

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2881

**TO RAISE REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sumter, South Carolina, this 17th day of June 2025, in Council duly assembled and by the authority of same:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to Section 5-13-90(2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, as amended (the "South Carolina Code"), the City Manager of the City of Sumter, South Carolina (the "City"), has prepared and presented to this meeting a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026 (the "Fiscal Year 2026 Budget"). A copy of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget has been provided to the City Council of the City (the "Council") and is incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to Section 6-1-80 of the South Carolina Code, notice of a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget was published in *The Item*, a newspaper of general circulation in the City, on May 4, 2025. The form of the published notice is attached hereto.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to Section 5-13-30(3) of the South Carolina Code, the Council has the authority and responsibility to approve the annual budget for the City. The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget as presented is hereby approved in accordance with its terms. The information as set forth in Exhibit A, Exhibit B and Exhibit C is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

SECTION 4. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 the City levied an *ad valorem* property tax in the amount of 107 mills, comprising 104 mills for operational purposes and 3 mills for the payment of debt service on general obligation indebtedness of the City. Pursuant to Section 6-1-320(A)(1) of the South Carolina Code, the City "may increase the millage rate imposed for general operating purposes above the rate imposed for such purposes for the preceding tax year only to the extent of the increase in the average of the twelve monthly consumer price indexes for the most recent twelve-month period consisting of January through December of the preceding calendar year, plus, beginning in 2007, the percentage increase in the previous year in the population of the [City]." Additionally, pursuant to Section 6-1-320(A)(2) of the South Carolina Code, "there may be added to the operating millage increase allowed, the operating millage allowed but not previously imposed for the three (3) property tax years preceding the year to which the current limit applies." Accordingly, the City Manager, with the advice of the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office of the State of South Carolina, has determined that the maximum permitted increase in the City's operating millage for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is 22.53% (3.14% pursuant to Section 6-1-320(A)(1) and 19.39% pursuant to Section 6-1-320(A)(2)). Pursuant to Section 6-1-320(D), however, the millage limit "does not affect millage that is levied to pay bonded indebtedness or payments for real property purchased using a lease-purchase agreement or used to maintain a reserve account."

SECTION 5. In order to raise revenues and defray expenses as presented in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, the Council hereby ordains that an *ad valorem* property tax at the millage rate hereinafter stated to cover the period from the first day of July A.D. 2025, to the 30th day of June A.D. 2026, both inclusive, for the sums and in the manner hereinafter mentioned, is and shall be levied, collected and paid into the Treasury of Sumter County, South Carolina, for the credit to the City of Sumter, South Carolina, for the use and service thereof. The millage rate for such *ad valorem* property tax shall be 112 mills, comprising 108 mills for operational purposes (representing a 3.85% increase) and 4 mills (representing a 33% increase) for the payment of general obligation indebtedness of the City. Such millage rate shall be applied to the value of all real estate and personal property of every description owned and used in the City of Sumter, South Carolina, except such as is exempt from taxation under the Constitution and law of the State of South Carolina.

SECTION 6. The Council hereby finds and determines, as a fact and after appropriate investigation, as follows:

- a) The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget appropriates sufficient revenues within the Enterprise Funds to pay the principal of and interest on all bonds secured by

revenues of the Enterprise Funds as and when they become due and payable in one or more bond and interest redemption funds.

- b) The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget appropriates sufficient revenues within the Enterprise Funds to provide for the payment of all expenses of administration and operation of the City's enterprise system, as well as such expenses for maintenance as may be necessary to preserve the City's enterprise system in good repair and working order. These appropriations are made to the Water and Sewer Fund into multiple accounts, organized by department and line items, that collectively serve as the "operation and maintenance fund."
- c) The City maintains within its Enterprise Funds a designated account described as the "Capital Reserve Account" that is restricted for purposes of funding depreciation and therefore serves as the "depreciation fund." As of April 30, 2025, the amount on deposit in the Capital Reserve Account was in excess of \$7.3 million. The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget appropriates an additional \$800,000 to the Capital Reserve Account. In addition, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget appropriates through multiple line items in excess of \$1,000,000 to fund capital improvements to depreciating infrastructure. Upon advice of the Director for Public Services, and as supported by capital improvement plans prepared by the City's engineers, the Council hereby finds and declares such appropriations to be sufficient (together with the existing balance in the Capital Reserve Account) to build up a reserve for depreciation of the City's enterprise system. These amounts collectively serve as the "depreciation fund."
- d) The City maintains within its Enterprise Funds a designated account described as the "Contingency Account." As of April 30, 2025 the amount on deposit in the Contingency Account was in excess of \$3.7 million. Upon advice of Director for Public Services, and as supported by analyses of the enterprise system's current physical condition as prepared by the City's engineers, the Council hereby finds and declares such amount to be a sufficient reserve for improvements, betterments, and extensions to the City's enterprise system, other than those necessary to maintain it in good repair and working order as provided above. Therefore, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget appropriates no additional funds to the Contingency Account.
- e) After giving effect to the transfers described above, the budgeted revenues for the enterprise system exceed the budgeted expenses for the enterprise system by an amount of not less than \$2,174,563. Accordingly, the Council hereby determines and finds, as a fact and based on the information described above, that the amount of \$2,174,563 shall be considered surplus revenues of the Enterprise System and are hereby budgeted for discretionary transfer to the General Fund.

SECTION 7. The billing dates, the penalty dates, and the amount of penalty which shall be levied for delinquent taxes shall be the same as those established by Sumter County, South Carolina, pursuant to State Law.

SECTION 8. The City Manager shall administer the budget and may authorize the following to achieve the goals of this budget.

- 1. *Authorize the transfer of appropriated funds within and between Departments and Funds as necessary.*
- 2. *Controls shall be made by Fund Appropriation.*
- 3. *Designate continuing projects from Fund Balances.*

SECTION 9. If for any reason any sentence, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, such shall not affect the remaining provisions hereof.

ADOPTED IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED THIS 17TH DAY OF JUNE 2025.

CITY OF SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

David P. Merchant, Mayor

James B. Blassingame, Mayor Pro Tempore

Calvin K. Hastie, Sr., Councilman

Rebecca Lynn Kennedy, Councilwoman

Colin C. Davis, Councilman

Gifford M. Shaw, Councilman

Anthony Gibson, Councilman

ATTEST:

Linda D. Hammett, City Clerk

First Reading: May 22, 2025

Second/Final Reading: June 17, 2025

Exhibit A: Budget 2026 Revenues and Expenditures Summary

	General Fund/TIF	Enterprise Funds	Accommodations Fund	Hospitality Fund	Victims Assistance	Total Budget
Revenues and Other Financing Sources						
Property Taxes (Includes TIF)	20,519,601	-	-	-	-	20,519,601
Licenses, Permits and Franchise Fees	12,684,671	-	-	-	-	12,684,671
Local Accommodation Fees	-	-	850,000	-	-	850,000
Local Hospitality Fees	-	-	-	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Intergovernmental Revenue						
State government	1,178,154	-	-	-	-	1,178,154
Local government	8,378,631	-	-	-	-	8,378,631
Charges for Services						
Water and Sewer	-	29,952,600	-	-	-	29,952,600
Stormwater	-	854,250	-	-	-	854,250
Sanitation Fees and Container Rentals	5,031,816	-	-	-	-	5,031,816
Rents and Other	653,300	116,000	-	-	-	769,300
Fines, Fees and Forfeitures	105,000	-	-	-	15,000	120,000
Interest Income	300,000	880,000	-	-	-	1,180,000
Other Financing Sources						
Transfers In	4,670,517	37,752	-	-	74,604	4,782,873
Sale of Capital Assets	1,112,500	-	-	-	-	1,112,500
Capital Lease Proceeds	2,004,000	584,400	-	-	-	2,588,400
Appropriation from Fund Balance	1,100,000	-	-	-	-	1,100,000
Total Revenues and Other Sources	57,738,190	32,425,002	850,000	4,000,000	89,604	95,102,796
Expenditures/Expenses						
General Government	6,099,811	-	-	-	-	6,099,811
Public Safety	29,934,317	-	-	-	89,604	30,023,921
Public Works	9,459,427	-	-	-	-	9,459,427
Parks and Gardens	2,952,068	-	-	-	-	2,952,068
Culture and Recreation	1,729,597	-	-	-	-	1,729,597
Economic Development	1,397,321	-	312,614	1,259,224	-	2,969,159
Water and Sewer	-	25,046,764	-	-	-	25,046,764
Stormwater	-	835,250	-	-	-	835,250
Debt Service (includes TIF)	1,067,227	1,308,275	-	-	-	2,375,502
Appropriations to Other Agencies	264,581	264,650	-	-	-	529,231
Other	3,878,701	2,555,000	-	-	-	6,433,701
Other Financing Uses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employee Fringe Benefits	560,000	240,500	-	-	-	800,500
Transfers to Other Funds	395,140	2,174,563	537,386	2,740,776	-	5,847,865
Total Expenditures and Other Uses	57,738,190	32,425,002	850,000	4,000,000	89,604	95,102,796

Exhibit B: Detail of 2026 Budgeted Expenditures

Fund / Dept. / Classification	Expenditures
110 General Fund	
41 General Government	
411 Admin	
Personal Services	3,472,014
Purchased Services	1,041,410
Materials and Supplies	131,389
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	67,100
Indirect Cost Allocation	(1,322,187)
412 Downtown	
Personal Services	690,656
Purchased Services	55,900
Materials and Supplies	11,600
Special Projects/Events	16,500
413 City Warehouse	
Personal Services	164,460
Purchased Services	6,625
Materials and Supplies	9,150
Misc. Adjustments/Reimbursements	2,500
Indirect Cost Allocation	(51,289)
414 Planning	
Personal Services	1,156,975
Purchased Services	138,976
Materials and Supplies	41,950
Special Projects/Events	(128,162)
Indirect Cost Allocation	(21,236)
415 Growth & Development	
Transfers	3,120
416 Business License	
Personal Services	462,530
Purchased Services	46,250
Materials and Supplies	32,775
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	14,000
417 Liberty Center	
Purchased Services	43,805
Materials and Supplies	8,000
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	5,000
41 General Government Total	6,099,811
42 Public Safety	
421 Police	
Personal Services	11,259,787
Purchased Services	1,793,905
Materials and Supplies	1,099,552
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	5,000
Misc. Adjustments/Reimbursements	(341,768)
Indirect Cost Allocation	(242,420)
422 Police Joint Shared	
Personal Services	2,503,903
Purchased Services	930,070
Materials and Supplies	277,858

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Fund / Dept. / Classification	Expenditures
Indirect Cost Allocation	(65,125)
423 Fire	
Personal Services	8,748,372
Purchased Services	434,342
Materials and Supplies	557,260
Capital Leases	539,808
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	548,500
Indirect Cost Allocation	(189,983)
425 Building Inspection	
Personal Services	859,325
Purchased Services	98,791
Materials and Supplies	56,000
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	60,000
426 Codes Enforcement	
Personal Services	539,571
Purchased Services	43,900
Materials and Supplies	43,850
Capital Leases	34,746
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	53,000
428 Municipal Court	
Personal Services	146,899
Purchased Services	135,424
Materials and Supplies	3,750
42 Public Safety Total	29,934,317
43 Public Works	
432 Construction	
Personal Services	918,282
Purchased Services	23,700
Materials and Supplies	69,650
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	105,000
Indirect Cost Allocation	(156,728)
433 PW/Maintenance	
Personal Services	805,154
Purchased Services	982,728
Materials and Supplies	317,800
Capital Leases	197,215
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	849,000
Indirect Cost Allocation	(401,262)
434 Sanitation	
Personal Services	2,384,840
Purchased Services	1,059,036
Materials and Supplies	576,100
Capital Leases	799,110
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	810,000
Misc. Adjustments/Reimbursements	36,681
Indirect Cost Allocation	(52,211)

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Fund / Dept. / Classification	Expenditures
435 Vehicle Maintenance	
Personal Services	150,673
Purchased Services	28,200
Materials and Supplies	9,300
Indirect Cost Allocation	(52,841)
43 Public Works Total	9,459,427
44 Parks & Gardens	
441 Parks	
Personal Services	1,068,051
Purchased Services	199,850
Materials and Supplies	218,750
Capital Leases	57,784
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	242,000
Indirect Cost Allocation	(78,379)
442 Gardens	
Personal Services	676,297
Purchased Services	325,765
Materials and Supplies	174,950
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	67,000
44 Parks & Gardens Total	2,952,068
45 Culture & Recreation	
451 Tennis	
Personal Services	642,701
Purchased Services	233,300
Materials and Supplies	60,400
Special Projects/Events	60,000
452 Aquatic	
Personal Services	357,288
Purchased Services	84,100
Materials and Supplies	55,300
Special Projects/Events	15,000
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	85,000
458 Opera House Auditorium/Annex	
Purchased Services	83,038
Materials and Supplies	5,370
Special Projects/Events	48,100
45 Culture & Recreation Total	1,729,597
46 Community & Economic Development	
466 Community Dev. / Hope Centers	
Personal Services	797,251
Purchased Services	189,050
Materials and Supplies	30,800
46 Community & Economic Development Total	1,017,101
47 Debt Service	
471 General Obligation Bonds	
Debt Service	559,000
473 Interest Bond	
Debt Service	88,447
47 Debt Service Total	647,447

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Fund / Dept. / Classification	Expenditures
48 Approp to Other Agencies	
481 Appropriations to Other Agencies	
Appropriations To Other Agencies	264,581
48 Approp to Other Agencies Total	264,581
49 Other	
491 Other	
Purchased Services	2,788,090
Contingencies/Reserves	700,000
Other Programs/Community Promotions	108,000
Capital Leases	143,362
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	840,000
Misc. Adjustments/Reimbursements	25,000
Indirect Cost Allocation	(725,751)
493 Employee Fringe Benefits	
Purchased Services	560,000
495 Transfers Out	
Transfers	395,140
49 Other Total	4,833,841
110 General Fund Total	56,938,190
111 TIF	
46 Community & Economic Development	
467 Economic Development	
Special Projects/Events	380,220
46 Community & Economic Development Total	380,220
47 Debt Service	
471 General Obligation Bonds	
Debt Service	380,000
473 Interest Bond	
Debt Service	39,780
47 Debt Service Total	419,780
111 TIF Total	800,000
330 Water & Sewer	
50 Departmental	
501 Contracts, Transfers, and Reserve	
Purchased Services	7,150
Materials and Supplies	3,000
Contingencies/Reserves	896,104
Transfers	2,174,563
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	50,000
Indirect Cost Allocation	3,359,412
502 Utility Billing	
Personal Services	2,059,408
Purchased Services	680,580
Materials and Supplies	167,300
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	42,000
Misc. Adjustments/Reimbursements	250,000
503 Water & Sewer Distribution	
Personal Services	2,478,156
Purchased Services	464,750

Exhibit B: Detail of 2026 Budgeted Expenditures

Fund / Dept. / Classification	Expenditures
Materials and Supplies	1,141,220
Capital Leases	325,592
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	1,553,900
504 Mechanical Maintenance	
Personal Services	964,238
Purchased Services	85,459
Materials and Supplies	351,129
Capital Leases	60,064
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	46,000
505 Water Plants	
Personal Services	1,059,841
Purchased Services	1,622,294
Materials and Supplies	972,887
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	372,500
506 Wastewater	
Personal Services	1,998,882
Purchased Services	1,771,478
Materials and Supplies	721,479
507 Electrical Maintenance	
Personal Services	191,819
Purchased Services	12,200
Materials and Supplies	41,630
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	58,500
509 Engineering	
Personal Services	620,235
Purchased Services	222,110
Materials and Supplies	41,600
50 Departmental Total	26,867,480
57 Debt Service	
573 Interest Revenue Bonds	
Debt Service	1,304,275
575 Agency Fees	
Purchased Services	4,000
57 Debt Service Total	1,308,275
59 Other	
591 Water & Sewer, Other	
Purchased Services	77,247
Appropriations To Other Agencies	243,650
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	2,555,000
593 Purchased Services Insurance	
Purchased Services	240,500
59 Other Total	3,116,397
330 Water & Sewer Total	31,292,152
334 Mayesville Water System	
50 Departmental	
501 Contracts, Transfers, and Reserve	
Personal Services	156,038
Transfers	37,752

Exhibit B: Detail of 2026 Budgeted Expenditures

Fund / Dept. / Classification	Expenditures
502 Utility Billing	
Purchased Services	2,650
Misc. Adjustments/Reimbursements	6,000
505 Water Plants	
Purchased Services	19,321
Materials and Supplies	29,974
506 Wastewater	
Purchased Services	16,565
Materials and Supplies	8,300
50 Departmental Total	276,600
334 Mayesville Water System Total	276,600
333 Stormwater	
50 Departmental	
502 Utility Billing	
Misc. Adjustments/Reimbursements	7,500
508 Stormwater System	
Personal Services	291,782
Purchased Services	146,950
Materials and Supplies	21,300
Appropriations To Other Agencies	58,000
Capital Outlay & Depreciation	309,718
50 Departmental Total	835,250
59 Other	
591 Water & Sewer, Other	
Appropriations To Other Agencies	21,000
59 Other Total	21,000
333 Stormwater Total	856,250
212 Accommodations	
46 Community & Economic Development	
467 Economic Development	
Special Projects/Events	312,614
46 Community & Economic Development Total	312,614
49 Other	
495 Transfers Out	
Transfers	537,386
49 Other Total	537,386
212 Accommodations Total	850,000
219 Hospitality	
46 Community & Economic Development	
467 Economic Development	
Special Projects/Events	1,259,224
46 Community & Economic Development Total	1,259,224
49 Other	
495 Transfers Out	
Transfers	2,740,776
49 Other Total	2,740,776
219 Hospitality Total	4,000,000

Exhibit B: Detail of 2026 Budgeted Expenditures

Fund / Dept. / Classification	Expenditures
250 Victim's Assistance	
41 General Government	
411 Admin	
Personal Services	71,374
Purchased Services	13,830
Materials and Supplies	4,400
41 General Government Total	89,604
250 Victim's Assistance Total	89,604
Grand Total	95,102,796

Exhibit C: Budgeted Revenues Fiscal Year 2026

Fund / Classification	Revenues
110 - General Fund	
Taxes	
Property Tax Revenue	19,656,072
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	63,529
Licenses, Permits, and Franchise Fees	
Business License	8,330,671
Franchise Fees	3,750,000
Building Permits	604,000
State Shared Revenues	
Local Government Fund	1,178,154
County Shared Expense	
Business License Administration	115,138
Planning & Inspection	1,271,147
Law Enforcement Center	1,833,027
Fire Service	4,045,990
Shaw Base Defense	34,250
C Funds/City Road Surfacing	500,000
Road User Fee	150,000
Other	168,732
Sumter School District Shared Expense	
School Resource Officers	260,347
Fines & Forfeitures	
Court Fines	75,000
Parking Penalties	20,000
Codes Enforcement Fines	10,000
Other Financing Sources	
Use of Money & Property	
Charges for Fire/Rescue	8,500
Container Rental/User Charges	2,684,316
Interest on Investment	300,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	543,000
Other Financing Sources	3,104,000
Planning Fees	20,000
Recycling Income	12,500
Rental on Property	69,300
Sale of Fixed Assets	1,112,500
Sanitation Fee	2,347,500
Transfers (In)	4,670,517
110 - General Fund Total	56,938,190
111 - TIF	
Taxes	
Property Tax Revenue	800,000
111 - TIF Total	800,000

Exhibit C: Budgeted Revenues Fiscal Year 2026

Fund / Classification	Revenues
330 - Water & Sewer	
Water & Sewer	
Water Sales	13,650,000
Sewer Sales	13,840,000
Water & Sewer Connections	700,000
Late Charges/Penalties/Reconnect Fees	714,100
Fire Protection Charges	71,200
Bill Collection Fees	41,000
Tipping Fee/Sludge Sales	5,000
Bad Debt Recovery	108,000
Application Fee	127,200
Management Fees	390,000
Miscellaneous Fees	29,500
Use of Money & Property	
Interest on Investment	880,000
Other Financing Sources	584,400
Rental on Property	114,000
Transfers (In)	37,752
330 - Water & Sewer Total	31,292,152
334 - Mayesville Water System	
Water & Sewer	
Water Sales	115,000
Sewer Sales	150,000
Late Charges/Penalties/Reconnect Fees	10,400
Bad Debt Recovery	500
Application Fee	700
334 - Mayesville Water System Total	276,600
333 - Stormwater	
Stormwater Fund	
Stormwater Fees	854,250
Use of Money & Property	
Other Financing Sources	2,000
333 - Stormwater Total	856,250
212 - Accommodations	
Accommodations Fees	850,000
212 - Accommodations Total	850,000
219 - Hospitality	
Hospitality Fees	4,000,000
219 - Hospitality Total	4,000,000
250 - Victim's Assistance	
Use of Money & Property	
Other Financing Sources	15,000
Transfers (In)	74,604
250 - Victim's Assistance Total	89,604
Grand Total	95,102,796