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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

April 25, 2006

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 26

DATED: April 20, 2006

Rule 424(b)(3)

File No. 333-121744

(To Prospectus dated February 2, 2005,

and Prospectus Supplement dated February 2, 2005)

\$12,410,781,162
THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.
Medium-Term Notes, Series B

Principal Amount: \$250,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

Original Issue Date: 04/25/2006 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

Maturity Date: 04/25/2007 CUSIP#: 073928Q55

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s)

N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A

Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes:

Interest Rate:

Interest Payment Dates:

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:

Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: N/A

[] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: N/A

[] Federal Funds Effective Rate

[] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Daily

[] LIBOR Telerate

[x] Prime Rate +

[] CMT Rate

Index Maturity: N/A

Spread (plus or minus): -2.93%

+ Prime Rate as reported on Telerate Page 5 under the heading "Bank

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Rates/Prime."

* On July 25, 2006 and on the 25th of October, January, April and July thereafter, up to and including the maturity date.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.