

Somerset budget for 26-27 expected to be \$102.41 million



CARLA SLAVEY / CJ

Somerset City Clerk Nick Bradley, left, Mayor Alan Keck, center, and Attorney John Adams, right, look over the agenda for Monday's City Council meeting.

BY CARLA SLAVEY
COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL

The City of Somerset's current budget saw a few changes that raised it around \$4 million, but the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year is expected to be around \$6 million lower compared to the current budget.

Both the changes to the current budget and the upcoming year's budget received first readings at Monday's Council meeting.

If approved, the changes to the 2025-2026 budget will be:

- General Fund: \$34.43 million to \$35.16 million
- Sanitation: \$8.32 million to \$8.60 million

- Water: \$15.13 million to \$15.17 million
- Gas: \$13.47 million to \$14.34 million
- Wastewater: \$16.66 million to \$16.68 million
- Waterpark: \$3.10 million to \$3.32 million
- Fuel Center: \$1.17 million to \$2.11 million
- EMS: \$10.37 million to \$11.66 million
- Total: from \$104,315,108 to \$108,712,258

Mayor Alan Keck said that the three largest changes in the current budget were in the areas of natural gas, fuel and EMS.

Keck noted the "catastrophic" winter storm that cause a major increase in the cost of natural gas to both the city and the citizens.

As for the Fuel Center budget changes, Keck said, "I don't think any of us could have forecasted some of the global conditions that we're under, the cost of gas at the fuel center and, candidly, the amount we're selling now," referring in part to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East that has caused domestic fuel retail prices to, at time, reach more than \$4 per gallon.

Then, Keck explained that EMS was hit the hardest out of all departments when it comes to fuel costs as their crews are traveling all over the county.

As for the planned budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the overall total is expected to be \$102.41

million.

Keck said he was proud of this budget, saying "We're still providing, I think, exemplary service to our citizens and to our team. But as a result of some of the major projects winding down, the budget relative to the amended budget from last year will be down about \$6 million, so almost 6%. While I love growth and I love the progress that we've had, I hope that in time we continue to get caught up on some of the major projects (and) that we will continue to lower that overall number a little bit and still provide those services."

The tentative budget for 2026-2027 is:

- General Fund: \$38.22 million

- Sanitation: \$7.43 million
- Water: \$14.87 million
- Gas: \$14.42 million
- Wastewater: \$9.86 million
- Waterpark: \$3.00 million
- Fuel Center: \$1.48 million
- Travel and Tourism: \$428,200
- EMS: \$11.34 million
- The Virginia: \$825,900
- MAP fund: \$50,350
- Horse Soldier TIF: \$36,025

Both budgets will receive a second reading and vote in a future meeting.

In working on the upcoming fiscal year's budget, council members participated in three budget workshops over the past couple of weeks.

Keck thanked the council for taking a "very engaged role" in the process. One council mem-

ber, Patrick Hunley, was unable to attend the workshops, and he took a few moments during the Council Comments portion of the City Council meeting to read out a statement explaining why.

"Due to my work schedule and responsibilities, I was just unable to attend," Hunley stated.

"My employment requires flexibility and at times conflicts with scheduled council activities. I didn't want to miss, but missing these meetings was not a reflection of lack of interest or commitment to the budget process or citizens we serve. (City CFO) Mr. (Mike) Broyles has answered any question I've had. ... I've talked to a couple of the department heads, and I got any question answered. I'm sorry I wasn't here, I just wasn't available to make it."

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32,000 people displaced by Philippine earthquake that killed at least 37

BY JIM GOMEZ AND JOEAL CALUPITAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENERAL SANTOS, Philippines (AP) — Rescuers searched ruined buildings in the southern Philippines on Tuesday to ensure no one was still trapped a day after one of the strongest earthquakes to hit the country in a half-century killed at least 37 people and displaced more than 32,000.

Only four people were considered missing on official records in the southern provinces near where the 7.8 magnitude quake struck Monday morning, but the Office of Civil Defense acknowledged several collapsed and heavily damaged buildings must be thoroughly inspected for possible survivors or casualties.

The earthquake centered off Mindanao, the second most populous Philippine island, injured nearly 500 people and displaced more than 32,000, most of whom fled to emergency shelters. Many people who left their homes feared a tsu-

nami. Waves up to 1.4-meters (4.6-feet) above tide level were measured in the Philippines, but the only tsunami damage reported was to six shanties on stilts in a coastal village. Smaller waves washed ashore in Indonesia and Palau and as far away as southern Japan.

LANDSLIDES AND BUILDING COLLAPSES CAUSED SEVERAL DEATHS

The earthquake left a trail of destruction, including in General Santos, a lively coastal city of more than 700,000 people known as the country's tuna capital, where at least 13 people were killed in collapsed buildings and due to falling debris.

At least 18 died in Sarangani province, mostly in a landslide that buried houses in the mountainside town of Glan, according to Rafaelito Alejandro of the Office of Civil Defense.

The other deaths were reported in the southern provinces of South Cotabato

and Davao Occidental, and on Balut Island, disaster response officials said.

About 2,500 houses and 117 government buildings and facilities were damaged in several provinces, according to an initial government

damage assessment. The international airport in General Santos remained shut for a second day, forcing the cancellation of 63 domestic flights except for those on

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SOMERSET, KENTUCKY

Recovery Kentucky 2025 CDBG Project

The City of Somerset has completed activities for the 2025 Recovery Kentucky CDBG Public Services project relating to the Sky Hope Recovery Center (CDBG 25-030). A public hearing will be held at 12:00 PM, Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026 via Zoom to solicit comments regarding the performance of the project activities. Completed project activities for the 2025 Recovery Kentucky CDBG funding include reimbursement of operational salaries for the Sky Hope Recovery Center, as approved per the application, benefitting over 51% low- and moderate-income persons.

Topic: City of Somerset CDBG-PS 25-030
Closeout Public Hearing

Time: Jun 23, 2026 12:00 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86203380947>

Meeting ID: 862 0338 0947
Passcode: 293610

One tap mobile
+13052241968,,86203380947#,,, *293610# US

Information concerning the Recovery Kentucky Project is available for public inspection at the office of the Mayor, Somerset City Hall, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026 until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026. Comments may be submitted in writing to the attention of Mayor Alan Keck at the address below, until 11:00 a.m. June 23rd, 2026.

Somerset City Hall
Attn: Alan Keck
306 E Mt. Vernon
Somerset, KY 42501

The TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-648-6056; Kentucky Relay for the speech impaired: 1-800-648-6057. Anyone requiring special accommodations please contact the Daisha Lie, at the City of Somerset (606-425-5358) at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.