

**ORDINANCE #04-2026**  
**BOROUGH OF STRATFORD COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY**  
**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION**  
**LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**  
**(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford in the County of Camden finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2026 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Borough Council hereby determine that a 1.5 % increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$89,393.13 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

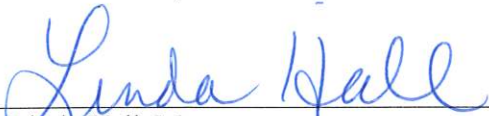
**WHEREAS** the Mayor and Borough Council hereby determine that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

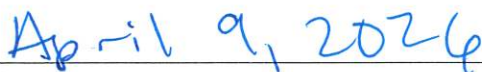
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Stratford, in the County of Camden, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2026 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Stratford shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$ 208,583.98, and that the CY 2026 municipal budget for the Borough of Stratford be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Hall, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Hack, RMC

Record of Council Vote on Introduction	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Gilligan	✓			
Councilman Bove	✓			
Councilwoman Farrell	✓			
Councilman Gandy	✓			
Councilwoman Martin	✓			
Councilman Tolomeo	✓			

Record of Council Vote on Introduction	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Gilligan				
Councilman Bove				
Councilwoman Farrell				
Councilman Gandy				
Councilwoman Martin				
Councilman Tolomeo				

**CERTIFICATION**

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at the Regular Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026 at 6:30 PM. It shall be further considered for final passage after public hearing thereon, at the meeting of the Governing Body to be held in the Public Safety Building, in the Borough of Stratford on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

MICHELLE HACK, RMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE**

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at the Regular Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026. It will be further considered for final passage after public hearing thereon, at the meeting of the Governing Body to be held in the Public Safety Building, in the Borough of Stratford on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Copies of the ordinance will be made available during the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting at the Clerk's Office in the Borough Hall to the members of the general public who shall request the same.

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

This ordinance authorizes the Borough of Stratford to increase its CY 2026 municipal budget appropriations by up to 3.5%, as permitted under the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.1 et seq. The governing body has determined that an increase above the standard 2% cap is necessary to support essential municipal services and protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents.

The ordinance also permits the Borough to "bank" any unused portion of the 3.5% cap increase for use in either of the next two budget years, consistent with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a. A certified copy of the ordinance must be filed with the Division of Local Government Services upon introduction and adoption.



Michelle Hack, RMC  
Borough Clerk