



**Robert G. Fiscus**  
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October 25, 2024

City Council  
City of Sharon  
155 W. Connelly Blvd.  
Sharon, PA 16146

Dear Members of Council:

Attached is the proposed General Operating Budget for 2025. In accordance with the City Charter, following this submission to Council, the budget will be posted for the public on the City's website. Budget hearings are scheduled for November 20th, 2024, at 5:30 PM and December 4th, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

The proposed 2025 operating budget totals \$11,218,757 in expenditures, reflecting an increase of \$497,076 from the previous year. Despite this rise, we remain committed to avoiding tax increases. The budget includes approximately \$275,000 for wage increases across all three bargaining units and for non-union employees.

Additional revenue to support the proposed budget is derived from enabling taxes, pass-through programs and grants. The Sick Time Buyback account, established in 2019, is projected to potentially draw down up to \$120,000 in 2025 to cover anticipated retirements.

For 2025, the city has budgeted a total of \$596,135 in debt service, including \$523,080 in principal and \$73,055 in interest payments.

The city's efforts to enforce compliance with non-owner-occupied properties will continue through the addition of a full-time NOOP Office Manager. In partnership with the Sharon Sanitary Authority, the city will persist in addressing blight through the demolition of abandoned properties. Staffing in the Fire and Public Works Departments will be maintained at previous levels, while the Police Department's staffing will increase with the addition of two School Resource Officers.

The budget projects \$2,650,650 in real estate revenue, including the current assessment for Sharon Regional Health System. Approximately \$150,000 of this revenue remains uncertain due to ongoing assessment appeal proceedings and the potential for the hospital to transition to a non-profit organization. While the hospital's transfer to non-profit status will benefit the community, it may also pose challenges for future budgets. In the event of a 2025 ownership transfer, any reduction in real estate tax revenue would likely be offset by revenue from transfer taxes.

It may be worthwhile to explore potential collaboration with neighboring communities for City services and programs. Increased regional cooperation could enhance service delivery while creating efficiencies.

The budget has been prepared with a careful, conservative review of historical data for revenue projection and a realistic assessment of the costs required to provide essential services. We are committed to serving Sharon residents and businesses in a way that is both affordable and highly valued, ensuring that Sharon continues to be a great place to live, work, and grow. I look forward to discussing the budget and working with City Council members toward its adoption.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Fiscus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert G. Fiscus, MPA, EFO, ICMA-CM  
City Manager