

# Town of Iva, South Carolina

## Annual Operating Budget

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Operating Budget for all Funds



# Town of Iva, South Carolina

## INTRODUCTION

May 6, 2026

To the *Members of the Iva Town Council, Citizens of Iva*, and those who have an interest in the Town of Iva:

It is a pleasure to present to you, the citizens of Iva and other interested parties, the Proposed Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2026- 2027. The budget for all funds is \$2,326,555.00, including a General Fund budget of \$1,479,230.00. This represents an overall total budgetary increase of 6.53% from the adopted FY 2025 – 2026 budget. The General Fund recommended millage rate for FY 2026 – 2027 is 180.1 mills.

This budget reflects the financial needs and obligations of the town for the next twelve months, beginning July 1, 2026. This budget also provides for the necessary level of services needed to maintain our governmental and management role as well as our responsibility to the Town of Iva.

### Budget highlights for FY 2025-2026

#### *General Fund*

##### Revenue

The proposed General Fund Budget reflects an increase of 5.32% from the prior year. The increase is due to growth. New Development, Housing Construction, Annexation and Improvements are expected to generate additional revenue in property taxes. As we move into the FY 2026 – 2027 year, we are hopeful that our local economy will continue to improve and exceed current revenue expectations to provide for a positive net balance.

##### Expense

The proposed General Fund Budget has been developed to balance anticipated revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year. The budget continues to provide stability in salary expenditures while allowing for adjustments in working hours for various positions and maintaining a vigorous overtime policy. These measures are intended to ensure the continued delivery of essential public services in an efficient and responsible manner

#### *Water-Sewer Fund*

##### Revenue

The proposed Water-Sewer Fund Budget reflects an increase of 8.55% from the prior fiscal year. This increase is attributed to a scheduled rate adjustment, the addition of new customers to the system, and continued development within the town. A rate schedule has been included within the Water-Sewer budget notes for your review.

##### Expense

We have adjusted our anticipated expenses to balance with revenues for the fiscal year. The town will continue to address the debt and the high cost of sewer treatment, resulting from Inflow and Infiltration of rainwater in FY 2026 – 2027. The town will continue to seek funding opportunities for major projects to continue rehabbing the town's water and sewer system.

The town was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,275,000 from the Rural Infrastructure Authority in FY23. Proceeds from this grant were utilized to repair and upgrade existing sewer lines throughout the system. Construction was completed in FY26, and completion of the project is expected to significantly reduce monthly sewer treatment costs.

#### *Cemetery Fund*

We anticipate the Cemetery Fund will remain close to the FY 2025 – 2026 revenue and expense level, with a slight increase. The town will make assertive efforts to market the cemetery for pre-need sales and continue marketing Columbarium sales for cremations.

The town completed land clearing activities during FY25 and anticipates beginning construction of a new garden project during FY26-27.

### *Hospitality Fund*

We anticipate the Hospitality Fund will remain close to the FY 2025-2026 revenue and expense level. New restaurants are being planned and announced for the Iva market, which will have a positive effect on the Hospitality Fund.

By Town Ordinance, the Town of Iva enacted a 2% hospitality tax on prepared meals and beverages in the town. The proceeds are to be used for tourist-related activities, improvements, and facilities as allowed under state law.

The Hospitality Tax Fund expenditure budget reflects:

- Funding for town sponsored events: Spring & Fall festival, Memorial Day event and concert, 4<sup>th</sup> of July concert and fireworks, Chili Cook-off, Halloween on Main, the weekly Summer Nights concert series and many other events throughout the year.
- Expense related to the operation of the Iva Museum and Visitor's Center.
- Expense related to the Iva Civic Center, Iva MAC Center, Iva Farmer's Market and recreational parks and playgrounds.
- Discretionary tourism marketing and promotion.
- Discretionary support of organizations that promote Iva with tourism and civic organizations that utilize Iva facilities.
- Discretionary costs related to development opportunities throughout town that support facility improvements, tourist related activities and events and support for on-going and new projects that promote the Iva community.
- Debt Service

### *Victims Assistance Fund*

All fees collected in the Victims Assistance Fund will be remitted to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office monthly. The Town of Iva has a contract with the Sheriff to provide Victims Services. The Victim Assistance Fund is used to record receipts from special court revenue and expenditures associated with the Victim Assistance Program mandated by the State of South Carolina. The funds collected each month are remitted to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office Victims Advocate who provide support to victims of violent crimes. A Victims Advocate is on-call 24-hours a day. Victims are educated about the process of the criminal justice system and are referred to counseling if necessary.

The Town of Iva is projecting \$7,500 in revenue in FY2026. Budgeted expenditures are projected to be \$7,500 in FY2026.

### Conclusion

The town should be proud of the many accomplishments made in FY 2025-2026.

- The town continued assertive residential development initiatives – approving incentive packages to promote residential development. Over the last fiscal year, several new houses were built. Several housing projects are being planned for FY27.
- Completed several repairs to the water system.
- Sponsored many festivals and events throughout the year that provided entertainment and promoted Iva as an active cultural community center.
- Continued investment into the Iva Community Gym & Fitness Center.

There were many other accomplishments made in FY 2026-2027 to be proud of. We are looking forward to a new year, in which we will continue to work hard and work towards providing the best possible services to our

citizens and being good stewards of the town's finances. As we continue to serve our town and community in the upcoming year, we must continue to plan and have a vision. Some of our goals and priorities include:

*Mayor and Council Goals and Priorities for FY 2026-2027*

- Focus on residential development – promote good housing development projects by identifying available properties, recruiting developers and provide reasonable incentives.
- Focus on economic development opportunities – promote Iva as a place to bring, produce and retain good business.
- Review and amend the town's current Zoning ordinances and land-use policies and regulations.
- Continue to invest in public safety measures – personnel, equipment, and training.
- Continue to market downtown Iva as clean and well-groomed and landscaped.
- Identify grants and funding opportunities strategic projects – parks and recreation, public safety, community facilities, and infrastructure projects.
- Invest in infrastructure improvements – water, sewer, and road.
- Identify roads that need paving and repairs.
- Continue annexation initiatives.
- Continue redevelopment of the Dime Store– creating a state-of-the art museum and arts center by seeking funding assistance.
- Continue investment in Iva by promoting events and programs that engage community involvement.
- Initiate assertive efforts for commercial development at the former Jackson Mill site.
- Provide good quality citizen support.
- Provide clean-up initiatives throughout town.
- Facility upgrades – many of the town's facilities need repairs and maintenance.

I look forward to discussing this proposed budget with you as we continue to work together for the benefit of Iva and its residents.

Sincerely,

*Bobby E. Gentry*

Bobby E. Gentry

Mayor

TOWN OF IVA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Town of Iva, South Carolina  
Annual Budget

July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

General Fund	\$1,479,230
Water-Sewer Fund	\$ 695,025
Cemetery Fund	\$ 67,300
Hospitality Fund	\$ 77,500
Victims Assistance Fund	<u>\$ 7,500</u>

Total Annual Budget \$2,326,555

# Town of Iva, South Carolina

## Principal Officials and Management Team Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027

Mayor  
Bobby E. Gentry

Council Ward One  
Elmer Powell

Council Ward Two  
Dwayne Kelly

Council Ward Three  
Dallas Botts

Council Ward Four – Mayor Pro-Temp  
Paul Hart

Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Tim Taylor

Town Attorney  
Mary McCormac

Chief of Police  
Joshua Bench

Municipal Judge  
Dennis Bannister