

CITY OF WILLOWS

Budget in Brief

Adopted Operating Budget • Fiscal Year 2026–27



Adopted by the City Council — June 9, 2026

Prepared by the Finance Department • Joei Harrison, Finance Director

A structurally balanced budget that protects core services, keeps reserves above policy, and invests in Willows' infrastructure — providing the full range of City services for about \$1,222 per resident.

Your Budget at a Glance

On June 9, 2026, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2026–27 Budget. This Budget in Brief is a short, plain-language summary of how the City plans to raise and spend public dollars this year. For the complete detail, the full Adopted Budget and line-item schedules are available on the City’s website under Finance › Budgets.

The Big Numbers (General Fund)

General Fund revenues	\$7.87 million
General Fund expenditures	\$7.63 million
Projected operating surplus	\$239,000
Reserve level (% of 25% policy target)	31.5% → 44.3% by FY 30–31

Citywide, across every fund (General Fund, Sewer Enterprise, grants, and special revenue), the adopted budget totals roughly **\$17 million** in appropriations — the higher figure reflects one-time grant-funded projects like the Sycamore Park & Pool improvements and sewer infrastructure work.

What Your City Dollars Provide

About **\$1,222 per resident per year**

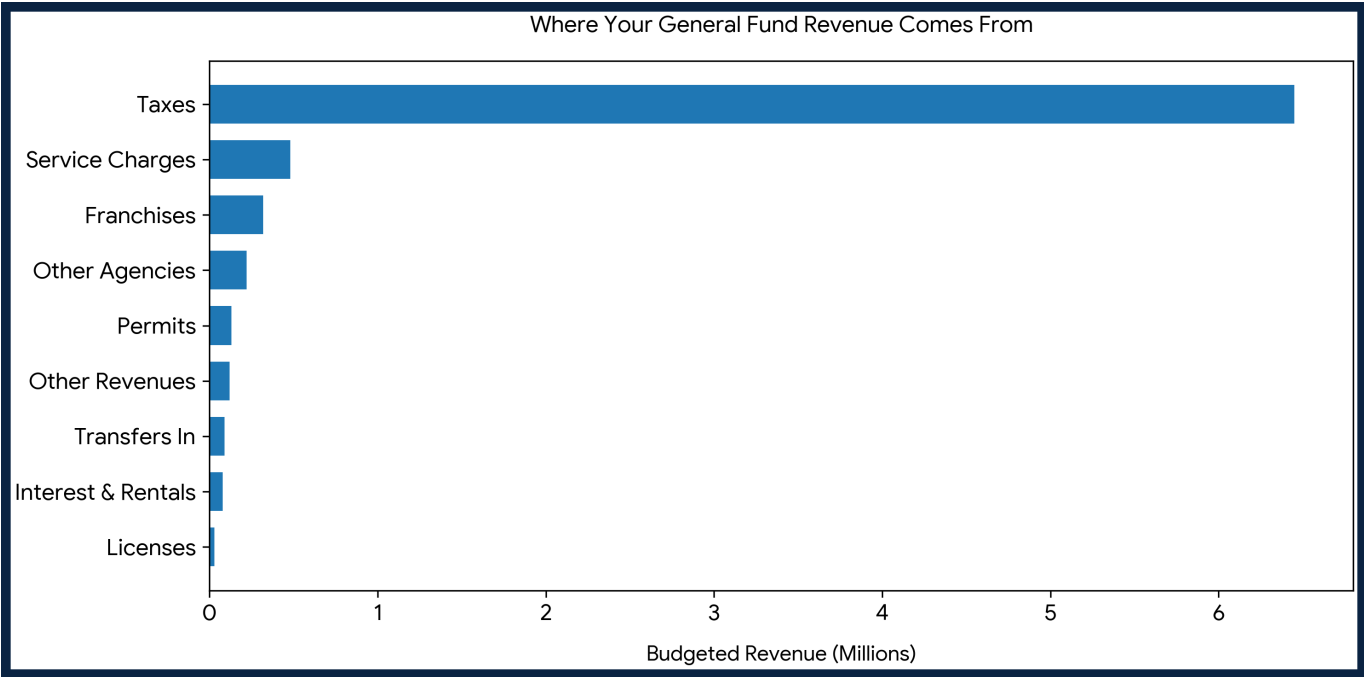
— roughly **\$3.35 a day** —

provides around-the-clock law enforcement, fire and emergency medical response, the public library, parks and the pool, street and facility upkeep, planning and building services, and general City administration — the full range of services residents rely on every day.

This reflects the cost to provide services, funded through a mix of local taxes, service fees, and grants — not from any single source.●

Where the Money Comes From

Most of the City’s General Fund revenue comes from local taxes paid by the community. For FY 2026–27, tax revenues account for about **\$6.4 million — more than 80%** of all General Fund revenue. The rest comes from service charges, franchise fees, permits, intergovernmental revenue, and interest earnings.



Major General Fund Revenue Sources

Source	FY 2026–27
Measure I (1% local sales tax)	\$2,208,964
Sales Tax	\$1,421,367
Property Tax	\$1,224,000
Property Tax in Lieu of VLF	\$856,794
Transient Occupancy Tax (hotels)	\$709,020
Franchise Fees (gas, cable, garbage, water)	\$318,585
All other sources	~\$1,126,000
Total General Fund Revenue	\$7,865,446

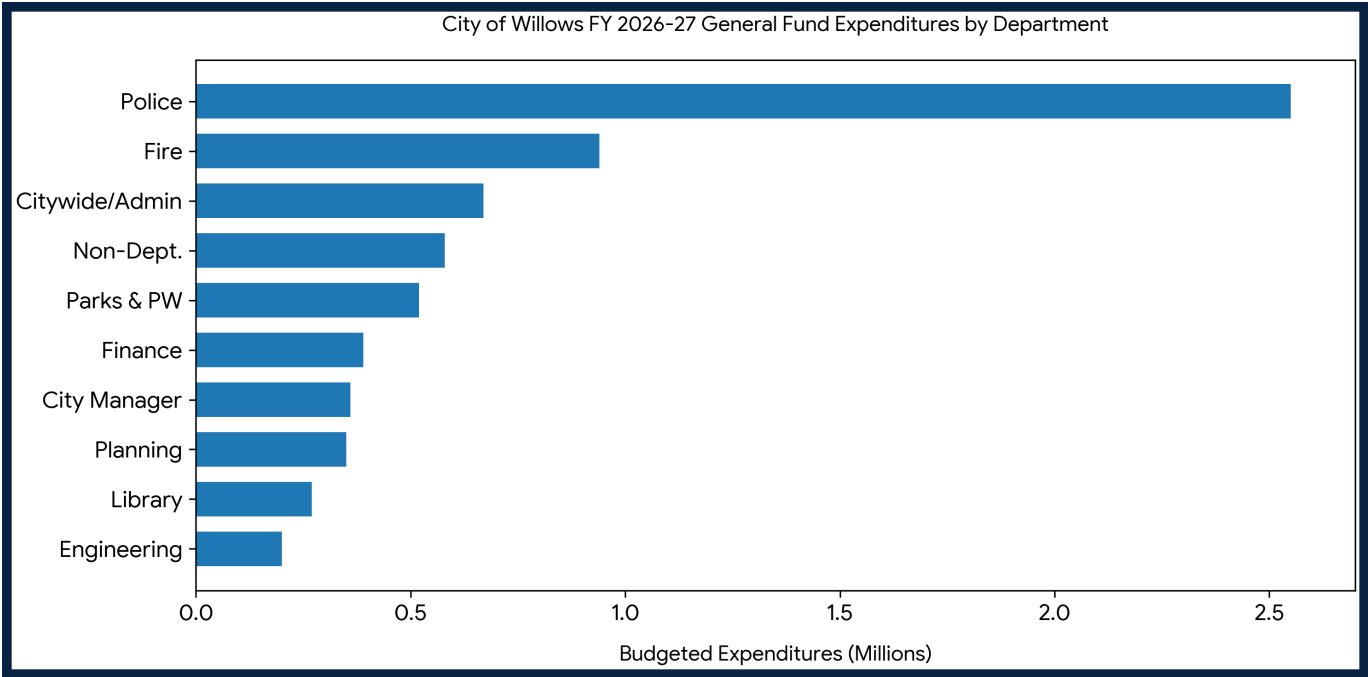
Ongoing vs. One-Time Money

General Fund revenue is down about \$1 million from last year. This is expected and healthy: it reflects the **removal of one-time revenues** received in FY 2025–26 — such as OES Strike Team reimbursements and one-

time grants — that were never meant to recur. **The City funds ongoing services with ongoing revenue, not one-time money.**

Where the Money Goes

The \$7.63 million General Fund pays for the day-to-day services residents rely on. **Public safety is the single largest cost** — police and fire together are about \$3.5 million, or nearly 46% of General Fund spending.



General Fund Spending by Major Area

Service Area	FY 2026–27
Police (Glenn County Sheriff contract)	\$2,550,650
Fire & Emergency Medical Services	\$934,467
Parks, Public Works & Streets	~\$635,000
Library & Recreation	~\$367,000
Planning, Building & Engineering	~\$711,000
Administration (Council, Manager, Finance, Clerk, IT, HR)	~\$1,101,000
Debt Service & Citywide Costs	~\$1,183,000

Figures are rounded and grouped for readability; see the Adopted Budget for department-level detail.

The Public-Safety Story

The Glenn County Sheriff's Office contract is the City's largest single expense, and its cost continues to rise year over year. Managing that growth — while maintaining fire and EMS coverage — is the City's central long-term budget challenge, and a key reason voter-approved Measure I revenue is so important to preserving current service levels.

What This Budget Does for Willows

Investing in the Community

- Sycamore Park & Pool improvements — pool rehabilitation, tennis/pickleball courts, and park upgrades funded largely by a \$3.7M Clean California grant and Prop 68 parks funding.
- Sewer system reinvestment — continued Capital Improvement Program work to replace aging (~100-year-old) infrastructure and maintain regulatory compliance.
- In-house utility billing — transitioning sewer billing from California Water Service to a City-run operation using Tyler Technologies, for better service and control.
- New Information Technology function — strengthening cybersecurity and modernizing City systems.

Staying Financially Stable

The budget is **structurally balanced** — ongoing costs are covered by ongoing revenue — and General Fund reserves are projected to stay **above the Council's 25% reserve policy** throughout the five-year forecast, climbing from 31.5% toward 44.3% of the target. Healthy reserves let the City respond to emergencies, economic swings, and unexpected needs without cutting services.

Looking Ahead

The City maintains a Five-Year Financial Forecast through FY 2031–32. It shows a stable position, with expenditures expected to grow somewhat faster than revenue over time — driven mainly by public-safety contract costs, benefits, and pension obligations. Ongoing monitoring and conservative budgeting keep Willows positioned to stay balanced.

Get Involved & Learn More

How the Budget Is Built

The budget is developed each spring with all City departments, presented to the City Council, and adopted after a public hearing. Residents can weigh in along the way.

Milestone	Date
Measure I Town Hall	April 21, 2026
Preliminary Budget presented to Council	May 12, 2026
Public Hearing & Budget Adoption	June 9, 2026
Gann (Appropriations) Limit adopted	June 23, 2026

Where to Find the Full Budget

- Complete FY 2026–27 Adopted Budget — City website, Finance › Budgets
<https://cityofwillows.org/departments/finance/budget/>
- Line-item detail — full account-level schedules, same page
<https://cityofwillows.org/departments/finance/budget/>
- Monthly City Newsletter — ongoing updates, including a recurring Finance section
<https://cityofwillows.org/news/monthly-newsletter/>

Contact & Meetings

City of Willows — 201 North Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988 • (530) 934-7041 • www.cityofwillows.org

Regular City Council meetings are held twice monthly and are open to the public. Meeting dates and agendas are posted on the City’s website and in the monthly newsletter.