CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA

IMPROVING SERVICES WHILE KEEPING COSTS LOW

2027 fiscal year keeps existing millage rate

This budget balances efficiency with enhancements to essential services. Through careful financial planning and City Council support for staffing and equipment, we have fulfilled departmental needs without increasing tax millage for residents.

2026-2027 BUDGET INCLUDES AN EMPHASIS ON:



The Fire Department continuing to provide top-tier emergency services while maintaining the nation's highest ISO rating of "1," which helps keep insurance costs lower for residents and business owners.



Providing financial resources to support improvements and expansion of the water and sewer infrastructure across West Columbia, helping to ensure a reliable and efficient system.



Maintaining Police and Fire budgets while investing in new and upgraded equipment to ensure continued efficient and effective emergency response.



Ongoing support for the retail and hospitality sectors, as well as for services that draw visitors through events, beautification efforts, and enhanced pedestrian and vehicular access.



Enhancing operations and maintenance of the water and sewer system as outlined in the 2025 plan.



Improving public services by adding equipment to parks, public spaces, and sanitation departments.



OTHER PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Allocated funding for blight removal, beautification of commercial areas and corridors, and improving the attractiveness of public spaces.
- Maintaining a continued focus on comprehensive code enforcement.
- Providing resources within development services to leverage existing assets and meet mid- and long-term goals.
- Implementation of the 2026-2027 Council Goals & Priorities, including:
  - Develop a citywide walking & biking plan for connecting key destinations
  - Study stormwater authority restructuring and watershed district solutions



DID YOU KNOW?

- City millage accounts for less than 18% of the Lexington County property taxbill
- 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 2026-2027 GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY



