

## <strong>Heath Springs OKs \$1.3M budget</strong>

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**Authors:** hjones@thelancasternews.com

**Byline:** By Haley Jones  
hjones@thelancasternews.com

### Content

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Heath Springs Town Council passed the second reading of its 2033-24 fiscal year budget at its July 5 meeting with a 3-1 vote.

Councilwoman Iva Drakeford voted against the budget, and Councilwoman Deborah Truesdale was absent for the vote.

Council held a public hearing before passing the budget, but no citizens came to speak. Town Administrator Wanda Kilpatrick presented the proposed budget.

The total budget is \$1,296,500, with \$623,200 of that in the town's general fund and \$673,300 for water/sewer operations. The new budget is \$19,036 less than last year's budget.

The biggest additional expenses, besides salaries, will be \$60,000 for landscaping in the general fund, and \$36,000 for emergency expansion in the water/sewer budget and \$21,000 more for the water itself.

The local option sales tax (LOST) is expected to generate \$280,000 for the general fund, compared to \$187,000 last year, and business license revenue is expected to drop from \$100,000 last year to \$58,000 in the coming year. The town also has \$100,000 in remaining federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to allocate by the end of 2024.

Mayor Eddie Moore asked about the possibility of the town buying a building in downtown Heath Springs. Kilpatrick said the funds for that could come from ARPA money under general funds or reserves. Details were not available, but the matter will be voted on in public session when ready.

Council members thanked Kilpatrick for her hard work on this year's proposed budget. They also asked the community to keep Truesdale in their prayers after the councilwoman was in a bad car accident over the holiday weekend.