

BUDGET MESSAGE 2025

Attached is the balanced 2025 Operating Budget for the Town of Abita Springs. The proposed budget reflects anticipated revenues and expenditures for the town government for the 2025 fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

The total budget for 2025 is as follows:

FUND	Beginning Fund Balance	2025 Projected Operating Revenue	2025 Projected Grant/Loan Revenue	2025 Projected Expenses	Projected Change in Fund Balance	Projected Fund Balance Ending
GENERAL FUND 01	\$1,266,634.32	\$1,438,900	\$795,497.34	\$2,234,397.34	\$-51,000	\$1,215,634.32
UTILITY FUND 02	\$3,530,352.93	\$2,540,343.00	\$6,240,057.50	\$8,780,400.50	0	\$3,530,352.93
CEMETERY FUND 03	\$314,541.51	\$31,000	0	\$31,000	\$51,000	\$365,541.38
DEBT SERVICE FUND 04	\$304,393.16	\$144,000	0	\$45,537.50	\$98,462.50	\$402,855.66
PARKS & RECREATION FUND 08	\$171,158.26	\$180,450	\$150,000	\$330,450	0	\$171,158.26
PUBLIC WORKS	\$119,966.55	\$1,106,130.00		\$1,106,130.00		\$119,966.55
TOTAL	\$5,707,046.73	\$5,442,261.00	\$7,185,554.84	\$12,527,915.34	\$98,462.50	\$5,805,509.10

The Budget is divided into the above specified funds and includes revenues and expenditures that are estimated for the 2025 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, Utility Service Revenues and other sources, the projected budget of \$12,527,915.34 includes funds projected to be received in 2025 as reimbursement for funds expended in 2024, grant funding from several state and federal grants, funds from the state for a Park deck rehabilitation project as well as reimbursement funds from DEQ and Water Sector Program for anticipated expenditures in 2025 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant 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 above table. This statement is mandated by law.

2025 REVENUE

General Fund:

This fund includes total revenue of \$2,234,397.34 with operating revenue of \$1,438,900 from permits & licenses, taxes, and events & rentals. One-time funds from several grant projects including the Town Center Lighting Grant (\$657,761.25), Louisiana Outdoors Forever Grant (\$79,986.09), and Safe Streets for All Grant (\$57,750.00). This fund accounts for 17.8% of the revenue for the town.

Utility Fund:

This fund includes total revenue of \$8,780,400.50 with operating revenue of \$2,540,343.00 from utility services and related items. This fund includes revenues from the sales of gas, water, and sewer services as well as installations of new service. The Budget for 2025 includes Utility Revenues of \$2,184,993.00 which is an increase over 2024 due to an increase in utility rates on water and sewer service passed in 2025 after completing a rate study mandated by the State of Louisiana as part of the Water Sector Project. It is expected that the town will receive \$130,000.00 in reimbursements from the DEQ Loan for expenses realized in 2024 and \$6,110,057.50 from the Water Sector Program, American Rescue Plan funds in reserve and SLRF DEQ Loan program funds. Expenditures include the remaining expenses for the Water Sector Wastewater Treatment Plant Project and the design of the Keller Street Lift Station. This fund accounts for 49.5% of the town's revenues.

Public Works:

In 2025 the town will consolidate funds to include the public works, shared sales tax and lighting funds into one Public Works Fund. Revenue from this fund comes mostly from Sales Tax and Ad Valorem with some service income like culvert installation and mowing of the state right of ways on state highways in town limits. The revenue in this fund is used for Repair, upgrade and installation of roads and drainage on town roads and ditches, street light utility expenses and other regular Public Works projects and maintenance. The town will transfer collected impact fees (\$10,000.00) to a sinking fund for holding for future infrastructure projects. Planned projects include \$269,835.54 on the completion of Level & Burvant Project, \$20,000 for the acquisition of low lying and unbuildable properties in town to maintain drainage and greenspace, road repairs, drainage projects and culvert replacement and installation on town right of ways. This fund accounts for 8.8% of the town's revenues.

Cemetery:

Revenue of \$31,000.00 includes plot sales at \$1800 per plot. Expected expenditure includes the regular maintenance of the town's cemetery and drainage projects to improve the flow of water in the older sections of the cemetery. This fund accounts for .25% of the town's revenues and all revenues from this fund are dedicated to the cemetery.

Park & 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. The town is expected to receive \$150,000 from the Department of Administration of Louisiana for a Museum Deck Repair & Rehabilitation Project. This fund accounts for 2.6% of the town's revenues and all proceeds are dedicated to the parks and green spaces in town.

Debt Service Fund:

This fund is for recording the dedicated Ad Valorem that secures the 2014 General Obligation Bond passed by the residents for use to pave and construct roads. The town is on track to retire this debt in 2025, and the Ad Valorem proceeds will be moved to the Public Works Fund for use on road projects. The Ad Valorem is due to expire in 2030. All proceeds from the Ad Valorem are currently held in a sinking fund for the payment of the debt service on the bond. The yearly debt service payments are approximately \$45,000 and the yearly Ad Valorem collected is \$140,000.00.

The focus of this administration for 2025 is on updating and installing new sewer infrastructure, completing road projects, moving forward with the rewriting of the development code and zoning ordinances, beautifying the town public spaces, seeking funding for adding a second water well to the town water system, completing repairs and upgrades to old water lines, completing regional drainage projects that will help carry the water out of town and into the Abita River and its tributaries. Abita Springs is a small town with a lot of culture to offer to residents and visitors. We look forward to a successful 2025!