

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2025-01

Moved: The Governing Body of the City of Benton adopt Ordinance 2025-01, Standard Traffic Ordinances (STO) (attached).

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING TRAFFIC WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BENTON, KANSAS; INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE *STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE* FOR KANSAS CITIES, 52nd EDITION, WITH CERTAIN OMISSIONS, CHANGES, AND ADDITIONS; PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS; PROVIDING CERTAIN PENALTIES AND REPEALING ORDINANCES NUMBERED 2024-03.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the governing body of the City of Benton, Kansas:

Section 1: INCORPORATING STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE (STO).

There is hereby incorporated by reference for the purpose of regulating traffic within the corporate limits of the City of Benton, Kansas, that certain standard traffic ordinance known as the “Standard Traffic Ordinance For Kansas Cities”, Edition of 2025, prepared and published in book form by the League of Kansas Municipalities, Topeka, Kansas, save and except such articles, sections, parts or portions as are hereafter omitted, deleted, modified or changed. One copy of said Standard Traffic Ordinance shall be marked or stamped “Official Copy as Adopted by Ordinance No 2025-01, with all sections or portions thereof intended to be omitted or changed clearly marked to show any such omission or change and to which shall be attached a copy of this Ordinance, and filed with the City Clerk to be open to inspection and available to the public at all reasonable hours. The police department, municipal judge, and all administrative departments of the city charged with the enforcement of the Ordinance shall be supplied, at the cost of the City of Benton, such number of official copies of such Standard Traffic Ordinance similarly marked, as may be deemed expedient.

Section 2: TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS AND TRAFFIC OFFENSES.

- (a) An ordinance traffic infraction is a violation of any section of this ordinance that prescribes or requires the same behavior as that prescribed or required by a statutory provision that is classified as a traffic infraction in K.S.A. 8-2118.
- (b) All traffic violations that are included within this ordinance, and are not ordinance traffic infractions, as defined in subsection (a) of this section, shall be considered traffic offenses.

Section 3: PENALTY FOR SCHEDULED FINES.

The fine for violation of an ordinance traffic infraction or any other traffic offense in which the municipal judge establishes a fine in a fine schedule shall not be less than \$10 nor more than \$500. A person tried and convicted for violation of an ordinance traffic infraction or other traffic offense in which a fine has been established in a schedule of fines shall pay a fine fixed by the court not to exceed \$500.

Section 4: SPEED LIMIT ON MAIN STREET.

The Governing Body having determined upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the speed limit permitted under state law and Section 33 of the *Standard Traffic Ordinance* is more than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist upon Main Street from Highway K254 to SW 30th Street, hereby determines and declares that the reasonable and safe speed limit on Main Street from Highway K254 to SW 30th Street is 25 miles per hour. The Chief of Police is hereby directed to erect appropriate signs giving notice of such speed along said street.

Section 5: This Ordinance shall repeal Ordinance numbered 2024-03.

Section 6: This Ordinance shall amend Section 14-101 of the Benton City Code.

Section 7: Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force upon its passage and publication in the official city newspaper.

ADOPTED this 21st day of July, 2025.

(seal)

/s/_____
Tyler Gottschalk, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/_____
Joyce Casady, City Clerk

A Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2025-02

Moved: The Governing Body of the City of Benton adopt Ordinance 2025-02, Uniform Public Offence Code (UPOC) (attached).

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PUBLIC OFFENSES WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BENTON, KANSAS; INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE *UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE FOR KANSAS CITIES*, 41st EDITION, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBERED 2024-03.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the governing body of the City of Benton, Kansas:

Section 1. Incorporating the Uniform Public Offense Code. There is hereby incorporated by reference for the purpose of regulating public offenses within the city limits of the City of Benton, Kansas, that certain code known as the "Uniform Public Offense Code", Edition of 2025, prepared and published in book form by the League of Kansas Municipalities, Topeka, Kansas. One official copy of said Uniform Public Offense Code shall be marked or stamped "Official Copy as Adopted by Ordinance No. 2025-02, and to which shall be attached a copy of this Ordinance and filed with the City Clerk to be open to inspection and available to the public at all reasonable hours. The police department, municipal judge, and all administrative departments of the city charged with the enforcement of the Ordinance shall be supplied at the cost of the City of Benton, such number of official copies of such Uniform Public Offense Code similarly marked, as may be deemed expedient.

Section 2: This Ordinance shall repeal Ordinance numbered 2024-04.

Section 3: This Ordinance shall amend Section 11-101 of the Benton City Code.

Section 4: Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force upon its passage and publication in the official city newspaper.

ADOPTED this 21st Day of July, 2025.

(seal)

/s/_____
Tyler Gottschalk, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/_____
Joyce Casady, City Clerk



The City of Benton

154 South Main • P.O. Box 388 • Benton,
Kansas 67017

Phone 316-778-1625 • FAX 316-778-1687

6/10/2025

Staff approach letter to Governing Body to consider a City of Benton Leak Adjustment Policy for utility billing.

To: Council and Mayor

Who: This leak policy would affect water utility account holders

What: A limited to once per calendar year bill adjustment for proven leaks

When: January 1st- December 31st once per year

Where: Adjusted by staff with approval by policy

Why: Unforeseen leaks or water loss

How: Please see the following for policy ideas/guidelines

To qualify for leak adjustment, your usage must be double of your most recent 3 month usage average. Proof of leak fix must be provided by parts receipt/plumber receipt and also meter usage verification (back to normal usage).

Example: 3 month recent average = 5000 gallons, usage must be >10,000 to qualify

Leak adjustment will be brought down to an average of the previous three months at regular charge and any usage over that will be charged at City provider cost (City of Wichita charge to Benton).

Example: 3 month recent average = 5000 gallons = \$54.62. Charge for leak = 5,000 gallons times provider cost (\$5.52/1000) = 27.60. Total leak adjustment would be \$-20.05.

TENTATIVE

A Motion to Adopt City Water Leak Policy

Moved: The Governing Body of the City of Benton adopt the water leak policy submitted by city staff dated 6-10-2025.

48''



TENTATIVE

A Motion to Support the Seniors Sign Project

Moved: The Governing Body of the City of Benton provide support the Seniors Sign Project as presented.

REPORT DATE	MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
7/15/25	7/21/25	M. Engels

[illegible]

NOTES:

Administration:

July has been a flurry of meetings.

Met with Countryside Estate citizens: These two meetings were held and organized by a resident of Countryside to gauge interest in working on their common points of improvement and annexation. Summary: They want someone to work on their needed improvements, but aren't interested paying what it takes to do that. This is a common reaction to most things that we do.

Met with Benton Springs developer: This meeting was to discuss sewer options for 20th/Meadowlark addition. Summary: for the engineers at Garver to continue to design the neighborhood and submit changes for Ryan and I to review before it goes to planning and zoning.

Planning And Zoning Hearing: This is a variance hearing for garage size at 345 N Wichita. This meeting is 7/16 at 6pm.

Budget Town Hall: I will meet with citizens on 7/17 at 6pm to give an annual "direction of the Budget" presentation. I have included that report as an attachment. I've also attached the draft of our Budget publication for you to look over. If it looks good to you, we will get it published, have our hearing in Augusta, and get it approved by Governing Body to turn in to the County Clerk and State of Kansas.

Workshop Request: I would like to schedule a workshop to discuss Reinvestment Housing Incentive District participation. Douglass recently went through this process and I would like to present the option of using their approach as a template to financing housing development in Benton. Ty Lasher who recently retired from BelAire has started a consultation service to guide cities like us through the process.

RHID is an alternative to the specials model of development financing, and few developments are moving forward without this in place. Estimated cost to put in place, \$20K, which includes Ty helping us out and the necessary housing study which we would contract out.

Executive Session Request: I would like to request a 15-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Update on our Property Improvement Program: This program was instituted in 2023 and will sunset in 2028. It includes rebating taxes to commercial properties that make improvements. So far, the rebates from the City have been \$20,004.45 and invoices for improvements have been \$614,340.27.

I will be traveling to Lawrence next week 7/22-7/25 for water/sewer training and testing. It will be beneficial for us to have one more person certified in utility operations.

Maintenance:

It's that time of year when we have all hands on deck.

Two new culverts installed. Two new meter pits installed. 15 replacement meters installed.

Spent time prepping our roads for slurry seal and then again for chip seal. This included shaping some edges and smoothing some potholes.

We hauled a LOT of rock during June and July to replace washouts. For 40th Street south of Stearman Estates we are experimenting with 50% rock and 50% millings to reduce dust. So far so good, but we are continuing to monitor it for effectiveness.

Lots of mowing. Got a little shaggy for a bit, but we are back in shape.

**Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Cleaning/CCTV Inspection Agreement
City of Benton, KS**

Mayer Specialty Services, LLC agrees to perform sanitary sewer maintenance line cleaning for the city as follows:

2026	Clean approx.	13,175	If	@	\$.84	=	\$11,067.00
	Televise approx.	1,318	If	of cleaned lines			included
2027	Clean approx.	12,765	If	@	\$.86	=	\$10,977.90
	Televise approx.	1,277	If	of cleaned lines			included
2028	Clean approx.	15,396	If	@	\$.88	=	\$13,548.48
	Televise approx.	1,540	If	of cleaned lines			included

Footages are approximations. Actual price will be computed utilizing the actual footage cleaned and the per-foot cleaning price.

Per foot cleaning price may increase with rising fuel costs at the rate of 2% for every \$.25 of fuel cost increase above \$4.00 per gallon.

- Additional footage may be cleaned at the same rate specified above.
- Additional footage may be televised at the price of \$1.10 per lineal foot for lines cleaned in the district and \$1.98 per foot for non-cleaned lines if done during the same cleaning trip.
- Standard lift station cleaning is available at the rate of \$315.00 per hour, one hour minimum, if done during the same cleaning trip.
- Emergency service is available to maintenance customers with timely dispatch of equipment and personnel (see emergency service section on page 7 of this proposal packet.)
- Mayer Specialty Services, LLC accepts no responsibility for damage that may occur because of improperly vented structures, pre-existing conditions or anything introduced into the system which is not normal sewage.
- Any disputes regarding this agreement will be decided by arbitration (Construction Industry Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association.)

City responsibilities:

- Distribute individual notices to addresses in the affected areas.
- Provide clean water for the jetting process and cleanup.
- Locate, uncover & exercise all manhole lids & provide access for our cleaner to all locations within affected areas, prior to our arrival.
- Provide a dumpsite, within reasonable distance, for deposit of debris removed from the system.
- Defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Mayer Specialty Services, LLC from (1) all claims, damages, and expenses that arise or are incurred because of improperly vented structures, pre-existing conditions or anything introduced into the system which is not normal sewage, and (2) except to the extent caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of Mayer Specialty Services, LLC, all other claims, damages, and expenses that arise or are incurred during the term of this Agreement.

Term:

The term of this agreement is three years consisting of three annually renewable calendar periods each ending on December 31. This agreement begins January 1, 2026 and renews each January 1 thereafter through 2028. If approved, work will be performed when we are in the area. **This agreement may be terminated by either party with written notice given 30 days prior to termination.**

Mayer Specialty Services, LLC

Melinda Lambert
 Melinda Lambert – MSS authorized signature 7/11/2025

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL & NOTICE TO PROCEED

Authorized signature, City of Benton, KS

Printed signature name

Title

Date

Workshop Request:

July 8, 2025

City of Benton
Attn. Matt Engles
154 S Main
Benton, KS 67017

Ty can meet with us on the following dates:

7/30-8/1
8/7-8/8
8/11-8/12
8/14-8/15

Dear Matt:

I appreciate being considered by you and the Benton Governing Body to assist in your growth and development. Having started my city management career in Cheney, I have a strong understanding of the challenges Benton faces. Growth can be challenging to smaller communities outside of the Wichita metro which requires some unique and special incentives. Benton does have a great school system which is important and they will need to be at the table. Butler County supports growth and will be another good partner. Enclosed you will find a proposed consulting agreement and other Guv Guy Consulting materials.

Having spent my entire career working for local governments in Kansas, I believe my experience, education and knowledge of issues facing Kansas communities is unmatched. As a City Manager with over 25 years of experience, my responsibilities have included economic development, finance, planning & zoning, public works as well as municipal utilities. I have worked with numerous elected officials during my tenure including Mayors, Council Members and County Commissioners. Bringing citizens, businesses, and elected officials together to focus on the same issues and a path forward is not easy. However, something that I am proud to have accomplished throughout my career.

In Bel Aire, I spent a great deal of time being a developer as well as recruiting local developers. I have a unique understanding of what developers are needing as well as what cities can offer. I feel I can bring the needed assistance to you and the governing body.

Again, I appreciate being considered and would be happy to answer any further questions you might have. Feel free to contact me anytime and I'm available to meet with the Governing Body if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ty Lasher'.

Ty Lasher, CEO
Guv Guy Consulting

Budget Report



2026

City of Benton



Introduction

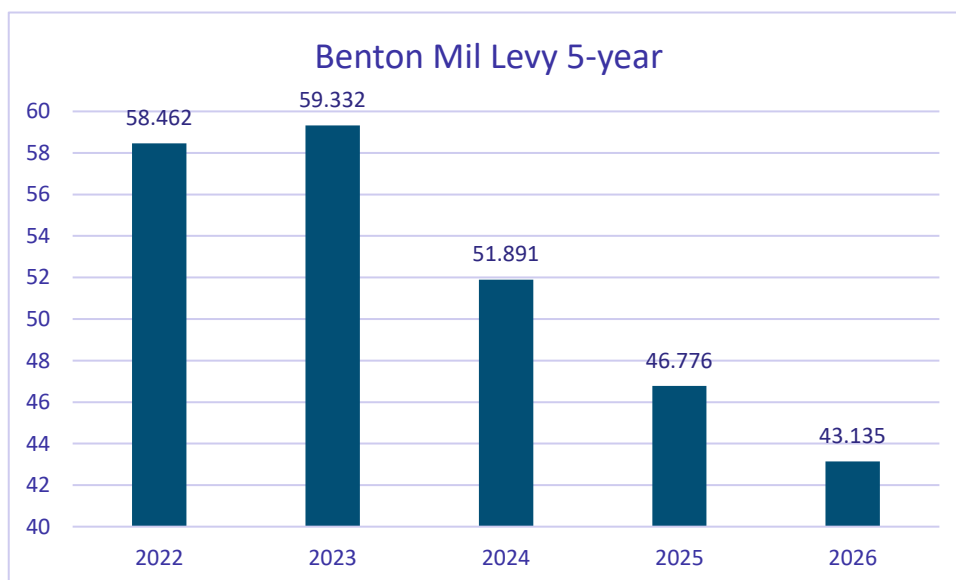
The City of Benton's budget is a document from the Governing Body to City Staff for guiding the various services to citizens throughout a fiscal year that runs from January 1st through December 31st. The 2026 budget building process consists of using the following data sources:

- 2024 actual revenues and expenses
- 2025 estimates of current conditions
- 5-year revenue and expense trends from 2020-2025
- Predictions of economic conditions
- Capital Improvement Plan designed by the Governing Body
- Input from Department Heads concerning project forecasts and equipment needs

Using these variables, City Staff compiles a budget draft which then goes to the Mayor and City Council for review, discussion, and draft updates.

Over the course of 2023-present, the concentration of the budget has been to maximize non-property tax revenue sources in order to balance the reliance of city services away from property tax sourcing. This progression has resulted in the following mil levy changes:

- 2023: 59.332
- 2024: 51.891
- 2025: 46.776
- Predicted 2026: 43.135



This shift in resources has been made possible by the institution of a 2% sales tax enacted by the voters in 2024 and also the continued increase in new build and remodel valuation. This expanse of non-property tax revenue is a directive of the voters of Benton.

The following pages will go through each of the funds of the budget in order to provide citizens with information about how and why different aspects of the budget are built.

Respectfully,

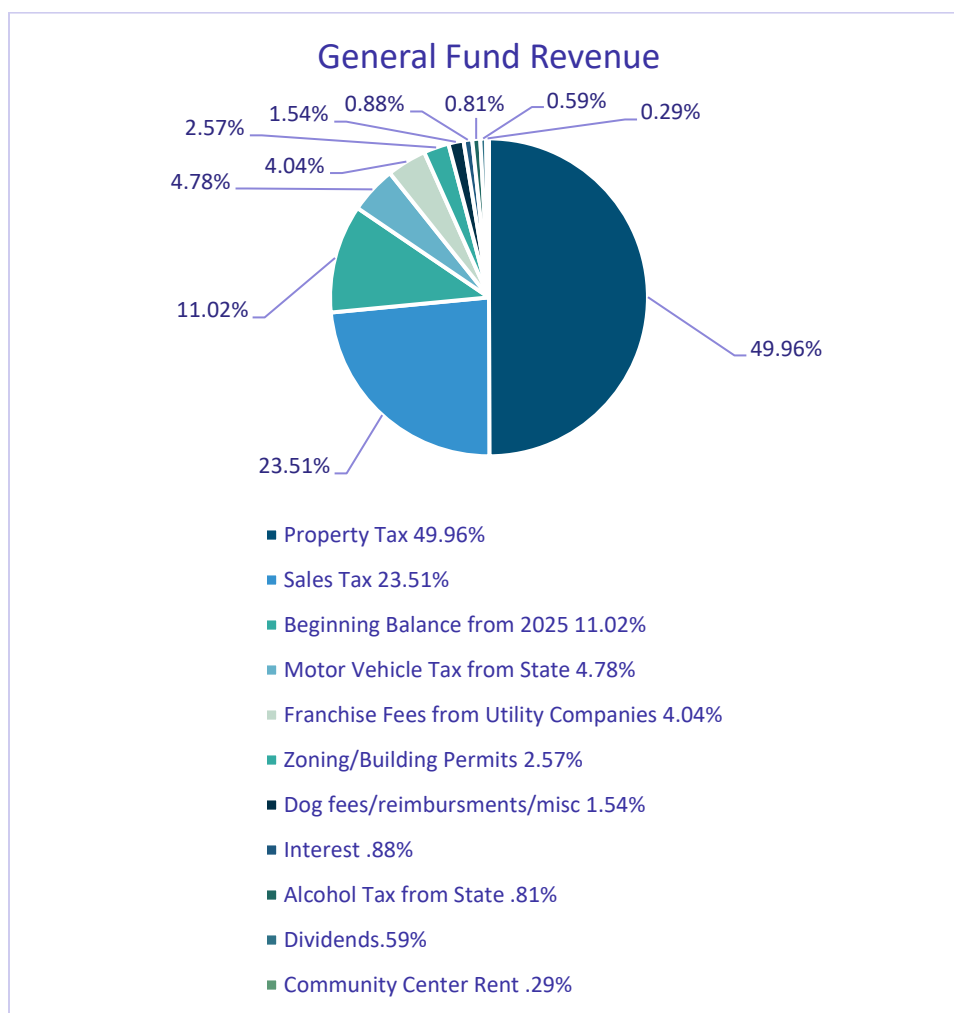
Matt Engels, City Administrator

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The following summary provides an overview of the revenues and expenditures of the proposed 2026 Budget for the City of Benton.

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

The General Fund encompasses a majority of non-utility city services, including police, street lighting, community building, city staff, economic development planning, major street improvements, a portion of Bond payments, transfers to reserve funds for projects, and general maintenance to city properties. Budgeting emphasis is put on the General Fund because this is funded with property taxes, whereas the other budget funds are not funded with taxes. Here is the breakdown of where the revenue comes from for these city services:



BOND FUND SUMMARY

The Bond fund consists of payments on municipal bonds, or borrowed monies. The revenue sources for this fund include a transfer from the General Fund and various Specials payments. Revenue for this fund equals \$165,000.

STREET DEPARTMENT FUND

The Street Fund is for smaller regular street maintenance such as patching, pothole repair, and gravel for our dirt roads. This is funded by the Kansas Gas Tax and a portion of revenue sharing from Butler County. Revenue to pay for these expenses equals \$28,500.

PARKS DEPARTMENT FUND

The Parks Fund is dedicated to park facility maintenance and improvement projects. This is funded by facility rental and a State of Kansas Alcohol Tax. Revenue from these two sources equals \$14,000.

WATER OPERATIONS FUND

The Water Fund is one of our three Enterprise Funds, which means it is a small business within our funds that is supported wholly by water fees. The expenses for this fund include purchase of water, cost of distribution through our tower, pumps, and lines to your homes and business, intensive quality testing, and planning for future infrastructure and equipment repair and replacement. Annual billing within the Water Fund is \$279,000.

SEWER OPERATIONS FUND

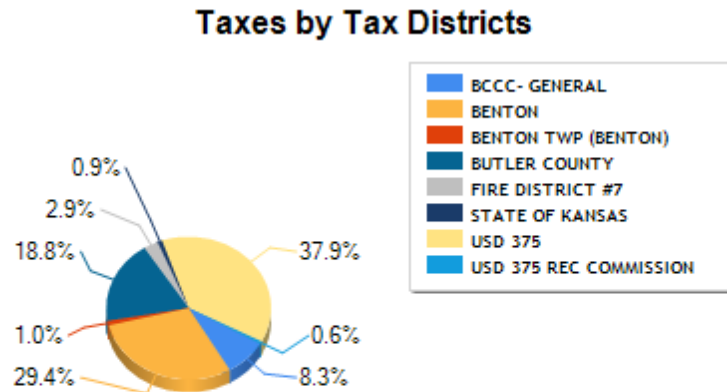
Another one of our Enterprise Funds, the sewer system is also a non-tax-supported fund. The revenue for this fund is the sewer fee on utility bills. The expenses for this fund include sewer pump station maintenance and repair, lagoon system maintenance and testing, regular line cleaning, and the occasional emergency cleaning. Annual billing within the Sewer Fund is \$200,000.

REFUSE FUND

The Refuse Fund, or Trash Fund, is another enterprise fund. The revenue source is from Trash and Recycle charges on the utility bill. The expenses for this fund include removal of solid waste and recycling, limb and leaf collections site, and our used oil collection site. Annual billing within the Refuse Fund is \$50,000.

OTHER ITEMS TO NOTE

The City of Benton consists of only a portion of Property Tax collections by the County. If you live in Benton, here is how your most recent tax bill was distributed:



The City of Benton must adhere to a strict timeline while building the budget.

June 1: Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Property Valuation, and county appraisers are required to provide certified assessed valuation figures to the county clerk.

June 15: By this date, county clerks must provide the estimated assessed valuations and revenue neutral rate to taxing districts.

September 11: This is the last day for publishing the proposed budget and hearing notice.

September 21: This is the last day for public hearing on budget.

October 1: This is the last day for filing levies and budget with county clerk. If the budget is not filed by 5:00 p.m. on this date, the County Clerk will use the ad valorem levy from the prior taxing year.

Year to Year Comparison

The following pages show the proposed 2026 Budget to be voted on by the Governing Body on August 18th, 2025 and the previous year 2025 Budget passed on August 19th, 2.

2026 Proposed Budget:

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

2026

The governing body of

Benton

will meet on August 18th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at Benton Community Building, 150 S Main, Benton, Kansas for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at City Hall, 154 S Main, Benton, Kansas and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2026 Expenditures and Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2026 budget.

Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2024		Current Year Estimate for 2025		Proposed Budget for 2026		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2025 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	1,175,099	51.891	1,206,000	46.776	1,392,000	692,193	43.135
Debt Service	155,395		154,600		158,583		
Library							
Special Highway	20,086		27,335		55,000		
Special Parks	10,057		25,000		25,000		
Water	249,772		245,000		297,000		
Sewer	178,624		202,514		249,000		
Trash	62,205		68,000		80,000		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A							
Totals	1,851,238	51.891	1,928,449	46.776	2,256,583	692,193	43.135
					Revenue Neutral Rate**		44.365
Less: Transfers	240,000		325,000		490,000		
Net Expenditure	1,611,238		1,603,449		1,766,583		
Total Tax Levied	826,736		711,917		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	14,676,013		15,219,998		16,047,234		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2023		2024		2025		
G.O. Bonds	1,180,000		1,023,952		868,557		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	1,180,000		1,023,952		868,557		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

** Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Joyce Casady

Official Title: City Clerk

2025 Current Year Budget:

2025

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Benton
will meet on 8/19/2024 at 7pm at Benton Community Building, 150 S Main, Benton, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Hall and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2025 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2024 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2025 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2023		Current Year Estimate for 2024		Proposed Budget for 2025		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2024 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate*
General	1,035,637	59.332	1,211,370	51.891	1,321,000	711,917	48.000
Debt Service	156,448		155,395		157,100		
Library							
Special Highway	33,112		30,000		27,335		
Special Parks	9,374		20,000		35,000		
Water	214,968		250,000		255,000		
Sewer	192,841		197,514		209,514		
Trash	61,000		64,000		91,990		
Totals	1,703,379	59.332	1,928,279	51.891	2,096,939	711,917	48.000
Revenue Neutral Rate**							54.279

Less: Transfers	207,600		240,000		325,000	
Net Expenditure	1,495,779		1,688,279		1,771,939	
Total Tax Levied	702,297		826,736		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
Assessed Valuation	11,836,720		14,676,013		14,831,685	

Outstanding Indebtedness,

	2022	2023	2024
January 1,			
G.O. Bonds	1,325,000	1,180,000	1,023,952
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Purchase Principal	0	0	0
Total	1,325,000	1,180,000	1,023,952

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

** Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988

Joyce Casady

City Official Title: City Clerk

Page No.

Summary

The goal of the staff is to present the Governing Body with a budget that is balanced responsibly between current taxes and preparing for future growth, maintenance, and asset replacement, and will feasibly meet the service needs and expectations of the citizens of the City of Benton. If this balance is reasonably met, major shifts from year to year are unnecessary.

It is also a responsibility of the staff to plan revenues to meet needed expenses while at the same time adjust expenses to meet available revenue. We believe that the proposed 2026 budget is a quality working document that

Notice of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent

THE GOVERNING BODY OF Benton, HEREBY NOTIFIES THE
BUTLER COUNTY CLERK OF INTENT TO EXCEED THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE;

____ Yes, we intend to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and our proposed mill levy rate is _____. The date of our hearing is _____ at _____ AM/PM and will be held at _____ in _____, Kansas.

 X No, we do not plan to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and will submit our budget to the County Clerk on or before October 1, 20____.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on _____, 20____.

(Seal)

Clerk or Officer of Governing Body

NOTE: Notice required to be sent to County Clerk on or before 5 p.m. on July 20, otherwise Revenue Neutral Rate cannot be exceeded. Signed notice may be scanned and sent electronically.

Executive Session motion

Moved:

That the governing body recess into executive session IAW K.S.A. 75-4319(b) to discuss non-elected personnel matters/attorney client privilege. Further, required to attend this session is the Mayor, City Attorney, City Administrator and the City Council. Further, that the governing body return to open session at _____PM