

**SUNSET EMPIRE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT  
2026–27 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget**



**CONTACT INFORMATION**

900 Marine Drive

Astoria, OR

(503) 861-7433

**Sunset Empire Transportation District  
Proposed Fiscal Budget  
Year Beginning July 1, 2026**

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# SUNSET EMPIRE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

## BUDGET COMMITTEE FISCAL YEAR 2027

Board of Commissioners/Members	Citizen Volunteer Members
Penny York – Member	Karen Deeter
Esperanzita (Tita) Montero – Board Secretary/Treasurer	Zach Fleck
Kathy Kleczek – Board Chair	Leah Griffith
Pamela Alegria – Board Vice Chair	John Lansing
Matthew Stolberg - Member	Johnathan Niebuhr
Guillermo Romero - Member	Lauren Wilson
Kathleen Temple – Member	

### Submitted by:

David Carr – Executive Director  
Sam Bdeir – Human Resource Manager  
Jennifer Geisler – Chief Operations Officer  
Jason Jones – Mobility Manager  
Jennifer Stangland – Finance Officer/Grant Administrator  
Sara Schilling – Executive Assistant, Communications

## **FY27 Budget Process Timeline**

- March 1-31..... Budget information goes out to staff
- Mar 22-26 ..... Program Managers review budget with the CFO/Business Operations Director
- April 1-24 ..... Staff complete Proposed budget document
- April 16 ..... Budget Committee Training
- April 16..... Legal notice of Budget Committee meetings posted on SETD website
- April 21 ..... Legal notice of Budget Committee meetings published in The Astorian
- April 24 ..... Proposed budget sent to Budget Committee and made publicly available
- April 30 ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Committee Meeting with public comment
- May 15..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Committee Meeting
- June 12..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Budget Committee Meeting (if required)
- June 15..... Legal notice of Public Hearing of Board to adopt recommended Budget
- June 25..... Public Hearing to adopt FY27 budget by Board resolution
- July 15 ..... Submit budget to Columbia County Tax Assessor

## **FY27 Budget Message**

### **Board of Commissioners, Budget Committee, and residents of the Sunset Empire Transportation District (SETD):**

The purpose of the Budget Message and other information included in the budget document is to provide sufficient information to the Budget Committee, the Board of Commissioners, and citizens so that an understanding of the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year may be gained.

The proposed budget was developed pursuant to state statute, SETD Financial Policy and other district policies. The information contained in the proposed budget represents the district's staff best estimates of resources and expenditures. These were obtained using professional judgement, existing policies, budget history and generally accepted accounting practices.

The SETD Budget Committee consists of the Board of Commissioners and six eligible residents, who submit letters of intent to serve on the Budget Committee. Administration tried to obtain a seventh community member but was unable to find a volunteer. The approved eligible resident members and the Commission total of thirteen (13) Budget Committee members. In its deliberations, the Budget Committee reviews and if necessary, revises the proposed budget from the Budget Officer.

The budget has three main funds which include the general fund, special revenue funds, and a reserve fund.

The budget includes an increase of resources and requirements of \$952,001, representing contingency funds, which includes accrued interest as March 31, 2026. This amount has been added to the FY27 budget as a separate line item for transparency. This fund must have Board approval to be used.

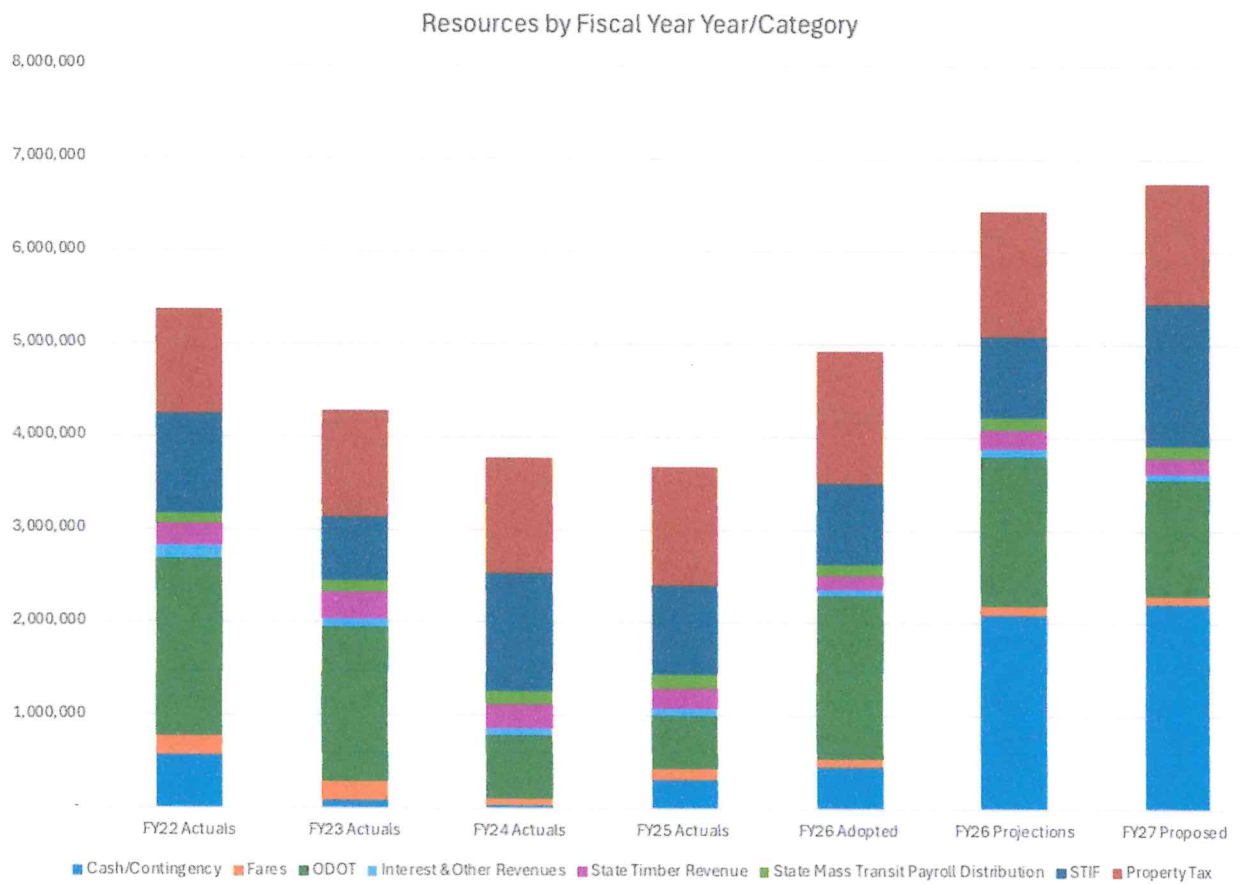
Given many staffing changes in the current fiscal year in high level administration positions, SETD staff has focused on keeping our routes sustainable for this past fiscal year and continues to have that plan for the fiscal year ahead. We are currently operating Route 101 (Astoria to Seaside), Route 10 (Astoria), Route 15 (Warrenton), Route 20 (Seaside to Cannon Beach) and our ADA Paratransit services.

As we head into fiscal year 2027, we have new challenges with Federal funding and the timing of the execution of our federal grants. ODOT has advised SETD of potential uncertainties regarding funding. Staff has taken this information into account and will be running as lean as possible for the coming months. We have reviewed our options and carefully constructed our FY27 budget while being thoughtful in FY26 expenditures.

Grant 5310 and 5311 total \$1,731,272 for the biennium. For FY27, Grant 5310 is currently budgeted at \$338,539 and Grant 5311 is for \$862,153. The amended STIF funding totals \$2,144,691 for the biennium and the allocation for FY27 is \$1,533,774.

We have purchased the four buses related to the 5339 Bus & Bus Facilities grant of \$720,000 and are asking our grantor to use the remaining \$50,652 in FY27. We have budgeted for a slight increase in property taxes and a decrease in timber revenue. Although we still haven't been given much information on what the timber revenue is, we believe that it will decrease by roughly 14%.

The following is a graph of the General Fund revenues by category with actuals for FY22, FY23, FY24, FY25, FY26 Adopted Budget, FY26 Projected revenues and the FY27 proposed budget.

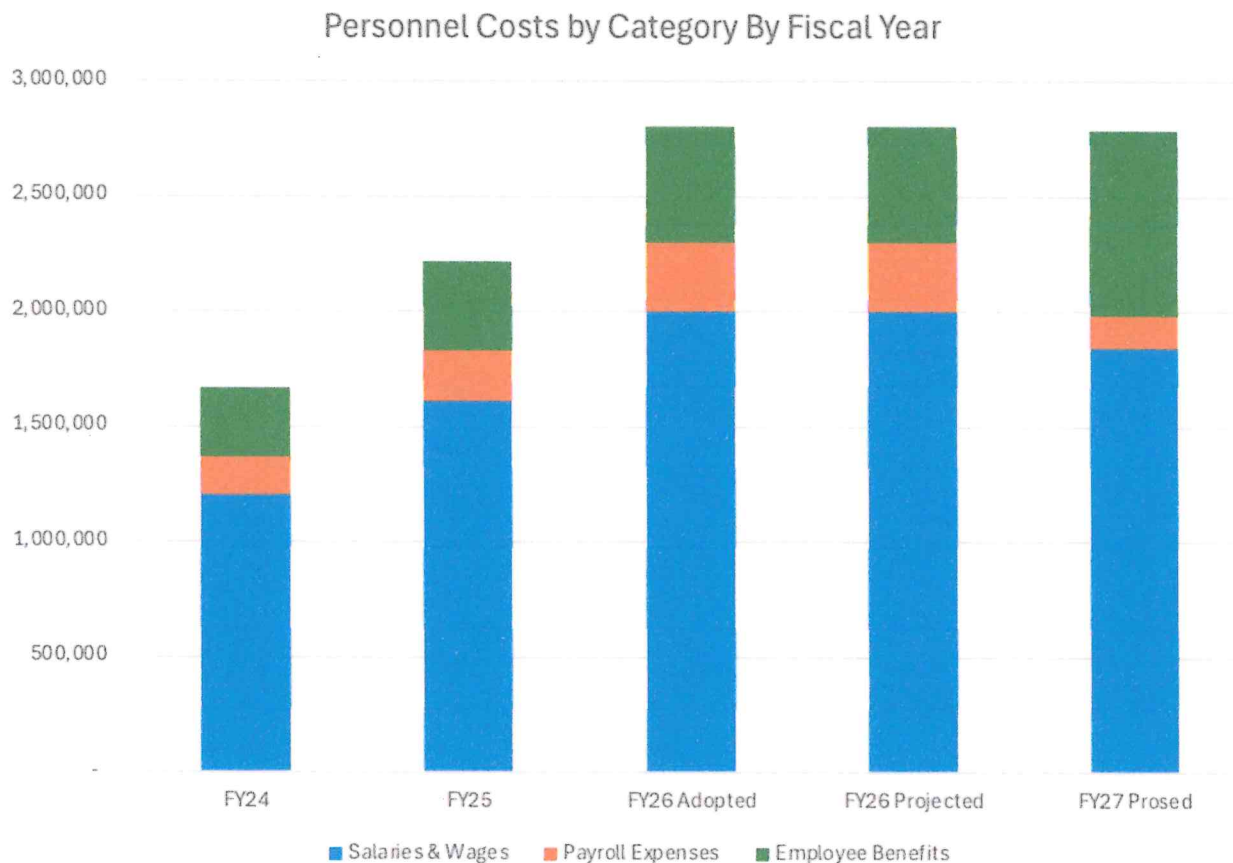


	FY22 Actuals	FY23 Actuals	FY24 Actuals	FY25 Actuals	FY26 Adopted	FY26 Projections	FY27 Proposed
Cash/Contingency	574,984	82,298	27,832	312,489	449,851	2,087,576	2,209,694
Fares	201,732	205,818	83,529	114,119	90,000	99,142	90,000
ODOT	1,906,587	1,661,824	673,880	570,676	1,750,608	1,602,872	1,251,344
Interest & Other Revenues	144,800	84,171	75,144	75,262	68,500	95,651	64,000
State Timber Revenue	229,136	291,543	264,718	223,827	154,000	196,605	170,000
State Mass Transit Payroll Distribution	116,399	120,377	132,960	143,299	115,000	133,571	125,000
STIF	1,068,723	687,561	1,279,759	964,394	874,732	874,732	1,533,774
Property Tax	1,126,778	1,146,208	1,235,284	1,272,462	1,418,500	1,350,479	1,293,000

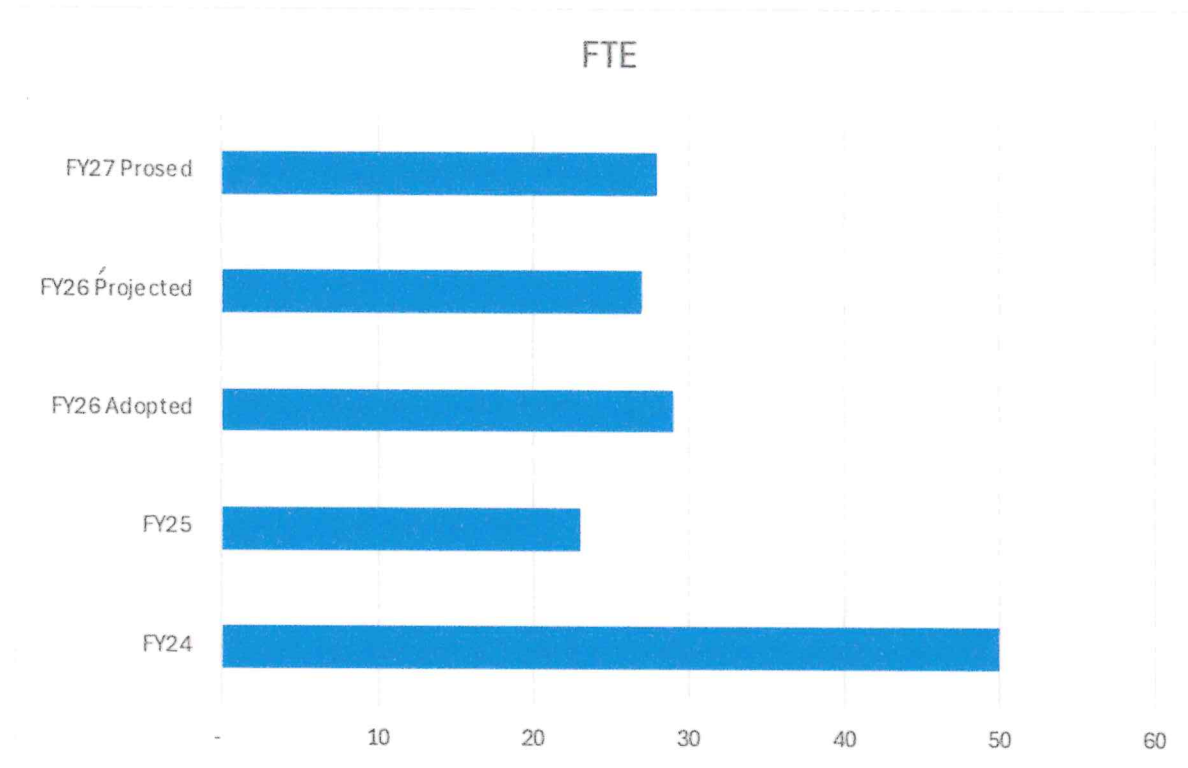
We have made payments on our loan and received four new buses before the end of FY25.

Since receiving financial support during the shutdown in 2023, we've been steadily repaying our loan for nearly three years. As of now, our outstanding balance stands at less than \$400,000, which includes accrued interest and associated loan fees. Once the loan is fully repaid, we'll be in a stronger financial position to explore the restoration of core routes and consider expanding service to better meet the needs of our community.

We are including 2.5% cost of living increases (COLA) for employees with their normal 4% to 6% step increases. We will maintain FTE at a new level of 28 employees.



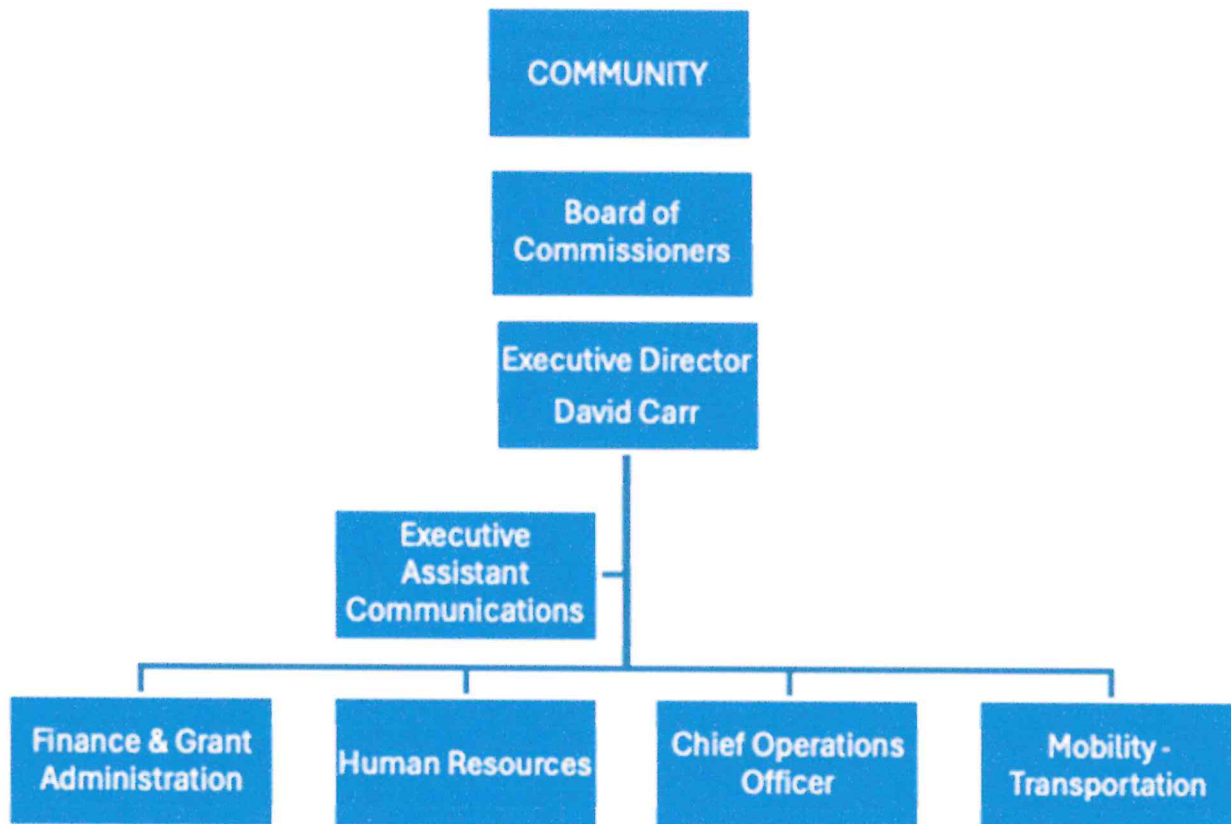
Full-time equivalent employees have decreased by 40% between FY24 and the proposed FTE in FY27.



This past year has been one of stability for our district, providing a solid foundation as we plan for Fiscal Year 2027. While our budget for FY27 is larger than FY26, but smaller than in previous years, it remains realistic and manageable. There was carryover of \$400,000 that was not applied in FY26. This amount was distributed in FY27. I'm confident the proposed budget for FY27 will support our core operations and allow us to maintain current operations. We are not anticipating any major new projects or significant changes. Our focus will remain on maintaining consistent and sustainable service along with operational stability. We're also hopeful that the uncertainties around federal funding will begin to settle, allowing for more predictable financial planning in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Carr  
Executive Director  
Sunset Empire Transportation District

The following is the organization chart for Sunset Empire Transportation District:



RESOURCES

General Fund

(Fund)

Sunset Empire Transportation District

	Historical Data			YTD Actuals & Projections 2025-2026	RESOURCE DESCRIPTION	Budget for Next Year 2026-2027			
	Actual	First Preceding Year 2024-2025	Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026			Proposed By Budget Officer	Approved By Budget Committee	Adopted by Governing Board	
1	27,832	312,489	449,851	1,135,575	1 Cash/Net Working Capital	1,257,693	-	-	1
2				952,001	2 Contingency - Reserve Beginning	952,001	-	-	2
3	24,600	23,787	18,500	25,676	3 Previously Levied Taxes	23,000	-	-	3
4	40,488	55,919	48,500	44,336	4 Interest	38,000	-	-	4
5					5 OTHER RESOURCES				5
6	83,529	114,119	90,000	99,142	6 Fares	90,000	-	-	6
7	4,518	-	2,500		7 IGA Contracted Services	-	-	-	7
8	9,893	4,784	10,500	5,403	8 Rentals	5,000	-	-	8
9	5,107	11,459	4,500	11,025	9 Commissions/Proceeds	6,000	-	-	9
10	264,718	223,827	154,000	196,605	10 State Timber Revenue	170,000	-	-	10
11	132,960	143,299	115,000	133,571	11 State Mass Transit Payroll Distribution	125,000	-	-	11
12	15,138	3,100	2,500	34,887	12 Other	15,000	-	-	12
13	58,907	110,530	164,972	64,404	13 ODOT - 5310 Mobility Mgmt/Preventative Maint	338,539	-	-	13
14	604,605	460,146	865,636	869,121	14 ODOT - 5311 Operations	862,153	-	-	14
15	-	-	-	-	15 ODOT - 5311 Operations Carers Act Needs Based	-	-	-	15
16	-	-	720,000	669,348	16 ODOT - 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities	50,652	-	-	16
17	10,368	-	-	-	17 ODOT - Transportation Options	-	-	-	17
18	-	-	-	-	18 STF Fund	-	-	-	18
19	1,279,759	964,394	874,732	874,732	19 STIF Formula Fund	1,533,774	-	-	19
20	-	-	-	-	20 STIF Discretionary/STN Fund	-	-	-	20
21	-	-	-	-	21 ODOT Loan Disbursement	-	-	-	21
22	2,562,422	2,477,853	3,521,191	5,115,826	22 Total Resources, except taxes to be levied	5,466,812	-	-	22
23	1,210,684	1,248,675	1,400,000	1,324,803	23 Taxes estimated to be received	1,270,000	-	-	23
24					24 Taxes collected in year levied				24
25	3,773,106	3,726,529	4,921,191	6,440,629	25 TOTAL RESOURCES	6,736,812	-	-	25

**REQUIREMENT SUMMARY**  
ALLOTTED TO AN ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM & ACTIVITY

Sunsat Empire Transportation District

General Fund

Line	Historical Data			YTD Actuals & Projections 2025-2026	REQUIREMENTS DESCRIPTION	Budget for Next Year 2026-2027			Line
	Actual Second Preceding Year 2023-2024	First Preceding Year 2024-2025	Budget This Year 2025-2026			Proposed By Budget Officer	Approved By Budget Committee	Adopted by Governing Board	
1					PERSONNEL SERVICES				1
2	1,202,226	1,612,737	2,002,054	2,002,054	2 Salaries & Wages	1,940,213	-	-	2
3	162,690	221,077	299,562	299,562	3 Payroll Expenses	144,832	-	-	3
4	301,212	384,292	503,590	503,590	4 Employee Benefits	801,391	-	-	4
5	<b>1,666,128</b>	<b>2,218,105</b>	<b>2,805,206</b>	<b>2,805,206</b>	<b>5 TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES</b>	<b>2,786,436</b>	-	-	5
6	50	23	29	27	6 Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	28	-	-	6
7					MATERIALS AND SERVICES				7
8		2,223	-	2,964	8 Provider Services	3,000	-	-	8
9	41,000	54,200	35,000	35,000	9 Audit	36,050	-	-	9
10	771	3,726	2,000	4,500	10 Advertising	5,067	-	-	10
11	1,238	1,731	2,000	2,308	11 Bank Fees	2,354	-	-	11
12	37,282	90,550	105,000	105,000	12 Building Grounds and Maintenance	123,148	-	-	12
13	1,896	2,234	2,000	2,979	13 Building Lease	3,039	-	-	13
14	109,110	85,558	112,000	114,077	14 Computer Information Technology Services	116,359	-	-	14
15	2,329	26,532	12,500	9,500	15 Conferences, Training and Travel	36,084	-	-	15
16	6,072	2,399	5,000	3,199	16 Drug and Alcohol Testing/Background Checks	3,263	-	-	16
17	38,915	41,334	30,000	33,000	17 Dues and Subscriptions	56,214	-	-	17
18	15,000	3,000	12,000	4,000	18 G/A Dues and Fees	4,080	-	-	18
19	1,508	23,443	10,000	10,000	19 Comp/Furniture/Small Tools	31,882	-	-	19
20	2,422	2,525	2,300	3,386	20 Equipment Lease	3,433	-	-	20
21	5,095	8,726	15,000	4,000	21 Outreach	11,867	-	-	21
22	2,679	4,893	5,500	5,500	22 Employee Recognition	6,656	-	-	22
23	-	9,771	-	-	23 Election Fees	13,289	-	-	23
24	108,795	148,276	150,000	165,000	24 Fuel	201,655	-	-	24
25	68,856	92,338	130,000	123,117	25 Insurance	125,579	-	-	25
26	1,145	1,509	1,000	2,012	26 Legal Ads	2,052	-	-	26
27	13,405	13,316	10,000	20,000	27 Legal Counsel	18,110	-	-	27
28	9,325	4,101	12,500	10,000	28 Uninsured Loss	5,577	-	-	28
29	1,034	2,120	2,000	3,500	29 Meeting Expense	2,883	-	-	29
30	8,627	9,641	10,000	12,855	30 Office Supplies	13,112	-	-	30
31	4,881	4,532	12,500	6,043	31 Printing	6,164	-	-	31
32	47,736	73,634	10,000	15,000	32 Professional Services	100,143	-	-	32
33	920	650	1,850	867	33 Taxes/Licenses/Fees/Interest	884	-	-	33
34	32,537	31,483	33,000	41,977	34 Telecommunications/Internet	42,817	-	-	34
35	980	2,454	5,000	3,272	35 Uniforms	3,337	-	-	35
36	32,138	34,148	36,000	45,530	36 Utilities	46,441	-	-	36
37	60,585	99,445	93,500	60,000	37 Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	135,245	-	-	37
38	3,858	13,543	7,500	16,584	38 Shop Supplies	18,418	-	-	38
39	660,139	894,033	865,150	865,150	39 Total Materials and Services	1,178,202	-	-	39

**REQUIREMENT SUMMARY**  
ALLOTTED TO AN ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM & ACTIVITY

Sunset Empire Transportation District

	Historical Data			YTD Actuals & Projections 2025-2026	REQUIREMENTS DESCRIPTION	Budget for Next Year 2026-2027				
	Actual	First Preceding Year 2024-2025	Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026			Proposed By Budget Officer	Approved By Budget Committee	Adopted by Governing Board		
40					<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>					
41	-	-	-	-	41 2X Class B Buses	-	-	-	-	41
42	-	-	-	-	42 2X Class D Buses	-	-	-	-	42
43	-	-	-	-	43 2X Class A Buses Remanufactured	-	-	-	-	43
44	-	-	-	-	44 Bus Shelters	-	-	-	-	44
45	-	-	-	-	45 Sidewalks	-	-	-	-	45
46	-	-	-	-	46 New Repeater Equipment & Location	-	-	-	-	46
47	-	-	-	-	47 Post Lifts for Fleet Maintenance	-	-	-	-	47
48	-	-	-	-	48 Bus Stop Construction Hwy 101 & Ensign (match)	-	-	-	-	48
49	-	-	-	-	49 HVAC	-	-	-	-	49
50	-	-	-	-	50 Servers	-	-	-	-	50
51	-	-	720,000	669,348	51 4 Class D Buses	50,652	-	-	-	51
52	-	-	720,000	669,348	52 CAPITAL OUTLAY TOTAL	50,652	-	-	-	52
53	2,326,267	3,112,138	4,390,356	4,339,704	53 ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT/ACTIVITY TOTAL	4,015,290	-	-	-	53
54					54 DEBT SERVICE					54
55	236,610	479,000	309,168	253,480	55 ODOT Loan	474,856	-	-	-	55
56	-	-	-	-	56	-	-	-	-	56
57	236,610	479,000	309,168	253,480	57 TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	474,856	-	-	-	57
58					58 SPECIAL PAYMENTS					58
59	-	-	-	-	59	-	-	-	-	59
60	-	-	-	-	60 TOTAL SPECIAL PAYMENTS	-	-	-	-	60
61					61 INTERFUND TRANSFERS					61
62	-	100,000	-	-	62 To Capital Reserves	-	-	-	-	62
63	-	-	-	-	63	-	-	-	-	63
64	-	100,000	-	-	64 TOTAL INTERFUND TRANSFERS	-	-	-	-	64
65	415,088	500,000	-	-	65 OPERATING CONTINGENCY	952,001	-	-	-	65
66	-	125,633	221,667	-	66 RESERVED FOR FUTURE EXPENDITURE	-	-	-	-	66
67	-	-	-	-	67 UNAPPROPRIATED ENDING BALANCE	1,294,665	-	-	-	67
68	651,698	1,204,633	530,835	253,480	68 Total Requirements NOT ALLOCATED	2,721,522	-	-	-	68
69	2,326,267	3,112,138	4,390,356	4,339,704	69 Total Requirements for All Org. Units/Programs within Fund	4,015,290	-	-	-	69
70					70 Ending balance (prior years)					70
71	2,977,965	4,316,771	4,921,191	4,593,184	71 TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	6,736,812	-	-	-	71

**SPECIAL FUND**  
**RESOURCES AND REQUIREMENTS**  
**Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF)**  
(Fund)

Sunset Empire Transportation District

Historical Data		Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026		YTD Actuals & Projections 2025-2026		RESOURCES AND REQUIREMENTS				Budget for Next Year 2026-2027	
Actual	First Preceding Year 2024-2025	Budget This Year 2025-2026	YTD Actuals & Projections 2025-2026	DESCRIPTION	Org Unit or Prog & Activity	Object Classification	Detail	Proposed By Budget Officer	Approved By Budget Committee	Adopted by Governing Board	
1				RESOURCES	1						1
2	-	194,056	242,375	2 Cash on Hand* (cash basis)	2			301,876	-	-	2
3	-	-	-	3 FY25- FY26 Prior STIFF	3			-	-	-	3
4	-	-	-	4 Interest	4			-	-	-	4
5	876,192	1,047,017	874,732	5 ODOT - STIF Formula Fund Distribution	5			1,533,774	-	-	5
6	876,192	1,047,017	1,117,107	6 Total Resources, except taxes to be levied	6			1,835,650	-	-	6
7				7 Taxes collected in year levied	7						7
8	<b>876,192</b>	<b>1,047,017</b>	<b>1,117,107</b>	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	8			<b>1,835,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>
9				<b>REQUIREMENTS**</b>	9						9
10					10						10
11	111,434	172,004	277,434	Transfer	11	STIF	District Operations	737,020	-	-	11
12	348,791	493,389	236,125	Transfer	12	STIF	Match	699,201	-	-	12
13	-	-	-	Transfer	13	STIF	Capital Reserve	-	-	-	13
14	236,610	485,405	253,480	Transfer	14	STIF	ODOT Loan Principle/Int	289,168	-	-	14
15	-	-	-	Transfer	15	STIF	Student Transportation	-	-	-	15
16	-	-	-	Transfer	16	STIF	Public Engagement (MKT) Plan Match	-	-	-	16
17	-	-	-	Transfer	17	STIF	Coordinated Plan	-	-	-	17
18	-	-	-	Transfer	18	STIF	Operations for Expanded Service	-	-	-	18
19	-	-	-		19			-	-	-	19
20	-	-	-		20			-	-	-	20
21	-	-	-		21			-	-	-	21
22	-	-	-		22			-	-	-	22
23	-	-	-		23			110,261	-	-	23
24				Ending balance (prior years)	24						24
25	179,357	-	19,110	<b>UNAPPROPRIATED ENDING FUND BALANCE</b>	25			-	-	-	25
26	<b>876,192</b>	<b>1,150,798</b>	<b>1,068,788</b>	<b>TOTAL REQUIREMENTS</b>	26			<b>1,835,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26</b>

**SPECIAL FUND**  
**RESOURCES AND REQUIREMENTS**  
**Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Discretionary (STIF)**  
(Fund)

Sunset Empire Transportation District

Line Item	Historical Data			YTD Actuals & Projections 2025-2026	DESCRIPTION  RESOURCES AND REQUIREMENTS	Budget for Next Year 2026-2027			
	Actual	First Preceding Year 2024-2025	Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026			Proposed By Budget Officer	Approved By Budget Committee	Adopted by Governing Board	
1					1 RESOURCES				
2	-	-	-	-	2 Cash on Hand* (cash basis)				
3	520,000	-	-	-	3 ODOT - STIF Discretionary Program Grant				
4	-	-	-	-	4				
5	-	-	-	-	5				
6	520,000	-	-	-	6 Total Resources, except taxes to be levied				
7					7 Taxes collected in year levied				
8	520,000	-	-	-	8 TOTAL RESOURCES				
9					9 REQUIREMENTS**				
10					10 Org Unit or Prog & Activity				
11	520,000	-	-	-	11 STIF				
12	-	-	-	-	12 STIF				
13	-	-	-	-	13 STIF				
14	-	-	-	-	14				
15	-	-	-	-	15				
16	-	-	-	-	16				
17	-	-	-	-	17				
18	-	-	-	-	18				
19	-	-	-	-	19				
20	-	-	-	-	20				
21	-	-	-	-	21				
22	-	-	-	-	22				
23	-	-	-	-	23				
24					24 Ending balance (prior years)				
25	-	-	-	-	25 UNAPPROPRIATED ENDING FUND BALANCE				
26	520,000	-	-	-	26 TOTAL REQUIREMENTS				

**SPECIAL FUND**  
**RESOURCES AND REQUIREMENTS**  
**Special Transportation Fund (STIF)**  
(Fund)

Sunsel Empire Transportation District

Line	Historical Data			YTD Actuals & Projections 2025-2026	DESCRIPTION	Budget for Next Year 2026-2027			
	Actual	First Preceding Year 2024-2025	Adopted Budget This Year 2025-2026			Proposed By Budget Officer	Approved By Budget Committee	Adopted by Governing Board	
1	-	-	-	-	RESOURCES	-	-	-	1
2	-	-	-	-	2 Cash on Hand* (cash basis)	-	-	-	2
3	-	92,932	-	-	3 ODOT - STIF Formula Grant	-	-	-	3
4	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
5	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
6	-	92,932	-	-	6 Total Resources, except taxes to be levied	-	-	-	6
7	-	-	-	-	7 Taxes collected in year levied	-	-	-	7
8	-	92,932	-	-	<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	-	-	-	8
9	-	-	-	-	<b>REQUIREMENTS**</b>	-	-	-	9
10	-	-	-	-	10 Org Unit or Prog & Activity Classification Object Detail	-	-	-	10
11	-	-	-	-	11 STIF Transfer Wages	-	-	-	11
12	-	-	-	-	12 STIF Transfer Benefits	-	-	-	12
13	-	-	-	-	13 STIF Transfer Non Profit Assis: Outreach/Vet	-	-	-	13
14	-	5,000	-	-	14 STIF Transfer Operations Assistance	-	-	-	14
15	-	87,932	-	-	15 STIF Transfer Capital	-	-	-	15
16	-	-	-	-	16 STIF Transfer Operations Assistance	-	-	-	16
17	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	17
18	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	18
19	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	19
20	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	20
21	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	21
22	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	22
23	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	23
24	-	-	-	-	24 Ending balance (prior years)	-	-	-	24
25	-	-	-	-	25 UNAPPROPRIATED ENDING FUND BALANCE	-	-	-	25
26	-	92,932	-	-	26 TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	-	-	-	26