2026-2027 Budget Ordinance
Budget Message

June 1, 2025

RE: FY 2026-2027 Budget Message

Honorable Mayor Setzer and Members of the Town Council
Cajah's Mountain, North Carolina

Presented for your consideration is the attached proposed Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. The budget is balanced in its entirety as required by the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

The Town of Cajah's Mountain overall budget for FY 2025-2026 totals $3,529,000. The General Fund budget is $910,000. The sewer fund budget is $219,000. The main project in the general operating funds is the reroofing of Town Hall. The special projects for this year are the completion of the Sutton Place Sewer Extension to Buckeye Construction at a cost for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 of $1,650,000, the possible installation of sewer on Pleasant Hill Rd at a cost of $525,000 (potential CDBG grant) and the construction of a splash pad in the park at a cost of $300,000.

General Fund:

In developing the General Fund, revenues have been projected low, and expenses have been projected high. Of $910,000. This is made up from expected Investment Earnings, Local Option Sales Tax revenues, Solid Waste Disposal Tax and Utilities Franchise Tax Revenues. The budget does not include an allocation of funds from the Fund Balance and does show an allocation of $35,000 into the fund balance.

The following show line-items that make up the totals for the General Fund:

Governing Body & Administration includes: Insurance & Bonds, Dues & Subscriptions, Auditing and Accounting, Election Expense, Travel, Legal, Contracted Services, Donations, Bank Charges, Advertising, Meetings and Conventions, Capital Outlay, Office Supplies, Salaries, Payroll Taxes and Miscellaneous.

Public Works, Building & Grounds includes: Utilities, Supplies, Contracted Services, Capital Outlay, Maintenance, Street Repairs, Street Signs, Waste Pick-Up, Supplies, Capital Outlay and Recycling.

The operational expenses in the General Fund are in line with last year's projections. However, there are three expenses worth noting in the new budget year. This budget includes the General Fund's largest expense, the contribution to the Caldwell County

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Sales Tax Reinvestment Fund and the garbage and recycle pickup programs. The Town is allocating $155,000 to the Reinvestment Fund. $193,000 for garbage pickup/recycling. The Town will continue to contract with WPCOG in the coming year for stormwater administration and code enforcement services. The Council has also decided to continue its Christmas and Easter Holiday festivities.

The General Fund revenues and expenditure are balanced at $910,000.

Sewer Fund:

Projected revenues and expenses are $219,000. There is 10% rate increase planned for the sewer system due to treatment increases by the City of Lenoir over the past 2-3 years. The Town receives sewer revenue from two major sources: Monthly Sewer Charges and Tap Fees to connect to the sewer system.

Common expenses from the Sewer Fund includes: Waste Treatment Fees, Billing/Collection Fees, ORC Fees, Other Operating Costs, Utilities, Engineering, Capital Outlay and Equipment & Maintenance Fees.

The Sewer Sund revenues and expenditure are balanced at $219,000.

Special Projects

The completion of the Sutton Place Sewer Extension to Buckeye Construction at a cost for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 of $1,650,000.

The possible installation of sewer on Pleasant Hill Rd at a cost of $525,000 (potential CDBG grant)

The construction of a splash pad in the park at a cost of $300,000.

Conclusion:

I am presenting the proposed budget for FY 2026-2027, and I am prepared to adjust the budget as the Mayor and Town Council deem appropriate.

The following is the schedule followed for budget adoption:

March 9, 2026 - Council discussed budget needs
April 6, 2026 – Council received draft FY 2025-2026 Budget Ordinance
June 1, 2026 - Public Hearing
June 1, 2026 - Adoption of Budget

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Feierabend
Town Manager

Council
Ronnie Setzer, Mayor
Jeff Bolick, Mayor Pro Tem
Cheryl Pritchard
Lloyd Robbins
Richard Andrews

Town Manager
Randy Feierabend

TOWN OF CAJAH'S MOUNTAIN

2026-2027 APPROVED BUDGET ORDINANCE

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Cajah's Mountain, North Carolina, meeting this June 1, 2026, that the following be the budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027:

The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the Town of Cajah's Mountain government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027:

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES:

Investment Earnings	$ 88,000.00
Local Option Sales Tax	750,000.00
Utilities Franchise Tax	70,000.00
Solid Waste Disposal Tax	2,000.00
Appropriated Fund Balance	0.00
Total Revenues	**$ 910,000.00**

EXPENDITURES:

Governing Body & Administration	$ 561,000.00
Public Building/Public Works	148,000.00
Sales Tax Inter-local Agreement	166,000.00
Reserved for Future Use (Fund Balance)	35,000.00
Total Expenditures	**$ 910,000.00**

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SEWER ENTERPPRISE FUND

REVENUES:

Wastewater Fees	$ 219,000.00
Total Revenues	**$ 219,000.00**
(10% rate increase)	

EXPENDITURES:

Engineering	5,000.00
Equipment, Maintenance & Repairs	18,000.00
ORC	20,000.00
Utilities	12,000.00
Wastewater Fees	164,000.00
Total Expenditures	**$ 219,000.00**

SPECIAL PROJECTS

REVENUES

General Fund – Sutton Place sewer	$ 1,575,000.00
General Fund – Pleasant Hill Rd. sewer	525,000.00
General Fund – Splash pad	300,000.00
Total Project Revenue	**$ 2,400,000.00**

EXPENSES

Sewer construction – Sutton Place	1,500,000.00
Engineering, legal, misc. – Sutton Place	150,000.00
Pleasant Hill Rd. sewer – turnkey est.	525,000.00
Splash pad	300,000.00
Total Project Expenditures	**$ 2,400,000.00**

Adopted this 1st day of June 2026.

Ronnie Setzer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Randy Feierabend, Town Manager

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