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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

September 15, 2003

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 26 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: September 10, 2003 File No. 333-104455 (To Prospectus dated April 24, 2003, and Prospectus Supplement dated April 24, 2003) \$10,227,293,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B Principal Amount: \$65,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 9/15/2003 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes [] Maturity Date: 9/15/2005 CUSIP#: 073928B77 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Optional Optional Optional Optional
Repayment Repayment
Date(s) Price(s) Redemption Price(s) Redeemable On Price(s) 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 [] Federal Funds Open Rate Interest Reset Date(s): * Interest Reset Period: Quarterly [] Treasury Rate [] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): ** [x] LIBOR Telerate [] Prime Rate [] CMT Rate Initial Interest Rate: 1.24% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly Index Maturity: Three Months

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Spread (plus or minus): +0.10%

- * On the 15th of each December, March, June and September prior to Maturity.
- ** On the 15th of each December, March, June and September, including the maturity date.

At May 31, 2003:

- o the Company had outstanding (on an unconsolidated basis) approximately \$39.8 billion of debt and other obligations, including approximately \$36.7 billion of unsecured senior debt and \$2.5 billion of unsecured inter-company debt; and
- o subsidiaries of the Company had outstanding (after elimination of inter-company items) approximately \$163.9 billion of debt and other obligations (including \$45.5 billion related to securities sold under repurchase agreements, \$60.7 billion related to payables to customers, \$29.2 billion related to financial instruments sold, but not yet purchased, and \$28.5 billion of other liabilities, including \$15.9 billion of debt).

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