

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

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Steven T. Noble
Mayor

October 18, 2024

Dear President Shaut,

With this letter, I present my 2025 Recommended Budget for the Common Council's review and consideration.

After I took office in 2016, tax rates steadily declined for eight years. Last year, due to rising inflation, we had a slight increase in our tax rate in order to cover increased costs on everything from the chlorine for the community pool to the asphalt used to pave our City streets. The slight increase helped ensure that all essential services were maintained and infrastructure improvements moved forward.

To continue to invest in our vital infrastructure, maintain City services, support staff contract and benefit increases, rises in insurance premiums and deductibles, and operation of the City's ambulance service, my 2025 Recommended Budget includes a tax rate increase of 8.9%. This Proposed Budget represents the first time it has been necessary to raise taxes above the tax cap in nine years.

A few of the key 2025 Recommended Budget key points include:

- 0 layoffs
- Tax levy increases, after 9 years below the tax cap
- Amount to be raised by taxes is increased by 8.9% to \$19,561,045
- Homestead rate at \$9.87 (per thousand)
- Non-homestead at \$15.10 (per thousand)
- Low Fiscal Stress Score (3.3 out of 100)
- Investment in retention of employees
- Investment in equipment across departments to maintain infrastructure
- Sewer Rate set at \$7.82

After much consideration, the 2025 Recommended Budget reflects a restrained, responsible approach to the City's finances. This budget will deliver on our promise of providing excellent City services, including now operating ambulance service and EMS care to our residents when private companies left us stranded and vulnerable, and investing in the people who stepped up and worked hard to deliver those services to the community, while keeping costs down to prevent overburdening our taxpayers.

I have also attached our proposed Capital Plan. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration of my Recommended Budget and look forward to working together for our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven T. Noble
Mayor