

## Frequently Asked Questions: Town of Vienna FY 25-26 Budget

- **What are the main areas of focus in the proposed FY 25-26 budget for the Town of Vienna?** The proposed budget focuses on maintaining essential town services, strategic investments in infrastructure (particularly street paving), public safety (Police and Fire), and supporting the town's economic vitality. There is also an emphasis on fiscal responsibility, as evidenced by the Town's AAA bond rating and careful management of debt. Specific departmental focuses include planning and zoning for future development, economic development initiatives to attract and support businesses, and public works projects related to streets, water, sewer, and stormwater management.
- **How does the proposed budget aim to support economic prosperity in Vienna?** The budget allocates resources to the Economic Development Department, whose mission is to support the vibrancy and diversification of Vienna's economy. Key activities include working with businesses to help them grow, relocate, or expand, and actively promoting Vienna as a desirable place to live, work, and visit. The strategic plan emphasizes attracting unique, independent businesses to enhance the town's charm and increase the non-residential tax base.
- **What are the proposed changes in staffing levels for key departments in FY 25-26?** The budget documents provide a comparison of personnel by department. For example, the Police Department is proposed to have 51 sworn positions. The Information Technology department is proposed to increase from 6.5 to 7 positions. The Finance Department's total authorized positions remain at 13.26. The Public Works Department highlights several recent promotions within its divisions. Specific changes are detailed within each department's section of the budget.
- **What is the Town of Vienna's approach to infrastructure maintenance, particularly street paving?** Street maintenance is a significant focus, with a team dedicated to patching roads, repairing potholes, maintaining pavement markings, street sweeping, and storm drain cleaning. The town uses a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) to assess road quality and plan repaving projects, aiming to keep the overall condition in the "green" (good) range. The FY 23-24 saw a significant amount of paving due to ARPA funding, and the town plans to maintain an appropriate level of investment in the Capital Improvement Plan to ensure continued good road conditions.
- **How does the proposed budget address public safety, specifically within the Police Department?** The Police Department's budget focuses on maintaining street strength and ensuring the town remains a safe community. They emphasize training, including Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for mental health calls. The department is also working towards state accreditation and utilizing technology like license plate readers (ALPRs) to enhance safety and crime prevention. Strict protocols are in place for accessing police records and data systems.
- **What can be learned about the Town's financial health and debt management from the budget documents?** The Town of Vienna maintains a AAA bond rating, indicating a high level of creditworthiness. The percentage of net General Obligation (G.O.) debt to

its assessed real estate value is well below the state's maximum limit. The budget includes details on debt service costs for outstanding bond issues, and the Debt Service Fund is reported to be strong with significant cash reserves in preparation for future capital projects. Capital lease financing is used for the vehicle replacement program, with adjustments being made to manage prior borrowings.

- **What are some of the capital projects or initiatives highlighted in the proposed FY 25-26 budget?** Several capital projects and initiatives are mentioned, including continued street repaving efforts, potential repairs and replacements for the Town Green amphitheater columns, and a new study for a project enhancing the W&OD Trail in partnership with NOVA Parks. The Planning and Zoning department funded scanning stored files and a new senior code officer in the current fiscal year as new initiatives. The IT department highlights increased support for public safety as a recent major initiative.
- **How does the Town of Vienna approach environmental sustainability in its proposed budget and operations?** Environmental sustainability is addressed through various departments. The Public Works Department's Stormwater Division focuses on maintaining stormwater infrastructure and environmental projects like drainage studies and stream restorations. The Sanitary Sewer Division aims to protect public health and the environment by maintaining the sewer system. The Urban Forestry division manages the town's trees, and the town prioritizes native plants. While a year-round composting program is under discussion, the town currently offers leaf removal and explores options for managing organic waste.