



FROM THE DESK OF *Judith Sheets*
Mayor of Frankfort

Mayor Judy Sheets' Statement Regarding the 2026 Budget

Frankfort, IN – [August 11, 2025] As we enter this year's budget season, the City of Frankfort—like many communities across Indiana—is facing difficult financial realities. Recent changes to state property tax legislation, combined with the long-term implications of annexation and the growing demand for essential services, have placed significant strain on our ability to meet every need with the resources available.

As Mayor, it is my duty to advocate for the needs of our departments, our city staff, and—most importantly—the citizens of Frankfort. My office has worked diligently alongside department heads to carefully assess priorities, identify efficiencies, and recommend a budget that supports public safety, quality of life, and the long-term growth of our community.

However, the public needs to understand that the Frankfort City Council approves, adopts, and finalizes the city's budget, as outlined by Indiana statute. While I can provide recommendations, data, and insight, the final decisions regarding funding allocations rest with the Council.

That said, my priorities remain clear:

- A Vibrant Downtown & Small Businesses – Continued investment in economic activity and public spaces that attract visitors, support entrepreneurs, and fuel local pride.
- Thriving Parks & Green Spaces – Protecting the resources needed to maintain and improve the parks and recreational amenities that enhance quality of life for all ages.
- Welcoming Annexed Land & Homeowners – Honoring our commitment to new residents by planning and funding the infrastructure—such as our new fire station—necessary to serve a growing city footprint.
- Clean Neighborhoods & Quality Housing – Supporting code enforcement, infrastructure upgrades, and community partnerships that promote safe and beautiful neighborhoods.
- Accessible Mental Health & Healthcare Resources – Encouraging collaboration that helps remove barriers to care for our most vulnerable residents.
- Collaboration with City, County & Economic Development – Championing a cooperative approach to growth, infrastructure, and job creation across government boundaries.



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This year's budget will require compromise, transparency, and thoughtful deliberation. I remain committed to working collaboratively with the City Council to ensure that whatever decisions are made, they reflect the best interests of the people we serve.

Frankfort deserves leadership that listens, plans, and navigates challenges with integrity. I will continue to do just that—advocating for what our city needs while respecting the process and the voices around the table.