



April 10, 2023

Budget Proposal and Summary

The proposed 2023-2024 Budget has a total projected income of \$175,500. This total is an increase of \$2,400 from last year's budgeted income of \$173,100. This increase is due partly to monies received from The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA), which provides additional funding to municipalities to offset the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

INCOME: \$175,500

We estimate that we will receive \$71,700 in ad valorem taxes based on a millage rate of .15 cents per \$100, with an estimated property valuation of \$51,800,000 for properties within the town limits of Webster, but not including areas zoned for government, nor any church or cemetery properties. We expect to see a decrease in revenue from the following taxes: Vehicle Taxes are expected to be \$6,000 (a decrease from last year's budgeted amount of \$7,400); Franchise Taxes are projected to be \$20,000 (down from \$28,000 last year); and Interest from the Town's money market account is budgeted to be \$300 (a decrease from last year's amount of \$1,000). A switch to a money market account with more favorable interest rates will likely improve this outcome. One line item expected to increase significantly is revenue from Sales and Use Tax, which is budgeted this year at \$28,000 (an increase of \$10,000 from last year's budget). This increase is the result of the increase in property taxes implemented in 2020, from .05 cents to .15 cents per \$100 of property valuation, which has led to a subsequent increase in revenue received from the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

EXPENSES: \$175,500

Government: \$71,300

Government expenses are Webster's largest expenditure totaling \$71,300. This total is a decrease from last year's amount of \$91,650. Decreases are noted in Miscellaneous Expenses (down \$21,175 from last year's budgeted amount of \$32,775) and Tax Collection fees (with a decrease of \$600). Notable increases are expected for Advertising and Legal Ads (up \$300), Audit and Accounting fees (with a \$500 increase) and Liability Insurance (expected to increase by \$625). Council stipends, Attorney Fees, Election Expenses, Payroll Expenses and Obligations, and Professional Fees and Services remain unchanged from last year's estimates.



Residential Services: \$64,200

Residential services are projected to increase by \$18,300 from last year's estimate of \$45,900. Much of this increase is due to investments in two areas. First, the category for Law Enforcement now includes increased efforts to improve overall traffic safety; an additional \$10,000 supplements this category to accommodate any necessary data collection and safety measures. In addition, a new line item has been added dedicated to Community Events, with a budget of \$2,500. An increase is noted in Landscaping services and reflects the rising costs of labor and materials and increasing scope of work. Expenses for Fire, Rescue, Street Lights, and Sidewalks are expected to remain similar to last year's budgeted amounts.

Town Hall: \$40,000

Town Hall expenses are expected to increase by \$4,450 from last year's budget of \$35,550. Ongoing repairs and maintenance of Town Hall have necessitated the addition of a dedicated manager. Property Management expenses are expected to be \$5,000 and account for the most significant change to this category. The remaining Town Hall expenses remain consistent with last year's totals, with the exception of Apartment Utilities, which following appliance repairs and upgrades are expected to be \$500 less than in previous years.

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Leigh Anne Young
Mayor pro tempore