

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY COUNCIL FOR RICHLAND COUNTY
ORDINANCE NO. ___ 24-HR**

An Ordinance to raise revenue, make appropriations, and adopt Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Annual Budget for Richland County, South Carolina; authorizing the levying of Ad Valorem property taxes which together with the prior year's carryover and other State Levies and any additional amount appropriated by the Richland County Council prior to July 1, 2025 will provide sufficient revenues for the operations of Richland County Government from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (FY 2026)

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Constitution and the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR RICHLAND COUNTY:

SECTION 1. The following appropriations by activity and the estimated revenue to support these appropriations, as well as other supporting documents contained in the adopted Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Budget is hereby adopted, with such supporting documents being made reference to and incorporated herein by reference, as follows:

Fund	Revenue	Transfer In	Fund Balance	Total Sources	Expenditures	Transfer Out	Total Uses
General Fund							
General Fund Operating	\$237,126,117	\$8,589,123	\$4,000,000	\$249,715,240	\$228,979,685	\$19,011,831	\$247,991,516
General Fund Capital	\$0	\$0	\$6,275,685	\$6,275,685	\$7,999,409	\$0	\$7,999,409
General Fund	\$237,126,117	\$8,589,123	\$10,275,685	\$255,990,925	\$236,979,094	\$19,011,831	\$255,990,925
Special Revenue							
Victim's Assistance	\$160,000	\$1,207,901	\$0	\$1,367,901	\$1,367,901	\$0	\$1,367,901
Tourism Development	\$1,477,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,477,000	\$1,263,428	\$213,572	\$1,477,000
Temporary Alcohol Permits	\$100,000	\$0	\$26,502	\$126,502	\$126,502	\$0	\$126,502
Emergency Telephone System	\$2,700,000	\$3,556,442	\$1,403,300	\$7,659,742	\$7,482,915	\$176,827	\$7,659,742
Fire Service	\$33,929,482	\$0	\$4,526,311	\$38,455,793	\$34,105,153	\$4,350,640	\$38,455,793
Stormwater Management	\$4,170,000	\$0	\$1,142,802	\$5,312,802	\$5,099,252	\$213,550	\$5,312,802
Conservation Commission Fund	\$1,102,000	\$143,988	\$1,936,592	\$3,182,580	\$3,135,909	\$46,671	\$3,182,580
Neighborhood Redevelopment Fund	\$1,102,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,102,000	\$1,060,496	\$41,504	\$1,102,000
Hospitality Tax	\$11,538,041	\$0	\$2,887,996	\$14,426,037	\$9,435,187	\$4,990,850	\$14,426,037
Accommodation Tax	\$690,000	\$0	\$141,258	\$831,258	\$682,400	\$148,858	\$831,258
Title IVD - Sheriff's Fund	\$30,000	\$36,499	\$0	\$66,499	\$66,499	\$0	\$66,499
Title IV - Family Court	\$1,317,212	\$134,474	\$0	\$1,451,686	\$1,451,686	\$0	\$1,451,686
Road Maintenance Fee	\$6,635,621	\$0	\$5,263,310	\$11,898,931	\$11,341,604	\$557,327	\$11,898,931
Public Defender	\$2,309,184	\$4,817,495	\$0	\$7,126,679	\$7,126,679	\$0	\$7,126,679
Transportation Tax	\$105,917,863	\$0	\$160,000,000	\$265,917,863	\$3,126,202	\$262,791,661	\$265,917,863
Mass Transit	\$0	\$28,388,195	\$0	\$28,388,195	\$28,388,195	\$0	\$28,388,195
School Resource Officers	\$6,860,847	\$1,473,830	\$0	\$8,334,677	\$7,716,917	\$617,760	\$8,334,677
Economic Development	\$6,050,357	\$1,102,000	\$0	\$7,152,357	\$5,406,952	\$1,745,405	\$7,152,357
Affordable Housing	\$0	\$4,305,429	\$0	\$4,305,429	\$4,305,429	\$0	\$4,305,429
Child Fatality Review	\$35,000	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000
Special Revenue Total	\$186,124,607	\$45,166,253	\$177,328,071	\$408,618,931	\$132,724,306	\$275,894,625	\$408,618,931
Debt Service							
General Debt Service (Current and Upcoming)	\$23,322,452	\$0	\$0	\$23,322,452	\$23,322,452	\$0	\$23,322,452
Fire Bonds 2018B 1,500,000	\$547,950	\$0	\$0	\$547,950	\$547,950	\$0	\$547,950
RF-IP Revenue Bond 2019	\$0	\$1,601,381	\$0	\$1,601,381	\$1,601,381	\$0	\$1,601,381
Hospitality Refund 2013A B/S	\$0	\$1,490,850	\$0	\$1,490,850	\$1,490,850	\$0	\$1,490,850
East Richland Public Svc Dist.	\$809,320	\$0	\$0	\$809,320	\$809,320	\$0	\$809,320
Recreation Commission Debt Svc	\$3,067,430	\$0	\$0	\$3,067,430	\$3,067,430	\$0	\$3,067,430
Riverbanks Zoo Debt Service	\$5,506,989	\$0	\$0	\$5,506,989	\$5,506,989	\$0	\$5,506,989
School District 1 Debt Service (Current & Upcoming)	\$62,662,900	\$0	\$0	\$62,662,900	\$62,662,900	\$0	\$62,662,900
School District 2 Debt Service	\$67,172,352	\$0	\$0	\$67,172,352	\$67,172,352	\$0	\$67,172,352
Transportation Debt Service	\$0	\$14,435,500	\$0	\$14,435,500	\$14,435,500	\$0	\$14,435,500
Debt Service Total	\$163,089,393	\$17,527,731	\$0	\$180,617,124	\$180,617,124	\$0	\$180,617,124
Enterprise Funds							
Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	\$49,157,978	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$51,157,978	\$49,572,196	\$1,585,782	\$51,157,978
Richland County Utilities	\$15,906,209	\$0	\$0	\$15,906,209	\$14,326,578	\$1,579,631	\$15,906,209
Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating	\$315,000	\$0	\$470,971	\$785,971	\$735,148	\$50,823	\$785,971
Enterprise Funds Total	\$65,379,187	\$0	\$2,470,971	\$67,850,158	\$64,633,922	\$3,216,236	\$67,850,158
Millage Agencies							
Richland County Recreation Commission	\$18,812,400	\$0	\$0	\$18,812,400	\$18,812,400	\$0	\$18,812,400
Columbia Area Mental Health	\$2,941,200	\$0	\$0	\$2,941,200	\$2,941,200	\$0	\$2,941,200
Public Library	\$36,051,920	\$0	\$0	\$36,051,920	\$36,051,920	\$0	\$36,051,920
Riverbanks Zoo	\$1,522,400	\$0	\$0	\$1,522,400	\$1,522,400	\$0	\$1,522,400
Midlands Technical College	\$8,464,300	\$0	\$0	\$8,464,300	\$8,464,300	\$0	\$8,464,300
Midlands Tech Capital/Debt Service	\$4,508,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,508,000	\$4,508,000	\$0	\$4,508,000
School District One	\$273,866,034	\$0	\$0	\$273,866,034	\$273,866,034	\$0	\$273,866,034
School District Two	\$197,863,633	\$0	\$0	\$197,863,633	\$197,863,633	\$0	\$197,863,633
Millage Agencies Total	\$544,029,887	\$0	\$0	\$544,029,887	\$544,029,887	\$0	\$544,029,887
Grand Total	\$1,195,749,190	\$71,283,107	\$190,074,727	\$1,457,107,024	\$1,158,984,332	\$298,122,692	\$1,457,107,024

SECTION 2. Mileage rate paid to County employees shall be the same as the U.S. Federal reimbursement rate per mile for the fiscal period stated above.

SECTION 3. All fees previously approved by the County Council, either through budget ordinances or ordinances apart from the budget, will remain in effect unless and until the County Council votes to amend those fees.

SECTION 4. No County fees, excluding fees from SECTION 16, SECTION 17, and SECTION 18, based on CPI shall be adjusted on the current year inflationary adjustment (CPI) due to the small incremental change.

SECTION 5 At fiscal year-end, any funds encumbered for capital purchases shall reflect as a designation of fund balance in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and shall be brought forward in the subsequent fiscal year as budgeted fund balance. This automatic re-budgeting shall not require a supplemental budget ordinance.

SECTION 6. Continuation grants and those with no personnel or match requests are considered approved as presented with budget adoption up to available budgeted match dollars. All other grants will require individual Council approval prior to award acceptance.

SECTION 7. Commensurate with budget authority, the County Administrator may approve purchases in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or less. Purchases in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) shall be reviewed and approved by the County Council prior to acceptance.

SECTION 8. All non-exclusive contracts exceeding \$100,000 and existing at the time of budget adoption shall be renewed for the subsequent fiscal year provided the following conditions exist: The services provided under the contract will continue to be required in the subsequent fiscal year; the contract was originally procured through the County's Procurement Division utilizing the competitive procurement method, where appropriate, and following all other procurement ordinances, regulations and guidelines; The contract is within a five-year period during which contracts may be renewed annually upon mutual agreement by both parties not to exceed five years; the performance of the contractor has been confirmed, in writing, by the user department and by the Manager of Procurement to be satisfactory; Budget dollars have been appropriated by the County Council to fund the contract for the subsequent fiscal year. All items included on the State contract greater than \$100,000 are considered as reviewed and approved therefore will not be required to go back to Council for additional approval.

SECTION 9. Designated fund balance allocated in prior years for the establishment of an emergency disaster fund, economic development fund, and an insurance reserve fund shall remain as designated, but only to the extent of available fund balance as approved by the County Administrator.

SECTION 10. All One-percent funds collected through established Multi-County Industrial Park agreements or the funds from the completed sale of any county-owned property in a multi-county park shall be placed in the Richland County Economic Development Fund and be immediately appropriated for the purpose of continued Economic Development. This appropriation shall not require a supplemental budget ordinance.

SECTION 11. Funds awarded to the Sheriff's Department through forfeiture are included as part of this ordinance and Council designates, as the governing body, that the Sheriff shall maintain these funds in accordance with Federal, State and County guidelines. All forfeited funds will be audited along with the General Fund and posted at that time.

SECTION 12. The County will be self-funded against tort claim liability and shall no longer carry an excess liability insurance policy. Funding shall be established through the annual automatic re-budgeting of these County funded accounts. The amount to be carried forward shall not exceed the unspent portion of the current year appropriation and shall be used only for the original intended purpose as identified in the year of appropriation. This shall increase the original appropriated budget and shall not require a separate budget amendment.

SECTION 13. The Sheriff and Finance Director will assess the status of fees collected through the Special Duty Program prior to the end of fiscal year 2025. All excess funds collected for the administrative cost over cost incurred shall reflect as a designation of fund balance and shall be brought forward in the following fiscal year as budgeted fund balance. This automatic re-budgeting shall not require a supplemental budget ordinance. Continuation of the Special Duty Program and associated fees shall be evaluated each year during the budget process.

SECTION 14. The appropriation includes the approval of the Sheriff's Department School Resource Officer Program. Funding shall be contingent upon annual approval and appropriation by County Council. At the end of each fiscal year, the Finance Director and the Sheriff will assess the status of the billing and collections for each school district as of the end of the fiscal year. Any program shortfall of collections for the fiscal year by the School District shall result in additional collection procedures inclusive of charging shortfall to the Sheriff's Department fiscal budget. All excess funds collected beyond cost of the program shall be brought forward in the subsequent budget year as a budgeted use of fund balance and made available to the Sheriff's Department to be used toward the district-specific program cost. The automatic re-budgeting shall not require a supplemental budget ordinance. Continuation of the School Resource Officer program and associated fees shall be evaluated each fiscal year during the budget process.

SECTION 15. All funds collected by the Sheriff's Department as a cost reimbursement from employees shall be credited back to the sheriff's budget and allowed to utilize for other operational cost.

SECTION 16. During its June 17, 2025 meeting, Richland County Council approved an increase in the Solid Waste rates effective July 1, 2025 (FY2026). The new rates for curbside, as approved, are as follows:

Solid Waste Rates FY2026:

- Residential Curbside \$399.46
- Backyard Pickup \$719.03
- Disability Backyard Service - \$399.46
- Commercial Curbside Service - \$798.92
- Rollcart Initial Setup Fee - \$75.00
- C&D Disposal @ Richland County Landfill-\$28.88 per ton (Waste must originate in RC)
- Yard/Land Clearing Debris/Dirt-\$28.88 per ton
- Brown Goods/Bulk Items-\$28.88 per ton

- Metal and Appliances-\$28.88 per ton
- Mattress/Box Spring – No Charge for Richland County Residents (Limit 2 per day. Mattress + box spring are 1)
- Mattress/Box Spring Commercial - \$368.56 per ton
- Tires Commercial - \$1.50 each or \$150 per ton
- Residential Tire with proper identification – No Charge (Limit 4 per day)
- Residential Electronic Waste (Up to 5 electronic items per day) – No Charge
- Commercial Electronic Waste, Landfill Only - \$1.15 per lb.
- Residential Mulch – County residents receive mulch at no charge. Resident self-load. Landfill only
- Commercial Mulch - \$14.00 per ton, Landfill only
- Residential Latex Paint, No Charge for Richland County residents. (Up to 5 cans of any size per day)
- Commercial Latex Paint - \$1.15 per lb.

SECTION 17. During its June 17, 2025 meeting, Richland County Council approved an increase in the Utilities’ fees for water effective July 1, 2025 (FY 2026). New fees, as approved, are as follows:

1st 1,000 gallons Minimum base charge standard meter	\$23.00
Fire Hydrant Fee	\$8.00
Next 8,000 gallons	\$5.65/1000 gallons
Next 10,000 gallons	\$5.29/1000 gallons
Next 11,000 gallons	\$4.98/1000 gallons
Next 30,000 gallons	\$4.69/1000 gallons
Next 60,000 gallons	\$4.69/1000 gallons

SECTION 18. During its June 17, 2025 meeting, Richland County Council approved an increase in the Utilities’ fees for sewer effective July 1, 2025 (FY 2026). New fees, as approved, are as follows:

Sewer Rates:
FY2026: \$77.91

SECTION 19. Conflicting Ordinances Repealed. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 20. Severability. If any section, subsection, or clause of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, and clauses shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 21. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2025.

Richland County Council

By: _____

First Reading: FY 2026 – May 6, 2025
 Public Hearing: FY 2026 – May 22, 2025
 Second Reading: FY 2026 – June 5, 2025
 Third Reading: FY 2026 – June 17, 2025