



Town of Belville, North Carolina Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Message

June 25, 2026

Mayor Bost and Board of Commissioners,

In accordance with Chapter 159-11 of the North Carolina General Statutes, we are pleased to submit the Town of Belville Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

The proposed budget represents the Board's interest in maintaining service levels currently provided to the citizens of Belville, but was created using a priority-driven budget process. Priority-driven budgeting allocates resources according to how effectively a program or service achieves the goals and objectives that are of the greatest value to the town. The budget was prepared in accordance with the following goals:

1. Fund core services that are of the greatest benefit to Belville citizens.
2. Allocate resources for essential infrastructure needs.

The recommended budget provides for the accomplishment of these goals by funding the core services of public safety, public works and street maintenance, as well as setting aside funds for the development of parks and recreation programs and a future municipal facility.

The projected year end fund balance remains well within the limit recommended by the Local Government Commission.

The proposed budget is balanced and identifies all revenue and expenditure estimates for FY 2026-2027. The property tax rate proposed to support this budget is set at \$0.15 per \$100 valuation, reflecting no increase in the tax rate from the previous year.

Revenue Summary

Revenue Forecast: General fund revenues are projected to decrease from an estimated \$3,572,170 in FY 2026 to \$2,546,500, in FY 2027, excluding Fund Balances, at this time. This is a net decrease of 28.7%. In developing our revenue forecast we remained conservative.

Tax Rate: The tax rate for FY 2026-2027 is set at the rate of \$.15 per \$100 of property value. This rate is based on a total assessed property value of \$452,666,667, with a collection rate of 95%.

State Shared Revenues: Sales and Use Taxes remain the largest revenue stream for the Town. The budget reflects an estimated \$1,100,000 for the coming year's budgeted amount. Franchise taxes will remain unchanged for the coming year at \$75,000. The projected year end un-appropriated fund balance of the general fund is estimated to be \$3,029,415, 126% the General Fund Budget. This is well above the 15% of the general fund balance which is recommended to be retained by the Local Government Commission.

Expenditures Summary

Expenditures within the proposed General Fund Budget represent a decrease of \$2,580,262 from the FY 2026 budget of \$5,120,232.

Personnel Compensation: The proposed budget does not include a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for employees. However, the proposed budget allows for a maximum of 6% merit payable on the employee's anniversary date. This represents .35% of the overall operating budget.

Health Insurance: This year we recommend that the Town continue coverage with the Blue Cross of North Carolina. Health insurance is 6.9% of the operating budget.

401A Contribution: The Town of Belville offers 401A contributions to all employees through the North Carolina Local Government Employees' Retirement System. The Town of Belville is required to contribute 12.00% of all full-time employees' gross salaries and each employee is required to contribute 6.00% of their gross salary. Participating in the state retirement system serves as an excellent tool in recruiting and retaining municipal employees. This 401A contribution is .6% of the overall operating budget.

NC401K: The Town of Belville offers its employees the option of contributing into the NC401K plan. While the Town does not contribute or match anything to this plan we recommend looking into doing so in future years.

NC 457B: The Town of Belville offers its employees the option of contributing into the NC457B plan. The Town does not contribute any cost to the plan.

Departmental Expenditures Summary

GOVERNING BODY: Expenditures for the Governing Body increased by \$46,600 from the previous year or 30% from FY 2026, primarily due to legal costs.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION: Expenditures for General Administration increased 21% from FY 2026. General Administration includes all the essentials to run the day-to-day operations of the Town.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Public Safety expenditures remain the same at \$3,500 from FY 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS: The Public Works Department's expenditures will decrease by \$64,115 compared to 2026. The Powell Bill Fund currently has a balance of \$618,940.

PLANNING AND ZONING: Expenses for the Planning Department decreased by \$709,429 and include funding for a multi-use path and highway improvements along NC133.

PARKS AND RECREATION: The budget for the Parks and Recreation decreased by \$567,600. The budget provides for the general maintenance of the park and recreation programs.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: Budgeted Expenses for Capital Outlay have increased by \$6,530. It includes a \$16,530 appropriation for the Building Capital Reserve for future projects, as well as a \$20,000 allocation for computer and equipment replacement.

Summary

The FY 26/27 Municipal Budget has been prepared in accordance with goals set forth by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners during its annual Budget Workshop. We have been able to provide a balanced budget that provides for no tax increase for the upcoming year and continues to fund core services that benefit the citizens of the Town of Belville. Careful review of expenditures and conservative revenue estimation are the foundation of this financial plan for the coming fiscal year.

The Town of Belville seeks to establish a longstanding reputation of providing exceptional services to its citizens and employees, while practicing prudent financial management and conservative governmental spending.

The Proposed Budget is the result of careful consideration, deliberation, and good financial stewardship. Staff is available to review the proposed budget and to answer any questions that the Board may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Athina Williams

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Town Manager/Budget Officer