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WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 | SHELBYSTAR.COM

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# Hegseth: U.S. has fiscal plan in Iran



Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, left, and Gen. Dan Caine, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testify in front of the House Appropriations subcommittee on May 12. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

## Pentagon indicates cost of war is rising

Joey Garrison, Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Michael Loria  
USA TODAY

The Pentagon revised the cost of the war in Iran upward on May 12.

"We think it's closer to \$29 billion," Jules Hurst III, the Pentagon's acting comptroller, told a House Appropriations subcommittee.

A week before, the Trump administration estimated the price tag at \$25 billion.

The figure reflects the cost of the nine-week war so far and does not include projected future expenditures.

Hurst said the revision came from updated figures on operational costs and equipment repair and replacement. He said \$24 billion has gone toward munitions and equipment.

The Pentagon is seeking \$1.5 trillion in the next federal budget and more than \$200 billion in supplemental funding from Congress.

Rep. Betty McCollum of Minnesota, the subcommittee's Democratic ranking member, asked whether the Pentagon has a "plan B" if Congress does not authorize the budget request. Secretary of

See IRAN, Page 2A



Israel strikes in the area of al-Housh in southern Lebanon on May 12.

KAWNAT HAJU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## KINGS MOUNTAIN

# Water and sewer rates to increase in budget proposal

Rebecca Sitzes  
Shelby Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kings Mountain residents can expect to see an increase in their water and sewer bills this upcoming year if the proposed budget is adopted.

Kings Mountain's 2026-27 fiscal budget is available for public viewing and a public hearing will be held at the May 26 meeting.

The total proposed budget is \$68.2 million, an increase of 9% from last year.

Council can choose to vote to approve or deny the budget following the public meeting, although they have until June 30 to adopt a budget.

There is a proposed 3% wage increase for all city employees and a goal of setting aside resources to conduct a full wage and rate study for all positions.

There will be no change to the current tax rate of 48 cents per \$100 of valuation.

According to the budget highlights, there will be two new positions funded through the general fund and several existing positions will be "repurposed."

The proposed capital spending is \$2.6 million, but is dependent on the proposed fee levels.

So what increases can residents expect to see?

There is a proposed 10% increase for water and sewer with a projected increase of \$1.85 for water and \$2.20 for sewer. According to the budget message, the rates are competitive with surrounding counties and the city is playing "catchup," with future increases likely.

According to the budget, this will mean an increase of \$5 a month for a \$50 residential bill.

"Historically, we have not generated enough revenues to adequately maintain and reinvest in the system," the

See BUDGET, Page 2A

# Trump administration sued over Reflecting Pool

## Previous color 'integral to pool's historic character'

Michelle Del Rey  
USA TODAY

A nonprofit is suing the Trump administration, claiming that the refurbishment of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool violates federal law.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation filed the lawsuit against the Department of the Interior on May 11, specifically targeting the application of blue paint on the Reflecting Pool. The pool, measuring about 2,000 feet in length and 160 feet in width, sits along the central axis of the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial to the west and the Wash-

ton Monument to the east.

The landmark and its surrounding landscape are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the National Mall Historic District.

The organization is seeking a temporary stay of agency action, effectively halting the work which began in mid-April. The Reflecting Pool and the National Mall are both managed by the National Park Service.

"Changing the Reflecting Pool's color, a key character-defining feature of the site, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, should be subject to reviews pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other laws," according to

See POOL, Page 2A



Workers paint the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool "American Flag Blue" as part of President Donald Trump's beautification plan for Washington, D.C., ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary. ANNABELLE GORDON/REUTERS

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Volume 132 | No. 113  
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