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October 28, 2026

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

Dear Members of Council:

Attached for your review and consideration is the proposed 2027 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for the City of Sharon. In accordance with the City Charter, the budget outlines the financial and operational priorities, emphasizing responsible financial management, essential municipal services, public safety, infrastructure, and economic development.

The proposed 2027 operating budget totals approximately \$11,190,800, a decrease of \$277,844, or 2.42%, from the 2026 budget of \$11,468,644. Separately, the City plans approximately \$6,500,000 in capital improvement projects. The operating reduction reflects continued efforts to manage costs, improve efficiency, and direct resources toward essential services.

Financial Policies and Revenues

The budget reflects a careful review of historical revenues, anticipated expenditures, contractual obligations, and departmental needs. The Administration continues to use conservative revenue projections, manage recurring costs, and pursue grant funding to limit the burden on local taxpayers. For 2027, projected revenues include \$2,475,000 in current real estate taxes, \$4,070,000 in earned income taxes, and \$625,000 in realty transfer taxes. These estimates support a balanced operating plan while recognizing changing economic conditions.

Public Safety and Organizational Improvements

Public safety remains a central priority. In 2027, the City Manager will no longer serve in the additional capacity of Fire Chief. This organizational change will strengthen departmental leadership and allow the City Manager to focus on citywide administration, oversight, and strategic priorities.

The budget also adds a dedicated Downtown District Police Officer to provide a consistent police presence, support local businesses, and address public safety and quality-of-life concerns. Grant funding has been secured for the position, avoiding an additional burden on local taxpayers. The City will continue making needed improvements to public safety facilities, equipment, and operations.

Infrastructure and Capital Improvements

The City's capital improvement program represents a significant investment in transportation, stormwater management, neighborhood infrastructure, and community facilities. Planned work includes paving Elm Avenue and Ormond Avenue and replacing aging stormwater catch basins in the East Hill neighborhood to improve drainage and roadway conditions.

A major priority is completing the Silver Street Improvement Project, including stormwater upgrades, new sidewalks, bicycle lanes, lighting, and paving. The City will also advance truck route improvements and construction to support safe and efficient commercial transportation.

Additional transportation projects include pedestrian improvements, updated crosswalks, and traffic-calming measures along Sharpsville Avenue. Traffic signal modernization is planned at Euclid Avenue and State Street and at North Oakland Avenue and State Street to improve intersection safety and traffic operations.

The capital program also includes improvements to municipal public safety facilities and the renovation of the North Sharon Fire Hall Community Center. As a community facility, the center will be improved to better serve residents and support neighborhood activities.

Downtown Revitalization and Neighborhood Development

The Administration intends to complete strategic planning for the downtown greenspace district in 2027. This work will establish a vision for attractive, functional public spaces that complement local businesses, encourage investment, and provide opportunities for community events. The City will continue collaborating with businesses, community organizations, and regional partners to advance downtown revitalization.

Neighborhood stabilization will remain a priority through code enforcement, blight reduction, property maintenance, and targeted infrastructure improvements. These efforts protect property values, address deteriorated properties, and support the productive reuse of vacant or underutilized sites.

Debt Service and Financial Stability

The proposed 2027 budget includes approximately \$512,001 in annual debt service, consisting of \$445,485 in principal and \$66,516 in interest. This is approximately \$76,467 less than the \$588,468 budgeted in 2026. The Administration will continue to assess future borrowing carefully, pursue outside funding, and align capital investments with the City's long-term financial capacity.

Looking Ahead

The proposed 2027 budget balances fiscal responsibility with meaningful investment in Sharon's future. Planned improvements will strengthen public safety, improve streets and stormwater systems, modernize transportation infrastructure, expand pedestrian safety, and advance downtown development. The City remains committed to delivering efficient, transparent, and responsive services while making the best use of available resources.

I appreciate the dedication of our department directors, employees, and administrative staff in preparing this budget and serving our community. I also thank City Council for its continued cooperation as we address Sharon's challenges and opportunities together.

Our objective remains clear: maintain a financially responsible municipal government while making practical investments that improve residents' quality of life and position Sharon for a stronger future. I look forward to reviewing the proposed budget with Council and working toward its timely adoption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Fiscus", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Robert G. Fiscus

City Manager