

Town of Abita Springs, La.

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MAYOR
GREG LEMONS

BUDGET MESSAGE

ALDERMEN
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(MAYOR PRO-TEM)

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UTILITY MANAGER
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TOWN MARSHALL
MICHAEL SLEMMER

Attached is the 2019 Operating Budget for the Town of Abita Springs. It is a balanced budget. The proposed budget reflects the anticipated revenues and expenditures of Town Government for the 2019 fiscal year, beginning January 1, 2019.

The total budget for 2019 is as follows:

General Fund	\$	1,055,753.00
Utility Fund	\$	2,176,280.00
Cemetery Fund	\$	54,455.00
Parks Fund	\$	46,015.00
Lighting Fund	\$	26,012.00
Shared Sales Tax Fund	\$	305,150.00
Public Works Fund	\$	320,000.00
Sewer Project Fund	\$	2,000,000.00
	\$	5,983,665.00

The Budget is divided into the above funds. Based on the information that we have received, our anticipated revenue increase from 2018 to 2019 is \$332,593.00 which is 9.11%, more than last year. In our analysis of the Budget for 2019, the Sewer Project Fund is for monitoring the Sewer Project only with equal income and expenses. The revenues that reflect an actual increase are due to Occupational Licensee Audit, Grants, Clerk of Court and Utility Sales. The actual projection of revenue without the Sewer Project Fund is calculated at 9.11%. The breakdown of the budget includes revenues and expenditures that are estimated for the 2019 calendar year for each fund, as well as a further explanation of projections and use.

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.

2019 REVENUE

Approximately 36.37% of the Town's Revenue is derived from the Utility Fund. Another 17.64% comes from revenues received in the General Fund. The Public Works Fund contributes 5.35%, 0.91% is derived from the Cemetery, Parks 0.77 %, Lighting Funds 0.44 % and 5.10% is contributed from Shared Sales Tax. As noted before, the Sewer Project Fund contributes 33.42%.

2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

UTILITY / SEWER PROJECT

Revenues from Connection Fees, Infrastructure Fees and Utility Service show an increase in income due to growth and new rates. A net income of \$336,000.00 is expected, to be used for the DEQ Loan which is for the Sewer Project. These monies will be transferred to the Sewer Project account every month (\$25,000.00), plus Contingency and Reserve Savings requirements. The work projected will include: Repairs of the main lines (\$483,205.00), Professional Services (\$70,000.00), Contract Costs and Sleeving Service Lines (\$1,000,000.00). The investigative portion of work has been completed. There was \$488,000.00 in expenses for 2018. In 2019, work will begin the Main Line Rehab, Service Line Rehab, Lift Station Rehab (\$420,000.00) and the GIS (\$25,000.00) of the main and service lines. The budget is \$2,000,000.00. These undertakings will go out to bid. The Rehab is expected to be a 3-year project. This project is to correct the Inflow and Infiltration problem with our sewer systems.

CEMETERY

Work for the first Columbarium will begin. It will consist of 96 openings. The anticipated revenue will be \$600.00 per opening. The VFW plans to complete a structure as well. There will be a foundation for a total of 4 Columbarium Structures, which will leave 2 for future construction that will be for their use.

Capital Improvements: Columbarium Structure and continue to do repairs, maintenance and Landscaping \$54,455.00. As well we are planning in opening new areas in the new cemetery.

PARK

Maintenance work will continue as normal. We will pay off the Certificate of Indebtedness for the Trailhead & Playground in 2019. The anticipated savings will be invested back into the Park.

STREET LIGHTING

The projected expense for Street Lights is \$31,668.00. The Budget has projected a revenue of \$26,012.00 from Special Revenue. The difference will be adjusted from Public Works and General Funds.

SHARED SALES TAX

We have budgeted to continue to lease to own three pieces of equipment \$21,000.00 for our 2015 JD 75G Excavator 48" BKT leaving 4 months left for 2020, \$ 25,900.00 for our Ditch Witch JT9 FM5 TK leaving 17 months and \$55,984.00 for our 2017 Vacuum Truck VacHunter Mini-Combo single engine. This particular equipment will enable our Maintenance Department to accomplish more work that will not have to be contracted out. The budget also includes: Repair of roads and ditching (\$67,000.00), Harrison Extension (\$50,00.00) and additional Trailhead Parking Lot (\$30,000.00).

PUBLIC WORKS

The budget includes \$13,600.00 for CCTV System. The total budget is \$30,000.00 the difference will come from the General Fund (see explanation under General Fund) and we are asking The Trailhead Museum to contribute \$5,000.00. of the cost. We are looking to replace one of our Dump Truck due to high recurring maintenance and repair, our bid to lease/purchase is \$21,600.00 for 2019

GENERAL FUND

We will be installing a new and more efficient Video Security System at the Trailhead, Park and the proposed Trailhead Parking Lot. The system will have additional cameras and video capabilities. It will focus on several areas: Museum, Pavilion and the Park. The approximate cost is \$30,000.00 - (Public Works \$13,600.00, General Fund \$11,400.00, Museum \$5,000.00).

GRANTS

We have a total of six. Five are in Utility Fund and one in the General Fund.

GENERAL FUND

Louisiana Government Assistance Program (LGAP) – Purpose: new roof and awning for the Utility Building (Cost \$35,000.00, matching \$10,500.00)

UTILITY FUND

Sewer Plant

LPBF:22,000.00 Sewer Plant Existing Condition and Capacity Evaluation PHI +7,000.00 (Match)

LPBF: 20,000.00 Sewer Plant Expansion Alternatives and Strategy PHII + 7,000.00 (Match)

Sewer Line

LPBF:30,000.00 Sewer Line Existing Condition Model PHI + 10,000.00 (Match)

LPBF: 21,000.00 Sewer Line - Flow Monitoring and Model Calibration PHII + 7,000.00 Match)

CWEF:30,000.00 Looping lines adding injection Point + 15,000.00 (Match)

2019 COST REDUCTIONS

This Administration will continue to look for reductions in expenses across the board. Expenses continue to be reduced in: all general insurance, cell phones, phone/fax service, office/cleaning supplies, cleaning services, mailing costs and website service. Over-time has continued to decrease. The Administrative Department continues to have no overtime expenses. Public Works limits their overtime to emergencies as much as possible. All over-time must be approved by a supervisor.

Hospitalization, Dental, Vision and mandated employer contributions for 2019 had a decrease \$8,279.89 (3.71%) from 2018. We have aligned ourselves with the Wellness of Louisiana Initiative with LDH, to encourage overall general wellness for our employees. As we progress in levels with this program we should begin to qualify for better pricing on Health Insurance. The 2019 plan will continue to offer the Dental and Vision Coverages to be paid for by the Town for Employees Only.

OVERALL COMMENTS

Our overall staffing is still down by 1 full time Public Works employee and 1 full time Utility employee. Salaries continue to be adjusted within the Operating Budget to accurately portray departmental staffing. This budget brings our personnel to approved levels. The 2019 Salary Budget includes a **3% Pool for a Pay for Performance Program** which will be available to all Departments for any **earned** salary increases. This Program has proven to be successful in motivating our employees to strive to be the best they can be. Their efforts are reflected in the great service to the town. Our staff has developed a core of knowledge and abilities to become a very strong team working together, lowering some professional fees, bringing reports in house which has eliminated high professional fees that continue to increase. We continue our cross-training policy of employees. The total Cost to the Town of Abita Springs for Salaries/Benefits/Taxes is \$932,925.02 which represents 23.61 % of the total income expected excluding the Sewer Project Fund.

Economic Development is an important factor in the success of the maintenance of our community. The opportunity to grow our community will result in additional Ad Valorem and Sales Tax. Our focus is to expand our ideas and plan for our future. We will continue to move forward and welcome all positive business development ideas. Building growth is essential in building our community. We are trying to reach our goal of developing a Master Plan. Looking at all aspects with land use, transportation, Public Works, Historic Preservation, Economic Development, Town Center and growth management with a bid budget of \$50,000.(\$25,000.00 from GF and \$25,000.00 from Public Work

This Administration's determination is to continue to be very cost conscious with our spending, which is vital to the success of the growth and development our community. In an attempt, to gain more income, we will continue to promote our commercial garbage business and build on other commercial business opportunities. We would like to explore ways to expand our Economic Development Incentives. We will also continue to look at other ways to increase revenue. Our priority will remain to continue our commitment of focusing on the drainage, infrastructure and our quality of life. We have taken a very in depth look at every aspect of the Budget. We feel that we are on target for another successful year.

MAYOR GREG LEMONS

10/22/2018 GL/ka