



## Town of Weddington Budget Message – Fiscal Year 2026

The Town of Weddington is pleased to present its **Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026**, prepared with a focus on **financial stability, service continuity, and responsible planning** for our town. This budget reflects our commitment to maintaining essential services, investing in our community's future, and ensuring that our financial decisions support sustainable growth.

### Key Budget Highlights

- **Revenue Neutral Approach** – The FY2026 budget has been developed using a **net revenue-neutral tax rate**, ensuring that **total revenues affected by the ad valorem tax rate remain stable despite revaluation changes**. The FY2026 budget reflects a transition to funding solid waste services through the ad valorem tax rate. Previously, residents were billed separately for **solid waste services** through direct fees. Now, the cost is **incorporated into the town's property tax rate**, making it part of the overall tax structure. Accordingly, the tax rate has been set at **3.5 cents**. A **net revenue-neutral ad valorem tax rate** should also help to ensure **consistent funding from state allocations**.
- **Ad Valorem Revenue Estimates** – Projections are based on **estimated appraised tax values** provided by Union County. The recent property revaluation resulted in a 150% increase in tax appraisal values due to significant market growth and adjustments to reflect fair market pricing. With the increase in tax appraisal values, the **revenue-neutral ad valorem tax rate** would be **1.72 cents**. With the incorporation of solid waste funding in the total tax rate, this rate is effectively reduced to **1.45 cents**.
- **Prudent Budgeting** – Both **revenues and expenditures** have been budgeted conservatively, with revenues estimated at the lowest expected amounts and expenditures budgeted at their highest anticipated levels to ensure fiscal preparedness.
- **Public Safety & Essential Services** – The budget includes **proposed increases** for law enforcement contracts, solid waste services, infrastructure improvements, and other costs ensuring continuity in key services. The FY2026 budget includes funding for five full-time deputies as well as a new planning position to support the town's increasing development and zoning needs. This planning assistant/permit technician role will enhance efficiency in processing applications and ensure compliance with evolving regulations. The additional salary expense is a strategic investment in Weddington's future, ensuring that our town continues to grow in a well-managed and sustainable manner.

This budget reflects our town's **dedication to responsible governance, transparency, and community engagement**. Citizen input is invaluable, and we encourage all residents to participate in the upcoming budget discussions. Thank you for your continued support as we work together toward a thriving and fiscally sound future for Weddington.