

ORDINANCE #: 306

TOWN OF MARS HILL

BUDGET ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

WHEREAS this Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina, has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 159 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina, meeting in open session on June 1, 2026, that this Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 be adopted as follows:

SECTION 1. GENERAL FUND AND POWELL BILL FUND

A. REVENUE – Revenue totaling \$3,618,151 is hereby anticipated from the following sources:

Description	Amount
Property Tax (Current Year \$0.34 per \$100)	\$ 984,951
Property Tax (1 st Prior Year & All Other Prior Years)	\$ 5,500
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 10,000
Tax Penalties & Interest	\$ 4,000
Ad Valorem Vehicle Tax	\$ 70,000
Municipal Parking Fees	\$ 8,000
Interest Earned, Investments	\$ 150,000
Rents & Concessions	\$ 0
Utilities Revenue	\$ 1,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 5,000
Utility Franchise Tax	\$ 125,000
Excise Tax – Beer & Wine	\$ 8,000
Powell Bill Street Allocation	\$ 70,000
Local Option Sales Tax	\$ 800,500
Court Costs, Fees, Etc.	\$ 100
Parking Violation Penalties	\$ 3,000
Zoning Permits	\$ 500
Police Department Donations	\$ 100
Recreation Department Revenue	\$ 1,000
Fire Department Revenue	\$ 2,000
Fire Department Relief Fund	\$ 0
Tax Refunds	\$ 9,000
Special Fire District Tax	\$ 1,100,000
Appropriated Fund Balance – General Fund	\$ 130,000
Appropriated Fund Balance – Powell Bill	\$ 130,000
TOTAL REVENUES ANTICIPATED	\$ 3,618,151

B. EXPENDITURES – A total of **\$3,618,151** is hereby authorized to be expended from the departmental accounts of the General Fund and Powell Bill Fund as follows:

Description	Amount
Governing Body	\$ 123,800
Administration	\$ 339,100
Elections	\$ 0
Tax Collections	\$ 5,800
Public Buildings	\$ 69,500
Police Department	\$ 888,769
Fire Department	\$ 1,146,570
Street Department	\$ 419,187
Powell Bill Expenditures	\$ 200,000
Sanitation Department	\$ 251,625
Recreation Department	\$ 131,000
Library	\$ 42,800
Debt Service	\$ 0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AUTHORIZED	\$ 3,618,151

SECTION 2. WATER AND SEWER FUND

A. REVENUE – Revenue totaling **\$1,467,976** is hereby anticipated from the following sources:

Description	Amount
Interest Earned – Investments	\$ 40,000
Interest Earned – Enterprise Fund	\$ 20,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 10,000
Water & Sewer Charges	\$ 1,317,976
Sewer Taps	\$ 10,000
Water Taps	\$ 20,000
Appropriated Fund Balance/Water & Sewer	\$ 50,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,467,976

B. EXPENDITURES – A total of **\$1,467,976** is hereby authorized to be expended from the departmental accounts of the Water and Sewer Fund as follows:

Description	Amount
Debt Service	\$ 30,000
Administration, Engineering and Billing	\$ 360,823
Operations	\$ 1,077,153
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AUTHORIZED	\$ 1,467,976

SECTION 3. CAPITAL PROJECTS WATER/SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FUND

A. REVENUE – Revenue totaling **\$488,466** is hereby anticipated from the following sources:

Description	Amount
Federal Government Grants – EDA/ARC, Others	\$ 299,800
Other FS/Uses-Transfer In (Dogwood/Land of Sky Grant)	\$ 188,666
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 488,466

B. EXPENDITURES – A total of **\$488,466** is hereby authorized to be expended from the departmental accounts of the Capital Projects Water/Sewer System Improvements Fund as follows:

Description	Amount
Operations	\$ 488,466
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AUTHORIZED	\$ 488,466

SECTION 4. PURPOSE

The appropriations made herein are for the maximum amounts necessary to provide the services and accomplish the purpose described. Each department head shall affect savings to the extent possible.

SECTION 5. FISCAL YEAR EFFECTIVE DATE

Appropriations made herein are effective for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2027.

SECTION 6. AD VALOREM TAXES

An *ad valorem* tax rate of forty-seven cents (\$0.34) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable property is hereby levied as the official tax rate for the Town of Mars Hill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. This rate is based upon the total property valuation of approximately \$295,603,534 pursuant to information provided by the Madison County Tax Office. The FY 2027 property tax is estimated with a collection rate of 98.0%.

SECTION 7. WATER AND SEWER USAGE RATES

There shall be implemented a 2.5% increase in water and sewer usage base rates and fees consistent with established water operation policy.

SECTION 8. FEE SCHEDULE

There is hereby established for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 a schedule of fees, penalties, and fines and is included as an attachment to this ordinance as Appendix A.

SECTION 9. COMPENSATION OF MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute 160A-64, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Mars Hill shall be compensated as follows: Mayor \$6,000.00 annual honorarium and Alderman members \$5,000.00 annual honorarium.

SECTION 10. BUDGET OFFICER

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute 159-8, the Town is required to appoint a Budget Officer and the Town of Mars Hill Board of Aldermen has and hereby appoints the Town Manager to serve as Budget Officer.

SECTION 11. UTILIZATION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE

The Budget Ordinance shall be the basis for the financial plan for the Town of Mars Hill during the fiscal year. The Budget Officer shall administer the budget and maintain such records consistent with this ordinance and the appropriate statutes of the State of North Carolina. The Budget Officer/Town Manager is authorized to execute contracts or other documents for which this ordinance makes an appropriation.

The Budget Officer/Town Manager is authorized to transfer amounts between objects of expenditure within a department without limitation. The Budget Officer/Town Manager is further authorized to transfer from one appropriation to another appropriation within the same fund as contained herein provided any such transfers shall be reported to the Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting and such action be recorded in the meeting minutes.


SECTION 12. DISTRIBUTION AND DOCUMENTATION

Copies of this Budget Ordinance shall be provided to the Budget Officer, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and the Treasurer/Finance Officer to be kept on file by them for direction in the collection of revenues and disbursement of Town funds.


SECTION 13. ADOPTION

A motion was made by Alderman Larry Davis that the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 be ADOPTED as presented. A second was made by Alderman Stuart Jolley. Upon a vote on the motion, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for the Town of Mars Hill was approved by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina.

ADOPTED this 1st day of June 2026.



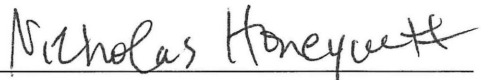
John L. Chandler, Mayor



Robert W. Zink, Treasurer



Larry Davis, Secretary



Nicholas Honeycutt, Vice-Mayor



Stuart L. Jolley, Clerk



APPENDIX A

TOWN OF MARS HILL

BUDGET ORDINANCE

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

FEE SCHEDULE

ADMINISTRATION	
Copies – Black and White, per page	\$0.10
Copies – Color, per page	\$0.25
Return Check Fee	\$35.00
Online / Credit Card Payment Fees	As set by 3 rd party vendor
Parking Permit – Main Street area – annual	\$200.00
Parking Permit – Library/Fire Annex lots – annual	\$175.00
Special Event Permit	\$25.00
Special Event Permit – Tent or Street Closure	\$25.00 plus \$50 per specialty use
Special Event Permit – Public Assembly	\$50.00
ZONING FEES	
Zoning Permit	\$50.00
ABC Verification Letter	\$25.00
Sign Permit – Permanent	\$50.00
Sign Permit – Temporary/Banner	\$50.00
Special Use Permit	\$300.00
Variance Application	\$300.00
Administrative Appeal	\$300.00
Zoning Map or Text Amendment	\$400.00
Voluntary Annexation Petition Requests	\$300.00
Conditional Zoning District	\$500.00
Re-advertising fee (due to action by applicant)	\$25.00 plus Cost of Advertisement
Site Plan Review	\$250.00
Recombination Plat (zoning review only)	\$25.00
Communication Tower Permit – Initial	\$2,500.00
Communication Tower – Annual Renewal	\$250.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Police Reports (per report)	\$4.00
Parking Violation	\$25.00 - \$100.00 (per ordinance 88)
Noise Violation	\$200.00
Alcohol Violation	\$50.00
Leash Law Violation	\$50.00
Operating Gaming Terminal	\$500.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT	
Annual Permit Fee	\$50.00
Plan Review Fee	\$50.00
Construction and Repair Fee	\$100.00
Life Safety Violation	\$100.00
All Other Code Violation	\$25.00
Rapid Entry Key Box Violation	\$500.00

SANITATION	
Trash Can (1 st at no cost, each additional, or damaged or lost container)	\$200.00
RECREATION	
Pool Admission – 6 and over (<i>5 and under free</i>)	\$5.00
Seasonal Pool Pass – Individual	\$75.00
Seasonal Pool Pass – Family	\$200.00
Swimming Lessons – each child	\$ TBD
Pool Reservation – Private Event – up to 50 people	\$200.00 / \$100.00 Deposit
Pool Reservation – Private Event – 50 to 75 people	\$250.00 / \$100.00 Deposit
Pool Reservation – Private Event – 75 to 90 people	\$300.00 / \$100.00 Deposit
Small Shelter at Playground	\$10.00 per hour
Large Shelter	\$20.00 per hour
Ball Field / Tennis Court – without lights	\$10.00 per hour
Ball Field / Tennis Court – with lights	\$40.00 per hour
Picnic Area & Ball Field	\$20.00 per hour
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT	
Administration Fee	\$100.00
Water Turn Off / Turn On	\$25.00
Water Reconnection Fee	\$50.00
Water Meter Evaluation Fee	\$25.00 (if no issue found)
Meter Charge	\$5.00
Meter Tampering Fee	\$200.00
Late Charge	\$10.00 OR 10% whichever is greater
Water Connection Fee* – ¾ inch	\$3,000.00
1 inch	\$5,000.00
1 ½ inch	\$7,000.00
2 inch	\$9,000.00
3 inch	\$13,000.00
4 inch	\$30,000.00
6 inch	\$35,000.00
Sewer Connection Fee* – ¾ inch	\$3,000.00
1 inch	\$5,000.00
1 ½ inch	\$7,000.00
2 inch	\$9,000.00
3 inch	\$13,000.00
4 inch	\$15,000.00
6 inch	\$35,000.00
*Connection fees are a minimum fee only. Final fee is actual cost plus 20%. Water connection fee for a connection greater than ¾ inch does not include cost of the meter. Meter cost at owner expense.	
Water Deposit – Residential – Owner	\$100.00
Water Deposit – Residential – Tenant/Renter	\$200.00
Water Deposit – Commercial	\$250.00
Road Boring Fee	Cost plus 20%