TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS
BUDGET MESSAGE

FISCAL YEAR 2027

(January 1 – December 31, 2027)

Prepared in accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act (R.S. 39:1301–1315)

Introduction

As I present the 2027 Budget, I do so mindful that voters will elect a new Mayor and possibly an entirely new Board of Aldermen on November 3, 2026. This proposal reflects our responsibility to steward public resources carefully and provide a sound foundation for the new administration and Board

The proposed budget for the Town of Abita Springs for Fiscal Year 2027 has been prepared in compliance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act. It represents a balanced financial plan that supports the Town's priorities of maintaining essential services, protecting public safety, and investing in the long-term maintenance of infrastructure and utilities. The budget reflects the collaborative efforts of the Mayor and Department Heads, with a focus on responsible spending, conservative revenue projections, and continued transparency in financial management.

Overview of Financial Condition

The Town remains in stable financial condition with sufficient fund balances to sustain essential operations and provide for emergency contingencies.

Sales tax revenue continues to be the Town's largest source of income, collected by the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office and distributed monthly to the Town. The dedicated 2% sales tax supports the following:

---1.0% – Public Works Fund - streets, drainage, building maintenance and equipment
---0.5% – Police Fund (General Fund) – law enforcement operations
---0.5% – General Fund (Unrestricted) –administration and other municipal functions

The Town also receives proceeds from the Growth Management and Revenue Sharing Agreement with St. Tammany Parish (referred to as Shared Sales Tax) . The revenue varies by zone or area, ranging from 20% to 100% of the 2% sales tax collected from businesses in St. Tammany Parish within designated

town-adjacent corridors. These funds are dedicated to road and drainage improvements that benefit Sales Tax District 3.

The Town maintains balanced operations while continuing to invest in infrastructure improvements and public safety.

Major Budget Highlights

The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget focuses on continuing to provide the Town's residents with public services and completing major capital projects to provide backup and resiliency to the Town's infrastructure. Financial statements are prepared by the Town's accountant to be presented in a timely manner to the Town Council for review. The Budget to Actual statements will be prepared on a "Cash Basis" to ensure transparency and clarity in revenues and expenditures for each Fund.

Key Initiatives and Priorities

The Town's Year 2026 Budget supports essential services, infrastructure improvements, public safety, utility operations, and community programs. Key initiatives focus on maintaining existing assets, addressing current and future needs, ensuring responsible financial management, and improving the overall quality of life for residents and businesses.

- **Public Works and Infrastructure** – Maintain, repair, and improve the Town's streets, drainage systems, public buildings, and other infrastructure. Priorities include addressing maintenance needs, improving drainage and roadway conditions, replacing aging or outdated equipment, and investing in projects that support the long-term safety, reliability, and functionality of the Town's public assets.
- **Gas, Water, and Wastewater Utilities** – Provide residents and businesses with safe, reliable, and sustainable utility services while maintaining compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and regulatory agency requirements. Priorities include the continued operation and maintenance of utility production, treatment, distribution, and collection systems; improvements to system capacity and reliability; replacement of aging infrastructure; and identification of grants, loans, and other funding opportunities to support major capital improvements.
- **Public Safety** – Support the Town's law enforcement department and its efforts to protect residents, businesses, visitors, and public property. Priorities include providing the personnel, equipment, technology, training, and other resources necessary to maintain effective law enforcement services, respond to community needs, promote public safety, and preserve a safe environment throughout the Town.
- **Administrative and Community Services** – Promote transparent, accountable, and effective Town operations through timely financial reporting, sound budgeting practices, and strong internal controls. Priorities also include supporting the day-to-day administrative functions of municipal government, maintaining compliance with applicable requirements, improving operational efficiency, and providing community services, programs, and activities that enhance residents' quality of life and strengthen community engagement.

The following fund summaries provide an overview of the individual funds included in the Town's Year 2027 Budget. Each summary identifies the fund's primary revenue sources, intended purposes, and the services, operations, or capital projects it supports. Together, these summaries illustrate how the Town's financial resources are allocated to meet ongoing obligations, maintain essential services, address infrastructure needs, and advance the Town's priorities for the coming fiscal year.

Fund Name	Primary Revenue Sources	Purpose and Use of Funds
General Fund - Administration, Elected Officials, and Judicial	Ad valorem taxes; unrestricted 0.5% sales tax; permitting and licensing fees; court fines and fees	Supports general municipal operations, including administration, elected officials, and judicial functions, as well as activities not accounted for in another dedicated fund.
Police Fund - Law Enforcement	Restricted 0.5% sales tax	Supports the Town's law enforcement operations and related administrative activities.
Public Works Fund - Public Works, Shared Sales Tax, and Lighting	Dedicated 1% sales tax; shared sales tax revenues; lighting ad valorem taxes	Supports street and drainage maintenance, public infrastructure, Town buildings, equipment, and street lighting.
Cemetery Fund	Cemetery plot sales	Supports the administration, operation, and maintenance of the Town of Abita Springs Cemetery.
Utility Fund - Gas, Water, Sewer, and Garbage	Utility user fees and service charges	Supports utility operations and maintenance, as well as debt service associated with the 2017 and 2019 bonds.
Capital Projects Fund	Grants and previously designated fund revenues	Supports major infrastructure improvements, construction, and other approved capital projects.
Debt Service Fund	Ad valorem taxes	Provides for repayment of the Town's 2014 and 2020 general obligation bonds.

Personnel and Operations

The FY2027 Budget reflects the Town's current staffing levels across all departments and maintains existing employee benefit programs. The Town's administration remains committed to supporting competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain qualified employees. Operational efficiency continues to be a priority, with an emphasis on preventive maintenance, employee training and development, and improved coordination among departments. These efforts support effective service

delivery, responsible management of public resources, and the long-term sustainability of Town operations.

Outlook and Fiscal Responsibility

The Town of Abita Springs continues to experience steady growth while remaining committed to preserving the small-town character that makes our community unique. As demands on infrastructure and public services increase, we remain focused on maintaining financial stability through long-term planning, responsible cost management, and the pursuit of state and federal grant funding. The FY2027 Budget reflects a commitment to sound fiscal management, public safety, infrastructure improvements, and transparent, accountable governance, while positioning the Town to meet current needs and plan responsibly for the future.

Conclusion

As Mayor, I recognize that preparing and presenting the Town's annual budget is one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to me. Under the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act and the Lawrason Act, the Mayor is responsible for preparing and submitting the proposed budget and overseeing the Town's administration, while the Town Council serves as the governing authority responsible for adopting the budget in accordance with applicable law.

Effective local government depends on cooperation, open communication, and mutual respect for the distinct roles and responsibilities established by law. I believe that working together within these respective roles is essential to making sound financial decisions and serving the best interests of our community.

I remain committed to transparency in all aspects of the Town's finances, responsible management of public resources, and continued collaboration with every member of the Town Council. Through these efforts, we can address the needs of our residents, manage the Town's growth responsibly, and preserve the character of Abita Springs for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Curtis, Mayor
Town of Abita Springs