# FY2026 General Fund Operating Budget Drivers

Education Funding Public Safety Support	\$11.9M \$5.1M
General Government Support	\$4.1M
	400101

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 -1.9% (Not a reassessment year)

## **Expenditures:**

Overall General Fund increase 3.8% Schools funding increase 2.9%

# **Budget Breakdown**

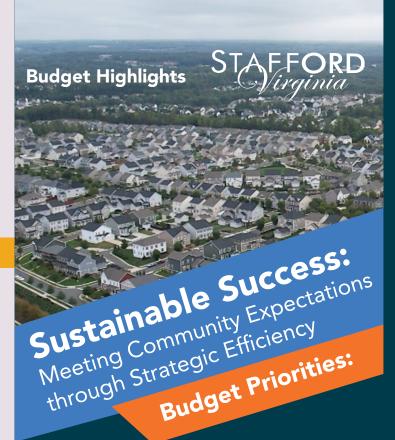
General Fund increase: \$35,392,285 Real Property Tax increase: \$7,523,151 Personal Property Tax increase: \$5,996,300 Sales Tax decrease: (\$610,751)

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.



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.