

# Town of Blacksburg

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## Memo

**TO:** Town of Blacksburg

**FROM:** Shane Childers, MBA, Assistant Town Administrator

**DATE:** February 2026

**SUBJECT:** Town Administrator's Update – January 2026

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The Administrator's Report is published each month for the Town of Blacksburg citizens to remain informed of Town activities and updates. This report is also provided at each regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information at [shane@townofblacksburg.com](mailto:shane@townofblacksburg.com) or 864-839-2332.

### **1. Water System Improvements – Principal Forgiveness Grant**

Construction was scheduled to begin on January 19<sup>th</sup> on the Cherokee Street water line replacement project. The start date was delayed due to weather. This project is part of the \$1,500,000 State Revolving Fund Project that the Town was awarded to replace aged infrastructure along Cherokee St.

### **2. Streetscape Project – SCDOT TAP Grant (W. Cherokee Street Phase)**

The Town is moving forward with the \$700,510 SCDOT TAP Grant, which includes 15% of the required 20% match, to fund the first portion of the Streetscape Masterplan on the south side of W. Cherokee Street between Shelby and Rutherford Streets.

### **3. ARC and CDBG Grant Activity – N. Shelby Street Phase**

The Town learned in December that it has been awarded a CDBG Grant in the amount of \$951,952 for a portion of the N. Shelby St phase of the Streetscape Master Plan Project. The Town has received approval to apply for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant to support the N. Shelby Street streetscape phase. This ARC Grant application was submitted on January 30, 2026. This application is planned to complement the CDBG grant that was awarded in December. Both grants are intended to support the next major phase of the Streetscape Masterplan. Public Notice of an RFQ will be going out soon for Engineering Services related to the N. Shelby Street phases of the Streetscape Master Plan Project.

### **4. Comprehensive Water System Assessment – RIA Grant**

Work continues with the approved engineering firm on the \$250,000 Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant (no matching funds required) to conduct a complete System Assessment Plan for the Town's water system. The Town Administrator has been meeting weekly to evaluate the next phases of the study. This project is expected to last for several more months, developing a report evaluating any deficiencies and providing improvements to the water system.

### **6. Budget / Planning**

The Town Administration and department leaders have been working diligently to develop the '26-'27 Fiscal Year Budget and planning for service delivery for the next year.

### **5. Event Planning**

Town Administration has been meeting with the Town planning group to further plan for the coming year. Stay tuned for updated town events.

### **5. Public Works Department Update**

Public Works staff continue routine maintenance and repair activities involving the Town's water system, parks, streets, and general roadway infrastructure.

### **6. Police Department Activity**

269 Calls for service in January 2026

### **9. Fire Department Activity**

64 Calls for service in January 2026

### **10. FY26 Budget Progress**

The Town has completed the tenth Period of FY26. The Town has spent approximately 79.21% of the FY26 budget of \$3,457,165.