CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

CITY KEEPING EXISTING MILLAGE RATE

2026 fiscal year improves services while keepings costs low

This budget ensures continued efficiency while enhancing essential services. Thanks to responsible financial planning and past support from City Council in providing necessary staff and equipment, we've funded departmental needs without increasing tax millage for our residents.

THIS YEAR'S BUDGET INCLUDES AN EMPHASIS ON:

Maintaining Police and Fire budgets while adding and upgrading equipment to continue to provide efficient and effective emergency response.

Continued support of retail and hospitality industries and services to attract visitors to the area with events, beautification, and improved pedestrian and vehicular access.

Providing financial resources for improvements and expansion to the water and sewer infrastructure throughout West Columbia.

Superior emergency services with the Fire Department maintaining the highest possible ISO rating of "1" in the nation, keeping insurance costs lower for residents and business owners.

Providing increased operation and maintenance to the water and sewer system in line with the 2018 plan.

Enhancing public service with additional equipment in public parks, spaces, and sanitation department.

OTHER PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Allocated funding for blight removal, beautification for commercial areas and corridors, and enhancing the attractiveness of public spaces
- Continued focus on comprehensive code enforcement
- Supporting resources in development services to leverage current assets and achieve mid and long-range plans
- Implementation of the 2025-2026 Council Goals & Priorities
  - » Support smart development with focused zoning plans for targeted areas.
  - » Evaluate short-term rental impact and explore better oversight options.
  - » Plan for future parking and crosswalk needs in high-traffic areas.
  - » Expand pedestrian and bike access in key corridors, including B Ave, State, 9th, and 12th Streets.

DID YOU KNOW?

- City millage accounts for less than 18% of the Lexington County property tax bill
- West Columbia has the lowest in-city combined water and sewer rates in Lexington County and the Midlands
- The City provides sanitation and recycling services for no additional cost to residents

FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY



