



East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

BUDGET MESSAGE

For the year ending December 31, 2026

Adopted December 11, 2025

To the residents of East Baton Rouge Parish,

Enclosed is the 2026 Operating Budget for Build East Baton Rouge (Build EBR), the parish's redevelopment authority. The purpose of this budget message is to outline Build EBR's priorities for the coming year and to explain the assumptions behind our projected revenues and expenditures, in keeping with the Local Government Budget Act's requirements for transparent public budgeting.

Overview of the 2026 Budget

The 2026 Budget reflects Build EBR's continued commitment to advancing equitable investment, innovative development, and thriving communities across East Baton Rouge Parish. Total projected revenues for 2026 are \$1.48 million, with projected expenditures of \$1.59 million, resulting in a planned use of reserves of approximately \$114,000.

Revenue Outlook

For 2026, Build EBR anticipates receiving \$540,000 from the City-Parish General Fund, a 25% reduction from the previous year. This reduction is reflected in the Mayor-President's FY26 budget proposal to the Metropolitan Council. We will responsibly absorb this reduction through three strategies:

1. **Leveraging Grant Support:** Build EBR anticipates \$666,889 in grant funds to help offset staffing and operation costs:
 - State Capital Outlay Funding: \$112,500
 - Public Investment Grants: \$255,500
 - Private Investment Grants: \$298,889
2. **Growing Earned Revenue:** Build EBR will continue generating revenue through redevelopment activities, land bank transactions, and providing professional services, consistent with our mission and statutory authority. These revenues can be used to help offset staffing and operational costs:



THE EBR REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- Revenues and Income: \$259,153
3. **Limited Use of Reserves:** Build EBR will draw from reserves in a conservative and strategic manner to ensure continuity of operations without compromising long-term sustainability.

Organizational Growth and Capacity

In 2025, Build EBR grew from three staff members to six, with plans to hire an additional position in 2026. This expansion allows us to fulfill our statutory charge, including land acquisition, redevelopment, title clearance activities, and the administration of development tools authorized under state law.

We will continue to modernize internal systems, adopt updated policies and procedures, and increase public transparency, including through an expanded project catalog, interactive GIS mapping tools, and new public engagement initiatives.

Priorities for 2026

The 2026 Budget aligns with Build EBR's four strategic pillars:

1. Building Organizational Strength

- Expand staffing to support increasing project volume.
- Finalize key operational policies and procedures.
- Continue improving technology, financial systems, and public-facing tools.

2. Collaborating for Impact

- Strengthen partnerships with municipalities, community-based organizations, and institutions across the parish.
- Continue coordinated efforts toward blight reduction and revitalization.
- Roll out new cross-agency convenings focused on redevelopment strategy and alignment.

3. Expanding Funding and Capital

- Grow earned revenue through redevelopment transactions and district administration.
- Leverage new grant opportunities and philanthropy.
- Position Build EBR to maximize available state and federal programs for redevelopment.



THE EBR REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

4. Delivering Transformational Projects

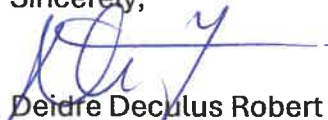
- Advance catalytic corridor projects along Plank Road, Scenic Highway, and the Florida Corridor.
- Launch new residential infill initiatives and continue expanding the land bank.
- Implement new legal tools for title clearance, supporting long-term neighborhood reinvestment.
- Continue pre-development and site planning for key redevelopment sites.

Closing Outlook

Build EBR enters 2026 with a clear mission, a growing team, strengthened partnerships, and a robust portfolio of redevelopment projects. While the budget includes a reduction in City-Parish support, we are confident in our ability to sustain operations, deliver on our statutory mandates, and advance high-impact redevelopment projects through prudent financial management and strategic use of grants, earned revenue, and reserves.

We look forward to collaborating with the Metropolitan Council, City-Parish Administration and agencies, community partners, and residents to continue building a stronger, more equitable East Baton Rouge Parish.

Sincerely,



Deidre Deculus Robert
President & CEO



Board of Commissioner Approved Budget for 2026

	Total		General Fund		LandBank	
	2025	Approved 2026 Budget	2025	Approved 2026 Budget	2025	Approved 2026 Budget
Income						
Indirect Public Support: City-Parish of EBR	720,000	540,000	645,000	465,000	75,000	75,000
Supplemental Public Support: City-Parish of EBR	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000		
Private Investment Grants	239,596	363,733	239,596	363,733		
Public Investment Grants	4,634	666,003	-	634,503	4,634	31,500
Revenues and Income	315,630	273,731	184,098	163,731	131,532	110,000
Carry-Forward from Reserves		150,000		150,000		
Total Income	1,479,860	2,193,467	1,268,694	1,976,967	211,166	216,500
Expenses						
<u>Professional Services</u>						
62110 Accounting Fees	105,374	115,000	105,374	115,000		
62120 Legal Fees	100,287	100,000	84,404	80,000	15,883	20,000
62150 Outside Contract Services	120,830	66,667	111,362	16,667	9,468	50,000
Total for 62100 Professional Services	326,491	281,667	301,140	211,667	25,351	70,000
<u>Rent and Utilities</u>						
62810 Rent	58,004	60,612	58,004	60,612		
62840 Equipment Rental	2,687	-	2,687			
Total for 62800 Rent and Utilities	60,691	60,612	60,691	60,612	-	-
<u>Computers and Equipment</u>						
62925 Computer Expense	24,625	23,200	24,625	23,200		
62930 Software Expense	7,578	38,800	7,416	38,800	162	
62950 Office Furniture	8,532	5,000	8,532	5,000		
Total for 62900 Computers and Equipment	40,735	67,000	40,573	67,000	162	-
<u>Operations</u>						
65010 Books, Subscriptions, Reference	1,297	4,012	1,297	4,012		
65020 Postage and Shipping Expense	1,059	500	1,059	500		
65030 Printing and Copying	1,781	2,000	1,781	2,000		
65040 Office Supplies & Services	7,275	5,000	7,275	5,000		
65045 marketing/advertising	7,895	10,000	7,895	10,000		
65050 Telephone Expense	5,762	5,700	5,762	5,700		
65055 Cable/Satellite Expense	1,696	1,800	1,696	1,800		
65070 Repairs & Maintenance	1,782	1,500	1,782	1,500		
65095 Auto Expense	5,250	6,000	5,250	6,000		
Total for 65000 Operations	33,797	36,512	33,797	36,512	-	-
<u>Other Types of Expenses</u>						
65160 Other Costs	3,142	1,180	2,962	1,000	180	180
Total for 65100 Other Types of Expenses	3,142	1,180	2,962	1,000	180	180
<u>Insurance - Liability, D and O</u>	20,328	20,966	5,961	6,636	14,367	14,330
<u>Salaries & Benefits</u>						
66100 Salaries Expense	585,489	822,500	585,489	822,500		
Total for 66100 Salaries Expense	585,489	822,500	585,489	822,500	-	-
66200 Benefits	-	27,600	-	27,600		
66210 Insurance Expense - Health	72,793	90,000	72,793	90,000		
66220 Insurance Exp. - Dental/Vision	35	-	35	-		
66230 Retirement Expense	7,753	25,000	7,753	25,000		

	Total		General Fund		LandBank	
	2025	Approved 2026 Budget	2025	Approved 2026 Budget	2025	Approved 2026 Budget
66235 Membership Dues	6,723	5,000	6,723	5,000		
66240 FICA/Medicare Expense	42,741	47,448	42,741	47,448		
66260 Worker's Comp Expense	2,245	2,250	2,245	2,250		
Total for 66200 Benefits	132,290	197,298	132,290	197,298	-	-
Total for 66000 Salaries & Benefits	717,779	1,019,798	717,779	1,019,798	-	-
<u>Program Expenses</u>						
Public Grant Program Expenses	4,634	498,003		466,503	4,634	31,500
Private Grant Program Expenses		64,844		64,844		
67240 Land Acquisition	-	-				
67261 M&R - Lawn Maintenance	71,545	75,000			71,545	75,000
Total for 67200 Program Expenses	76,179	637,847	-	531,347	76,179	106,500
<u>Travel, Meetings & Events</u>						
68310 Conference, Convention, Meeting	5,908	10,000	5,908	10,000		
68320 Travel	223	10,000	223	10,000		
68330 Hotels and Lodging	408	10,000	408	10,000		
68340 Meals and Entertainment	608	1,500	608	1,500		
Total for 68300 Travel, Meetings & Events	7,147	31,500	7,147	31,500	-	-
Total for Expenses	1,286,289	2,157,082	1,170,050	1,966,072	116,239	191,010
2026 Net Income	193,571	36,385	98,644	10,895	94,927	25,490