

THE BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 2, 2025

The 2026 Proposed Budget for the Borough of Bell Acres has been reviewed and authorized for advertisement with estimated receipts of \$2,325,472.44, a carryover of \$90,736.06 and planned expenditures of \$2,416,208.50.

For more than a decade, the Borough held real estate taxes steady at 4.32 mills, an achievement made possible through disciplined financial management and responsible stewardship. To continue delivering high-quality services, meet rising operational costs, and to account for reductions in assessed values due to appeals and the application of the common level ratio, the 2026 budget proposes a modest increase of 0.25 mills, bringing the rate to 4.57 mills. The dedicated 0.5 mill fire tax will remain unchanged, ensuring continued support for essential emergency services.

The Senior Citizens Tax Relief Program that was enacted by the Borough of Bell Acres for eligible taxpayers in 2023, will continue with one positive amendment. In order to coincide with Allegheny County's application process, eligible applicants will be required to only complete a one-time application, instead of an annual application, as long as their household income does not exceed \$30,000. To be eligible to participate in the property tax rebate program, participants must meet certain conditions to receive a discount on the Borough real estate property taxes. Those conditions are listed in Chapter 153, Article III in the Code of the Borough of Bell Acres. Additional property tax relief programs are available through Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (see additional information below).

Prudent financial management of the budget remains a cornerstone of Borough operations. Despite rising insurance costs and significant increases in road construction materials, the Borough continues to deliver dependable public works services, including asphalt and base repairs, right-of-way mowing, crack sealing, and vital winter maintenance, while strategically balancing fluctuating revenues.

A major highlight of recent years has been the Borough's success in securing outside funding. Most notably, since 2022, Bell Acres has received several grants in the amount of \$792,260 to support the funding of various community projects, municipal studies, a blight demolition project, infrastructure improvements, borough park and recreational facility upgrades, essential police department and public safety resources, and several purchases of new public works equipment.

The Borough continues to ambitiously seek grant opportunities and funding from both public and private resources. For 2026, the Borough was recently awarded the following grants:

- **Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD) Grant – \$200,350 Award**
 - Beadnell Drive Dirt & Gravel Road Project includes base repair, road surface stabilization, off right-of-way improvements, new cross drains, storm water improvements, and an asphalt apron at the bottom portion of Beadnell Drive and Turkeyfoot Road.
- **Gaming Economic & Development Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Grant - \$200,000 Award**
 - Borough Park – Phase II includes installation of two new pickleball/multi-purpose courts, a new full-size basketball court, rubber mulch for playground surface, park benches, ADA parking, and ADA walkways that will access all the park amenities and playground. Phase II is part of the Borough’s Master Park Improvement Project Plan.

The 2026 Budget reinforces the Borough’s commitment to fiscal responsibility, operational efficiency, and exceptional community service. With a focus on public safety, infrastructure maintenance, road improvements, and park preservation, the Borough is investing in the services residents depend on while safeguarding long-term financial stability.

Lisa J. Fleming, Borough Manager

Additional Property Tax Relief Programs:

Allegheny County

Act 77, Senior Citizen Tax Relief

<https://alleghenycountytreasurer.us/real-estate-tax/real-estate-tax-2/>

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

<https://www.revenue.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/Pages/default.aspx>

Borough of Bell Acres

Senior Citizen Tax Relief

<https://ecode360.com/13248813#13248813>