

In and About

Washington

July 2026

FREE – TAKE ONE
PASS IT ON

Budget includes utility increase

The town budget for the fiscal year that began July 1 calls for a little bit more spending but for little change in operations. Rising prices for just about everything means it costs more just to keep up, including utility system costs.

The budget, adopted unanimously by the council, anticipates revenue and expenses of just over \$1.7 million, which is about \$250,000 more than actual spending in the year that ended June 30. The town finished with a small surplus for the past year.

Utility revenues and expenses make up the biggest part of the new budget, as they did in the last. The utility system is expected to bring in \$889,000 in the coming year, with expenses of \$814,200. General government operations are the second biggest expense, at \$442,418.

Town laws mandate a yearly review of utility rates to be sure the system is not losing money. Beginning July 1 the base rate for residential water moved from \$18 to \$21 for the first 2,000 gallons, the base gas rate went from \$20 to \$21, and the sewer rate from \$26 to \$31.

Fees and deposits, Page 3

Water Rates		Base Rate	Consumption Rate per 1000 gallons after base rate
Residential In Town	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 21.00	\$ 5.75
Multi-Residential In-Town	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 42.00	\$ 5.75
Commercial In Town	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 44.00	\$ 6.75
Residential Out of Town	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 27.00	\$ 7.25
Multi-Residential Out of Town	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 54.00	\$ 7.25
Commercial Out of Town	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 50.00	\$ 7.25
Bulk Water Rates	Rates per 1000 gallon	\$ 26.75	
In Addition each customer is charged \$1.00 per month for the Safe Drinking Water Fee			

Sewer Rates		Base Rate	Consumption Rate per 1000 gallons after base rate
Residential	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 31.00	\$ 6.25
Multi-Residential	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 62.00	\$ 6.25
Commercial	First 2,000 Gallons	\$ 49.00	\$ 7.50
***Sewer is calculated from water usage			

Gas Rates		Base Rate	Consumption Rate per 100 CCF after Base Rate
Residential & Commercial	First 300 CCF	\$ 21.00	\$ 2.90
Multi-Residential	First 300 CCF	\$ 42.00	\$ 2.90
In Addition each customer is charged \$1.00 per month for a Gas Inspection Fee			



Celebrating the anniversary

Flags and patriotic banners dressed up Main Street as Washington joined in the nation's 250th birthday celebration.

Events on Page 2.

Voters pick appointed chief

Washington voters narrowly approved a revised town charter that means the chief of police will now be appointed by the mayor. Only 177 votes were cast in the June 27 election, 96 for the change and 81 against.

William Worthy, the current police chief, will remain in office until his term ends December 31. The Town Council must approve the mayor's selection for the position, and the new chief must be a properly certified officer or have at least five years' law enforcement experience.

The charter goes into effect as soon as the vote count is certified.

2-In and about Washington, July 2026

Of Note

THE AMERICAN LEGION

barbecue sale usually held each first Saturday will be moved this month to July 11 because of the July 4 holiday. Chicken or pork dinners cost \$12.

FATHER COREY

Campeaux will discuss "Emotions, Feelings, and Passions in the Spiritual Life" at 6:30 p.m. on July 9 at Hotel Klaus. Pizza from Duke's Wood Fired Pizza will be served.

VOLUNTEERS helping to maintain Ethel Park meet at 8:30 a.m. each first and third Saturday at the park.

THE FAMILY Healthcare clinic in the Community Center on Veterans Memorial provides wellness visits, school physicals, cholesterol care, diabetes and asthma care, physicals, and immunizations. Call (337) 826-7702.

YOU CAN DONATE to the Washington Cemetery Foundation via the Venmo app or by check to P.O. Box 42, Washington LA 70589.

Submit items for *In and About Washington* to Jim Bradshaw, P.O. Box 1121, or e-mail jimbradshaw4321@gmail.com.



Performing here July 5

The U.S. Marine Forces Reserve Band Ensemble 504 Jarheads will perform at 2 p.m. on July 5 at the former Washington Elementary School. The concert will be followed by a reception and refreshments at the American Legion Hall across the highway from the school. The performance is free, but donations will be accepted at the Legion Hall.

WASHINGTON WEATHER



June 1-27

High: 93, June 11, 19

Avg. High: 86.5

Low: 68, June 5

Avg. Low: 71.7

Avg. Temp: 79.1

5-Year Avg: 80.2

June Rainfall: 5.63

20-year Avg.: 5.10

Rain for 2026: 33.88

20-Year Avg: 21.86

Events mark Independence Day here

A Liberty Tree planted at Ethel Park will be a lasting marker as Washington joins in the celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary.

Candle lightings at dusk on July 3rd and July 4th at Cedar Hill Cemetery will begin the celebration here, and everyone is invited to bring a lawn chairs and enjoy wine and cheese at a community social at Ethel Park at dusk on the evening of the 4th.

The Marine Forces Reserve Band, Ensemble 504 Jar Heads will offer a free concert at the former Washington Elementary at 2 p.m. on July 5.

Sponsoring partners of the events include American Legion Post 209, the Town of Washington, Steamboat City Association, Washington Garden Club, Washington State Bank, Washington Cemetery Foundation, and the Washington Main Street program.



Bridge work nearly don

Construction of the new Bayou Carron bridge is ahead of schedule and barring bad weather or unforeseen problems will likely be finished early this month, well ahead of the September 9 projected completion date.

Utility Fess & Deposits
effective 7-1-2026

Connection Servicing Fee		\$60.00
Tap In Fees – Water		
¾ inch meter		\$550.00
1 inch meter		\$650.00
2 inch meter		\$800.00
Tap In Fees - Sewer		
		\$550.00
Tap In Fees - Gas		
		\$550.00
Miscellaneous Fees		
Penalty Fee		\$10.00
Meter Reread Fee (Gas or Water)		\$25.00
Disconnect Servicing Fee		\$75.00
Utility Bill/Information Printing Fee		\$5.00
Returned Funds Fee		\$40.00
Service Fee		\$60.00
Relocation, Boring, Trenching	at cost plus labor per service	
Materials (non maintenance)	at cost per item plus 25% labor (if applicable)	
Violation/ Tampering Fine		\$250.00

Deposits for Residential Service		
Water		\$150.00
Sewer		\$150.00
Gas		\$200.00
Deposits for Commercial Service		
Water		\$300.00
Sewer		\$300.00
Gas		\$500.00

Utility deposit and fee schedule

In conjunction with the budget for this fiscal year, the Town Council approved this schedule of fees for utility system

Major grants fund utility work

The town budget for the new fiscal year includes \$879,500 for major improvements to the utility system, but it was adopted before getting word of a state grant of more than twice that much and does not include another major grant still in the works.

The budget that was approved June 15 includes a grant for \$734,500 for water tower maintenance and one for \$35,000 for water system improvements. It was prepared before Gov. Jeff Landry approved another grant of \$1,998,218 to rehabilitate the sewer system. That money will be used primarily to upgrade eleven outdated lift pumps that send sewerage to the town treatment plant, according to mayor Dwight Landreneau.

He said the administration is completing the paperwork to finalize a \$1.3 million grant to upgrade the gas system.

4 – In and About Washington, July 2026

**From
Town Hall**

THE EUNICE NEWS will publish Washington's legal news, replacing the Opelousas Daily World. Publication in a newspaper is required by law. The town plans also to post official notices on its website.

BAYOU STATE WASTE reminds residents that it does not handle anything too big to fit into a garbage cart. Call Morgan & Morgan Land Prep, (337) 331-5375, for pickup of those items.

REGULAR MEETINGS of the Town Council are at 6 p.m. on each third Monday at Town Hall.

THE TOWN'S FACEBOOK page can be accessed at [townofwashingtonla](https://www.facebook.com/townofwashingtonla).



**Take pride
in your town.
Stash your trash.**

Revolutionary War fighters are buried in Washington

When the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, Washington was one of the few places in south Louisiana with more than a handful of people, and our soldiers played a part in the birth of our nation. Tiny settlements that began as the Poste des Opelousas and the Poste des Attakapas (St. Martinville) were big enough to support militia units that are our link to the Revolution.

Louisiana was still a Spanish colony in 1776, and King Charles III decided not to formally join the war but to quietly help the American cause. He instructed Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Galvez to sell desperately needed gunpowder, muskets, uniforms, and medicine to the colonies. That was important because the British blocked most of the Atlantic ports and the Mississippi River was practically the only way to get supplies into American hands.

When Spain finally joined the war against Great Britain on June 21, 1779, the British moved to seize the Mississippi, but, to their misfortune, Galvez intercepted a letter detailing their plans. The governor was a well-trained military officer and quickly assembled an army of 500 militiamen, including those from Opelousas and Attakapas. The little army defeated the British at Bayou Manchac, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Mobile, and Pensacola, keeping the British from encircling the Americans.

Plaques near the historic church in St. Martinville mark the burial place of men from the Attakapas Militia who served under Galvez. They include Alexandre-Chevalier de Clouet, Major Louis Du Crest, Corporal Jean Huval, Sergeant Pierre Broussard, Corporal Joseph Landry, Corporal Michel Maux [sic], Louis LePelletier De La Houssaye, Firmin Breaux, Louis Charles DeBlanc, and Francisco Segura.

A marker in the old Church Landing cemetery in Washington commemorates "eleven Revolutionary War Patriots of the Opelousas Post Militia of 1779." They are Donato Bello, Michel Brignac, Laurent Dupre, Francois Lemelle, Pierre Primeaux, Maturin Tesson, Michel Cormier, Romain De la Fosse, Joseph Lamirande, Andre Mondon, and Pierre Savoie.



Mark these dates for events in St. Landry

- Lebeau Zydeco Festival, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. July 4, Immaculate Conception Church
- Fireworks on the River, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 4, Nall Park, Krotz Springs
- Red, White, and Boom, 6 p.m. July 4, Yambilee Arena, Opelousas
- Leonville Fireworks Show, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. July 4, Leonville Boat Launch
- Eunice Fireworks Show, 9 to 10 p.m. July 4, Eunice Recreation Complex
- ECCBC Summer Concerts, 7 to 10 p.m. July 9, 10, First Baptist Church, Eunice
- Quilters Guild Show, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 11, Soileau Community Center, Krotz Springs
- Folk Roots Kids Camp, 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. July 20-24, Prairie Acadian Center, Eunice



Come see us today!

St. Landry Visitor Center
978 Kennerson Road
(I-49 exit 23)

337.948.8004
cajuntravel.com