

BUDGET MESSAGE

Attached is the balanced 2020 Operating Budget for the Town of Abita Springs. The proposed budget reflects anticipated revenue and expenditures for the town government for the 2020 fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

The total budget for 2020 is as follows:

General Fund	\$	1,724,300.00
Utility Fund	\$	5,708,500.00
Cemetery Fund	\$	13,700.00
Parks Fund	\$	116,300.00
Lighting Fund	\$	36,400.00
Shared Sales Tax Fund	\$	295,300.00
Public Works Fund	\$	592,500.00
	\$	8,487,000.00

The Budget is divided into the above specified funds and includes revenue and expenditures that are estimated for the 2020 calendar year for each fund. Revenue for 2020 include the town's normal revenue sources of Ad Valorem Taxes, Sales Taxes and Franchise Taxes as well as funds received in October 2019 from renewal of Limited Tax Bonds (\$800,000) and voter approval in November 2019 of General Obligation Bonds (\$1,000,000). The Budget for 2020 includes expenditures for the rehabilitation of the town's sewer system and the matching revenue from the DEQ loan for that project. 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 revenue to be received for the remainder of the year; estimated and actual revenue 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.

2020 REVENUE

General Fund:

The increase in revenue for this fund is due to recording of the actual amount of Ad Valorem Taxes without reducing for Debt Service and an amount of \$697,200 which includes funds for the Trace Sidewalk Grant (\$447,200) and the Town Hall remodel (\$250,000). Other sources of income formerly included in the General Fund, such as the museum, farmers market, culvert install & repair, mowing, and other miscellaneous items have been removed from this fund and recorded in funds that more accurately reflect their use or purpose.

Utility Fund:

This fund typically provides one-third of the town's revenue. For the fiscal year 2020 approximately 67% of the town's revenue is derived from the Utility Fund. The increase is due to funds from Limited Tax Bonds and the General Obligation Bond for projects including Water Meter Replacement, Sewer Plant Repairs, Sewer Line & Lift Station Rehabilitation, as well as other smaller grants for line extensions and valves.

Public Works:

The Public Works Fund will contribute 7% in revenue. Most of the revenue for this fund comes from the Limited Tax Bond revenue of \$250,000 for street repairs. While the sales tax revenue for 2019 is estimated to be \$366,000, this exceeds the normal 5 year average. We have calculated revenue for 2020 at a lower amount than 2019 to be more in line with that average.

Shared Sales Tax:

The purpose of this fund is to provide revenue for repair of roads and drainage within the town. Expenditures include street overlay and repair and associated costs.

Cemetery:

The anticipated revenue will be \$1200.00 per opening. Expenditures for 2020 include maintenance and upkeep of the property.

Park and Recreation:

Several revenue and expenditures that formerly were included in the General Fund have been moved to this fund. These are events that occur in the park and therefore should appropriately be accounted for in this fund. Maintenance work will continue as normal. The Certificate of Indebtedness for the Trailhead & Playground was paid off in 2019 which will free revenue for other planned projects and maintenance.

Expenditures include operating expenses for Farmers Market and Trailhead Museum as well as repair and maintenance costs for the park and surrounding area.

Street Lighting Fund:

The projected expense for Street Lights is \$36,400.00 with projected revenue of \$22,900.00 from Ad Valorem Taxes. We have allocated the first quarter Franchise Fee from CLECO to make up the difference. Expenditures include monthly lighting expense and \$5,700.00 for upgrades and repairs.

2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Planned Capital Outlay projects for 2020 are as follows:

- Sewer Rehabilitation Project including rehab of all main lines, some service lines, and lift stations.
- Rehabilitation of the Sewer Treatment Plant to include expansion through the installation of a waste water stabilization lagoon.
- Installation of a secondary water well
- Upgrade water meters
- Renovation of the Town Hall building

OUTSTANDING GRANTS

Outstanding grants for 2020 include:

- Abita Springs Town Center Sidewalk Lighting Project through DOTD to install lighting along the St Tammany Trace at the center of Abita Springs.
- Abita Springs Nature Trails Project Phase 2 through the Federal Highway Administration to install sidewalks in the Town of Abita Springs connecting areas of Abita Springs to the town center.
- Community Water Enrichment Fund Grant for the installation of Inserta Valves for the town water lines.
- LGAP Grant for the extension of water and sewer lines down Highway 59 towards I-12.
- LGAP Grant for the repair of the roof and awning on the Town Annex Building.

MAYOR DANIEL J. CURTIS