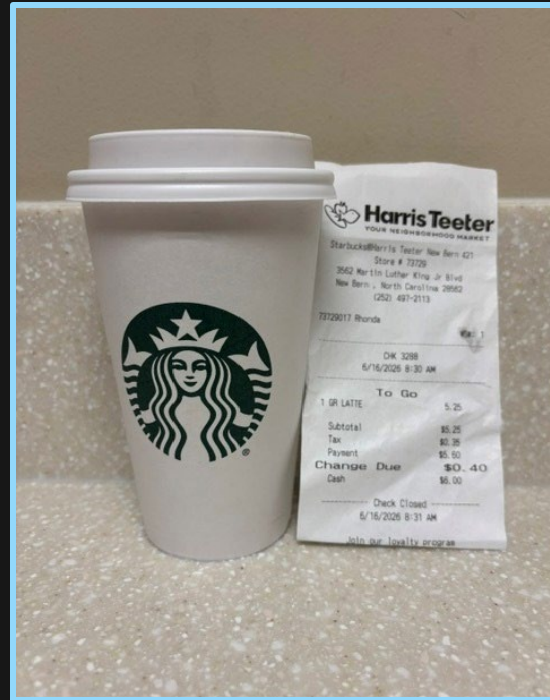
Annual Costs	FY27	FY26	Change	%
Water/Sewer Fees (3,000 gal/month)	\$ 960	\$ 960	0	0.00%
* Real Estate Tax (\$247,519 home)	\$ 743	\$ 693	50	7.15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,703</b>	<b>\$ 1,653</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
Average Per Day Cost for water/sewer/tax	\$ 4.66	\$ 4.53	\$ 0.13	3.00%

\* Average home value in River Bend

For comparison, the tasty, yet non-essential items shown below were purchased this week at area stores. All of them cost more than the \$4.66 per day cost for water, sewer and property taxes for the average homeowner/utility customer in River Bend.



\$5.93



\$5.60



\$4.78

# Summary

General Fund	\$2,995,400
Water Fund	\$ 744,500
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 802,700</u>

Operating Budget \$4,542,600

*In addition to these three major operating funds, the town also has four minor funds, which we operate for accounting purposes. For FY27 they total \$292,625 which bring the Grand Total Budget to \$4,835,225.*

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> municipal budget in North Carolina and I can honestly say that it is my most challenging.