
2026 ALBANY COUNTY ADOPTED BUDGET

INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS FUND BALANCES AND RESERVES



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Budget Section	Fund Balance
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The Undesignated, Un-appropriated Fund Balance is one measure of Albany County’s overall financial health. Also known as surplus, the fund balances listed on the next page can be appropriated by the Legislature as part of the budget process to address instances in which appropriations exceed anticipated revenues. If, by the end of the fiscal year, actual expenditures exceeded revenues received, the surplus can also be used to offset the shortfall in revenue. Conversely, if revenues received exceed expenditures, the surplus will increase at the end of the year. The fund balance can be appropriated only as part of the budget process and cannot be appropriated or utilized once the budget has been adopted. It is important to note that a fund balance is an accounting tool and isn’t completely backed by cash in the same manner as reserves.

The information in the chart on the next page, as reported in the County’s Annual Financial Report to the State Comptroller’s Office, is a snap shot of the conditions on December 31, 2024 and aggregates the various fund balances by fund. The surplus is used as a diagnostic tool by rating agencies to determine the County’s credit rating and risk when it is seeking funding through the issuance of bonds or bond anticipation notes.

Due to some very unique economic circumstances, record setting sales tax receipts, Federal Stimulus funds and recoveries from FEMA for COVID related cost increases in earlier years we have maintained a very healthy fund balance. In recent years we have balanced a small portion of the budget against this amount, anticipating that the need will be offset in the actual period by revenue estimates exceeding their somewhat conservative budget.

	Change During 2005	Fund Balance Available Close 2005	Change During 2006	Fund Balance Available Close 2006	Change During 2007	Fund Balance Available Close 2007	Change During 2008	Fund Balance Available Close 2008	Change During 2009	Fund Balance Available Close 2009
General	\$1,833,484	\$27,750,073	\$2,378,915	\$30,128,988	\$2,823,360	\$32,952,348	(\$3,620,731)	\$29,331,617	(\$12,695,500)	\$16,636,117
Road	(\$298,039)	\$82,033	\$280,605	\$362,638	\$63,492	\$426,130	(\$407,955)	\$18,175	(\$1,970)	\$16,205
Road Machinery	(\$38,272)	\$58,092	\$46,607	\$104,699	(\$99,004)	\$5,695	\$52,141	\$57,836	\$122,778	\$180,614
Sewer	\$658,632	\$1,773,729	\$1,727,231	\$3,500,960	(\$1,854,271)	\$1,646,689	(\$397,667)	\$1,249,022	\$964,147	\$2,213,169
Nursing Home	\$2,337,927	\$2,390,333	(\$659,324)	\$1,731,009	(\$5,412,737)	(\$3,681,728)	\$3,011,163	(\$670,565)	\$1,346,069	\$675,504
Total	\$4,493,732	\$32,054,260	\$3,774,034	\$35,828,294	(\$4,479,160)	\$31,349,134	(\$1,363,049)	\$29,986,085	(\$10,264,476)	\$19,721,609

	Change During 2010	Fund Balance Available Close 2010	Change During 2011	Fund Balance Available Close 2011	Change During 2012	Fund Balance Available Close 2012	Change During 2013	Fund Balance Available Close 2013	Change During 2014	Fund Balance Available Close 2014
General	\$2,940,634	\$19,576,751	\$3,613,926	\$23,190,677	\$4,160,229	\$27,350,906	\$7,511,996	\$34,862,902	\$4,874,156	\$39,737,058
Road	\$157,893	\$174,098	(\$14,473)	\$159,625	\$117,227	\$276,852	\$805,493	\$1,082,345	\$814,185	\$1,896,530
Road Machinery	(\$76,380)	\$104,234	(\$38,636)	\$65,598	(\$35,896)	29,702	(\$18,851)	\$10,851	\$255,412	\$266,263
Sewer	\$1,218,257	\$3,431,426	\$213,049	\$3,644,475	(\$35,896)	\$3,608,579	(\$95,705)	\$3,512,874	\$299,525	\$3,812,399
Nursing Home	(\$117,265)	\$558,239	\$3,023,911	\$3,582,150	\$787,807	\$4,369,957	\$115,735	\$4,485,692	\$2,219,941	\$6,705,633
Total	\$4,123,139	\$23,844,748	\$6,797,777	\$30,642,525	\$4,993,471	\$35,635,996	\$8,318,668	\$43,954,664	\$8,463,219	\$52,417,883

	Change During 2015	Fund Balance Available Close 2015	Change During 2016	Fund Balance Available Close 2016	Change During 2017	Fund Balance Available Close 2017	Change During 2018	Fund Balance Available Close 2018	Change During 2019	Fund Balance Available Close 2019
General	\$2,568,027	\$42,305,085	\$2,213,508	\$44,518,593	\$1,754,570	\$46,273,163	\$3,052,033	\$49,325,196	\$581,597	\$49,906,793
Road	\$284,874	\$2,181,404	(\$20,800)	\$2,160,604	\$2,655,315	\$4,815,919	(\$1,939,577)	\$2,463,379	(\$824,252)	\$1,639,127
Road Machinery	\$196,797	\$463,060	(\$26,257)	\$436,803	(\$231,453)	\$205,350	(\$182,031)	\$23,319	\$60,581	\$83,900
Sewer	(\$870,170)	\$2,942,229	\$1,186,647	\$4,128,876	(\$18,005)	\$4,110,871	\$282,372	\$4,393,243	\$1,583,334	\$5,976,577
Nursing Home	\$4,460,553	\$11,166,186	\$1,200,077	\$12,366,263	(\$5,586,993)	\$6,779,270	\$286,299	\$7,065,569	(\$4,146,504)	\$2,919,065
Total	\$6,640,081	\$59,057,964	\$4,553,175	\$63,611,139	(\$1,426,566)	\$62,184,573	\$1,499,096	\$63,270,706	(\$2,745,244)	\$60,525,462

	Change During 2020	Fund Balance Available Close 2020	Change During 2021	Fund Balance Available Close 2021	Change During 2022	Fund Balance Available Close 2022	Change During 2023	Fund Balance Available Close 2023	Change During 2024	Fund Balance Available Close 2024
General	(\$15,362,595)	\$34,544,198	\$28,244,751	\$62,788,949	\$32,200,751	\$94,989,700	\$27,523,507	\$122,513,207	\$20,569,014	\$143,082,221
Road	(\$270,511)	\$1,368,616	(\$448,762)	\$919,854	\$2,379,214	\$3,299,068	(\$132,898)	\$3,166,170	\$647,091	\$3,813,261
Road Machinery	(\$34,841)	\$49,059	\$140,155	\$189,215	\$152,686	\$341,901	(\$330,826)	\$11,075	\$303,509	\$314,584
Sewer	\$842,843	\$6,819,420	\$474,408	\$7,293,828	(\$964,698)	\$6,329,130	(\$494,691)	\$5,834,439	\$0	\$5,834,439
Nursing Home	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$42,781,293	\$28,410,552	\$71,191,846	\$33,767,952	\$104,959,798	\$26,565,092	\$131,524,891	\$21,519,614	\$153,044,505

	Proposed Change During 2025	Proposed Fund Balance Available Close 2025	Proposed Change During 2026	Proposed Fund Balance Available Close 2026
General	(\$15,005,099)	\$128,077,122	(\$19,479,340)	\$108,597,782
Road	\$0	\$3,813,261		\$3,813,261
Road Machinery	\$0	\$314,584		\$314,584
Sewer	\$0	\$5,834,439	(\$1,500,000)	\$4,334,439
Nursing Home	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	(\$15,005,099)	\$138,039,406	(\$20,979,340)	\$117,060,066

BACKGROUND

Albany County has established a number of reserve funds, which are segregated from the operating budget and intended to provide resources to meet future needs, contingencies, and capital outlays. These reserves were created through discretionary means and to satisfy certain legal obligations. Included in this section is a summary of Albany County's reserve accounts, along with the intended use of any reserve funds in 2025 and 2026.

RESERVE ACCOUNTS AND RECOMMENDED USES

The table on the following page provides a description of Albany County's reserve accounts and the intended 2025 and 2026 appropriations.

RESERVE TITLE	Reserve Balances Close of 2020	Reserve Balances Close of 2021	Reserve Balances Close of 2022	Reserve Balances Close of 2023	Reserve Balances Close of 2024	Proposed Use of Reserves for 2025	Projected Reserve Balances Close of 2025	Proposed Use of Reserves for 2026	Projected Reserve Balances Close of 2026	PURPOSE
E-911	\$ 1,240,058	\$ 1,047,213	\$ 359,743	\$ 118,855	\$ 651,396		\$ 651,396		\$ 651,396	Emergency Telephone System
DWI	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	Stop DWI Program
Stormwater Coalition	\$ 173,337	\$ 120,013	\$ 151,772	\$ 144,644	\$ 99,253		\$ 99,253		\$ 99,253	Stormwater Management
EMS Ambulance Program	\$ 289,407	\$ 424,991	\$ 620,665	\$ 495,514	\$ 655,207		\$ 655,207		\$ 655,207	Ambulance Program
Tax Stabilization	\$ 1,850,155	\$ 1,850,155	\$ 1,850,155	\$ 1,957,719	\$ 2,040,576		\$ 2,040,576		\$ 2,040,576	Reduce Levy
Debt	\$ 26,812,989	\$ 21,870,826	\$ 17,666,599	\$ 13,334,177	\$ 7,862,366	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 17,862,366	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 22,862,366	Payment of debt service
Civic Center Debt	\$ 7,330,400	\$ 7,676,440	\$ 5,655,970	\$ 5,551,515	\$ 8,590,883		\$ 8,590,883		\$ 8,590,883	Payment for civic center debt
Civic Center Capital Reserve	\$ 1,279,479	\$ 1,280,451	\$ 1,285,765	\$ 1,328,700	\$ 1,384,935		\$ 1,384,935		\$ 1,384,935	Capital Improvement or eligible equipment
Capital Projects	\$ 1,004,867	\$ 1,005,797	\$ 4,798,051	\$ 5,021,574	\$ 5,276,999	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 15,276,999	\$ 5,475,354	\$ 20,752,353	Capital Improvement or eligible equipment
Capital Repairs	\$ 2,955,750	\$ 2,955,750	\$ 2,955,750	\$ 3,065,294	\$ 3,195,028		\$ 3,195,028		\$ 3,195,028	Repairs to Capital Improvements or eligible equipment
Workers Compensation	\$ 13,463,464	\$ 14,252,727	\$ 13,941,939	\$ 12,689,414	\$ 13,878,422		\$ 13,878,422		\$ 13,878,422	Workers Compensation
Unemployment Insurance	\$ -	\$ 384,517	\$ 297,320	\$ 297,320	\$ 130,340		\$ 130,340		\$ 130,340	Payment of State Unemployment Insurance Fund
CS Debt	\$ 125,890	\$ 125,890	\$ 125,890	\$ 125,890	\$ 170,994		\$ 170,994		\$ 170,994	General Liability Insurance
Sewer Capital Repairs	\$ 217,423	\$ 217,423	\$ 22,468	\$ 22,468	\$ 22,468	\$ (22,468)	\$ -		\$ -	Payment related to Risk Retention
Sewer Repairs	\$ 230,175	\$ 230,863	\$ 228,342	\$ 239,894	\$ 230,047		\$ 230,047		\$ 230,047	Repairs to Capital Improvements or eligible equipment
Sewer Debt	\$ 1,030,954	\$ 1,031,781	\$ 1,049,895	\$ 1,126,249	\$ 1,192,721		\$ 1,192,721		\$ 1,192,721	Repairs
Sewer Retirement	\$ 251,561	\$ 251,561	\$ 252,349	\$ 260,774	\$ 271,810		\$ 271,810		\$ 271,810	Payment of debt service
Nursing Home Capital Projects	\$ 253,749	\$ 253,940	\$ 254,461	\$ 9,486	\$ 20,627		\$ 20,627		\$ 20,627	Payment for retirement contribution
Nursing Home Debt	\$ 2,578,338	\$ 2,580,953	\$ 2,622,923	\$ 2,769,281	\$ 2,936,658	\$ (2,769,281)	\$ 167,377		\$ 167,377	Costs associated with new facility
										Payment of debt service