



City of Barberton

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William B. Judge
Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR JUDGE FINALIZES 2019 CITY BUDGET CURRENT AND FUTURE FISCAL CHALLENGES STILL REMAIN

Barberton, OH (March 6, 2019) – Barberton Mayor, William B. Judge and City Officials have made very difficult budgetary concessions in order to keep the City jail open and suspend the reduction in force of four full-time firefighters.

The Administration's annual spending package is ready for submission to Barberton City Council with passage expected on March 25, 2019. Working both with regional leaders and internally with the Barberton Municipal Court have allowed for a budget that, for now, maintains current operations within the City jail and Fire Department. However, without operational adjustments and further agreements, current service levels will be unsustainable.

Mayor Judge wishes to thank leaders from the City of Norton and Copley Township for their participation in maintaining jail services for the area. He also wishes to thank the Barberton Municipal Court Judges for their willingness to assist with budgetary demands.

"This budget process has been a significant undertaking with operational and capital constraints, as well as unfunded mandates from the state and federal government", stated Barberton Mayor William B. Judge. "With the continued loss of local government funds and the devastating impact of the relocation of Babcock & Wilcox (B&W), financial adversities will continue into 2020. Without additional revenues moving forward, we must take a hard look at re-organization, service evaluation, program necessities, and operational changes as we approach 2020 and beyond.

The Mayor and his Administration have already begun planning and preparation surrounding the 2020 budget, and intend to meet regularly with elected officials, union representatives and regional leaders to seek outcomes that provide both residents and surrounding communities with the best services possible.

Mayor Judge finally added, "I would like to thank the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and our Non-Bargaining employees for their understanding and willingness to make concessions to assist the City and our community in balancing this year's budget. Their commitment made to public service and to our residents should not go unnoticed and deserves to be recognized."

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