



XVI. Departmental Goals

Fire Department

The Town of Bluefield Virginia Fire Department is made up of a full time Fire Chief and 21 volunteers that offer fire protection service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, not only for Bluefield, Virginia, but 50.8 square miles in the surrounding area.

Qualifications and Certifications:

- National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- L.P. Gas Emergencies
- AED (Automated External Defibrillator)
- Certified Instructor in Hazardous Materials.

The Town of Bluefield, Virginia is aggressive with the pursuit of various grant programs to assist in the purchasing, replacing, and updating of equipment. The fire department is a first responder to the Pocahontas State Correctional Facility.



XVI. Departmental Goals

Water Treatment Department

The Town of Bluefield Virginia Water Treatment Plant is operated by 4 full-time and 3 part-time employees. The water treatment plant is manned 24 hours per day Monday– Friday and 16 hours per day on Saturday and Sunday.

Future projects and Goals

.Installation of a backup power generator capable of running the water treatment plant at full capacity during a power outage or storm.

.Upgrade of the water treatment plant to 1.909 MGD, and pursue possible options to increase capacity to 3.0 MGD.

.Pursue option for additional storage capacity for the water system. Engineering is underway for the Water Capital Improvement Plan for a 1.0 MG tank in the west end of town.

.The Town is currently working to add the 3 new walls to its water treatment capacity. The Town will continue to consider options to add new water sources as needed to increase the water treatment plant capacity for future growth.

.Evaluate the billing system to increase accountability and implement a meter reading program that utilizes touch or radio reader meters.

Water Line Improvements:

- . Ridgeway Drive water line replacement 3/4 inch line to 6 inch line.
- . Lynn Street water line replacement 3/4 inch line to 6 inch line.
- . (These replacements will complete Pine Hill Park to have entirely 6 inch lines)
- . Continue to replace all 3/4 inch line in West Graham with 6 inch line.



XVI. Departmental Goals

Public Works Department

The Public Works Department consist of 30 employees, including supervisors that makes up the largest department in the Town. The Public Works Department consists of a concrete crew, street crew, and two water crews. The Sanitation and Recycling Supervisor oversees all residential and commercial trash pickups and Tazewell County's only recycling program for cardboard and newspaper and plastic. During the summer months, the department expands its workforce to include several part-time employees.

Paving Goals:

The Town of Bluefield utilizes the Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing grant to pave streets as needed. The grant is a competitive grant that is applied for in conjunction with Town the of Tazewell, Town of Richlands, and Tazewell County. The Town annually inspects all streets and prioritizes the streets to be paved. The Town goals are to utilize grants to reduce the time lapse between paving to a 5 year paving scheduling, allowing all Town streets to be resurfaced every 10 years.

Equipment Goals

The Town has historically purchased equipment once cost maintenance has exceeded the calculated replacement cost or no longer functional. Future plans are being developed to initiate a system to determine the economic worth of aged equipment to better justify needs verses value for budgeting major expenditures.

Building Goals

Upgrade existing facilities.



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Police Department

- . Reduce the number of high speed accidents dramatically each year. This will be achieved by “Saturation Patrols and road checks” throughout the town.
- . Add additional cameras throughout the town to better monitor situations 24 hours a day/7days a week.
- . Add additional radar and camera units to all police vehicles for the protection of the citizens, as well as the officers.
- . Pursue grant opportunities through organizations such as the Bluefield Foundation to purchase emergency response equipment, body armor, and other pertinent law enforcement equipment.
- . Encourage physical fitness throughout the department and continue with programs such as the law fit challenge.



XVI. Departmental Goals

Treasurer's Office

The Treasurer's office is located in the downtown section of Bluefield, Virginia and is also the location of the water billing. The building has been remodeled to accommodate personnel and files. The offices are currently in need of storage space.

- . New software will be purchased for miscellaneous revenues such as water and tax billing.
- . Implement a better record keeping system between Building & Zoning office for permits. Establish late fee schedule for Erosions & Sediment Control, Zoning, and Building Permits.



XVII. Town Goals

Natural Environment and Open Space

To identify and preserve all the natural resources that characterize the Town of Bluefield, and to provide access to its scenic character for community enjoyment by providing an open space network that retains the beauty of the natural environment, and the unique feel and character of the town. Provide recreational opportunities through the Town's existing parks available through out the Town. Provide a secure place for Town residents and children to enjoy the scenic qualities of the Town.

Historical Perspective

To conserve and enhance Bluefield's unique identity and its small town character, by protecting significant historic structures, landmarks, and properties. Continue to conserve and promote educational activities relating to the Town history and culture.

Community Appearance and Urban Design

To guide all development in a logical manner, that is suitable and fitting to the town, while providing a livable community through design that enhances Bluefield's unique character. Maintain the rural character of Bluefield while expanding the economic opportunities of the town.

Housing and Neighborhoods

To promote the organization and enhancement of neighborhoods and to provide the opportunity for comfortable and well maintained housing for all citizens. Continue to enforce and revise Town Zoning Districts to allow more diversity in the housing market in Bluefield, Virginia. Provide the populace with a variety of housing opportunities.



Town Goals

Public Transportation

To provide an integrated transportation system that is safe and aesthetically pleasing, serving an extensive area, and diverse population, including the physically challenged. Currently the system intersects with Bluefield Area Transit & 4 County Transit making transportation available to a majority of Southwestern Virginia and Southern West Virginia. The transit department looks to cooperate with other area transit systems to better serve the region.

Utility Services

To continually update and provide all properties within the town's service area adequate and reliable utility services that meet demands in a customer service oriented matter, and achieve these services through safe, environmentally sensitive, and cost efficient methods, by partnering with state and local governments, utility franchises, and other public service entities.

Town Facilities

Provide town facilities and human services that are progressive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the community, under all circumstances.



XVII. Town Goals

Public Safety

The Town strives to promote a safe community by providing the highest quality of public safety services with first class equipment and well trained personnel who are prepared for a wide variety of emergencies, and who serve the community in a personal and effective matter. Over the next several years the Town will be encouraging all emergency service personnel to communicate with surrounding areas to utilize all resources for the community at large and working on mutual aid agreements to legally share their resources.

Economic Development

To increase quality employment opportunities, the town's tax base, the diversity of businesses, and the quality of business districts, while ensuring the sustainability of the economy and improving the general quality of life. Ensure potential businesses are aware of vacant locations in town, as well as promoting opportunities to them. Market the character of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia to potential business, while protecting the current industries. Continue to promote economic development throughout town and assist local property owners in marketing this area nationally. Also, work in conjunction with the Economic Development Committee and the Town of Bluefield Industrial Development Authority to enhance the level of communication with prospective businesses to locate to the area.