

CITY OF WILDER, KENTUCKY

June 1, 2026

The Public Hearing for the purpose of obtaining comments regarding the possible uses of the Municipal Road Aid Fund for FY 2026/2027 was called to order at 6:15.

No one in attendance spoke at the Public Hearing.

City Administrator Vance stated the following:

The city currently has the following roads approved bids:

Vine Street - \$154,526.90

Interstate Access Road - \$49,499.25

The following are estimates and have not been bid out:

Country Drive - \$173,296.75

Bentwood Hills Drive - \$90,000

Bentwood Hills Drive Culvert - \$850,000

Upon motion of Councilman Blankenship, seconded by Jeff Moles to approve the Municipal Road Aid funds to be used on Country Drive, Bentwood Hills Drive and Bentwood Hills Culvert. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing ended at 6:29.

The meeting of the Wilder City Council was held on Monday, June 1, 2026 at the Wilder City Building, 520 Licking Pike, Wilder, Kentucky 41071.

Lords Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call:

Roll call was answered by Councilman Bob Blankenship, Councilwoman Sandy Decker, Councilman Jeff Moles, Councilman Brad Murphy, Councilman Jim Profitt, and Councilman Andy Williams.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion of Councilwoman Decker, seconded by Councilman Profitt to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 4, 2026. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.

Mayor Jones opening comments:

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Mayor Jones stated the meeting agenda included consideration of the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget and the swearing-in of the city's newest firefighter/paramedic.

Citizens Comments:

- No comment.

Attorney's Report:

Attorney Beck presented Executive Order 26-0601: **An Executive Order appointing Kevin Schmutte to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic for the Wilder Fire Department.**

Attorney Beck administered the oath of office to Firefighter/Paramedic Kevin Schmutte.

Mayor Jones congratulated Kevin and welcomed him to the department.

Attorney Beck presented Ordinance No. 26-0601: **An Ordinance adopting the City of Wilder, Kentucky's annual budget for Fiscal year 07/01/2026 through 06/30/2027 by estimating revenues and appropriating funds for the operation of city government. (First Reading)**

Mayor Jones provided an overview of the proposed budget and budget memorandum that was submitted to council. The budget memorandum will be attached to the minutes.

Discussion ensued regarding the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 budget.

Upon motion of Councilman Blankenship, seconded by Councilman Williams to approve Ordinance No. 26-0601: **An Ordinance adopting the City of Wilder, Kentucky's annual budget for Fiscal year 07/01/2026 through 06/30/2027 by estimating revenues and appropriating funds for the operation of city government. (First Reading) Mayor Jones called for a vote.**

Councilman Blankenship	Yes	Councilman Moles	Yes
Councilman Williams	Yes	Councilman Murphy	Yes
Councilwoman Decker	Yes	Councilman Profitt	Yes

Motion carried.

Page Three

Attorney Beck presented Resolution No. 26-0601: **A Resolution adopting and approving the execution of a memorandum of agreement between the City of Wilder and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, transportation cabinet, Department of Highways in the amount of \$100,000 for the Bentwood Hills culvert replacement and repaving project.**

Upon motion of Councilman Profitt, seconded by Councilman Murphy to approve Resolution No. 26-0601: **A Resolution adopting and approving the execution of a memorandum of agreement between the City of Wilder and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, transportation cabinet, Department of Highways in the amount of \$100,000 for the Bentwood Hills culvert replacement and repaving project. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.**

Attorney Beck presented Executive Order No. 26-0602: **An Executive Order declaring an emergency due to the Bentwood Hill's Drive culvert collapse on April 30, 2026.**

City Administrator Vance:

- The Bentwood Hills culvert replacement is moving ahead. The entire culvert needs to be replaced. Eaton Asphalt is working on the final pricing. Detour signs have been put up.
- City Administrator Vance discussed the Governor's Executive Order on gas tax reduction. This executive order will end on June 10th. The cities can extend the order but it cost the cities \$30 million dollars a day in Municipal Road Aid.
- Public Works is working hard on the city grounds.
- The Sanitation Department's contractor will be closing Three Mile Road from June 15th through June 29th.

Mayor Jones thanked City Administrator Vance for all of his work on the Bentwood Hill's Drive culvert. He immediately contacted the state to get some emergency funds; because of his efforts the city was awarded \$100,000. He also contacted Maxim Crane and the Sanitation Department for their help. City Administrator Vance has done a remarkable job.

Department Reports:

Treasurer Report:

- Delinquent taxes - \$22,000
- First Friday – June 5th. Shop Local.
- Active Aging on Wednesdays in June from 10:45 – 11:45.
- Terrarium Workshop – June 11th in the park.
- Movie night – June 13th.
- Party in the Park – June 23rd.
- Concert in the park – NOT JOHNNY BAND – July 2nd.

Upon motion from Councilwoman Decker, seconded by Councilman Blankenship to approve the financial report and authorize payment of the bills for General Fund ending April 2026. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.

Page Four

Police Chief Comments:

Chief Martin:

- Increased police presence and enforcement activities within Bentwood Hills.
- There have been recent vehicle break-ins involving forced entry at local hotel properties.
- Successful response efforts during the Steel Plant emergency incident. The Fire Department did an outstanding job.
- Both new hires are doing a great job and will be on the road shortly.
- There is a grant reward that is pending for the department for new patrol rifles. The city will be receiving some funding. Thanked Detective Selby for applying for the grant.

Fire Chief Comments:

Chief Neyman:

- The Steel Plant was a challenging run. Thanked the police department for assisting them.
- Welcomed Kevin Schmutde to the department.

Mayor Jones comments:

- Attended grand openings for Hometown Concrete and Riegler Asphalt.
- Attended Castellini's 130th Anniversary Celebration.
- Mid-Month update was sent to council.
- Active Aging has been a huge success.
- Coffee and Talk – July 20th.
- Thanked the team for a successful opening at the Splash Pad.
- Thanked council for their support and attention to the budget.
- Thanked the councilmembers who reached out to her regarding the coffee shop.
- Reviewed planned property improvements and site development activities associated with the coffee shop project.
- Bigby Coffee - Council was provided a cost estimate for the scope of work for the city. All costs incurred will be recovered in the lease payments.

Council Comments:

Councilman Blankenship:

- Welcomed Kevin Schmutde to the Fire Department.
- Requested a replacement of a missing parking restriction sign on Langview Drive.
- Inquired regarding development activities near Licking Pike and Pooles Creek.

Councilman Proffitt:

- Thanked Public Works for the improvements to city grounds.
- Commended city staff and public safety personnel.
- Thanked City Administrator Vance for his work on the culvert.
- Thanked Maxim Crane and Wayne Carlisle for their assistance with the Bentwood Hills Project.
- Discussed concerns regarding traffic and expenditures related to the coffee shop project.

Page Five

Councilwoman Decker:

- Welcomed Firefighter/Paramedic Schmutde to the fire department.
- Reported successful blood drive participation.
- Requested an update regarding the medical cannabis dispensary project.

Councilman Williams:

- Welcomed Firefighter/Paramedic Schmutde to the fire department.
- Commended Police Chief Martin and Fire Chief Neman for their leadership.
- Expressed appreciation for City Administrator Vance's work and dedication.

Councilman Murphy:

- Discussed traffic considerations related to the coffee shop project.
- Stated his disappointment with the Sanitation Department that they are not contributing more to the Bentwood Hills Culvert project.

Councilman Moles:

- Welcomed Firefighter/Paramedic Schmutde.
- Encouraged support for local businesses.
- Discussed the positive economic impact of new development and business investment within the city.

Citizen's Comments:

- No comment.

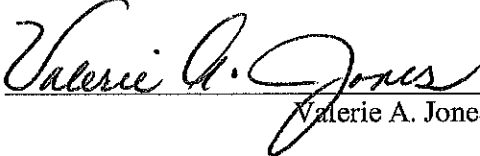
Next meeting:

June 15th, 2026

Adjournment:

Upon motion of Councilwoman Decker, seconded by Councilman Blankenship to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Valerie A. Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:



Junita Schultz - City Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wilder City Council

FROM: Mayor Valerie A. Jones

DATE: May 18, 2026

RE: FY 2026-2027 Budget Message

Accompanying this memo is a copy of the proposed general fund and capital budget along with the budget ordinance for FY 2026-2027. Included with this memo is the budget worksheets for both operating and capital funds. They show more detailed revenues and expenditures as line items. This is a balanced budget, with estimated surplus being moved to the capital budget. It remains my goal to place all future surplus funds into the capital funds to cover existing debt, pay down debt and to plan for future capital expenditures. Following is a breakdown of some of the highlights and material changes in the proposed budget.

Revenues:

- Property Taxes:** A slight increase over collected taxes was budgeted to due to reassessments this year as well as some new construction which is not part of the Fischer development PILOT payments. Those new revenues from the Sunrock Community are listed separately as a new line item. As you know, the total amount of property and tangible taxes will be reflected more accurately later in the fiscal year when the new tax rate is set.
- Tangible Taxes:** Our businesses are a huge part of this revenue category. Unfortunately, tangible tax valuation is difficult to predict. This valuation is set by the Department of Revenue from businesses' tax returns. The tangible tax rate is set after the budget is set and does affect the real property tax rate as well. With the addition of some new businesses, we hope this valuation goes back up. Since the rate is not adopted before the budget is approved, there is always exposure in this revenue category.
- Payroll Taxes:** Revenues in this category increased some due to a few new businesses, cost of living increases in salaries and contractors employed by Fischer Homes and other developments underway, i.e. Andis. We have no reason to expect this to be any less than we collected this past year and have high hopes for greater payroll taxes from all resources as the Wilder continues to grow. Our partnership with the county does streamline the collection process and has been working very well.

- Insurance Premium:** The revenue from insurance premiums increases slightly due to the rise in all premium costs (dwellings, auto, etc.) and due to new homes and autos added to the city by the Fischer development. A large part of this revenue item comes from the business community. While premiums are up overall, this is one of the most difficult taxes to track and account for.
- Motor Vehicle Tax:** The rate on motor vehicle tax must remain the same 0.148 or lower each year. The amount received in 25/26 budget is expected to be the same or slightly higher in 26/27.
- Interest Earned:** Interest income has come down slightly based on rates the city is receiving from its investments. It is anticipated the city will earn around \$90K in all accounts and investments in this fiscal year. Lower interest rates on the city's investments are contributing to this.
- Building Permits:** Fees have removed from this line-item category. Beginning July 1, there is a good chance the city will be contracting with Campbell County Planning and Zoning for all building, zoning and planning commission reviews. While details are still being worked out, all fees will be paid to Campbell County and no longer collected by the city. In addition, a contractual fee has been included into professional fees to cover the contract with Campbell County.

Expenditures:

Administrative Budget: While most of the line items remained the same, a few increased slightly. Professional fees went up slightly in anticipation of city projects, contracting with Campbell County Planning and Zoning and potential litigation. Insurance for the city (liability, property, and vehicle) also increased slightly due to an appraisal conducted by KLC last December increasing the value of city assets. Telephone/cellular, property maintenance and gas and electric also went up slightly. I have continued to recognize our dedicated administration department staff by way of offering a "merit in lieu of retention" which is a similar benefit to all other staff through retention contracts. All of the extra duties performed by the administration department beyond their everyday roles are essential tasks for the city fulfilling its mission to the community. Notable reductions can be found in dues and subscriptions.

Police Budget: Most of the line items which saw an increase are tied to the new recruits and new hires (uniforms/equipment). New vehicles are needed and have been earmarked in the capital budget. With changes in staffing, we have added the possibility of another officer to account for a potential retirement. There is a large increase in radio equipment in the capital budget. This is for replacement radios and is a critical

necessity due to current radios not receiving dispatches in some areas of the city. Older Harris Tate radios purchased not long ago are not as good or compatible with the Motorola radios that are being requested.

Fire Budget:

Most line items remained steady with only a few increases due to the increase in personnel. We will be replacing the recent FF who departed so that is marked "vacancy". The bond payment for the quint as well as the building bonds are paid out in the capital fund. A large capital expenditure in fire are also radios. The same issues exist with the radios as with police. New essential radios are budgeted to replace the inefficient Harris Tate radios with Motorola radios. There is also a large expenditure for new Scott Packs and face masks that will replace existing out of date equipment. This very essential equipment is necessary and vital to the safety of our firefighting staff. A grant has been applied for but we will not have any word on the grant so a full replacement has been included in the capital budget. Also budgeted is one half of a life squad replacement for SWEMS. The current life squad has been a problem almost since it was placed in service. Mechanically it is often out of service which is not good for Wilder and Southgate residents and businesses who depend on EMS service. The plan is to reuse the box of the life squad and replace the truck portion. The box of the squad is in good shape and with a new truck should last ten years. As Wilder partners with SWEMS on a 50/50 basis, one half of the new life squad is the city's responsibility.

Public Works:

Street repairs which have been reviewed by the city engineer are on the replacement schedule. With timing of the 25/26 projects, we may not get to the 26/27 projects until late in the fiscal year, however both are included in the 26/27 capital budget. One big item in the capital budget includes a new F600 dump truck/snow plow vehicle that council already authorized ordering so we could get delivery before winter 26/27. This will replace one of two similar vehicles. The other has had an engine replaced in 2025 and should last a few more years. With the Fischer development new streets are being added and additional staffing will be needed in the future. Additional part time funds have been budgeted to bolster our staffing with possible full-time personnel added in the future. Salt/Chemicals went down slightly as we have already resupplied the salt house. The city will be partnering once again with KLC on the salt auction for pricing for upcoming salt purchase.

Recreation:

Most of the program budgeting remains the same. The majority of Frederick's Landing upgrades will be expensed out of capital such as new dock parts and extending the trail.

Salary/Personnel:

The projected CPI is once again less than 3%. I decided to use the same salary strategy as last year. Pay was increased to staff before applying

the CPI for the annual COLA. This approach results in a higher year-over-year percent increase which keeps Wilder competitive with surrounding comparable jurisdictions. Once again, this was accomplished by utilizing CERS savings and giving it back to the employees who had contributed to CERS in the past year. The leadership team is very pleased with the outcome and the percent increases achieved. As permitted by law, elected officials will also see a COLA increase of 3%. Public service takes time and effort and this increase in pay has been earned. Police, Fire and Public Works still have retention contracts at this point and fully funded. As mentioned before, Administration has a separate "Merit in Lieu of Retention" plan. Retention agreements continue to be offered and funded as part of total compensation and seem to be making a difference in keeping our highly qualified personnel. Merit pay has been allocated to each department in this budget. This program was designed in 2023 to recognize employees based on exceeding their job responsibilities as determined and documented by department leaders. It seems to have a positive affect on employee moral by recognizing the extra effort.

One significant increase in personnel cost was the increase in the city's health insurance it offers to the employees. The original increase this year was 19% but through underwriting the rate was reduced to 17%. This is a huge benefit to our employees and I am pleased to say we are still paying 100% of the premium cost for employee and family plans. Our insurance provider has indicated these higher rates are part of a market adjustment for health care in general. We have looked options but based on the research any change or savings would significantly affect the benefits.

Municipal Road Fund: We expect a balance of at the end of June of \$246,038 including interest. For fiscal 26/27, we anticipate another \$55,200 will be added as incoming revenue from the state. Because road projects are in the capital budget, road fund monies have been moved to capital revenues. Keep in mind these funds are restricted and can only be spent after a public hearing. In light of the culvert replacement project, we do expect to spend these funds.

Capital Budget: You will notice on the capital budget there are some highlighted expenditures at the top. These are prior obligations the city has previously agreed to pay such as contracts or bonds. The accountant suggested that we call these out separately to illustrate that some of the capital budget each year is already expended based on these prior agreements.

Opioid Funds

As you know, these funds are totally restricted. However, we are making progress in identify ways to spend down these funds. We will keep receiving funds over a period of time based the settlements.

If you would like to review any portion of the budget, operating or capital, please contact me, Terry or Juanita. To avoid a delay in budget adoption, we ask that we are not surprised. Let's set time aside to address questions beforehand. Plans are to have the first reading of the budget ordinance at our June 1, 2026 meeting with second reading and passage at the June 15, 2026 meeting. This allows for the adopted budget to take effect July 1, 2026 and all increases and incentive agreements to pay out timely.