

Town of Blacksburg

Memo

TO: Town of Blacksburg

FROM: Shane Childers, MBA, Assistant Town Administrator

DATE: March 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Town Administrator's Update – February 2026

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 or 864-839-2332.

1. Water System Improvements – Principal Forgiveness Grant

Construction has started 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. An 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. RFQ responses were received on February 23, 2026, for Engineering Services related to the N. Shelby Street phases of the Streetscape Master Plan Project. Town Council is expected to award an engineering firm at the March 3rd Town Council Meeting.

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.

5. 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. The first reading of the proposed budget will take place at the March 3rd Town Council Meeting.

6. Community Involvement & Outreach

The Town Administrator, Shane Childers, sits on multiple boards and committees in the community. The Town Administrator attended the following board meetings in February: Habitat for Humanity, Live Healthy Cherokee Advisory Board, and the Live Healthy Cherokee Behavioral Health Sub-Committee.

The Town Administrator was invited and attended the Legislative Open House Day at Cherokee Charter Academy on February 16th, leaving very impressed by the students and staff of this school. The Town Administrator was also able to present on all of the exciting events and development taking place in Blacksburg at the community introduction session of First Solar, a new industrial business that has expanded in Cherokee County.

7. Event Planning

Town Administration has been meeting with Town planning groups to further plan for the coming year. Stay tuned for updated town events. Exciting announcement related to the 2026 Red, White & You event is expected to be announced very soon.

8. 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. Public Works staff repaired multiple leaks over the last several weeks, due to the extremely cold weather. They have installed several new water taps and are expected to install at least 6 more over the next couple of weeks.

9. Police Department Activity

329 Calls for service in February 2026

10. Fire Department Activity

73 Calls for service in February 2026

11. FY26 Budget Progress

The Town completed the 11th Period of FY26. The Town has spent approximately 87.89% of the FY26 budget of \$3,457,165.