

Town of LaFayette

2026 Annual Budget



Derek Steffen, Chairman

A G. Shaw, Supervisor I

Greg Reesman, Supervisor II

Lafayettewcwi.gov
N5573 Bowers Road
Elkhorn, WI 53121

Overall Budget Summary

The Town's budget for 2026 focuses on maintaining roads and funding increasing fire and EMS costs. The Town Board has been working on a Capital Improvement Plan, and it includes not only repairing and maintaining roads but keeping equipment updated. While revenue has not significantly increased, the Town continues to keep budgeted expenses to a minimum while providing needed services to the residents.

Below is the budget that was approved by the Town Board on November 12, 2025, following a public hearing on the same date.

TOWN OF LAFAYETTE

2026 Proposed Budget

	2025 PROPOSED BUDGET	2026 PROPOSED BUDGET	% CHANGED
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Taxes			
General Property Taxes/Levy	\$ 962,096	\$ 1,011,985	5.19%
Other Taxes	37,306	29,054	
Intergovernmental Revenue	228,175	252,751	
Licenses, Permits, Fees	31,178	33,950	
Public Charge for Services	213,265	218,005	
Other	9,600	39,865	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,481,620	\$ 1,585,610	7.02%
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
General Government	\$ 202,602	\$ 195,806	
Public Safety	420,611	455,313	
Public Works - Highway & Sanitation	1,202,703	620,101	
Debt Service P&I	41,724	124,590	
Conservation and Development	1,300	1,300	
Capital Outlay	76,000	188,500	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,665,334	\$ 1,585,610	-4.79%

Revenue Summary

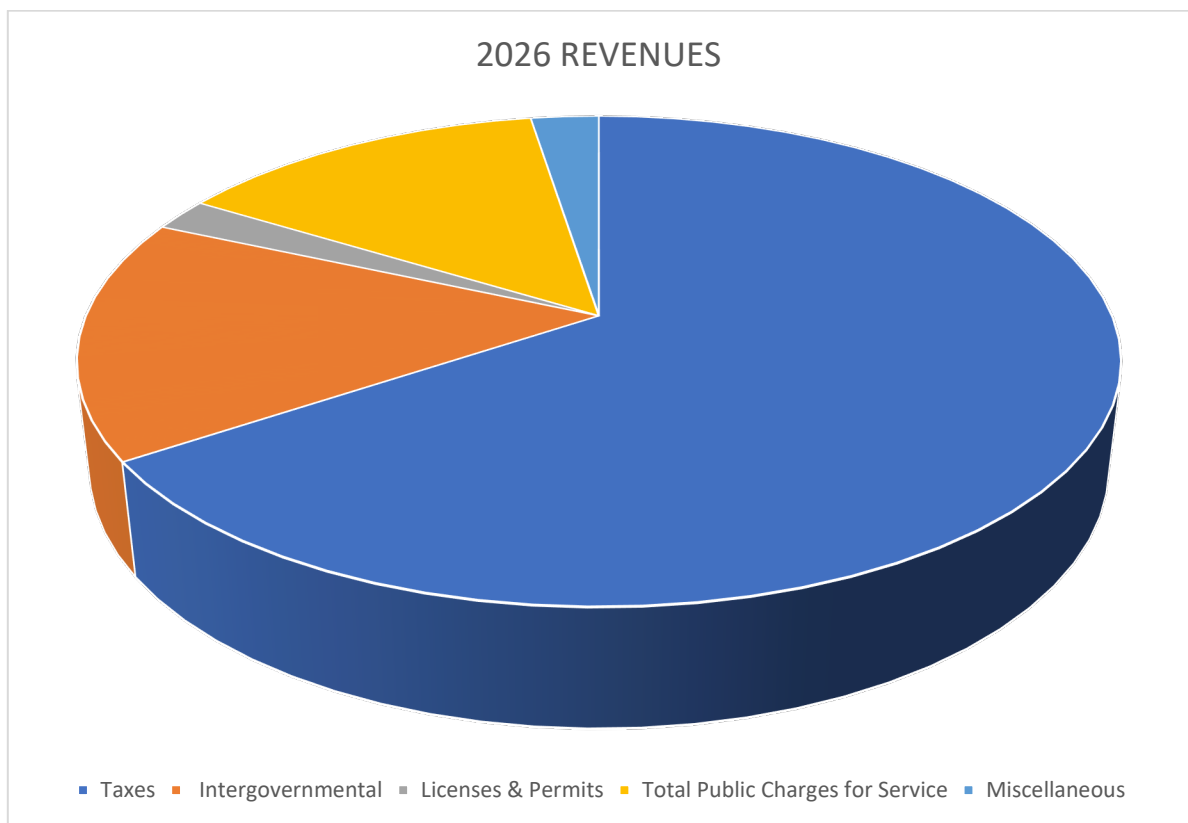
The Town's \$1,011,985 property tax levy is 64% of the total \$1,585,610 in revenue for the Town. While most revenue sources are planned to stay flat or slightly increase in the 2025 fiscal year, two categories are worthy of note due to significant changes.

The first change was another increase in Shared Revenue Aid from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Due to a budget surplus at the State level and Act 12, the Town will receive a 16% increase in Shared Revenue which equates to an additional \$16,013, for a total of \$103,020.

A second change is an increase in Transportation Aid of \$8,524. An increase for this Aid has not been seen in several years.

Historically, interest has generated significant revenue for the Town, however, as balances in the Town's money markets have decreased, the interest revenue was budgeted to also decrease.

In 2025 the Town Board decided to reallocate funds set aside to pay for an aerial fire truck for the City of Elkhorn into road construction and borrow the funds needed for the truck. The Town property tax levy includes making the principal payment on this 3-year note.



2026 Budget REVENUES					
TAXES 41000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
TAX LEVY FOR 2026 BUDGET 41110		962,096	962,096	962,096	1,011,985
Managed Forest Land Tax Program 41150	104	104	99	99	99
Motel Room Tax 41210	54,753	30,000	24,760	30,000	25,000
Personal Property Aid 41900 (new in 2025)	-	7,202	7,202	7,202	3,955
Total Taxes	54,860	999,402	994,157	999,397	1,041,039
INTERGOVERNMENTAL 43000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
SHARED REVENUES 43410					
Shared Revenue Aid 43411	85,129	87,076	15,953	87,007	103,020
Personal Property Aid 43412 (changed in 2025)	3,246	-	-	-	-
Exempt Computer Aid 43413	29	29	29	29	29
Municipal Services Aid 43414	262	262	304	304	304
Fire Insurance 2% 43420*	17,464	17,646	20,142	20,142	17,646
General Transportation Aid 43531	118,902	118,902	118,902	118,902	127,426
Recycling Grant 43545 (deducted from recycling fee)	3,769	3,700	3,766	3,766	3,766
DNR Aid in Lieu of Taxes 43620	560	560	560	560	560
Total Intergovernmental	245,824	228,175	159,656	230,710	252,751
LICENSES & PERMITS 44000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
BUSINESS & OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES 44100					
Alcohol Licensing 44101	3,096	2,050	3,315	3,315	3,300
Operator Licenses 44102	5,241	600	1,925	1,875	1,500
Cigarette Licenses 44103	200	200	150	150	150
Fireworks 44104	1,578	1,578	2,025	2,025	1,700
Driveway Permits 44500	450	450	900	900	500
Dog Licenses 44200	100	200	200	200	200
Building Permits & Related 44300	72,310	25,000	59,113	60,613	25,000
Zoning Fees 44400	1,160	600	2,250	2,250	600
Other Regulatory Permits 44900	450	500	1,050	1,500	1,000
Total Licenses & Permits	84,585	31,178	70,928	72,828	33,950
PUBLIC CHARGES FOR SERVICE 46000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
General Government 46100	11,124	500	1,034	3,534	750
Fire Protection (911 Signs Installed) 46290	100	400	200	400	400
Street Lighting 46321	4,999	4,600	5,136	5,400	5,400
Curbside Garbage 46420 (820)	98,107	118,080	119,382	119,382	123,120
Curbside Recycling 46435 (820)	38,211	88,560	84,552	84,552	87,210
Cemeteries 46540	1,142	250	-	-	250
Cobb Road City ELK Mntn Agreement 46399	875	875	875	875	875
Total Public Charges for Service	154,558	213,265	211,179	214,143	218,005
MISCELLANEOUS 48000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Interest 48110	77,006	9,600	31,797	33,000	9,865
Sale of HWY equip/property 48303	400	-	10,000	10,000	30,000
Sale of other Town property/equip 48309	-	-	-	-	-
Total Miscellaneous	77,406	9,600	41,797	43,000	39,865
TOTAL REVENUE	617,233	1,481,620	1,477,717	1,560,078	1,585,610
<i>Budget Surplus/Carry Forward 11000</i>		463,320	463,320	463,320	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		1,944,940	1,941,037	2,023,398	1,585,610

Expenses Summary

Combined expenditures are budgeted at \$1,585,610. The previous two years, the Town spent a large portion of its budget on road repair.

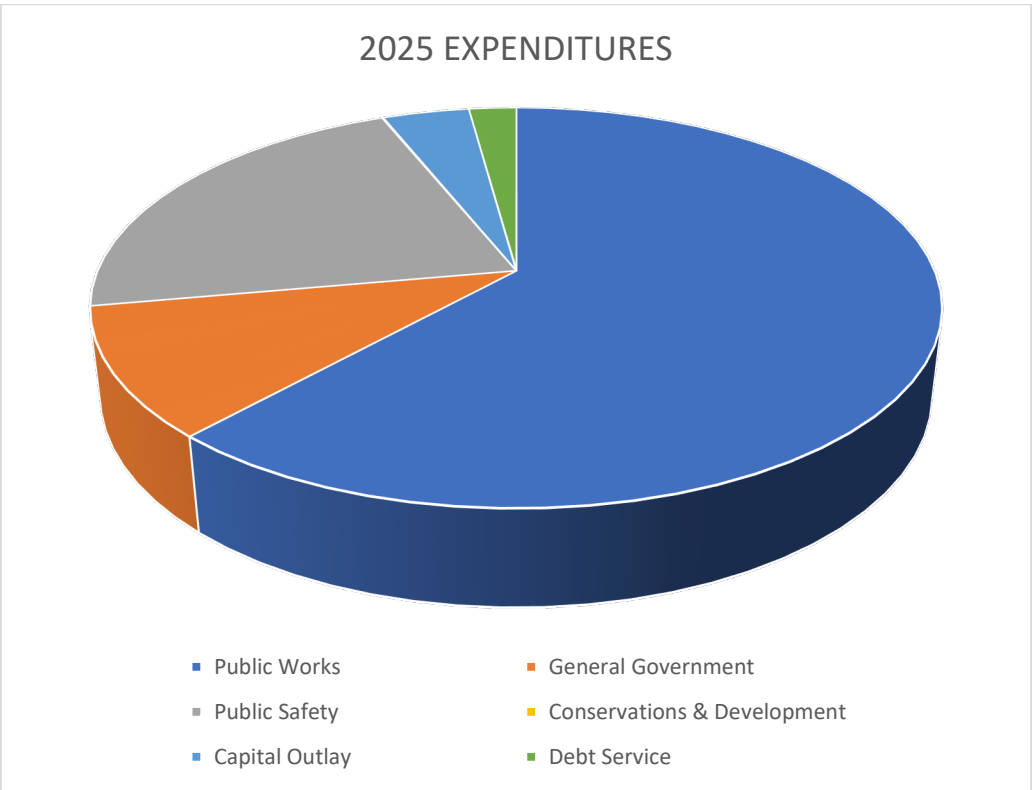
A new five-year Capital Improvement Plan will be implemented in 2026; the plan includes road repairs/maintenance and equipment replacement through 2031. In 2026 the CIP includes replacing the heavily used F550 truck. The truck is used daily and has started to see an increase in repair costs and has exceeded its 10-year life expectancy.

Fire and EMS expenses continue to use the largest portion of the Town’s expenses, and the Town Board has been working on finding a solution that keeps costs down without comprising this important service to the Town’s residents.

Reserve Capacity

In the past the Town has not maintained a General Fund Reserve account to ensure the Town’s ability to meet unforeseen emergency needs, unanticipated revenue shortfalls and/or unexpected increases in operating expenses. Following recommendations from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Town seeks to create a reserve capacity equal to approximately 3 months of operating expenses or 30% of annual operating expenses. In 2025 this fund had \$180,000 and in 2026 another \$15,000 will be set aside, creating a fund that supports 2 months of operating expenses.

Funds were also budgeted to create brush/grass clipping bays for Town residents.



2026 Budget EXPENSES					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT 51000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Town Board 51100	14,853	15,000	9,978	15,000	16,000
Legal Services 51300	2,375	3,000	1,275	2,500	3,000
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION 51400					
Clerk-Treasurer with benefits 51401	76,045	82,184	61,424	82,184	86,060
Training & Member dues 51405	456	2,000	1,496	2,000	5,000
Elections 51408	9,922	7,063	4,100	5,000	18,000
Deputy Clerk for Elections 51408	-	-	-	-	3,600
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION 51500					
Deputy Clerk 51505	1,858	-	-	-	3,600
Assessor 51510	25,276	25,000	20,447	25,447	12,000
Board of Review 51515	111	300	210	210	300
Auditor 51520	11,275	14,700	14,108	14,108	14,700
DOR Assessment fee 51530	160	155	-	155	160
Town Hall Utility & Maint. 51540	1,699	2,500	1,599	2,100	2,500
Insurance - Roads 51932	8,828	11,000	9,278	9,278	10,186
Insurance 51938	3,914	5,200	3,882	3,882	4,200
OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT 51980					
Office Expenses 51981	25,201	28,000	14,809	15,809	14,500
Website 51983	1,383	1,500	1,383	1,383	1,500
IT Services 51985	971	5,000	4,049	4,049	500
GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL	184,327	202,602	148,038	183,105	195,806
PUBLIC SAFETY 52000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Fire Protection 52200					
Elkhorn 52202	253,279	259,515	124,473	259,515	273,068
East Troy 52204	6,500	6,000	5,500	9,000	9,000
2% Fire Dues Paid to Depts. 52210	17,464	17,646	20,142	20,142	20,145
Ambulance/EMS 52300					
Elkhorn 52302	96,578	89,000	42,981	89,000	93,500
East Troy 52304	35,000	29,000	29,000	42,000	40,000
Total Fire/EMS Services*	408,821	401,161	222,096	419,657	435,713
Other Public Safety					
Building Inspector Contract (75%) 52400	55,219	18,750	38,513	45,460	18,750
911 Signs 52609	71	200	362	400	350
Drug Program 52900	-	500	-	-	500
PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	464,111	420,611	260,971	465,517	455,313
PUBLIC WORKS 53000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
ROAD MAINTENANCE 53311					
Roads Supervisor with benefits 53312	112,137	128,093	82,453	128,000	125,137
Training & Meetings 53313	861	850	-	-	1,000
Part-time/Temp Staff 53314	7,358	15,000	5,231	9,500	10,000
Equip Repair & Maint. 53316	23,128	25,000	19,512	25,000	25,000
Fuel 53317	12,137	15,000	4,700	12,000	16,000
Snow & Ice Control 53318	15,955	30,000	16,912	20,000	25,000
Signage 53319	2,555	1,500	989	1,500	1,250
Garage Main./Utilities 53320	5,019	7,000	7,187	9,000	9,500
Town Hall & Cemetery Mowing 53640	11,940	9,000	2,085	9,000	8,000
Brush/Grass Clippings Disposal	-	-	-	-	2,500
Roads Maintenance 53315	24,303	20,000	3,671	12,000	20,000
Roads Construction 53315	215,393	251,443	142,740	720,000	160,000
SUB-TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	239,696	271,443	146,411	946,000	403,387
STREET ADMINISTRATION					
Street Lighting 53101 (Admin. for Streets)	3,760	4,700	3,308	4,000	5,400
Curbside Garbage 53620	81,223	120,960	87,912	123,120	123,696
Curbside Recycling 53635	30,726	90,600	75,924	87,210	87,618
PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	355,405	487,703	313,555	1,160,330	620,101
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT 56000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Plan Commission 56001	1,221	1,200	75	1,000	1,200
Zoning & Land Use 56002	-	100	-	100	100
CONSERVATIONS & DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	1,221	1,300		1,100	1,300
CAPITAL OUTLAY 57000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Tourism Commission/Entity	-	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Elkhorn Fire 57220 2023 Vehicle Replace	27,505	-	-	-	-
Elk Fire/EMS 57220 2024 Radios	-	2,500	10,906	10,906	-
DPW Equipment 57324- Mower	7,871	22,500	21,500	21,500	10,000
DPW Equipment 57325- F550 Purchase					130,000
Town Hall Construction 57140	517,494	-	28,351	28,351	-
General Fund Reserve 57190	150,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	15,000
2027 Interim Market Update	-	-	-	-	10,000
Brush/Grass Clippings Collection Bays	-	-	-	-	2,500
CAPITAL OUTLAY TOTAL	702,870	76,000	111,757	111,757	188,500
DEBT SERVICE 58000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
P&I: Highway Garage 58221 (through 2036)	41,724	41,724	41,724	41,724	41,724
P&I: Elkhorn Fire Ladder Truck 58221 (2028)	-	-	-	-	82,866
DEBT SERVICE TOTAL	41,724	41,724	41,724	41,724	124,590
TOTAL EXPENSES:		1,229,940	876,045	1,963,533	1,585,610
*Does not include equipment purchases for the City of Elkhorn					

General Government Expenses

General government expenses include wages for the Town Board and Clerk-Treasurer. In addition, this category includes the assessor and auditor fees, and election and office expenses. In 2026 a part-time Deputy Clerk will be added to assist with bills and election duties.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT 51000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Town Board 51100	14,853	15,000	9,978	15,000	16,000
Legal Services 51300	2,375	3,000	1,275	2,500	3,000
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION 51400					
Clerk-Treasurer with benefits 51401	76,045	82,184	61,424	82,184	86,060
Training & Member dues 51405	456	2,000	1,496	2,000	5,000
Elections 51408	9,922	7,063	4,100	5,000	18,000
Deputy Clerk for Elections 51408	-	-	-	-	3,600
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION 51500					
Deputy Clerk 51505	1,858	-	-	-	3,600
Assessor 51510	25,276	25,000	20,447	25,447	12,000
Board of Review 51515	111	300	210	210	300
Auditor 51520	11,275	14,700	14,108	14,108	14,700
DOR Assessment fee 51530	160	155	-	155	160
Town Hall Utility & Maint. 51540	1,699	2,500	1,599	2,100	2,500
Insurance - Roads 51932	8,828	11,000	9,278	9,278	10,186
Insurance 51938	3,914	5,200	3,882	3,882	4,200
OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT 51980					
Office Expenses 51981	25,201	28,000	14,809	15,809	14,500
Website 51983	1,383	1,500	1,383	1,383	1,500
IT Services 51985	971	5,000	4,049	4,049	500
GENERAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL	184,327	202,602	148,038	183,105	195,806

Public Safety Expenses

Public Safety, specifically Fire and Emergency Medical Services, continues to constitute a large portion of the budget. Also included in Public Safety are building inspection fees. The town board decided to fund future large equipment purchases for the Elkhorn Area Fire Department with General Obligation Debt and no longer set aside funds for these items.

PUBLIC SAFETY 52000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Fire Protection 52200					
Elkhorn 52202	253,279	259,515	124,473	259,515	273,068
East Troy 52204	6,500	6,000	5,500	9,000	9,000
2% Fire Dues Paid to Depts. 52210	17,464	17,646	20,142	20,142	20,145
Ambulance/EMS 52300					
Elkhorn 52302	96,578	89,000	42,981	89,000	93,500
East Troy 52304	35,000	29,000	29,000	42,000	40,000
<i>Total Fire/EMS Services*</i>	<i>408,821</i>	<i>401,161</i>	<i>222,096</i>	<i>419,657</i>	<i>435,713</i>
Other Public Safety					
Building Inspector Contract (75%) 52400	55,219	18,750	38,513	45,460	18,750
911 Signs 52609	71	200	362	400	350
Drug Program 52900	-	500	-	-	500
PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	464,111	420,611	260,971	465,517	455,313

Public Works Expenses

Public Works expenses include a full-time Roads Supervisor, part-time/seasonal staff, and road construction/maintenance. Garbage and recycling expenses are included in the Public Works budget.

PUBLIC WORKS 53000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
ROAD MAINTENANCE 53311					
Roads Supervisor with benefits 53312	112,137	128,093	82,453	128,000	125,137
Training & Meetings 53313	861	850	-	-	1,000
Part-time/Temp Staff 53314	7,358	15,000	5,231	9,500	10,000
Equip Repair & Maint. 53316	23,128	25,000	19,512	25,000	25,000
Fuel 53317	12,137	15,000	4,700	12,000	16,000
Snow & Ice Control 53318	15,955	30,000	16,912	20,000	25,000
Signage 53319	2,555	1,500	989	1,500	1,250
Garage Main./Utilities 53320	5,019	7,000	7,187	9,000	9,500
Town Hall & Cemetery Mowing 53640	11,940	9,000	2,085	9,000	8,000
Brush/Grass Clippings Disposal	-	-	-	-	2,500
Roads Maintenance 53315	24,303	20,000	3,671	12,000	20,000
Roads Construction 53315	215,393	251,443	142,740	720,000	160,000
SUB-TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	239,696	271,443	146,411	946,000	403,387
STREET ADMINISTRATION					
Street Lighting 53101 (Admin. for Streets)	3,760	4,700	3,308	4,000	5,400
Curbside Garbage 53620	81,223	120,960	87,912	123,120	123,696
Curbside Recycling 53635	30,726	90,600	75,924	87,210	87,618
PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	355,405	487,703	313,555	1,160,330	620,101

Conservation and Development

The Town Plan Commission is comprised of 6 resident members as well as the Town Chairman. The Plan Commission reviews applications for rezoning, conditional uses, variances, and property divisions, and makes recommendations to the Town Board for conditions on the applications. They are paid \$25 for each meeting they attend.

CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT 56000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Plan Commission 56001	1,221	1,200	75	1,000	1,200
Zoning & Land Use 56002	-	100	-	100	100
CONSERVATIONS & DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	1,221	1,300		1,100	1,300

Capital Outlay

Capital Outlay are expenses that are committed to a specific project and provide benefits in 2026 as well as future years. The Town capitalizes purchases of over \$5,000 with an estimated useful life greater than one year or those of special note. These purchases are included in the Capital Outlay category (see below).

Significant 2024 Capital project expenditure highlights:

\$21,000 – this represents 70% of room tax

\$22,500 – to purchase a new mower

\$30,000 – to bring the General Fund Reserve to \$180,000 or 2 months operating expenses

CAPITAL OUTLAY 57000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
Tourism Commission/Entity	-	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Elkhorn Fire 57220 2023 Vehicle Replace	27,505	-	-	-	-
Elk Fire/EMS 57220 2024 Radios	-	2,500	10,906	10,906	-
DPW Equipment 57324- Mower	7,871	22,500	21,500	21,500	10,000
DPW Equipment 57325- F550 Purchase					130,000
Town Hall Construction 57140	517,494	-	28,351	28,351	-
General Fund Reserve 57190	150,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	15,000
2027 Interim Market Update	-	-	-	-	10,000
Brush/Grass Clippings Collection Bays	-	-	-	-	2,500
CAPITAL OUTLAY TOTAL	702,870	76,000	111,757	111,757	188,500

Debt Service

According to the GASB, municipal debt should not exceed 5% of the Town's equalized value of \$505,027,300; this would equate to over \$25,251,365. The Town has been conservative in its debt and currently has two general obligation loans; construction of a new Town Garage on Bowers Road and purchase of aerial fire truck for the City of Elkhorn.

DEBT SERVICE 58000	Actual 2024	2025 Budget	Through 10/30	2025 Projected	2026 Budget
P&I: Highway Garage 58221 (through 2036)	41,724	41,724	41,724	41,724	41,724
P&I: Elkhorn Fire Ladder Truck 58221 (2028)	-	-	-	-	82,866
DEBT SERVICE TOTAL	41,724	41,724	41,724	41,724	124,590

Reserve Fund Balances

The Town currently has funds available in four Reserve Fund accounts. Funds are added to these accounts through the Capital Outlay Fund. The General Fund Reserve account will have a balance of \$195,000 at the end of 2026, if no funds are utilized during the year. The Town started budgeting \$10,000 a year toward the 2027 interim market update assessor fee.

RESERVE FUND BALANCES					
Tourism Entity	2024 Budget	Balance 12.31.24	2025 Budget	Est. Balance 12.31.25	2026 Budget
	21,000	-	21,000	-	21,000
DPW Equipment	2024 Budget	Balance 12.31.24	2025 Budget	Est. Balance 12.31.25	2026 Budget
	10,000	-	80,000	-	141,500
General Fund Reserve	2024 Budget	Balance 12.31.24	2025 Budget	Est. Balance 12.31.25	2026 Budget
30% of Oper Exp	150,000	150,000	30,000	180,000	15,000
2027 Interim Market Update	2024 Budget	Balance 12.31.24	2025 Budget	Est. Balance 12.31.25	2026 Budget
	-	-	-	-	10,000