

City of Ashtabula FY26 Proposed Budget

January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

City Manager James Timonere



Ashtabula City Council

John Roskovics, President of Council

Russel Simeone, Vice President of Council

Kym Foglio, Ward I Councilor

Terrence Guerriero, Ward II Councilor

RoLesia Holman, Ward III Councilor

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Jane DiGiacomo, Ward V Councilor

2026 Proposed Fiscal Year Budget

Public Hearing | Budget Narrative

The City of Ashtabula's budget is crafted with the intention of ensuring that our operational costs are effectively managed. By utilizing historical data, assessing the reasonableness of anticipated expenses, and focusing on achieving essential projects and desired outcomes, we demonstrate our commitment to serving the community. This budget not only details the city's 2026 expenditures and revenues, but it also provides an estimate for the fund balance at the end of 2026.

The Fund Summary, found on the first page of the estimated budget, reveals a projected deficit of \$825,522.77 in the general fund for 2026. This deficit will be covered by carryover funds, but it highlights a critical challenge we face: the salaries for both union and non-union personnel are set at much higher increases than in the previous years. To address this substantial increase in expenses, it is imperative that the City and Court explore new revenue streams. By doing so, we can ensure the City's financial sustainability while protecting our reserves for unforeseen expenses in the future.

The 2026 Budget includes the following provisions:

- Elimination of the 5% pension pickup for all City and Court employees.
- Wage increases for the next three years are currently being negotiated with the Unions and an estimated increase has been assumed for this budget draft, including an increase for non-union employees
- Various hourly rate increases of up to 4% for the Court employees.
- A 10% decrease in medical insurance for the first half of 2026. Health insurance expenses might increase considerably during the year 2026 because of the aging employee population. However, the Nurse Navigator and Concierge Health Network programs proved to be a highly efficient cost saving strategy. EPLS specialty prescription program that should help both the City and employees with cost savings.
- **Increases in the 101.113.5101 – 101.113.5131** accounts are attributed to the ongoing transition in the Finance Department and the search of the new Assistant Finance Director.

- **Increases in 101.139.5466, 225.140.5320, and 503.140.5320** are attributed to the higher costs for the Audit and GAAP conversion due to hiring a new accounting firm under unfavorable market conditions.
- **Decrease in account 101.140.5817** - the City's claims settlement account is expected to decrease, as shown in the 2026 budget.
- **Fund 205** - The salary for the Public Works Department has increased due to the salary weight reallocation to help the 225 Sanitation Fund as well as upgraded salaries, per collective bargaining agreements.
- **Funds 214, 215, 216 and 220** – There is a decrease in salaries due to the reallocation of the salary weights to the General Fund and more active utilization of grants. The Court revenue accounts in the General Fund are expected to experience a significant increase due to the collection of fines through the Attorney's General Office.
- **Increases in account 101.090.4014** - Court intends on giving the City \$10,000.00 reimbursement to help offset court improvements at the end of 2026.
- **Fund 222** – A full police lieutenant's salary with benefits is budgeted in the Fund.
- **Fund 225** – The Fund will continue experiencing shortfalls in both operating and capital needs due to low trash collection, private haulers', and commercial dumpsters' fees.
- **Fund 412** – While the debt service is naturally going down in the Permanent Improvement Fund, increased funding will be required in the public works, police and fire aging equipment, vehicles and infrastructure with the total increase of 43.40% from the fiscal year 2025.
- **Fund 504** - The Fund will start repayments of the advance from the General Fund to repay \$358,488.89 amortized over the next 5 years.
- If we successfully receive all estimated revenues and keep our current expenditure levels, we should expect estimated carryover balances into 2027 at the end of 2026, as shown in the table below. It is important to note that, in most cases, these amounts are obligated and not yet liquidated. Additionally, we should consider that expenses may rise due to recent weather conditions.

General Fund (101):	\$4,580,179.46
Permanent Improvement (412):	\$44,228.38
Paving Levy (212):	\$719,198.23
Sanitation (225):	\$245,569.26

Wastewater (503):	\$1,020,009.92
WPC Capital (504):	\$132,325.37

- The General Fund will cover the deficits in the following areas:
 - Police Levy
 - Street Lighting
 - Food Service
 - Public Works
 - Public Health Nursing
 - Parking Deck Fund
 - Police & Fire Pension
 - Housing Code Enforcement

In summary, this budget is based on a thorough analysis, considering:

- One-time revenue and expenses factored into projections for FY ending 2025 and excluded from the 2026 revenue/expenditure projections.
- Fiscal Year 2025 budgeted revenues and expenses with all supplemental appropriations and revenue surpluses.
- Requests from department heads are vetted and approved by the City Manager.
- Historical data from the past three years.

While we are optimistic about our financial outlook for 2026, it's important to note that this budget does not factor in potential inflation resulting from changing economic conditions.

We remain committed to transparent, responsible financial planning to ensure the efficient operation of the City.

For any questions or feedback, please reach out to the City Manager and the Finance Director directly. Your input is valuable to the City.

FUND	Beg. Bal. Less Prior Year Encumbrances	2026 YTD Revenue with all YTD Inc/Dec included	Initial 2026 Budget Appropriations with all YTD Supplemental Appropriations and Budget Transfers included	Ending Balance
101 General	5,405,702.23	12,254,221.84	11,979,423.95	5,680,500.12
101 General Court		444,802.34	1,545,123.00	(1,100,320.66)
Total General Fund	5,405,702.23	12,699,024.18	13,524,546.95	4,580,179.46
<u>Other City Funds</u>				
166 Unclaimed Money	10,824.49	292.56	250.00	10,867.05
192 Parking Deck	489.38	2,500.00	2,989.38	0.00
201 Police Levy	42,170.75	688,554.06	730,373.78	351.03
202 Street Light Assessments	129,257.62	488,333.00	489,773.00	127,817.62
204 Food Service	1,112.17	88,153.83	87,518.90	1,747.10
205 Public Works	101,566.78	1,326,601.60	1,252,615.92	175,552.46
206 State Highway	18,186.13	73,602.37	70,000.00	21,788.50
208 Public Health Nursing	37,588.44	532,732.48	358,277.55	212,043.37
209 Auto License Tax	790.48	160,300.00	161,000.00	90.48
212 Paving Levy	719,766.46	914,431.77	915,000.00	719,198.23
217 Law Enforcement Trust	150,565.43	75,000.00	40,000.00	185,565.43
219 Motor Vehicle License	963.34	40,034.50	40,000.00	997.84
222 Local Opioid Settlement Fund	198,720.77	63,558.08	117,290.00	144,988.85
225 Sanitation	9,147.90	2,414,534.66	2,178,113.30	245,569.26
231 Fire Pension	41,950.62	505,218.44	508,903.06	38,266.00
232 Police Pension	78,581.42	564,245.64	614,340.00	28,487.06
233 Parks & Recreation	277,270.54	323,047.40	475,579.64	124,738.30
240 Marina	6,430.00	13,500.00	13,700.00	6,230.00
260 Local Coronavirus Relief	-	-	-	0.00
261 Local Fiscal Recovery	-	-	-	0.00
262 Recycling Grant	60,935.00	-	-	60,935.00
263 Police Grants	165,604.51	45,000.00	60,754.42	149,850.09
264 Fire Grants	6,347.51	8,500.00	13,000.00	1,847.51
289 Misc Grants	12.94	-	-	12.94
290 CDBG	106,419.03	125,000.00	196,000.00	35,419.03
291 Code Enforcement	23,850.30	402,800.00	426,304.02	346.28
388 Voted Bond Debt	65,104.34	-	-	65,104.34
412 Permanent Improvement	816,000.30	1,667,505.79	2,439,277.71	44,228.38
495 Justice Center	-	-	-	0.00
503 WPC	1,161,766.19	5,107,253.30	5,249,009.57	1,020,009.92
504 WPC CAPITAL	496,617.53	1,440,326.39	1,804,618.55	132,325.37
602 Self Insurance	1,701,627.16	3,019,625.43	2,989,292.01	1,731,960.58
622 Workers' Compensation	380,591.72	244,186.73	190,000.00	434,778.45
801 JEDD-1 Saybrk Twp Depot Rd	22,424.50	22,500.00	10,125.00	34,799.50
802 JEDD-2 Ashtabula Twp	28,910.93	27,000.00	12,150.00	43,760.93
803 JEDD-1 Saybrk Twp Rte 20	8,828.30	10,000.00	4,500.00	14,328.30
804 Special Improvement District	435.48	110,730.60	110,730.60	435.48
834 Law Library	4,225.25	20,000.00	20,000.00	4,225.25
844 Street Deposits	-	-	-	0.00
871 Fire Escrow	70,244.86	85,000.00	85,000.00	70,244.86
Total Other City Funds	6,945,328.57	20,610,068.62	21,666,486.41	5,888,910.77
<u>Other Court Funds</u>				
210 Indigent Alcohol Treatment	14,755.02	10,500.00	12,000.00	13,255.02
214 Municipal Probation	8,995.39	31,000.00	5,351.14	34,644.25
215 AMC Computer	17,236.74	39,300.00	55,400.00	1,136.74
216 AMCSecurity	15,776.69	27,000.00	10,001.93	32,774.76
218 IDIAM	14,254.64	4,751.18	7,828.35	11,177.47
220 Court Special Projects	11,625.88	140,451.98	107,147.45	44,930.41
Total Other Court Funds	82,644.36	253,003.16	197,728.87	137,918.65

Expenditure Status Report		Increase/Decrease	FY 2026 Initial Budget without prior year encumbrances
Total all funds			35,388,762.24
Beginning Balance			12,433,675.16
Estimated Revenues			33,562,095.96
Available for Appropriation			45,995,771.12
2026 Appropriations			35,388,762.23
Adjustments			-
Ending Balance			10,607,008.89
Less: Estimate Encumbrances			-
Ending Unencumbered Balance			10,607,008.89
Difference Revenue/Expenses			(1,826,666.27)

General Fund Expenditures		13,524,546.95
Legislative (111)		199,204.00
Personal Services		177,704.00
Operating		21,500.00
Administrative (112)		134,326.00
Personal Services		131,326.00
Operating		3,000.00
Finance (113)		433,569.00
Personal Services		387,879.00
Operating		45,690.00
Court (116)		1,545,123.00
Personal Services		1,377,423.00
Operating		167,700.00
Solicitor (117)		441,364.00
Personal Services		378,714.00
Opearting		62,650.00
Police (118)		4,073,610.04
Personal Services		3,513,551.00
Operating		560,059.04
Motor Maintenance (119)		224,681.00
Personal Services		216,681.00
Operating		8,000.00
Fire (124)		3,366,445.00
Personal Services		3,160,595.00
Operating		205,850.00

Expenditure Status Report	Increase/Decrease	FY 2026 Initial Budget without prior year encumbrances
Planning & Community Dev (129) Personal Services Operating		141,595.00 69,095.00 72,500.00
Fees, Reimbursements & Distributions (139) Operating		275,348.36 275,348.36
General Services, Civil Svc, Land & Buildings & IT Personal Services Operating		994,141.31 163,048.00 831,093.31
Transfers Out Transfers Out Advances Out		1,695,140.24 1,695,140.24
UNCLAIMED MONY - 166 Expenditures <u>Appropriations</u> Operating Transfers Out		250.00 250.00 250.00
PARKING DECK - 192 Expenditures <u>Appropriations</u> Operating		2,989.38 2,989.38 2,989.38 2,989.38
POLICE LEVY - 201 Expenditures <u>Appropriations</u> Personal Services Operating Transfers Out		730,373.78 730,373.78 730,373.78 707,854.00 12,676.60 9,843.18
STREET LIGHT ASSESSMENTS - 202 Operating		489,773.00 489,773.00

Expenditure Status Report	Increase/Decrease	FY 2026 Initial Budget without prior year encumbrances
FOOD SERVICE - 204		87,518.90
Expenditures		87,518.90
<u>Appropriations</u>		87,518.90
Personal Services		77,313.00
Operating		9,020.00
Transfers Out		1,185.90
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PUBLIC WORKS - 205		1,252,615.92
Expenditures		1,252,615.92
<u>Appropriations</u>		1,252,615.92
Personal Services		928,399.00
Operating		309,451.22
Transfers Out		14,765.70
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STATE HIGHWAY - 206		70,000.00
Expenditures		70,000.00
<u>Appropriations</u>		70,000.00
Operating		70,000.00
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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING - 208		358,277.55
Expenditures		358,277.55
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING - 208		358,277.55
Personal Services		258,391.00
Operating		94,855.00
Transfers Out		5,031.55
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AUTO LICENSE TAX - 209		161,000.00
Personnel Services		-
Operating		161,000.00
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INDIGENT ALCOHOL TRMNT - 210,		12,000.00
AMC COMPUTER - 215		55,400.00
AMC SECURITY - 216		10,001.93
IDIAM - 218		7,828.35
COURT SPECIAL PROJECTS - 220		107,147.45
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PAVING LEVY - 212		915,000.00
Operating		915,000.00
Transfers Out		-
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Expenditure Status Report	Increase/Decrease	FY 2026 Initial Budget without prior year encumbrances
MUNICIPAL PROBATION - 214		5,351.14
Expenditures		5,351.14
Appropriations		5,351.14
Personal Services		-
Operating		5,000.00
Transfers Out		351.14
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LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST - 217		40,000.00
Operating		40,000.00
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MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE - 219		40,000.00
Operating		40,000.00
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LOCAL OPIOD SETTLEMENT - 222		117,290.00
Personal Services		116,390.00
Operating		900.00
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SANITATION - 225		2,178,113.30
Expenditures		2,178,113.30
Appropriations		2,178,113.30
Personal Services		1,069,438.00
Operating		1,088,214.85
Debt Service		
Transfers Out		20,460.45
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FIRE PENSION - 231		508,903.06
Personal Services		501,380.00
Operating		7,523.06
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POLICE PENSION - 232		614,340.00
Personal Services		606,840.00
Operating		7,500.00
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PARKS & RECREATION - 233		475,579.64
Expenditures		475,579.64
Appropriations		475,579.64
Personal Services		186,385.00
Operating		286,479.11
Transfers Out		2,715.53
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MARINA - 240		13,700.00
Operating		13,700.00
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Expenditure Status Report	Increase/Decrease	FY 2026 Initial Budget without prior year encumbrances
LOCAL CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND - 260		-
Personal Services		-
Operating		-
Transfers Out		-
LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND - 261		-
Capital		-
Transfers Out		-
RECYCLING GRANT - 262		-
Operating		-
POLICE GRANTS - 263		60,754.42
Operating		60,754.42
FIRE GRANTS - 264		13,000.00
Operating		13,000.00
MISC GRANTS - 289		-
Operating		-
CDBG - 290		196,000.00
Operating		196,000.00
HOUSING CODE ENFORCEMENT - 291		426,304.02
Expenditures		426,304.02
Appropriations		426,304.02
Personal Services		393,931.00
Operating		26,700.00
Transfers Out		5,673.02
VOTED BOND DEBT - 388, 389, 374& 387		-
Expenditures		-
Appropriations		-
Operating		-
Debt Service		-
Transfers Out		-

Expenditure Status Report	Increase/Decrease	FY 2026 Initial Budget without prior year encumbrances
PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT CIT - 412		2,439,277.71
Operating		30,500.00
Capital		1,678,000.00
Debt Service		730,777.71
Transfer Out		-
Advance Out		-
WATER POLLUTION - 503		5,249,009.57
Personal Services		2,184,214.00
Operating		3,033,337.93
Transfers Out		31,457.64
WPC - 504		1,804,618.55
Operating		13,410.43
Capital		1,202,757.00
Debt Service		588,451.12
SELF INSURANCE - 602		2,989,292.01
Operating		2,989,292.01
WORKERS COMPENSATION - 622		190,000.00
Personal Services		
Operating		190,000.00
Transfers Out		-
JEDD 1 Saybrk Twp Depot Rd - 801		10,125.00
Operating		10,125.00
JEDD 2 Ashtabula Twp - 802		12,150.00
Operating		12,150.00
JEDD 1 Saybrk Twp Rte 20 - 803		4,500.00
Operating		4,500.00
SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - 804		110,730.60
Expenditures		110,730.60
Appropriations		110,730.60
Operating		1,744.65
Debt Service		108,985.95
LAW LIBRARY - 834		20,000.00
Operating		20,000.00
FIRE ESCROW - 871		85,000.00
Operating		85,000.00