



The Town of St. James Proposed Budget Overview 2025-2026 Budget

Public Hearing:

May 7, 2025

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, ending June
30, 2026

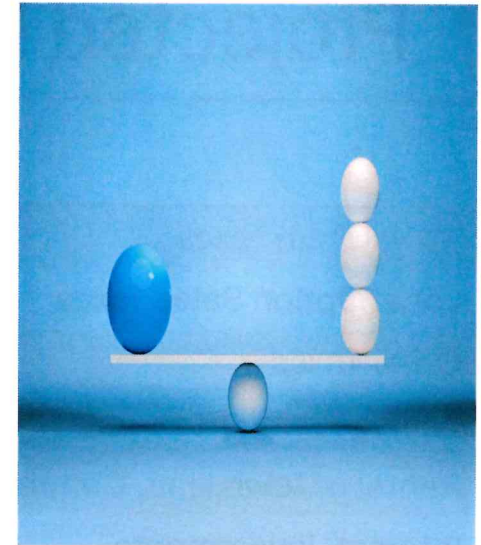
2025-2026 (FY26) Budget Highlights

- Property Tax Rate to stay at .06¢
 - NO TAX INCREASE
- Conservative approach to budgeting – responsible projections of revenues and expenses
- Sustained funding to the St. James Fire Department operations and current capital requests
- New projects include upgrading Town facilities, and an increase in community special activities
- Continued Savings toward future disaster recovery



Balanced Budget

		Fiscal Year 2025-2026
Revenues (Projected)		\$5,616,000
- Grants		320,000
Total Revenues		\$5,936,000
		Fiscal Year 2025-2026
Expenses		\$5,936,000



Revenues for this proposed budget are \$251,000 higher than the prior year, without regard to the Grant Income. This increase is due to an increase in projected interest income, a 2% projected increase from Ad Valorem taxes, and an average of 13% increase from zoning fees, event center revenue, and other taxes.

Projected Revenues – Comparison to FY25

	Budget 2024- 2025 FY25	Budget 2025- 2026 FY26	%
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 2,007,000	\$ 2,048,000	2%
Local Option Sales Taxes	2,604,500	2,600,000	-
Other Taxes	477,000	524,500	10%
Zoning Permit Fees	8,000	10,000	25%
Rental of Town Hall, Community Center	108,500	113,500	5%
Interest, Investments	160,000	320,000	100%
Appropriation of Fund Balance	850,000	-	
Grants		320,000	
Total Revenues	\$ 6,215,000	\$ 5,936,000	

Expenditures

Department / Category	Notes	Fiscal Year 2025-2026	Increase (Decrease) from FY25
Administration		\$ 856,650	6% (new marketing consultant, general expenses)
Facilities	Capital projects are much less than prior year	\$ 591,100	(-25%) (no extensive projects in FY26.)
Public Safety	(EM, Streetlights, Animal Control) – includes grant of \$400k	\$ 855,000	108% (grant expenditures, updating communications in EOC)
STJ Fire Department	Includes pumper truck payable	\$ 1,797,000	(-3%)(decrease in operating costs, small capital requests)
Environment, Streets	(Yard waste, stormwater, UNCW)	\$ 299,000	marginal increase
Event Center		\$ 575,850	14% (personnel, major project spending)
Debt	Final payment July 2026	\$ 375,000	De minimis change
Commitment to Disaster Recovery	1 Cent tax	\$ 336,400	De minimis change
Commitment to SJFD capital	Based on Long term capital needs replacement	\$ 250,000	(71%) Funding in prior years was enough to move forward

Personnel Key Metrics

Pay & Benefits for Compensation Benefits:

Cola 3.4%

Merit 4.0%

Required Benefits (Employer Contributions):

NC State Retirement 14.35%

401K Contributions 5%

Social Security Contributions 7.65%

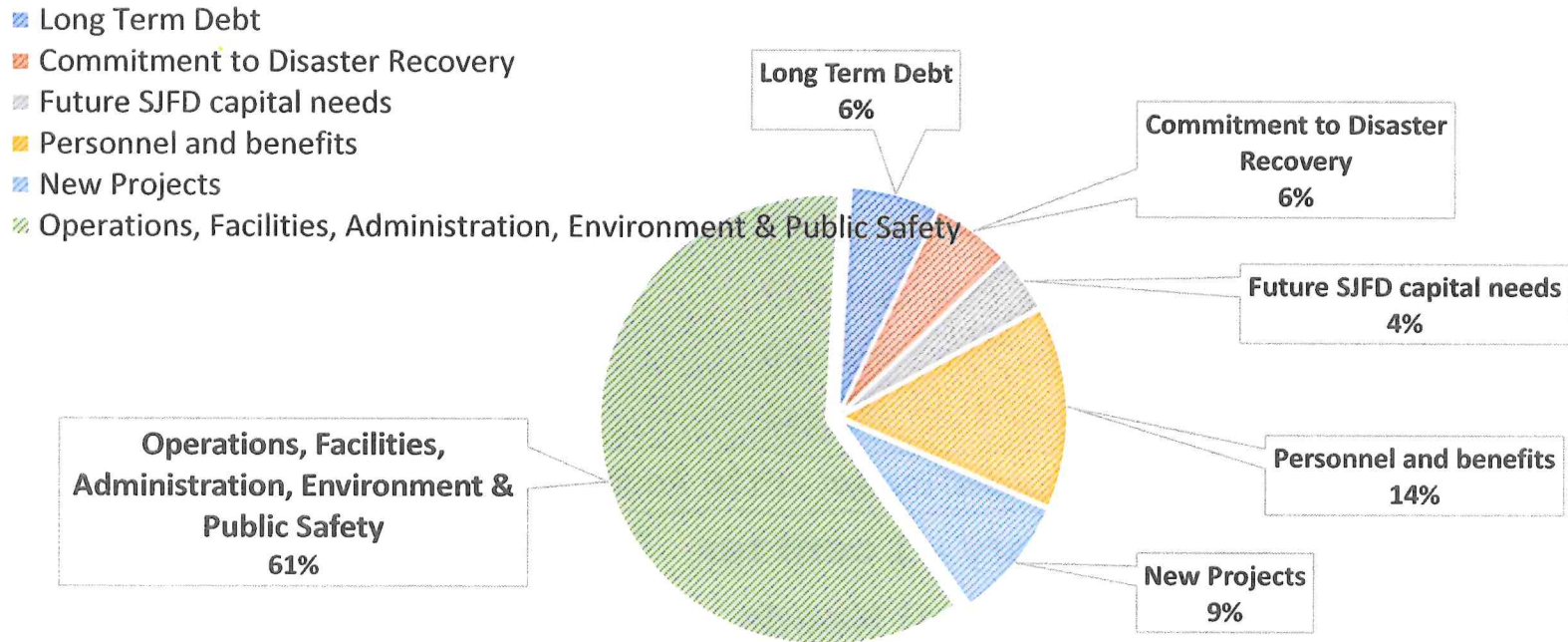
Insurance Benefits:

\$8,500 per employee



	Salary and Benefits FY26	% of Total Budget FY 25	% of Total Budget FY 26
Administrative	\$502,750		
Community Center	\$353,500		
TOTAL	\$856,250	13%	14%

Another Look at Expenditures



Fund Assignments

	Disaster Recovery Fund	St. James Fire Capital Needs
Balance July 1, 2024	\$1,139,533	\$1,900,000
Assignments – June 2025 (FY25)	329,000	1,083,000
Balance June 30, 2025	\$1,468,533	\$2,983,000
August 2025 – Pumper Truck		(833,000)
Balance – Fall 2025	\$1,468,533	\$2,150,000
Proposed Assignments – June 2026 (FY26)	336,400	250,000
Proposed Balances – June 30, 2026 (FY26)	\$1,804,933	\$2,400,000

2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget – FY26 Additions:

Disaster Recovery – 1 cent tax \$336,400

St. James Fire Capital Needs \$250,000

New Projects / Expenditures

Town Campus Facilities -

- EOC upgrade for zoom meeting capabilities
- Event Center TV video wall
- 3 Electronic Traffic Signs
- Public Works building refit, update
- Label microphones - Chambers and Event Center

Community Relations -

- Veterans Day Breakfast
- Fireworks
- Marketing Consultant - regional development
- Newsletter software

Personnel

- Clerk Training

5/8/2025



Summary

- Conservative Revenue Budget
- No New Taxes
- Healthy Fund Balance for Emergency Needs
- Commitments to the Disaster Recovery and St. James Fire Department Vehicle Replacement on Target

