

# BUDGET MESSAGE

Attached is the balanced 2023 Operating Budget for the Town of Abita Springs. The proposed budget reflects anticipated revenues and expenditures for the town Government for the 2023 fiscal year beginning January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

The total budget for 2023 is as follows:

General Fund	\$	\$2,683,700
Utility Fund	\$	\$4,604,500
Cemetery Fund	\$	\$53,400
Parks Fund	\$	\$185,300
Lighting Fund	\$	\$33,500
Shared Sales Tax Fund	\$	\$1,286,100
Public Works Fund	\$	\$556,100
	\$	<b>9,404,600.00</b>

The Budget is divided into the above specified funds and includes revenues and expenditures that are estimated for the 2020 calendar year for each fund, as well as a further explanation of projections and use. Besides the towns' normal revenue sources of Ad Valorem Taxes, Sales Taxes, Franchise Taxes and other sources, the projected budget of \$9,404,600 includes funds received in October 2019 from voter approval in November, 2019 of General Obligation Bonds (\$708,400). The Budget for 2023 also includes expenditures for the rehabilitation of the town's sewer system. All of these projects will be monitored with revenue and expenditures allocated to each project.

Attached is an additional statement restating figures in an alternate format as required by Act 966 by the 2010 Louisiana Legislative Regular Session effective January 1, 2011. Said Act specifically states in Section (2)(a) that such statement shall "include a clearly presented side-by-side detailed comparison of such information for the current year, including the fund balances at the beginning of the year, year-to-date actual receipts and revenue received, and estimates of all receipts and revenues to be received for the remainder of the year; estimated and actual revenues itemized by source: year to date actual expenditures and estimates of all expenditures' to be made for the remainder of the year itemized by sources. All the above-referenced requirements are met by the attachment. This statement is mandated by law.

## **2023 REVENUE**

### **General Fund:**

The revenue for this fund includes funds for several Grant projects including the Recreational Trails and Trace Lighting Grants (\$581,500) Emergency Reimbursement for work done during Hurricane Ida (\$485,000) and a Fund Balance drawn from the General Obligation Bond (\$265,400). The remaining income (\$1,351,800) includes Ad Valorem taxes (\$400,900), Franchise Fees (\$125,000), and Sales Tax (\$533,300). This fund accounts for 28.5% of the revenue for the town.

**Utility Fund:**

This fund includes revenues from the sales of gas, water, and sewer services as well as installations of new service. The Budget for 2023 includes Utility Revenues of \$2,217,100, DEQ Loan Proceeds of \$480,000 Grant Proceeds of \$14,400 and General Obligation Bond fund balance of \$193,000. We are also expecting to receive funding through the Water Sector Program and have budgeted to see revenues of \$1,700,000 from this program. Expenditures include the remaining expenses for the Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation and the Sewer Plant Rehabilitation of \$2,300,000 and debt service payments of \$360,000. This fund accounts for 49% of the revenue for the town.

**Public Works:**

Most of the revenue from this fund comes from Sales Tax. The revenue in this fund is used for regular Public Works projects and maintenance. This fund also includes a line item to begin purchasing adjudicated and vacant property in town limits that are identified as being crucial for drainage, parks & recreation, utilities or municipal uses.

**Shared Sales Tax:**

The purpose of this fund is to provide revenue for repair of roads and drainage within the town. Revenue is projected at \$1,286,100 which includes \$450,000 in Shared Sales Tax. We also expect funds from other parish entities to help with the cost of the Burvant Street Project. We have budgeted to use \$150,000 of the General Obligation Bond Fund Balance towards this project. We have also budgeted \$250,000 of General Obligation Bond funds to be used in other road improvement projects. Expenditures also include repair and leasing of equipment needed to fulfill the mission of the fund.

**CEMETERY**

Revenue includes plot sales at \$1200 per plot. A fund balance from the Cemetery Fund will be used for capital improvements. These improvements include improving drainage, sidewalks and repairing the Mausoleum.

**PARK and RECREATION:**

This fund includes several different budget categories. The Art & Farmers Market, Trailhead Museum, Rentals of the park and structures in the park and dedicated Ad Valorem. Expenditures include those events held at the park, museum and farmers market expenses, repair & maintenance of park facilities, capital projects at the park, etc.

**STREET LIGHTING FUND**

The projected expense for Street Lights is \$33,500.00 with projected revenue of \$26,300.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes. We have allocated the first quarter Franchise Fee from CLECO to make up the difference in the amount of \$7,200.