

FY2026 General Fund Operating Budget Drivers

Education Funding	\$11.9M
Public Safety Support	\$5.1M
General Government Support	\$4.1M
 FY2026 Proposed Tax Rate	 \$0.9436
FY2026 Proposed Fire Levy	\$0.0131

Budget Overview

Revenues:

Real property tax revenue increase	7%
Consumption tax revenue increase (Not a reassessment year)	-1.9%

Expenditures:

Overall General Fund increase	3.8%
Schools funding increase	2.9%

Budget Breakdown

General Fund increase:	\$35,392,285
Real Property Tax increase:	\$7,523,151
Personal Property Tax increase:	\$5,996,300
Sales Tax decrease:	(\$610,751)
 Average assessed home price:	 \$458,800
Average tax bill:	\$4,329
Average year-to-year increase:	\$229

Stafford Profile

Median Home Market Price	\$529,000
Median Income	\$133,792
Median Home Assessed Value	\$458,800
Population	172,668
Unemployment	2.9%

To access the online proposed budget and calendar, please visit www.staffordcountyva.gov/budget. The FY2026 budget public hearing is scheduled for March 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22554.

Budget Highlights

STAFFORD
Virginia

Sustainable Success:
Meeting Community Expectations
through Strategic Efficiency
Budget Priorities:

Before the Board and staff could begin their review, this year's budget faced a substantial increase in mandatory expenses, including an \$11.8 million rise in unfunded tax relief mandates, a \$4.8 million increase in debt service for new schools, and a \$4.8 million increase for obligations and commitments—amounting to a 8-cent increase on the tax rate. To help offset these costs, the budget includes a \$4 million reduction from the FY2025 base, program cuts, the repurposing of positions and the implementation of a managed vacancy savings plan.

Priority 1:

Investing in a Thriving Community – Strengthening economic development partnerships, expanding investments in sports tourism, and enhancing public safety communication systems to support long-term strategic goals.

Priority 2:

Sustaining Our Commitment to Education – Aligning with the Board's five-year financial plan by providing targeted funding for schools and a nearly \$5 million increase in debt service for three new school projects.

Priority 3:

Competitive Compensation for Dedicated Employees – Ensuring Stafford County remains competitive by offering all employees a 2.75% salary increase, reinforcing our commitment to attracting and retaining top talent to deliver high-quality services.