

THE TOWN OF LAUREL
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORKSHOP

June 1, 2026

7:00 p.m.

1. Opening
2. Pledge Allegiance
3. Proclamation RE: Gun Violence Awareness
4. Presentation of Proposed FY2027 Budget “Floor Will Be Open to the Public for Comment & Questions.” – Town Manager Smith
5. Adjourn

Note to the Public: In accordance with 29 Del. C. §1004 (e) (2) (3), this agenda was posted on May 22, 2026 at 12:15 p.m.; at the time it was prepared by the Town Manger at least (7) days in advance of the meeting. This agenda is subject to change to include the addition of items included Executive/Closed Session or the deletion of items including Executive/Closed Session, which arise at the time of the meeting. Agenda items listed may be considered out of sequence.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/jc/87842186566>

Meeting ID: 878 4218 6566

Passcode: 570416

AGENDA AMENDED ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026, AT 8:33 A.M. TO INCLUDE THE FLOOR WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENT & QUESTIONS.

PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING JUNE GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Wear Orange and National Gun Violence Awareness Day were inspired by the life of Hadiya Pendleton and the countless individuals, families, and communities affected by gun violence throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS, Hadiya Pendleton marched in President Barack Obama's second inaugural parade on January 21, 2013, and just one week later was tragically shot and killed on a playground in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, in her memory, Hadiya's friends chose to wear orange, the color worn by hunters to protect themselves and others, as a symbol of safety, awareness, and remembrance; and

WHEREAS, the Wear Orange movement has since grown into a nationwide effort dedicated to honoring victims and survivors of gun violence, supporting impacted families and communities, and promoting meaningful solutions to reduce violence; and

WHEREAS, communities across the country recognize June as Gun Violence Awareness Month through remembrance events, community beautification projects, youth engagement activities, and public awareness campaigns; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Laurel recognizes the importance of community-driven efforts that promote peace, healing, safety, and opportunity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town continues to support initiatives such as Sussex Peace and Prosperity and local programs that foster positive youth engagement and strengthen community relationships; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Carlos Oliveras, Mayor of the Town of Laurel, Delaware, do hereby proclaim June 2026 as

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Town of Laurel to be affixed this First Day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

Carlos Oliveras, Mayor



Town of LAUREL DELAWARE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FY 2027 BUDGET

May 29, 2026

The Town's proposed FY2027 Budget totals \$8,572,944, representing an increase of just over 13%. Department Heads were conscientious in preparing their budget requests, recognizing both the increasing costs associated with operating the various sectors of municipal government and the importance of balancing those needs without placing an unnecessary financial burden on our citizens.

Residential construction continued throughout FY2026 and is expected to remain into FY2027, alongside commercial development within the Town. The Town is currently working closely with a commercial developer on a project along U.S. Route 13 that is anticipated to include the construction of four businesses and one additional pad site for future development.

Budget includes new structures of incentives for Downtown Development District.

Sussex County has completed its property reassessments, and the Town has adjusted its tax structure to establish two separate tax rates: one for residential properties and one for commercial properties.

During the process of reviewing and calculating the proposed tax rates, it became evident that many residential properties experienced significantly higher assessed values than commercial properties. In many cases, residential assessments were heavily influenced by the age of the property and the timing of renovations or improvements. Older homes, particularly those that have not undergone recent renovations, generally experienced larger increases in assessed value.

Taking these factors into consideration, the proposed tax rates have been structured to ensure the Town is able to meet its financial obligations while also working to minimize the tax burden placed on our property owners.

The Budget includes increased expenses for consultant costs, demolition costs, infrastructure repairs, Capital Improvement Project, debt service, personnel costs, insurance cost and general increases to supplies, materials, repairs.

The town staff continues to work daily to be sure we are in compliance with all regulations mandated by the state and federal government.

We work diligently daily to continue to comply with the regulations mandated by the state and federal government. By federal law, the water and sewer systems are enterprise funds, which means they are to be fully funded by the system users and not supported by any other funding sources, including taxes, grants, etc. Any surplus realized is transferred to help offset the general fund to help offset costs that would otherwise impact the general fund and property tax rates.

Below are the highlights of the budget:

Revenues:

- R/E Tax penalties, is an increase of \$62,985.00
- Proposed Tax Rate for Residential Properties is \$0.47 per \$100 of the assessed value and \$0.98 per \$100 of the assessed value.
- Increase to water usage and sewer rate of \$0.50 to each per 1,000 gallons, along with \$0.50 to each base rate.
- Increase Rental License to \$175.00.
- Flat rate of Business License established at \$225
- Plan Review for Residential of \$150/hr.
- Inspection and Plan Review for Commercial of \$0.05% of Total Cost.
- Towing fee amended to include Admin Fee of \$50
- Septic Receiving increase of \$0.05 per gallon.

- Court Security \$20 increase
- Amendment to COPS Grant to add \$65,000 to the budget.
- With the increase in new residential properties we will see an increase in the over all income to water, sewer, trash and taxes.

Expenditures:

- Increases to all insurances
- Debt Service increase.
- Funds to hire consultant to rewrite the Zoning Ordinance
- Personnel compensation adjustments.
- Funds for Demolition of Derelict Properties
- Increase Repairs to Infrastructure.
- Loss of the Laurel School District paying for the School Resource Officer.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Improvement Project.
- Continued the line item for MS4 expenses (Federal Mandate)
- Include expenses for Federal Mandate of Lead and Copper Testing on privately owned properties.
- Majority of Department expenses remained close to the same as FY2026, with some minor adjustments.

DDD Incentive Structure:

- DDD Incentives for Building permit waive up to 30% depending on the cost of construction. For Tax Abatement on improvements change to an incremented abatement starting with 50% year 1, 40% year 2, 30% year 3, 20% year 4, and 10% year five

A formal Public Review and Comment will be held on Monday, June 1, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. on the proposed budget. At that time, citizens can offer comments or questions they may have. We will also be posting the proposed budget to our webpage (www.townoflaurel.net, under forms and documents, then select

general category). Anyone who has any questions or comments that cannot attend the public hearing, may email the town manager with those comments or questions. The email for the Town Manager is laureltm@comcast.net. The Budget will be presented for adoption on June 15, 2026.

Jamie T. Smith
Town Manager

TOWN OF LAUREL

FY2027

Adopted

OPERATING BUDGET

Fiscal Year

2026-2027

FY 2027 REVENUES

| DEPARTMENT | FY 2025 (Budget) | FY 2026 (Budget) | FY 2027 (Proposed) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| General Government | | | |
| <u>Operating Revenue</u> | | | |
| Taxes | | | |
| Real Estate Taxes | \$ 1,596,000 | \$ 1,606,249 | \$ 2,108,394 |
| Delinquent Taxes | \$ 315,000 | \$ 380,000 | \$ 250,000 |
| Transfer Taxes | \$ 150,000 | \$ 160,000 | \$ 191,000 |
| Licenses | | | |
| Business | \$ 35,000 | \$ 35,000 | \$ 55,125 |
| Rental | \$ 123,000 | \$ 130,500 | \$ 142,625 |
| Grants | | | |
| Municipal Street Aid | \$ 88,000 | \$ 84,000 | \$ 83,000 |
| Police | \$ 199,500 | \$ 286,500 | \$ 334,900 |
| General | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 20,000 |
| Rents | \$ 99,467 | \$ 87,000 | \$ 82,000 |
| Interest & Penalties | \$ 75,700 | \$ 107,700 | \$ 171,000 |
| Franchise Fees | \$ 45,500 | \$ 45,500 | \$ 39,500 |
| Services Billed | \$ 60,000 | \$ 55,000 | \$ 52,000 |
| Permits | \$ 66,800 | \$ 70,450 | \$ 92,300 |
| Reviews, Inspections | \$ 8,000 | \$ 19,000 | \$ 40,000 |
| User Fees | \$ 46,500 | \$ 38,500 | \$ 11,000 |
| Fines | \$ 407,000 | \$ 387,500 | \$ 387,500 |
| Insurance Claims | | | |
| Vacant Structure | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 |
| <u>Capital Revenue</u> | | | |
| Sale of Surplus Property | | | |
| Fire Dept. Impact Fees | \$ - | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| Public Facilities Impact Fees | \$ 30,000 | \$ 30,000 | \$ 45,000 |
| Storm Water Impact Fee | | \$ 13,000 | \$ 15,000 |
| P & R Impact Fee | | \$ 6,500 | \$ 7,000 |
| Police Impact Fee | | \$ 6,500 | \$ 7,000 |
| Fire Sprinkler Yrly Fee | | \$ 500 | \$ 1,700 |
| Fire Sprinkler Impact Fee | | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| Transfers | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 3,455,467 | \$ 3,669,399 | \$ 4,356,044 |

| Water Enterprise | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Operating Revenue</u> | (Budget) | (Budget) | (Proposed) |
| User Fees | | | |
| Water Fees | \$ 990,000 | \$ 1,030,000 | \$ 1,170,400 |
| Penalties | \$ 28,000 | \$ 87,000 | \$ 125,000 |
| Availability Fees | \$ 30,000 | \$ 30,000 | \$ 30,000 |
| Connection Fees | | | \$ 15,000 |
| Water Meter Fees | \$ 3,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 10,000 |
| <u>Capital Revenue</u> | | | |
| Water Impact Fees | | | \$ 33,000 |
| TOTAL | <hr/> \$ 1,051,000 | <hr/> \$ 1,152,000 | <hr/> \$ 1,383,400 |
| Wastewater Enterprise | | | |
| <u>Operating Revenue</u> | | | |
| User Fees | | | |
| Wastewater Fees | \$ 1,340,000 | \$ 1,390,000 | \$ 1,546,000 |
| Penalties | \$ 20,000 | \$ 43,500 | \$ 55,000 |
| Availability Fees | \$ 57,000 | \$ 57,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Connection Fees | | | \$ 29,000 |
| Grease Trap Insp. Fee | | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| <u>Capital Revenue</u> | | | |
| Wastewater Impact Fees | | | \$ 42,000 |
| TOTAL | <hr/> \$ 1,417,000 | <hr/> \$ 1,491,500 | <hr/> \$ 1,698,000 |
| Septic Receiving Enterprise | | | |
| <u>Operating Revenue</u> | | | |
| Septic Receiving Fees | \$ 565,000 | \$ 560,000 | \$ 605,000 |
| Permit Fees | \$ 3,100 | \$ 4,200 | \$ 4,500 |
| TOTAL | <hr/> \$ 568,100 | <hr/> \$ 564,200 | <hr/> \$ 609,500 |
| Trash Enterprise | | | |
| <u>Operating Revenue</u> | | | |
| Trash Fees | \$ 511,500 | \$ 518,000 | \$ 520,000 |
| | | | \$ 6,000 |
| TOTAL | <hr/> \$ 511,500 | <hr/> \$ 518,000 | <hr/> \$ 526,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | <hr/> <hr/> \$ 7,003,067 | <hr/> <hr/> \$ 7,395,099 | <hr/> <hr/> \$ 8,572,944 |

FY 2027 OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES

| DEPARTMENT | FY 2025 (Budget) | FY 2026 (Budget) | FY 2027 (Proposed) |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| General Government | | | |
| Contractual Services | \$ 360,354 | \$ 363,984 | \$ 434,380 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 23,300 | \$ 18,500 | \$ 30,200 |
| Other Projects & Grants | \$ 39,550 | \$ 30,000 | \$ 56,500 |
| Debt Service & Reserve | \$ 80,000 | \$ 25,000 | \$ 140,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 503,204 | \$ 437,484 | \$ 661,080 |
| Administration | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 322,499 | \$ 305,062 | \$ 222,939 |
| Contractual Services | \$ 27,772 | \$ 27,600 | \$ 27,700 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 46,300 | \$ 48,725 | \$ 42,375 |
| TOTAL | \$ 396,571 | \$ 381,387 | \$ 293,014 |
| Public Works | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 203,600 | \$ 228,452 | \$ 128,779 |
| Contractual Services | \$ 102,500 | \$ 92,550 | \$ 154,250 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 106,450 | \$ 115,750 | \$ 200,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 412,550 | \$ 436,752 | \$ 483,029 |
| Code Enforcement | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 179,401 | \$ 159,168 | \$ 166,646 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 38,100 | \$ 33,020 | \$ 63,900 |
| TOTAL | \$ 217,501 | \$ 192,188 | \$ 230,546 |
| Alderman Court | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 218,293 | \$ 209,722 | \$ 220,461 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 10,600 | \$ 10,600 | \$ 10,236 |
| TOTAL | \$ 228,893 | \$ 220,322 | \$ 230,697 |
| Police Department | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 2,325,018 | \$ 2,757,146 | \$ 3,292,704 |
| Contractual Services | \$ 64,000 | \$ 78,700 | \$ 76,000 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 163,500 | \$ 295,200 | \$ 337,800 |
| TOTAL | \$ 2,552,518 | \$ 3,131,046 | \$ 3,706,504 |
| Mayor & Council | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 4,125 | \$ 4,125 | \$ 5,000 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 3,000 | \$ 2,000 | \$ 2,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 7,125 | \$ 6,125 | \$ 7,000 |

| DEPARTMENT | FY 2025 (Budget) | FY 2026 (Budget) | FY 2027 (Proposed) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Water Enterprise | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 332,355 | \$ 328,880 | \$ 547,295 |
| Contractual Services | \$ 114,500 | \$ 98,000 | \$ 97,500 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 136,500 | \$ 139,500 | \$ 129,500 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | \$ 33,500 | \$ 31,000 | \$ 31,000 |
| Debt Service | \$ 155,200 | \$ 169,748 | \$ 171,318 |
| Capital Reserve | | | |
| Sludge Removal Reserve | \$ 50,000 | \$ 50,000 | \$ 50,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 822,055 | \$ 817,128 | \$ 1,026,613 |
| Wastewater Enterprise | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 506,199 | \$ 532,704 | \$ 642,745 |
| Contractual Services | \$ 13,000 | \$ 12,500 | \$ 13,500 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 235,500 | \$ 242,500 | \$ 237,000 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | \$ 70,500 | \$ 74,500 | \$ 154,500 |
| Debt Service | \$ 387,815 | \$ 264,686 | \$ 269,802 |
| Capital Reserve | | | |
| Sludge Removal Reserve | \$ 88,600 | \$ 88,600 | \$ 88,600 |
| TOTAL | \$ 1,301,614 | \$ 1,215,490 | \$ 1,406,147 |
| Septic Receiving Enterprise | | | |
| Personnel | \$ 119,161 | \$ 138,677 | \$ 65,814 |
| Contractual Services | \$ 10,375 | \$ 10,500 | \$ 12,500 |
| Supplies & Materials | \$ 35,000 | \$ 28,000 | \$ 50,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 164,536 | \$ 177,177 | \$ 128,314 |
| Trash Enterprise | | | |
| Contractual Services | \$ 380,000 | \$ 380,000 | \$ 400,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 380,000 | \$ 380,000 | \$ 400,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$ 6,986,567 | \$ 7,395,099 | \$ 8,572,944 |