

BUDGET AT A GLANCE



2019
July 1

TOWN OF
Kiawah Island

2020
June 30

Shauneen Hutchinson

www.kiawahisland.org



TOWN OF

Kiawah Island

Elected Officials

Craig Weaver

Mayor

cweaver@kiawahisland.org

Chris Widuch

**Mayor Pro Tem &
Council Member**

cwiduch@kiawahisland.org

Maryanne Connelly

Council Member

mconnelly@kiawahisland.org

Dan Prickett

Council Member

dprickett@kiawahisland.org

Klaus Said

Council Member

ksaid@kiawahisland.org

Other Officials

Stephanie Monroe Tillerson

Town Administrator

stillerson@kiawahisland.org

Dorota Szubert

Town Treasurer

dszubert@kiawahisland.org

Town Fast Facts

Incorporated in 1988

Town Mission:

To protect and preserve the residential character of the community and the Island's unique natural environment while supporting the economic vitality of the resort and other commercial enterprise.

Statistics:

Households: 3,616

Licensed Short Term Rentals: 1,248

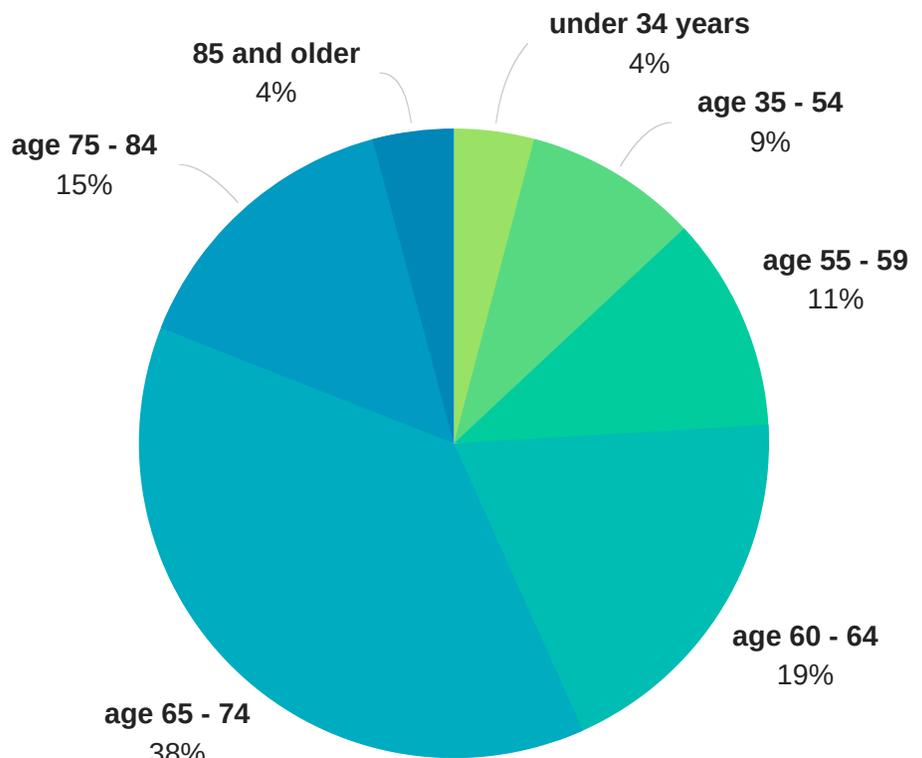
Average Lot Sales Price: \$937K

Median Lot Sales Price: \$475K

Median Household Income: \$143,988

**Population Size: Approximately 1762
registered voters (full-time residents)**

Population by Age:



Source: U.S. Census, Charleston County, Kiawah Property Reports

Town Services



Town Council & Committees

Establish Town policies.



Municipal Court

The Municipal Court has jurisdiction to try all cases arising under the ordinances of the Town and has powers and authority in criminal cases made under state law and conferred upon magistrates.



Public Safety

Island-wide law enforcement provided by Charleston County Sheriffs Office, Beach Patrol, Code Enforcement, Emergency Response, Disaster Planning and Recovery.



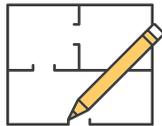
Public Works

Island beautification and maintenance of Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island Parkway from the roundabout at Betsy Kerrison Parkway to the front gate.



Solid Waste Disposal

Island-wide garbage, recycling, yard debris, brown trash and household hazardous waste collection and disposal.



Planning and Zoning

Zoning permits, subdivision of land, re-zonings, planned developments, variance requests, special exception requests, site plan review, zoning & land development regulations, and appeals of administrative decisions.



Building Services

Responsible for the building permit and inspection process for all commercial and residential projects within the Town. It has an express goal of maintaining a safe building environment for our residents through quality plan review and inspections.



Environmental

Beach Management, Wildlife Population Monitoring, Wildlife Research, Habitat Management, Nuisance and Injured Wildlife, Turtle Patrol Education and Outreach.



Communications

Town website, Quarterly Newsletter (Town Notes), Bi-weekly E-News, Emergency Communications, Social Media Platforms, and Community Outreach.



Tourism Promotion

Hosts the Charleston Visitors Bureau office, Allocation of tourism funds, Collaboration with island entities to promote tourism activities.



Community Outreach

Charitable Contributions, Arts & Cultural Events.

Revenues

Where does the Town get its money from?

\$ 0 Property Tax - Property taxes paid to Charleston County do not include any taxes for the Town.

Unrestricted Funds

Revenue sources that are not required to be used for specific purposes. Listed below:



Business Licenses

Fees charged to businesses to be able to operate within the limits of the Town.



Building Permits

Fees to contractors for all construction projects, whether done by a licensed contractor or property owner.



Solid Waste Collection

Fees for collection and disposal of residential garbage, recycling, and yard debris.



Franchise Fees

Fees for the rights of specific companies to provide services within the Town, such as electricity, cable and beach chair rentals.

Other



- **Beverage Tax:** The state levies this tax for alcohol beverage permits sold to businesses, of which a portion is distributed to the municipality.



- **Fines and Forfeitures:** The Town keeps a small percentage of fees collected through its Municipal Court for tickets issued within the Town limits. The majority of these fees go to the state.



- **Aid to Subdivision:** State aid to local governments from several tax sources annually.



\$0 Property Tax - Property taxes paid to Charleston County do not include any taxes for the Town.

Restricted Funds

Revenue sources that can only be used for specific purposes. Listed below:



State Accommodation Tax (SATAX)

A tax tourists pay from the rental charges for accommodations when staying on the island. Revenues from this tax must be spent on tourism-related expenditures except for the first \$25K plus 5% of the remaining total revenues which are allocated to the Town's general fund and not restricted. Allocation of SATAX funds are approved by Town Council. The major areas where the money is allocated include police protection, Beach Patrol, and the sponsorship of events.



Local Accommodation Fund

SC state law allows the Town to levy 1% municipal local accommodation tax. These fees are remitted to the Town by Charleston County monthly. Revenues must be spent exclusively for things such as tourism, cultural events, and beach access roads providing access to tourist destinations.



County Accommodation

Charleston County levies 2% accommodation tax of which a portion is distributed to municipalities where they were earned. The Town receives approximately 25% of the fees collected, contingent on the use of the money on capital projects or services that will promote tourism.



Local Option Tax

A uniform 1% tax on the taxable sale. The state collects this tax and distributes a percent to municipalities in the county.



Hospitality Tax

A tax paid by patrons of restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, and any other establishments that sell and prepare food and beverages. The 1% tax is remitted to the Town by these retailers monthly.

Budget Highlights

Budget covers the period from July, 2019 through June, 2020

 **Projecting \$2.46 million surplus**

 **Projected \$10.5 million in revenues**

- 2% above 2019 budget
- No change compared to 2019 projected actuals

 **Revenue Drivers**

- Town's revenue is driven by economic activity
- Tourism business and construction

 **Projections**

- Moderate growth in tourism
- Moderate growth in construction and business activity

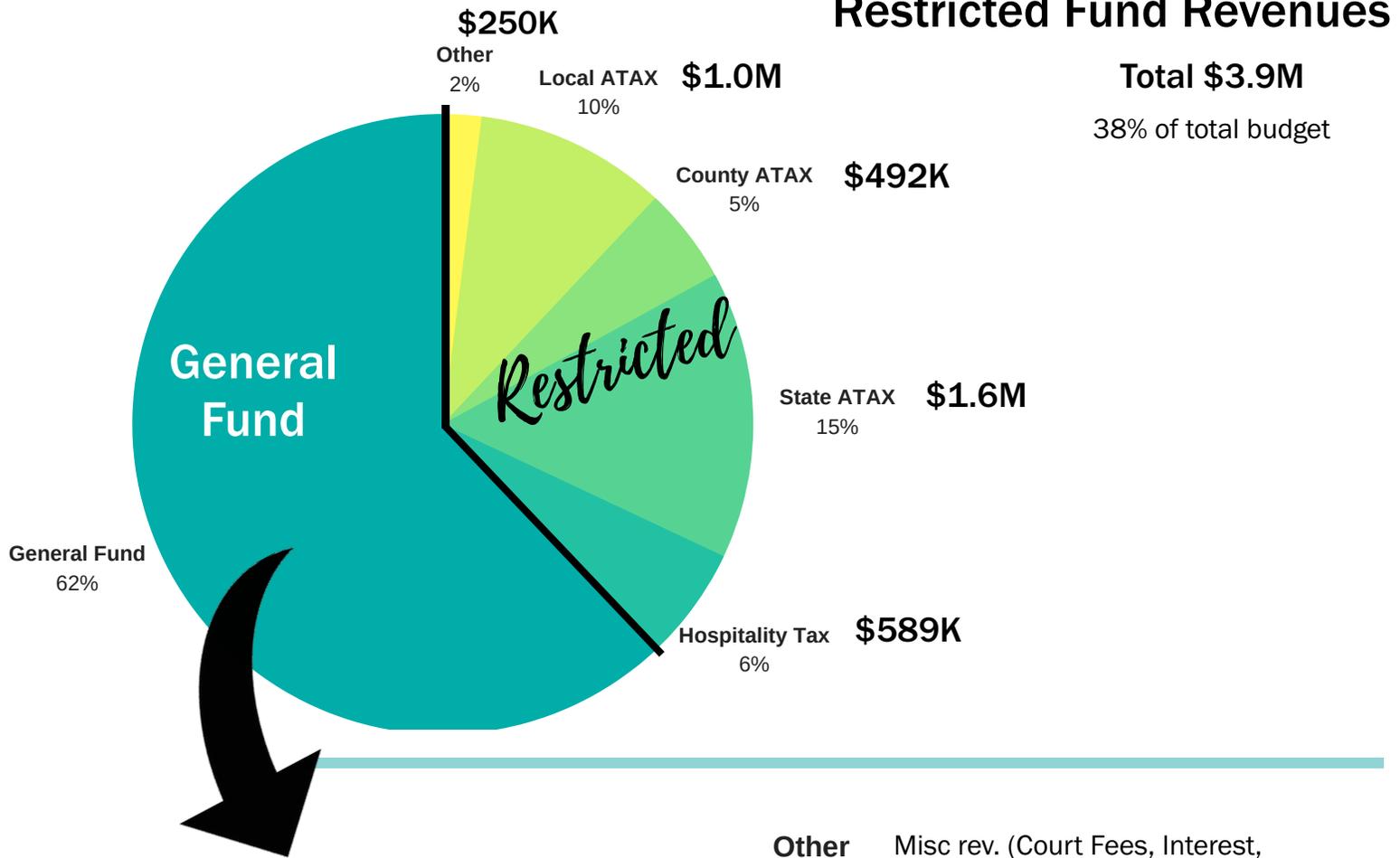
 **Projected \$8.3 million in expenditures**

- 14% above 2019 budget
- 13% above 2019 projected actual spending
- Cash reserves projected at \$24 million
- Continue to contribute to capital and emergency funds

Revenues Budgeted

\$10.5 million

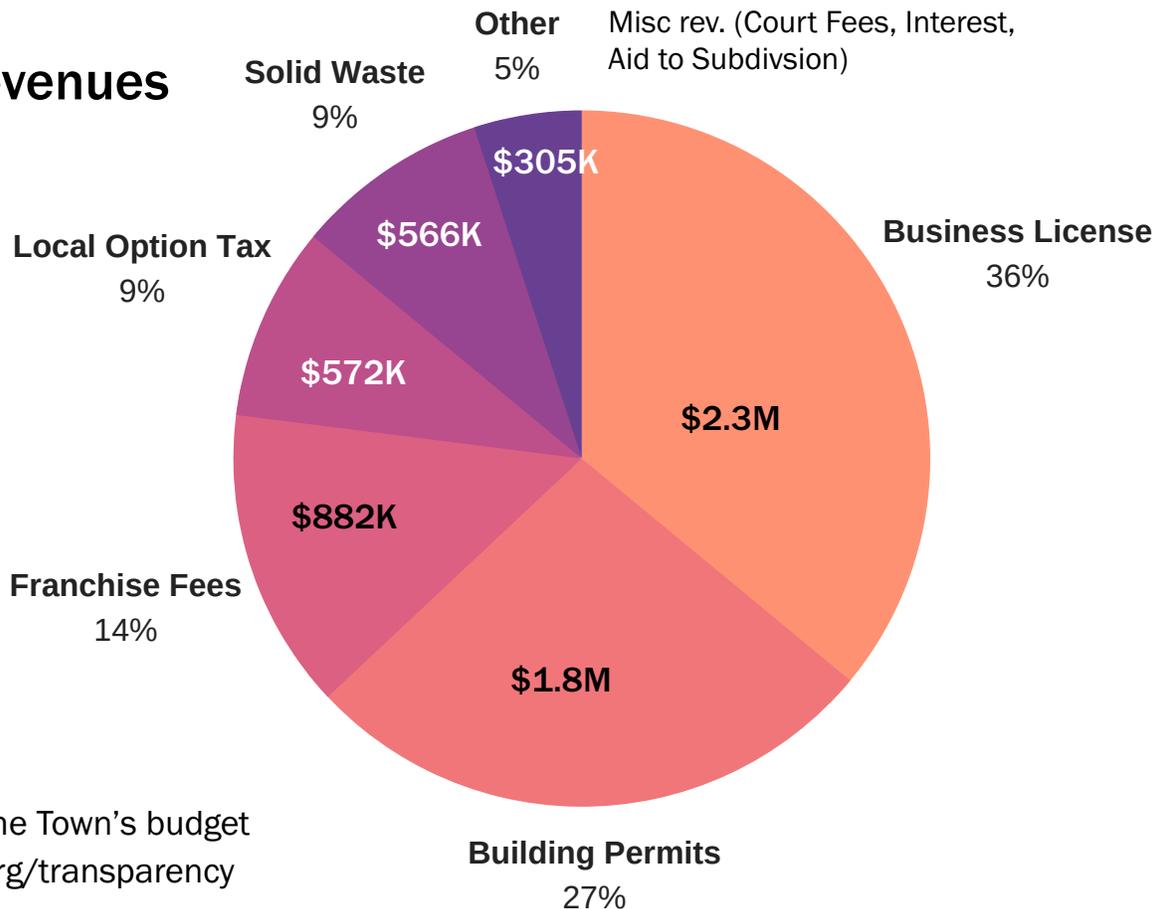
2019-2020 Total Budget



General Fund Revenues

Total \$6.5M

62% of total budget



For more information on the Town's budget visit www.kiawahisland.org/transparency

2019-2020 Expenditures

\$8 million

Below is how general & restricted funds are budgeted to be spent in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

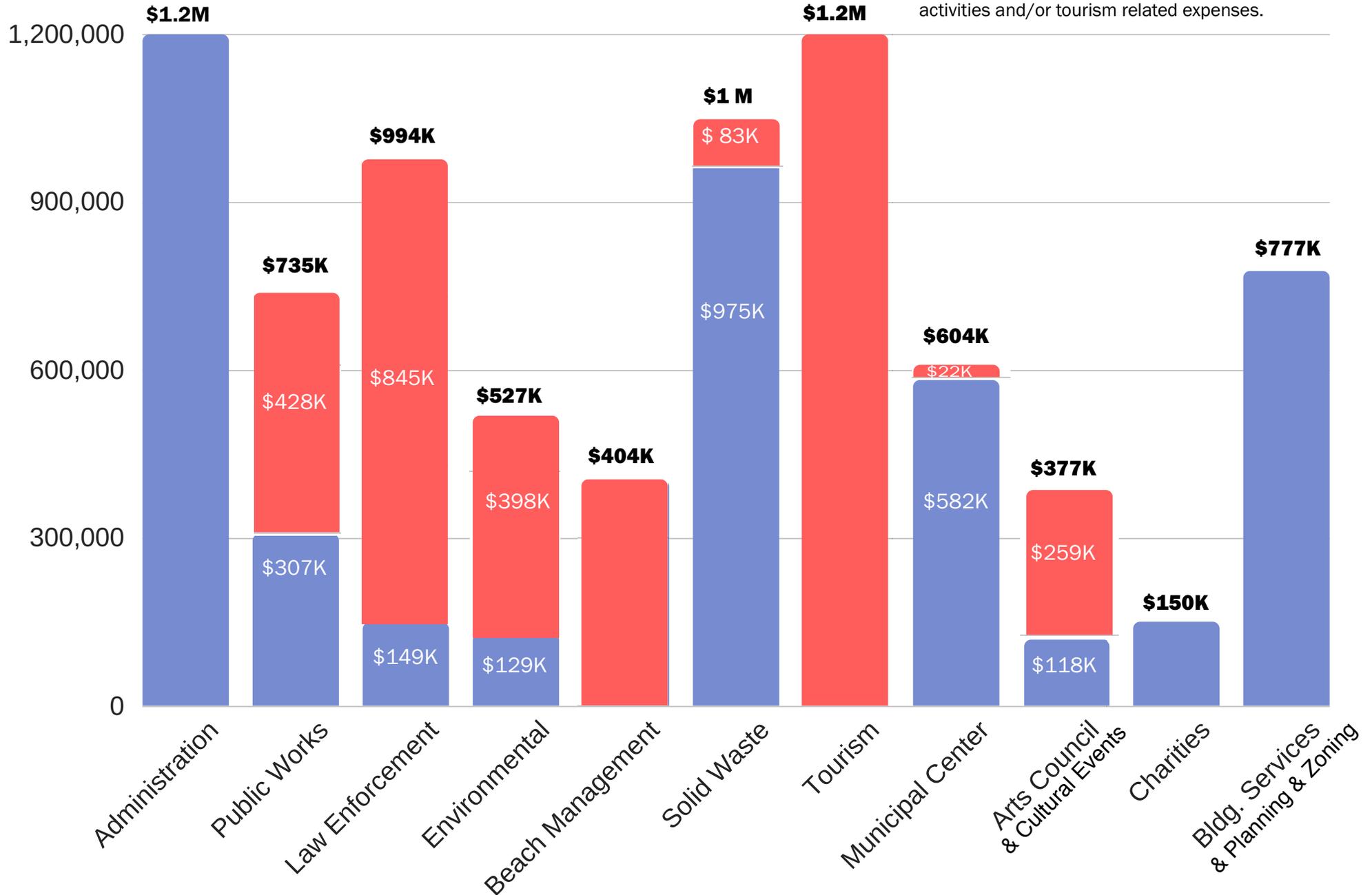
Unrestricted - General Fund

The general fund or unrestricted fund is the Town's primary operating fund. This fund comes from revenue from business license, permit fees, franchise fees etc.



Restricted

funds that come from State, Local and County Accommodation Tax, and Local Hospitality Tax. These funds must be used for promotion of tourism, tourism activities and/or tourism related expenses.



Expenditure Highlights

Below are highlights of expenditures and projects budgeted in the FY 2019-2020.

Solid Waste

- The Town provides various collection types for its residents and continues to provide curbside service free of charge. Expenditures also include garbage collection on the beach, Kestrel Court Recycling Center, and the Beachwalker Drive site.

Public Works

- Engineering project with firm McCormick Taylor to recommend practical approaches to raise the elevation of Kiawah Island Parkway from Mingo Point to Kiawah Island Real Estate Office to accommodate sea level rise, increased tide elevations, and sunny day flooding. Expenditures also include repaving and landscape design services for the Parkway.

Law Enforcement

- Dedicated law enforcement coverage and services contracted with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office that entails enhanced coverage and four permanently assigned deputies for Kiawah.

Charitable Contributions

- The Town supports a variety of charitable organizations through its Charitable Contribution Fund. The Town allocates up to 30% from the change in the fund balance of the general fund each year, not to exceed \$150,000.

Tourism

Distribution of State Accommodation Tax funds back into the community for the advertising and promotion of tourism-related activities and expenditures. Funds for this fiscal year were allocated to:

- Freshfields Village events marketing/advertising
- Kiawah Island Golf Resort events promotion
- Cars on Kiawah event promotion
- 2021 PGA Championship
- Beach Patrol coverage
- Charleston County Sheriff's Deputy coverage
- Charleston Visitor's Bureau

Arts & Cultural

The Town strives to enhance the community and provide residents and visitors accessibility of performing arts events within the Town. The 2019/2020 season planner is available at www.kiawahisland.org/events

Beach Management

Beach Monitoring

- Annual beach sand volume survey, report, and recommendations (Coastal Science and Engineering). Mitigation for previous beach restoration projects.

Beach Patrol

- Contracted with Barrier Island Ocean Rescue for the provision of ocean rescue, life safety, first aid services, and code enforcement on the beach.

Environmental

Bobcat GPS Research Project

- Analyzes the habitat needs of bobcats and assists in management and conservation.
- Longest, continuous GPS study on bobcats in the world.

Bird Banding Projects

- Studies on productivity, survivorship, and movements of many bird species that are indicators of the health of the island's ecosystem.

Alligator Behavior and Safety Studies

- Studies to understand the behavior and movements of alligators to increase awareness and safety across the island. Cooperative projects with KICA, Clemson University, SCDNR, and the Nemours Wildlife Foundation.

Wildlife Surveys and Monitoring

- Variety of wildlife surveys to estimate population size and abundance of many wildlife species to look at population trends over time to better understand how our native wildlife species are adapting to changes on Kiawah.

Environmental Programs

- Funding for educational programs to enhance awareness of Kiawah's wildlife and reduce negative interactions with wildlife. Programs include the Dolphin Education Project (NOAA NMFS, LMMN), Outdoor Wildlife Lessons in Science (KIGR), Grow Native, Kiawah Conservancy education and outreach programs, Shorebird Stewardship program, and more.