

Village of Flat Rock Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Income

Ad valorem property taxes @ \$0.119 / \$100	\$1,667,029.00
General fund sales tax	\$680,000.00
Utilities sales tax	\$214,000.00
Interest	\$150,000.00
Foundation transfer- in	\$111,600.00
Vehicle Tax	\$63,000.00
Special Revenue transfer-in	\$23,935.00
Alcohol tax	\$14,000.00
Permits and fees	\$12,000.00
Total Revenue	\$2,935,564.00

Expenses

Fire Protection	\$1,679,371.00
Administration	\$571,850.00
Park Operating & Maintenance	\$433,995.00
Foundation support	\$89,000.00
Contingencies	\$43,848.00
Audit Services	\$35,500.00
Governing Body	\$28,000.00
Community Development	\$25,500.00
Kudzu & Hemlock Control	\$10,000.00
Legal & Tax Services & Elections	\$12,500.00
Planning	\$6,000.00
Total Expenses	\$2,935,564.00

Overview

The fiscal year 2024-2025 budget is presented for consideration by the Village Council on May 9th, 2024. There has been no revaluation of Henderson County property value this past fiscal year, and this budget has been developed utilizing the same tax rate of \$0.119 per \$100 of assessed value as last year.

As mandated by North Carolina Statute 159-823, General Fund Revenues and Expenses are in balance, at \$2,935,564. General Fund Revenue and Expense budgets are up \$193,538 (7%) versus last year.

General Fund Revenues

As noted, the 2024-2025 revenue budget of \$2,935,564 is up \$193,538 (7%) compared with the 2022/2023 budget, net effects of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The increase in revenue is associated with increased Ad valorem tax receipts \$85,438 (5.4%), an expected increase in Park Foundation transfers \$51,600 (86%), increases in interest income \$50,000 and general sales tax revenue \$30,000 which offset decreases in Motor Vehicle Tax -\$9,000 and utilities tax -\$9,000.

In forecasting revenue for the next fiscal year, the Village relies on two sources of information. First, the Henderson County Assessor provides periodic estimates of values for real and personal property as well as vehicles. The latest estimates are used in this budget. Second, the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) provides its estimated changes for general sales tax, utility sales taxes, and liquor taxes, which are used in the budget process.

General Fund Expenses

The expense budget of \$2,935,564 also reflects an increase of \$193,538 (7%), net of ARP.

By far, the largest expense item is payment for fire protection services from the three fire departments with whom we contract. Total fire protection cost is \$1,679,371 (Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue \$1,125,044, Valley Hill Fire \$377,164, and Green River Volunteer Fire \$177,163), an increase of \$94,265 (5.9%) versus last year's budget. Fire Department rates remain unchanged from last year; the increase reflects increased ad valorem tax collection.

The second largest expense is Village administration. Administration and associated contracted services and general government costs are projected at \$571,850, an increase of \$32,262 (5.9%) versus the previous year. The increase is primarily driven by cost-of-living salary and benefit adjustments, as well as inflation-related increases in various service contracts.

The cost to operate and maintain the Park at Flat Rock is projected at \$433,995, an increase of \$70,637 (19.4%). This increase is also driven by cost-of-living salary and benefit adjustments; service contract increases, and additional maintenance (road project +\$21,000) and equipment (work vehicle + \$24,000) requirements.

The Dye Creek remediation project, which will address stormwater, water quality, and invasive species issues associated with the Dye Creek, will largely be completed in FY '23-'24 and is funded through a separate capital project fund, which is underpinned by grants, Foundation donations, and an ARP allocation.