TOWN OF CLAY
2027 UNIFORM WATER BUDGET ADOPTED

Account #	Account Name	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted Budget	2027 Adopted Budget
07-1900-440	WATER ADMIN - CONTINGENCY	$0	$0	$7,500
07-8310-101	WATER ADMIN - SALARY & WAGES	$315,388	$328,717	$333,792
07-8310-102	WATER ADMIN - OVERTIME PAY	$5,216	$5,000	$5,000
07-8310-401	WATER ADMIN - OFFICE SUPPLIES	$24,093	$22,500	$22,500
07-8310-403	WATER ADMIN - TRAINING & CONFERENCE	$260	$500	$750
07-8310-409	WATER ADMIN - INSURANCE	$8,856	$10,000	$12,500
07-8310-414	WATER ADMIN - TELEPHONE	$2,773	$3,000	$3,500
07-8310-415	WATER ADMIN - ELECTRIC	$297	$500	$500
07-8310-426	WATER ADMIN - ADMIN CHARGES	$58,000	$75,000	$60,000
07-8310-434	WATER ADMIN - COMPUTER PROGRAMMING	$53,537	$50,000	$50,000
	8310 - SUBTOTAL	**$468,419**	**$495,217**	**$496,042**
07-8320-205	WATER SUPPLY - AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT	$152,117	$165,000	$65,000
07-8320-210	WATER SUPPLY - EQUIPMENT	$28,279	$50,000	$60,000
07-8320-400	**WATER SUPPLY - CONTRACTUAL EXPENSES**	**$2,023,766**	**$2,100,000**	**$2,400,000**
07-8320-405	WATER SUPPLY - HIGHWAY BACKCHARGES	$2,389	$5,000	$5,000
07-8320-406	WATER SUPPLY - REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	$209,227	$175,000	$185,000
07-8320-413	WATER SUPPLY - PARTS TOOLS & SUPPLIES	$84,130	$50,000	$50,000
07-8320-419	WATER SUPPLY - GASOLINE	$12,647	$15,000	$15,000
07-8320-447	WATER SUPPLY - GROUND WATER MONITORING	$12,910	$15,000	$15,000
	8320 - SUBTOTAL	**$2,525,465**	**$2,575,000**	**$2,795,000**
07-9010-801	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - NYS RETIREMENT	$48,429	$50,000	$55,000
07-9010-802	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - SOCIAL SECURITY	$23,516	$25,000	$25,000
07-9010-803	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - WORKERS COMP	$4,437	$7,500	$7,500
07-9010-804	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - UNEMPLOYMENT	$0	$1,000	$1,000
07-9010-805	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - HEALTH INSURANCE	$142,749	$150,000	$150,000
	9010 - SUBTOTAL	**$219,131**	**$233,500**	**$238,500**
	EXPENSE TOTAL	**$3,213,015**	**$3,303,717**	**$3,529,542**
07-1900-2140	GENERAL GOVT. - METERED WATER SALES	$2,650,206	$2,800,000	$3,000,000
07-1900-2401	GENERAL GOVT. - NYCLASS INTEREST	$27,163	$30,000	$30,000
07-1900-2655	GENERAL GOVT. - MINOR SALES	$10,000	$0	$0
07-1900-2680	GENERAL GOVT. - INSURANCE RECOVERIES	$0	$0	$0
	1900 - SUBTOTAL	**$2,687,369**	**$2,830,000**	**$3,030,000**
	APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE		$473,717	$499,542
	REVENUE TOTAL	**$2,687,369**	**$3,303,717**	**$3,529,542**

Office of Uniform Water Districts

Water Superintendent
Frank Mazzye

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TOWN of CLAY
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September 14, 2026

Subject: 2027 Water Budget Recommendations and Funding Requests

The Town of Clay currently purchases water from OCWA at a discounted bulk rate, which saves water district residents more than 35% on their water bills. Also, unlike OCWA the Clay Water Department does not charge the customers for maintenance of the 620 fire hydrants owned by the Department saving approximately $62,000 per year.

OCWA increases its rates annually. Historically, the Water Department has attempted to avoid increasing water rates, or has implemented only modest increases when necessary, based on the prior year's financial results. In 2026, the Department implemented its first rate increase since 2022. Due to continued increases in the cost of purchased water, parts, tools, computer programming, water testing, requirements from the Health Department and federal government, an additional rate increase will be necessary for 2027.

Effective January 1, 2027, I recommend a modest increase in water rates. Most of the increase would be applied to industrial accounts rather than residential accounts. Following the larger increase implemented in 2026, the Department received one call regarding the commercial rate increase and minimal complaints from residents. Under the proposed 5% residential increase, the minimum quarterly charge would increase from $40 to $42 for the first 5,000 gallons of water. Additional consumption would increase from $4.65 to $4.88 per 1,000 gallons. For example, a residential account using 10,000 gallons would increase from $63.25 to $66.40, an increase of $3.15 per quarter. A residential account using 20,000 gallons would increase from $109.75 to $115.20, an increase of $5.45 per quarter.

For industrial accounts, a recommended 5% rate increase, a reduction of the minimum usage threshold from 50,000 gallons to 40,000 gallons, and an increase in fire line charges from $22.18 per 1-inch diameter to $30 per 1-inch diameter, as reflected on the attached rate sheet. For example, a business using 40,000 gallons with an 8-inch fire line would increase from $429.92 to $505.10 per quarter, an increase of $75.18. A business using 100,000 gallons with an 8-inch fire line would increase from $617.42 to $801.50 per quarter, an increase of $184.08.

The proposed rate changes are expected to generate approximately $170,000 in additional revenue in 2027. Listed below are additional revenue generating and cost saving recommendations for your review.

Recommendations for Town Board Consideration

- Increase the late fee on water bills from 5% to 10%, which is expected to generate approximately $30,000 in additional revenue.
- Apply a $50 reading maintenance fee per bill to each account that has not updated its water meter. Approximately 250 of 5,863 accounts still need to be updated to the drive-by system. These residents have received notices since 2019 but have not completed the update. This measure is expected to generate approximately $50,000 in additional revenue.
- Establish a $200 fee for after-hours service calls. This fee may reduce unnecessary after-hours calls and, if call volume remains consistent, this will help offset overtime pay.

- Increase the regular working-hours water shut-off fee from $40 to $50.
- Bill new Town of Salina residents under the same rate structure used by OCWA to help maintain lower rates for Town of Clay residents.
- Consider authorizing a vehicle allowance for the Water Superintendent for a work truck that would be registered and insured in his name. Currently, the Town work truck is used to carry tools and parts necessary for water repairs. During after-hours emergencies, response may be delayed when the Superintendent must arrange childcare or respond in a personal vehicle without the necessary tools and parts. A vehicle allowance would improve response time and efficiency for after-hours water repairs.

Funding Assistance Request

As the water industry continues to evolve and rely more heavily on technology, I respectfully request funding assistance, potentially through Micron-related sources. Since the announcement that Micron is coming to Clay, the Water Department has received a significant number of inquiries regarding the Town's water system and other services. This has resulted in manual research and site visits that could be reduced through improved data access and technology.

GIS and Leak Detection: In 2025, the Water Department began collecting information to create its first data layers for Esri GIS. By late February 2026 the Department had GIS operational, with historical water maps scanned and overlaid on ESRI. This system has already improved staff efficiency and access to critical infrastructure information. I request funding to continue expanding the GIS program. I have received a quote of $84,800 to add this information, along with other useful components that would support the Water Department's daily operations. I have also reviewed several leak detection systems that mount to fire hydrants. These systems would notify the Department of potential leaks, allowing staff to identify small leaks before they become larger causing possible issues. They would also assist in tracking problem areas, identifying needed improvements, and providing additional system data.

Equipment: The Clay Water Department's largest budget expense is water purchased from OCWA, followed by repairs and maintenance to the water system. The most efficient way to reduce these costs is to identify leaks sooner and complete more repairs and maintenance using in-house resources. In 2025, the Department purchased a dump truck. In 2026, the Department purchased a mini excavator and trailer. For 2027, I am requesting a vac trailer, which would allow staff to safely expose utilities before excavation. This equipment would be used by the Water Department as well as backup for the Highway Department.

Morgan Road: As in previous years, the recommendation of replacing the 12-inch water main running down the middle of Morgan Road. This is the most problematic water main in the system. The three-mile cast iron main was installed in 1959 and is beyond its expected service life. Nearly every year, the Department experiences at least one break on this line. While the repair itself is costly, associated road reconstruction significantly increases the overall expense. The most recent quote I received, in 2024, estimated the project cost at $3.5 million to $4 million. This cost will continue to increase the longer the project is delayed, and additional leaks are likely to occur. I respectfully request that the Town Board consider moving forward with replacement of this water main.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these 2027 Water Department budget recommendations and funding requests. Should you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Frank Mazzye

Water Superintendent