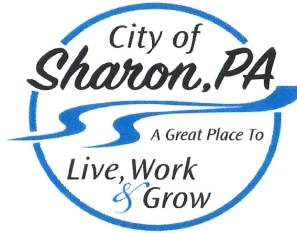


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October 29, 2025

City Council
City of Sharon
155 W. Connelly Blvd.
Sharon, PA 16146

Dear Members of Council:

Attached for your review and consideration is the proposed 2026 General Operating Budget for the City of Sharon. In accordance with the City Charter, following its formal submission to Council, this document will be made available to the public on the City's website for transparency and community engagement.

Public budget hearings have been scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 5:30 PM and Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 5:30 PM. These sessions will provide Council and residents the opportunity to review, discuss, and offer input on the proposed financial plan for the coming year.

The proposed 2026 operating budget totals \$11,393,574 in expenditures, representing an increase of \$70,344 over the previous year. Despite this modest increase, the budget was developed with the clear goal of avoiding any tax rate increases, while maintaining the delivery of essential public services at a high standard.

This year's increase is driven primarily by wage and benefit adjustments reflecting negotiated increases across all three collective bargaining units and adjustments for non-union personnel. The City continues to value its dedicated workforce and strives to provide competitive compensation within the constraints of a responsible fiscal plan.

For 2026, the City has budgeted \$588,468 for debt service, which includes \$515,914 in principal and \$72,455 in interest payments. This reflects our continued commitment to meeting financial obligations while maintaining a stable debt position.

Through prior budget initiatives, the City has successfully demolished approximately 450 deteriorated structures, significantly improving neighborhood safety and appearance. While the pace of demolition has naturally slowed as the most critical properties have been addressed, the City remains committed to strategic blight reduction and neighborhood revitalization efforts. These initiatives will continue to focus on removing long-vacant and abandoned properties, a proven approach that enhances community stability and strengthens property values.

With the conclusion of the FEMA SAFER Grant on February 28, 2026, the Fire Department's staffing complement will be reduced by three firefighters. Other than this adjustment, departmental staffing levels will be maintained consistent with the prior year, ensuring continuity in the delivery of public safety and municipal services.

The budget projects \$4,145,000 in earned income tax revenue and \$2,500,000 in real estate tax revenue, reflecting a conservative and data-driven approach based on historical trends and current economic conditions.

In addition to the operating budget, several important initiatives are funded through the 2026 Capital Improvement Fund. These projects represent the City's ongoing investment in public safety, infrastructure, and community amenities. The East Silver Street Multimodal Improvements Project will enhance accessibility and safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists while supporting continued revitalization along a key corridor. The City of Sharon Public Safety Upgrades Project will provide essential improvements to facilities, equipment, and technology, ensuring that our first responders have the resources necessary to effectively serve the community. The Sharon Little League Field Handicap-Accessible Restroom Project will make local recreation facilities more inclusive and accessible to all residents. Finally, the Riverfront Park Walkway Project will expand recreational opportunities and improve connectivity along one of Sharon's most valued public spaces. Together, these projects reflect a forward-looking approach to maintaining and improving the City's core infrastructure while enhancing quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

The 2026 Budget has been prepared with a careful and conservative review of historical data, along with a realistic assessment of the costs necessary to provide essential municipal services. Our objective remains clear: to deliver high-quality services in a manner that is financially sustainable, transparent, and responsive to the needs of Sharon's residents and businesses.

The City administration is deeply committed to ensuring that Sharon remains a vibrant, resilient, and welcoming community—a place where families can thrive, businesses can grow, and residents can take pride in their city. I look forward to discussing this proposed budget in detail and working collaboratively with City Council toward its timely adoption.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Fiscus
City Manager