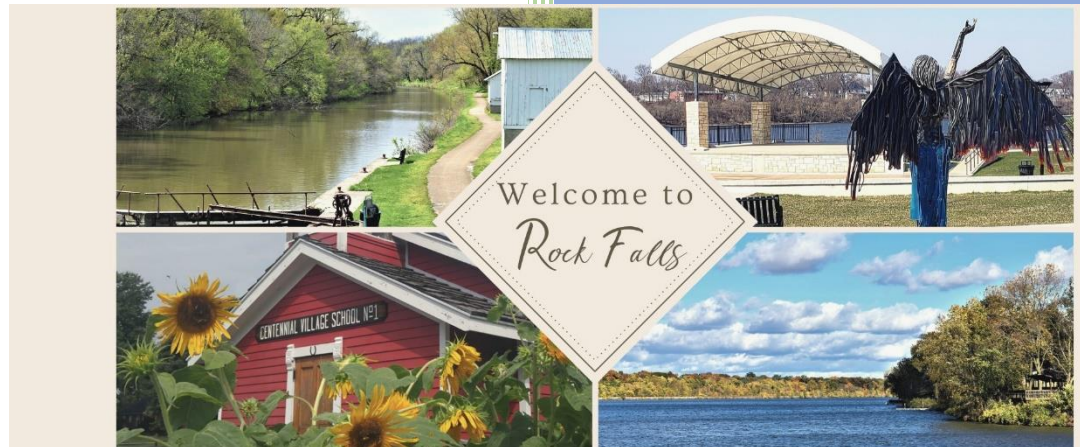


# FY 26 Budget



Robbin Blackert  
City Administrator  
4/15/2025

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## About the Budget Summary

This report is specifically designed as a summary document and is intended to convey select information about the major aspects of the City's FY 26 budget, current debt and financial status in a condensed and easily understandable format. The primary focus of the report is the City's General Fund, Electric Fund, Wastewater Fund and Water Fund. These are considered to be the City's major and most significant funds. The City maintains several other accounting funds which will be included, but not as detailed. All references and comparisons to the FY 25 budget are based on the FY 25 budget projections since FY 25 figures are not finalized and are unaudited.

Questions concerning this budget report or requests for additional information should be directed to:

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### Independence Day Celebration 2024



## Debt Status

Historically, the City has issued two major forms of debt in order to fund significant capital purchases and projects. General Obligation (GO) bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the City and are payable from both the governmental funds and proprietary funds as an alternate revenue source. In addition, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has extended low and no interest loans to our Water & Wastewater funds for various projects including the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility completed in 2011. As of April 30, 2024, the City has \$11,634,485. of GO Alternate Revenue Source Bonds and \$8,925,190 of IEPA Loans. Of those IEPA loans, \$7,679,891 were from the construction of the Wastewater Treatment facility that opened in 2011. That debt will be paid in full in 2031. These figures are available in the City of Rock Falls FY 24 Audit Report.

## Debt Rating

A bond rating is a way to measure the creditworthiness of a bond, which corresponds directly to the cost of borrowing for an issuer. These ratings typically assign a letter grade to bonds that indicates their credit quality. Private independent rating services such as S&P Global (Standard & Poor's) evaluate a bond issuer's financial strength, or its ability to pay a bond's principal and interest, in a timely fashion. Bond ratings are vital to alerting investors to the quality and stability of the bond in question. These ratings consequently greatly influence interest rates, investment appetite, and bond pricing. The City of Rock Falls most recent GO alternative revenue source bond issuance occurred in 2018. At that time, S&P Global upgraded the City's rating from "A" to "AA". Bond ratings are vital to alerting investors to the quality and stability of the bond in question. These ratings consequently greatly influence interest rates, investment appetite, and bond pricing.

In assigning a rating for General Obligation (GO) Bonds the rating agency assess the following factors:

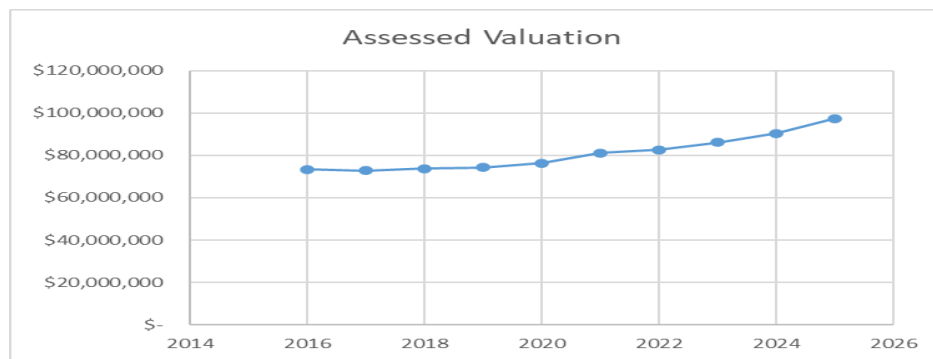
- ✓ Economy
- ✓ Debt Structure
- ✓ Financial Condition
- ✓ Demographic Factor
- ✓ Management Practices

Unfortunately, with Rock Falls' modest median income being \$48,390 it may be difficult to achieve a AAA rating.

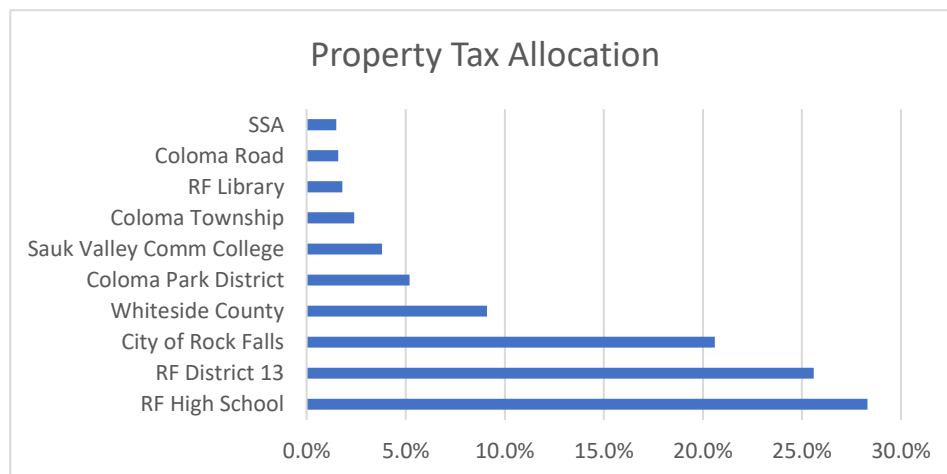
|                    | <b>S&amp;P Global Rating</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Best Quality       | AAA                          |
| High Quality       | AA+<br>AA<br>AA-             |
| Upper Medium Grade | A+<br>A<br>A-                |
| Medium Grade       | BBB+<br>BBB<br>BBB-          |

## Your Property Tax Bill

Property tax is the second largest revenue source in the General Fund. The estimated assessed value is the dollar value assigned to a home or other piece of real estate for property tax purposes. The current median home value in Rock Falls is \$83,300. In many cases, the assessed value is calculated as a percentage of the fair market value of the property. In Whiteside County, it is 1/3 the fair market value. In simple terms, if a property's fair market value is \$70,000 then the assessed value would be \$23,333. The Estimated Assessed Valuation Chart below depicts the steep decline and rise again in the assessed valuations of all the properties in the City of Rock Falls. For the past five years there has been year after year growth in the property valuation. The City has abated the debt service portion of the property tax levies and satisfied the principal and interest payment utilizing alternate revenue sources.



A common misconception about property tax is that all the money a property tax owner pays is remitted to the City. As indicated by the graph below, the City of Rock Falls received approximately 20% of the total property money received. The remaining portion is allocated to other taxing bodies. This is a critical revenue source for the City of Rock Falls however the City of Rock Falls was able to



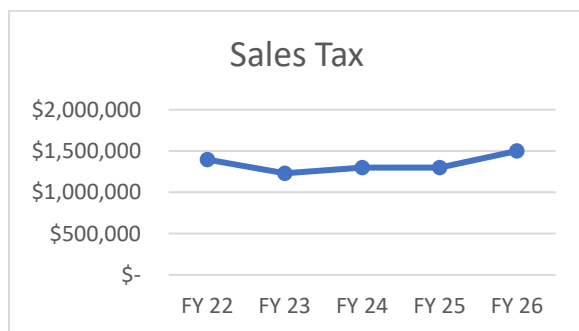


## General Fund Revenue Summary

The City of Rock Falls benefits from a diversified revenue base. Sales tax, property tax and income tax are the three most significant governmental revenue sources that the City relies on to provide a high level of municipal services to our residents and businesses.

### Sales Tax

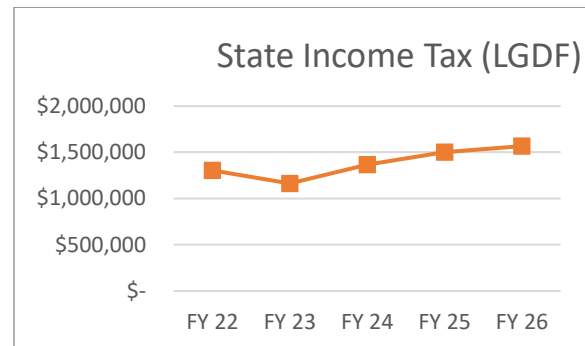
Sales tax is the largest revenue source for the City. In FY 26 sales tax revenues are predicted to be \$1,500,000. Sales tax revenues are predicted based upon historical data and current economic conditions. The FY 25 budget predicted \$1,300,000 in sales tax revenue however, that prediction has already been exceeded, which is most likely due to higher retail prices and in turn has created more sales tax revenue. It has been the belief of the Finance Committee to stay conservative with our sales tax. Although the State of Illinois eliminated the 1% sales tax on groceries, the City of Rock Falls has passed an ordinance which will continue the tax on January 1, 2026.



### Income Tax (LGDF)

The local share is distributed on a per capita basis and the 2020 census recorded a population of 8,789 for Rock Falls. This revenue is a critical funding source for local governments. The FY 26 LGDF revenue is

projected to be \$1,566,815 or \$178.27 per capital which is slightly up from last year's prediction of \$171.00.



The increase in the FY 26 proposed budget over the FY 25 LGDF prediction is 4.1%. The current rate of inflation is 3.7% (March 2025) this gives the City a small increase in purchasing power.

### Non-Home Rule Sales Tax

Municipalities in the State of Illinois are able to implement a locally imposed sales tax. Rock Falls passed the non-home rule sales tax several years ago by voter referendum and the 1% is earmarked for road improvements within the City which is still insufficient in order to maintain approximately 60 miles of roads and alleys. The non-home rule sales tax is not included on sales of tangible personal property that must be titled or registered by an agency of the state government (i.e. vehicles, watercraft, aircraft, trailers, and manufactured (mobile) homes, and qualifying food, drugs and medical appliances. The FY 26 budget predicts \$1,200,000 in non-home rule sales tax revenue which is the up from FY 25's budget expectation of \$1,000,000.

Funds from the non-home rule sales tax have been earmarked in both the FY 25 & FY 26 budgets to pay for the Avenue A rebuild. \$2,000,000 was awarded to the City

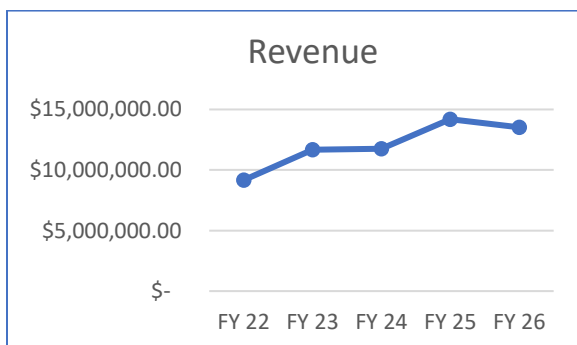
through a DCEO Rebuild Illinois grant, however, the total cost of the project is \$5,500,000. The FY 26 budget reflects just over \$2,000,000 in funds to finish the Avenue A project in the summer of 2025.

### General Fund Revenue Totals

|                         | FY 26 Budget            |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Projected Revenue       | \$ 13,512,265.66        |
| Other Financing Sources | \$ -                    |
| IMRF/SS Contribution    | \$ 174,904.00           |
| <b>Revenue Totals</b>   | <b>\$ 13,687,169.66</b> |

The FY 26 budget proposes General Fund revenues are \$13,512,265. The revenue trends for the past 5 fiscal years are represented in the chart below. Of significance, \$3.7 million dollars expected revenues are non-recurring revenues from grants. The most notable non-reoccurring revenue is \$2.2M that should be received from an Illinois DCEO Rebuild Downtown & Mainstream grant to deal with the condemned Micro Industries Building in uptown Rock Falls and the second being is \$2M in grant funds for the rebuilding of Avenue A from East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The grant funds for the Rebuild Downtown & Mainstreet were expected in the FY 24 budget but did not come to fruition.

The chart below includes all tax revenues and transferred tax revenues, including non-recurring revenues of motor fuel tax and grants.



### Motor Fuel Tax Revenue

There has been a lot of misinformation disseminated about Motor Fuel tax revenues since the announcement of the upcoming Love's Travel Center development along the I-88 corridor. Motor Fuel tax revenues are allocated by population of a city, road district or county. In our case, every year we are given an estimate through the Illinois Municipal League of our anticipated revenue. This year our per capita estimate is \$21.57 and that number is multiplied by our population of 8789. A town with the same population as Rock Falls with no gas stations or travel centers would get the same amount of per capita income.



## Contributions from Proprietary Funds to the General Fund

American Public Power's most recent data (2022) shows the median amount contributed by public power utilities the City of Rock Falls was 4.3% percent of operating revenues. Although this is a standard for public power (electric) utilities, it can also be used as a guideline for other municipal owned and/or operated utilities and proprietary funds.

In the proposed FY 26 budget the following percentages of operating revenues are contributed to the general fund:

- ✓ Electric - \$616,092 = 4.5%
- ✓ Wastewater - \$76,523 = 3.6%
- ✓ Water - \$76,523 = 4.7%
- ✓ Garbage - \$81,016 = 11.1%
- ✓ Tourism – \$19,000 = 6.2%

With a total combined operating revenue of \$18,503,249, their contribution to the General Fund of \$869,154 represents 4.7% of their operating revenues, which is slightly over the national median average however, it is well within acceptable operating guidelines.

## FY 26 BUDGET

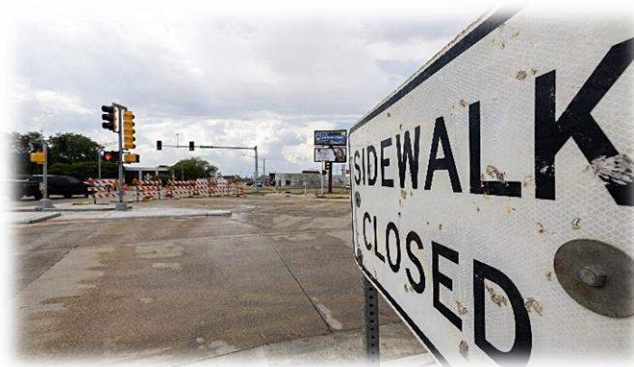
## General Fund Expenditures

The FY 26 General Fund expenditures total \$13,487,374 however, approximately \$4,300,000 are non-reoccurring expenses all within the Street Department's budget. The non-reoccurring are as follows:

- ✓ \$1,300,000 – Street resurfacing
- ✓ \$2,000,000 – Completion of Ave A
- ✓ \$977,000 – Completion of Downtown Parking Lot/Riverfront Pathway Project (Grant Project)

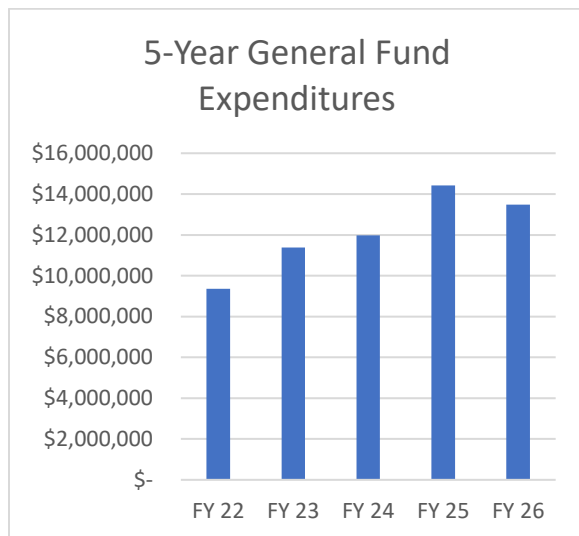
Although some of these expenditures will be reimbursed to the City through grant funds, the expenditures must be shown in the budget.

In FY 26 the largest portions of reoccurring (Operating & Maintenance) spending are in the Police, Fire, Street & Public Property budgets, respectively. The Police, Fire & Street budgets are historically the largest general fund expenditures except for when grants are awarded to the City and ran through the Public Property budget.





The table below shows the 5-year expenditures history. Please note that FY 25 is not complete, and FY 26 is only an estimate. Also note that the past two years (FY 25 & 26) have realized \$4,400,000 of grant expenditures of which the City has been reimbursed for a portion and will be reimbursed for the remainder at completion of the Avenue A reconstruction and the Micro Industries demolition project.



The ledger of individual General Fund department budgets are in the adjacent column and represent the General Fund total expenditures. The proposed FY 26 General Fund calculates a \$1,475.66 surplus.



| Department Expenses       | FY 26 Budget            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Administration            | \$ 564,868.00           |
| Building Dept.            | \$ 439,441.00           |
| City Administrator        | \$ 160,152.00           |
| Business Office           | \$ 293,406.00           |
| Code Hearing Dept.        | \$ 35,900.00            |
| Fire Dept.                | \$ 2,254,207.00         |
| Planning & Zoning         | \$ 3,450.00             |
| Police Dept.              | \$ 3,971,185.00         |
| Police/Fire Commission    | \$ 17,700.00            |
| Public Property           | \$ 1,151,591.00         |
| Street Dept.              | \$ 4,595,474.66         |
| <b>Sub-Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$ 13,487,374.66</b> |
| IMRF/Social Sec.          | \$ 198,319.34           |
| <b>Expense Total</b>      | <b>\$ 13,685,694.00</b> |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>  | <b>\$ 1,475.66</b>      |

Although the Code Hearing budget is one of the smaller budgets, it plays a large part in our City's challenge of obtaining code enforcement compliance, such as unkept properties within the City. This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Administrative Adjudication Hearings in conjunction with the City of Sterling. The hearings are held every third Tuesday in the Rock Falls City Council Chambers and are presided over by Timothy Slavin (ret) Circuit Court Judge.

Although the City was reluctant due to the cost involved with the hearing process, it has been able to cover the cost of it's existence every year. After warnings and tickets, fines are issued for ordinance violations. If the responsible party would like to claim that they are not liable for the violations, they can come and plead their case to the Judge.

Congratulations to our Code Enforcement department on a job well done!

## Electric Fund

The City of Rock Falls owns and operates its own electric utility. This fund is the largest of the City's proprietary funds in terms of revenue generation and number of customers since its services customers outside the city limits. As with all proprietary funds, it is fully self-supported and receives no tax support. It operates exclusively on the revenue generated from rates paid by customers. The fees charged need to support the cost of operations and maintenance of the utility as well as capital improvements that must be undertaken to ensure the stability and reliability of the system.

The City of Rock Falls electric utility distributes power to 5,300 customers with the majority being residential at 4,746, commercial 480, industrial 24 and municipal at 50. The municipal accounts include the City, schools and other government entities.

The City of Rock Falls is a member of the Illinois Municipal Electric Association

(IMEA) which is a not-for-profit unit of local government created in 1984 that is currently comprised of 32 municipal electric systems from all across Illinois. Each of those communities

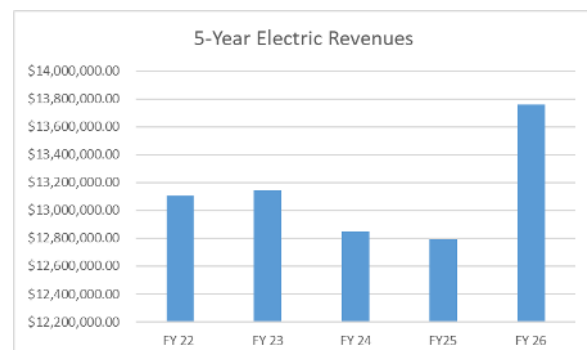
owns and operates its own electric distribution system. Some operate local power generation



plants. Peak generation is power generation plants that generally run only when there is a high demand, known as peak demand, for electricity. Out of the 32 cities that are members of the IMEA, the Cities of Rock Falls and Winnetka both generate peak power in the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) known as PJM. During a heat wave or polar vortex the City of Rock Falls is obligated to start our diesel Caterpillar generators to produce electricity.

## FY 26 BUDGET

In FY 26 the electric rates will increase by 1% as was indicated on the rate study completed in FY 24. That 1% increase will continue in FY 27 and FY 28. However, other additional increases in revenues are Purchase Power Adjustment and the Capacity Component Credit which is reimbursement to the City from IMEA for an increase in our dedicated generator that will be used for peak generation.



## FY 26 BUDGET

The projected Electric Operations and Maintenance revenues are \$13,710,531 with expenses totals \$11,148,840. Several capital projects are scheduled for FY 26 with a total cost of \$6,530,232 and are shown in the following budget items.

|       | Electric Capital Expenses | FY 26                  |
|-------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ACCT# | ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION       | Budget                 |
| 1503  | System Upgrade            | \$ 2,298,153.00        |
| 1504  | Substations Upgrades      | \$ 20,000.00           |
| 1506  | Generators                | \$ -                   |
| 1510  | Plant & Property          | \$ 112,000.00          |
| 1511  | Plant & Property - Hydro  | \$ 2,644,505.00        |
| 1517  | Fiber Upgrades            | \$ 28,885.00           |
| 1518  | Engineering               | \$ 528,079.00          |
| 1520  | Equipment                 | \$ 843,610.00          |
| 1566  | Scada                     | \$ 55,000.00           |
|       | <b>Total Capital</b>      | <b>\$ 6,530,232.00</b> |

In addition to the capital projects the electric budget also reflects an annual bond payment for a bond issuance in 2018 for the rebuild of the Avenue A substation.

|                         | FY 26 Budget            |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Revenues                | \$ 13,756,571.00        |
| Transfer from Reserves  | \$ -                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>     | <b>\$ 13,756,571.00</b> |
| Expenses                | \$ 10,148,840.00        |
| Capital & Debt Expenses | \$ 7,052,532.00         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$ 17,201,372.00</b> |
| Transfer to Reserves    | \$ (3,444,801.00)       |

The overall budget plans on using \$3.4M from the electric reserves for completion of the capital improvements that are scheduled for FY 26.

|                                      | FY 25                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Debt Service Budget</b>           | <b>Budget</b>        |
| 2410 Bond Payment Series 2018A Prin  | \$ 335,000.00        |
| 2065 Bond Payment Series 2018A Inter | \$ 186,000.00        |
| <b>Debt Service Total</b>            | <b>\$ 521,000.00</b> |

The City of Rock Falls would like to congratulate our Electric Department for the recently received award through the American Public Power Association for excellence in delivery of reliable power to our community.



APPA compared our utility's reliability data from the eReliability Tracker to the national reliability data collected by the Energy Information Administration (EIA). Rock Falls Electric Department is in the top quartile (25%) of utilities for System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) including or excluding IEEE MEDs based on the EIA data in 2019 – 2023, thereby qualifying for the 2024 Certificate of Excellence in Reliability.

## Wastewater Fund

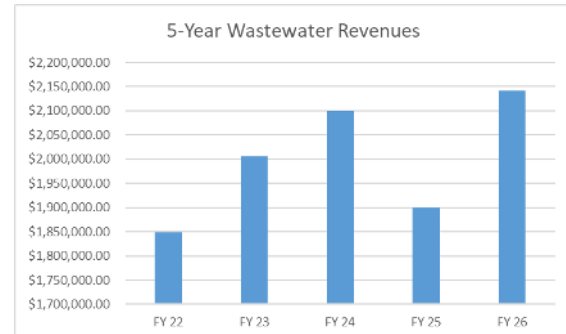
As a proprietary fund, the Wastewater Fund is fully self-supported and receives no tax support. It operates exclusively on the revenue generated from rates paid by customers. The fees charged need to support the cost of operations and maintenance of the plant, lift stations and collection system as well as capital improvements that must be undertaken to ensure the stability and reliability of the wastewater system. The wastewater system bills customers based off of water usage and has the same number of customers as the water utility.

|                                | <b>FY 26 Budget</b>    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| O&M revenues                   | \$ 2,141,784.00        |
| Transfer from Reserves         | \$ -                   |
| <b>Total O&amp;M Income</b>    | <b>\$ 2,141,784.00</b> |
| O& M Expenses                  | \$ 1,997,177.25        |
| to Reserves                    | \$ 144,606.75          |
| <b>Total O&amp;M Expenses</b>  | <b>\$ 2,141,784.00</b> |
| Capital Improvement Income     | \$ 792,392.00          |
| Transfer from Reserves         | \$ -                   |
| <b>Total Capital Income</b>    | <b>\$ 792,392.00</b>   |
| Capital Exp.                   | \$ 815,000.00          |
| Transfer to (from) Res         | \$ (22,608.00)         |
| <b>Total Capital Imp. Exp.</b> | <b>\$ 792,392.00</b>   |
| Debt Service Income            | \$ 1,285,200.00        |
| Transfer from Reserves         | \$ -                   |
| <b>Total Debt Service Inc.</b> | <b>\$ 1,285,200.00</b> |
| Debt Service Expenses          | \$ 1,167,689.00        |
| Transfer to (from) Reserves    | \$ 117,511.00          |

The FY 26 Wastewater Department budget reflects no usage-based rate increase for basic residential wastewater customers. The Wastewater Department operations & maintenance budget has no significant changes to revenues or expenditures from

previous years. The projected Wastewater Operations and Maintenance revenues are \$2,141,784 with expenses totaling \$1,991,177.

The chart below represents the 5-year revenue trend for wastewater.



Capital expenditures in the FY 26 budget for the Wastewater Department total \$815,000 with most of it going to complete the Avenue A rebuild for the storm and sanitary portion of the project.

|                                                  | Capital Improvement Budget         | <b>FY 26</b>          |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                  | Account Description                | <b>Budget</b>         |
| 1507                                             | Storm Sewers Repairs/Extensions    | \$ 50,000.00          |
| 1509                                             | Sanitary Sewer Repairs/ Extensions | \$ 50,000.00          |
|                                                  | Avenue A                           | \$ 500,000.00         |
| 1510                                             | Plant & Property                   | \$ 140,000.00         |
| 1520                                             | New Equipment                      | \$ 75,000.00          |
|                                                  | Capital improvement Total / Grant  | \$ 815,000.00         |
|                                                  | Total Capital Improvement Income   | \$ 792,392.00         |
| <b>Difference-transferred to/(from) reserves</b> |                                    | <b>\$ (22,608.00)</b> |

The FY 26 budget does reflect a 2.8% rate increase in compliance with the rate study that was completed in FY 25. The future rate increases are as follows:

FY 27 2.7% increase

FY 28 2.6% increase

FY 29 2.5% increase

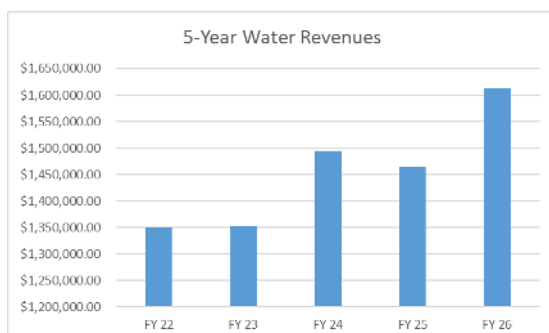


## Water Fund

As a proprietary fund, the Water Fund is fully self-supported and receives no tax support. It operates exclusively on the revenue generated from rates paid by customers. The fees charged need to support the cost of operations and maintenance of the plant and distribution system as well as capital improvements that must be undertaken to ensure the stability and reliability of the water system. The City of Rock Falls Water utility provides water to 4,150 customers with the majority being residential at 3,774, commercial 324, industrial 19 and municipal at 33. The municipal accounts include the City, schools and other government entities.

|                               | FY 26 Budget           |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| O&M revenues                  | \$ 1,613,082.86        |
| Transfer from Reserves        |                        |
| <b>Total O&amp;M Income</b>   | <b>\$ 1,613,082.86</b> |
| O& M Expenses                 | \$ 1,452,056.00        |
| Transfer to Reserves          | \$ 161,026.86          |
| <b>Total O&amp;M Expenses</b> | <b>\$ 1,613,082.86</b> |

The Water Department operations & maintenance budget has no significant variances from previous years. Expected revenues for FY 26 are \$1,613,082. This budget does represent a 6% increase which totals \$1.65 increase per month for the average household.



The Capital Improvement budget does not include any major projects and totals \$160,000.

|                                       | FY 26 Estimate       |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Capital Improvement Budget</b>     |                      |
| 1510 Plant & Property                 | \$ 25,000.00         |
|                                       | \$ -                 |
|                                       | \$ -                 |
| 1520 New Equipment                    | \$ 60,000.00         |
| 1560 Distribution Lines               | \$ 75,000.00         |
| 1560                                  | \$ -                 |
| 1565 New Services/Metering            | \$ -                 |
|                                       |                      |
|                                       |                      |
| <b>Capital improvement Total</b>      | <b>\$ 160,000.00</b> |
| <b>Capital Improvement Income</b>     | <b>\$ 216,496.00</b> |
| <b>Transferred to/(from) reserves</b> | <b>\$ 56,496.00</b>  |

Phase 4 of IEPA Water Loan Program will begin in FY 26 with the following scope of work:

**Water Treatment Plant:** Replacement and relocation of the motor control center for the high service pumps at the water treatment plant and rehabilitation of the pre-filter concrete detention tank.

**Industrial Park & Water Plant Towers:** Maintenance to the two elevated water storage tanks including spot repairs to the interior and exterior paint systems, piping, replacement and other miscellaneous items.

The benefits of using the IEPA Water Loan Program is 50% of the loan amount is forgiven. This will most likely be the last round of IEPA Water Loans for the foreseeable future.

## Garbage Fund

As a proprietary fund, the Garbage Fund is fully self-supported and receives no tax support. It operates exclusively on the revenue generated from rates paid by customers. The fees charged need to support the cost of operations for curbside garbage

and recycling as well as the operations of the Electronics Recycling Center.

With the Moring contract nearing the end of its term, Moring sold the business to Republic. The decision was made to issue Request For Proposals (RFQ) for solid waste haulers in our area. Only two companies submitted RFQs, Midwest Disposal and Republic. The decision was made in early 2024 to enter into a 5-year contract with Midwest Disposal.

The FY 26 budget reflects a loss of \$24,550. Fortunately, there is currently enough in reserves at this time to sustain the loss. The current residential rate is \$18.50 per month are there are no increases scheduled for FY 26 however, the City will need to look at a future increase.

|                        |           | FY 26 Budget      |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Revenues               | \$        | 732,000.00        |
| Transfer from Reserves | \$        | -                 |
| <b>Total Income</b>    | <b>\$</b> | <b>732,000.00</b> |
| Expenses               | \$        | 756,550.00        |
| Transfer to Reserve    | \$        | (24,550.00)       |
| <b>Total Expense</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>732,000.00</b> |

## Tourism Fund

As a proprietary fund, the Tourism Fund is fully self-supported through the receipt of hotel taxes paid by visitors who stay in our local hotels. Revenues are also collected from businesses who wish to be sponsors for Tourism hosted events.



|                       |           | FY 26 Budget      |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Revenues              | \$        | 305,852.00        |
| Reserves              | \$        | -                 |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>305,852.00</b> |
| Expenses              | \$        | 404,501.00        |
| Trans to (from) Reser | \$        | (98,649.00)       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>305,852.00</b> |

The FY 26 Tourism budget shows \$305,852 in revenue with expenses totaling \$305,852 resulting in a net shortfall of \$98,649. The additional expenditures will be funded through the Tourism reserve funds.

In addition to the annual events hosted by Tourism, this year's budget also includes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Taco Throwdown which was a huge success in its first year which featured ZOWA wrestling and a taco eating contest.



## Proprietary Fund Cash Balances

Utility cash reserves are funds set aside, separate from user charges, miscellaneous fees and/or other non-rate or fee-based revenues. In general, there are three main types of cash reserves: operating, capital and debt related.

There are many reasons for utility cash reserves including:

- ✓ Absorb short-term revenue losses,
- ✓ Offset revenue losses,
- ✓ Stabilize cash flow,
- ✓ Unexpected or extraordinary expenses, and
- ✓ Set aside for future capital projects,

There are multiple benefits that can be realized by maintaining sufficient operating and capital reserves however, one of the most important is that it ensures the stability of the fund by having funding available to do major capital projects and emergency repairs without seeking outside funding sources.

## Minimum Cash Balance Policy

In order to follow best practices of government accounting and to ensure the City of Rock Falls' financial stability by protecting itself against revenue shortages caused by economic downturns, natural disasters, policy changes instituted by State of Federal Governments or any unpredicted one-time expenditures. The reserve fund balance requirements will be verified on the City's annual budget. This policy will establish the minimum fund balance reserves to be maintained in the General, Electric, Wastewater, Water, Garbage and Tourism funds.

| Fund     | Budgeted O & M   | Minimum Balance | Days of O & M | Per Day Cost |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| General  | \$ 9,137,374.00  | \$ 1,126,525.56 | 45            | \$ 25,033.90 |
| Tourism  | \$ 404,501.00    | \$ 842,248.66   | 760           | \$ 1,108.22  |
| Electric | \$ 10,148,840.00 | \$ 5,004,907.40 | 180           | \$ 27,805.04 |
| Water    | \$ 1,452,056.00  | \$ 656,106.90   | 180           | \$ 3,645.04  |
| Sewer    | \$ 1,997,177.25  | \$ 936,675.62   | 180           | \$ 5,203.75  |
| Garbage  | \$ 756,350.00    | \$ 358,767.12   | 180           | \$ 1,993.15  |

## Other Funds

### Demolition Fund

The Demolition Fund is a stand-alone fund that receives its revenue from grants such as the Abandoned Property & Strong Communities Grant through IHDA. The City has exhausted all the current grant funds through the Strong Communities Grant, but we are hopeful that a new round of grants will soon be announced. . The Demolition Fund also receives monies from the sale of abandoned properties acquired by the City through tax sales delinquency or abandonment. These funds are used to mow and secure abandoned properties and demolish condemned residential properties across the City that cannot be salvaged or repaired.

|                       | FY 26 Budget         |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Revenues              | \$ 112,000.00        |
| Reserves              |                      |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$ 112,000.00</b> |
|                       |                      |
| <b>Expenses</b>       | <b>\$ 94,000.00</b>  |
| Trans to (from) Reser | \$ 18,000.00         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$ 112,000.00</b> |

## Industrial Development Commission

The Industrial Development Commission (IDC) is an independent commission of the City who owns the industrial, commercial & residential property on behalf of the City. It is comprised of private citizens, Rock Falls business owners and 1 alderperson. IDC has become vital in our efforts against abandoned and blighted residential properties. They are also very active in economic development and have the ability to enter into land sales to developers.

|                         |           | FY 26 Budget     |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Revenues                | \$        | 21,500.00        |
| Transfer from Reserves  |           |                  |
| <b>Total Income</b>     | <b>\$</b> | <b>21,500.00</b> |
|                         |           |                  |
| <b>Expenditures</b>     | <b>\$</b> | <b>21,600.00</b> |
| Trans to/(from) Reserve | <b>\$</b> | <b>(100.00)</b>  |

Although the IDC's FY 26 budget demonstrates a deficit, they currently have reserves to cover that amount. The IDC receives the necessary funding by retaining a percentage of the monies received from the sale of land on behalf of the City.

## Downtown TIF (Tax Increment Finance)

Illinois and 48 other states use a TIF as an economic development tool. With this development tool, financially strapped local governments can make the improvements, offer development incentives to attract new businesses or help existing businesses expand. The TIF provides that assistance without tapping into the General Fund or raising property taxes.

|                         |           | FY 26 Budget      |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Revenues                | \$        | 220,000.00        |
| Reserves                | \$        | -                 |
| <b>Total Income</b>     | <b>\$</b> | <b>220,000.00</b> |
|                         |           |                   |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$</b> | <b>209,600.00</b> |
| Transfer to Reserves    | \$        | 10,400.00         |
| <b>Unexpended Funds</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>-</b>          |

The TIF's FY 26 budget represents the \$150,000 annual bond payment for the initial funding to build the RB&W District Park. With the completion of the public restrooms at the park, this year a new picnic area will be built through a private donation as a family memorial.

State legislation states that TIF funds can be used for a wide variety of projects however, they can only be used within the TIF district.

The Downtown TIF was established on March 16, 2010. The TIF expiration date is December 31, 2034 (December 31 of the 23<sup>rd</sup> calendar year after the year in which the ordinance approving the TIF area was adopted). It is essentially 24 calendar years and 23 tax years.

## Total of All Funds

The total revenues and expenditures for all proprietary and governmental funds result in a \$1,475 surplus in the FY 26 budget.

|                                 |           | FY 26 Budget         |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| <b>Total Revenues</b>           | <b>\$</b> | <b>34,740,346.52</b> |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>       | <b>\$</b> | <b>34,738,870.86</b> |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit) Budget</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>1,475.66</b>      |

## City Administration

|                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mayor.....                         | Rodney Kleckler                      |
| City Administrator.....            | Robbin Blackert                      |
| City Clerk.....                    | Pam Martinez                         |
| City Treasurer.....                | Kay Abner                            |
| City Attorney.....                 | Matt Cole,                           |
|                                    | Ward, Murray, Pace & Johnson, P.C.   |
| Chairman of Finance Committee..... | Gabriela McKanna, Ward 1 Alderperson |
| Alderpersns.....                   | William Wangelin, Ward 1 Alderperson |
|                                    | Brian Snow, Ward 2 Alderperson       |
|                                    | Vickey Byrd, Ward 2 Alderperson      |
|                                    | Steve Dowd, Ward 3 Alderperson       |
|                                    | Nathan Stahr, Ward 3 Alderperson     |
|                                    | Cathy Arduini, Ward 4 Alderperson    |
|                                    | Violet Sobottka, Ward 4 Alderperson  |

## Department Heads

*(in alphabetical order)*

Michelle Conklin, Superintendent of Business Office  
 Larry Hanrahan, Superintendent of the Electric Department  
 Melinda Jones, Tourism Director  
 Ted Padilla, Superintendent of Water Department  
 David Pilgrim, Police Chief  
 Mark Searing, Building Inspector  
 Diane Shepherd, Superintendent of the Utility Office  
 Matt Trotter, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department  
 Ken Wolf, Fire Chief