



TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2025/26

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION #1

March 27, 2025





UPCOMING BUDGET MEETING DATES

Date	Topics include:	Time
March 31, Monday	General Gov't. Public Safety, Health & Welfare, Culture & Recreation, Town-wide	6:00pm
April 3, Thursday	Public Works, Enterprise Funds, Other Funds, Capital	6:00pm
April 7, Monday	Board of Education, Shared Service Departments*	6:00pm
April 14, Monday	Public Hearing – Submit for Regular Meeting	7:00pm
April 21, Monday	Discussion of Flagged Items*	6:00pm
April 24, Thursday	Budget Discussion and Adoption of Budget	6:00pm
April 28, Monday	Adoption of Budget – if needed	6:00pm
May 13, Tuesday	Annual Town Meeting	7:00pm

* Meeting to be held remote via Zoom/Conference Room B



MUNICIPAL BUDGETING

- A public budget is a plan of expected revenues and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year (FY), which is a 12-month period
 - Mansfield and other municipalities in CT operate under a July 1-June 30 FY
- A budget is a policy document (arguably the most important one)
 - Weighs policy priorities against available public funding/resources
 - Overviews the ways and means of providing public programs and services
 - Establishes costs of programs
 - Indicates how revenues will be allocated
 - Articulates any pertinent spending limitations
 - Provides transparency and accountability
- A budget is comprised of an operating budget and capital budget



BUDGET/FISCAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Maintain or enhance the quality of current programs and services
- Wisely use/leverage state aid funding (anticipated modest YOY increase)
- Maintain pay-as-you-go capital plan
- Preserve/sustain the General Fund's presently healthy fund balance
- Minimize any increase to – and potentially lower – resident property tax obligations
- Achieve efficiencies (cost savings, digital access/transactions, etc.)
- Promote transparency and accessibility of local government
- Continue to plan for needed upgrades to municipal facilities and infrastructure
- Advance the priorities, goals and objectives of *Mansfield Tomorrow*
- Promote sustained local economic growth



PROPOSED FY 2025/2026 BUDGET - SUMMARY



UPFRONT “BOTTOM LINE”

- The proposed FY 2025/26 budget represents a 3.8% overall increase in the General Fund operating budget
- The proposed budget funds several service improvements to further expand service quality and capacity
- Increases in non-tax revenues are projected in multiple areas
- Proposed budget includes a significant decrease to the Town’s mill rate, primarily driven by the 2024 revaluation



FY 2025/26 BUDGET "SNAPSHOT"

Budget	Amount
Town of Mansfield	\$30,470,850
Mansfield Public Schools	\$25,605,000
Region 19 Contribution	\$12,344,848
General Fund	\$68,420,698
Capital and Non-Recurring Fund	\$5,266,300
Capital Fund	\$8,710,000



FY 2025/26 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Provides funding to sustain service levels in all municipal operations, and **enhanced service in multiple areas**
 - Fire/EMS, Planning, Public Works, Library, Human Services, and Building & Housing
- Significant YOY increase in the Grand List due to growth and increased property values resulting from revaluation (46.94%)
- Assumes relatively stable state aid (modest overall increase) based on Governor's proposed biennial state budget for FY 2026 and FY 2027
- Projects a **decreased tax rate** of 10.42 mills (34.1%)
 - Mill rate of 30.52 would decrease to 20.10
- Meets contractual/non-discretionary obligations
- Continues pay-as-you-go capital plan (growing investment)
- Preserves a healthy/desired fund balance in the GF

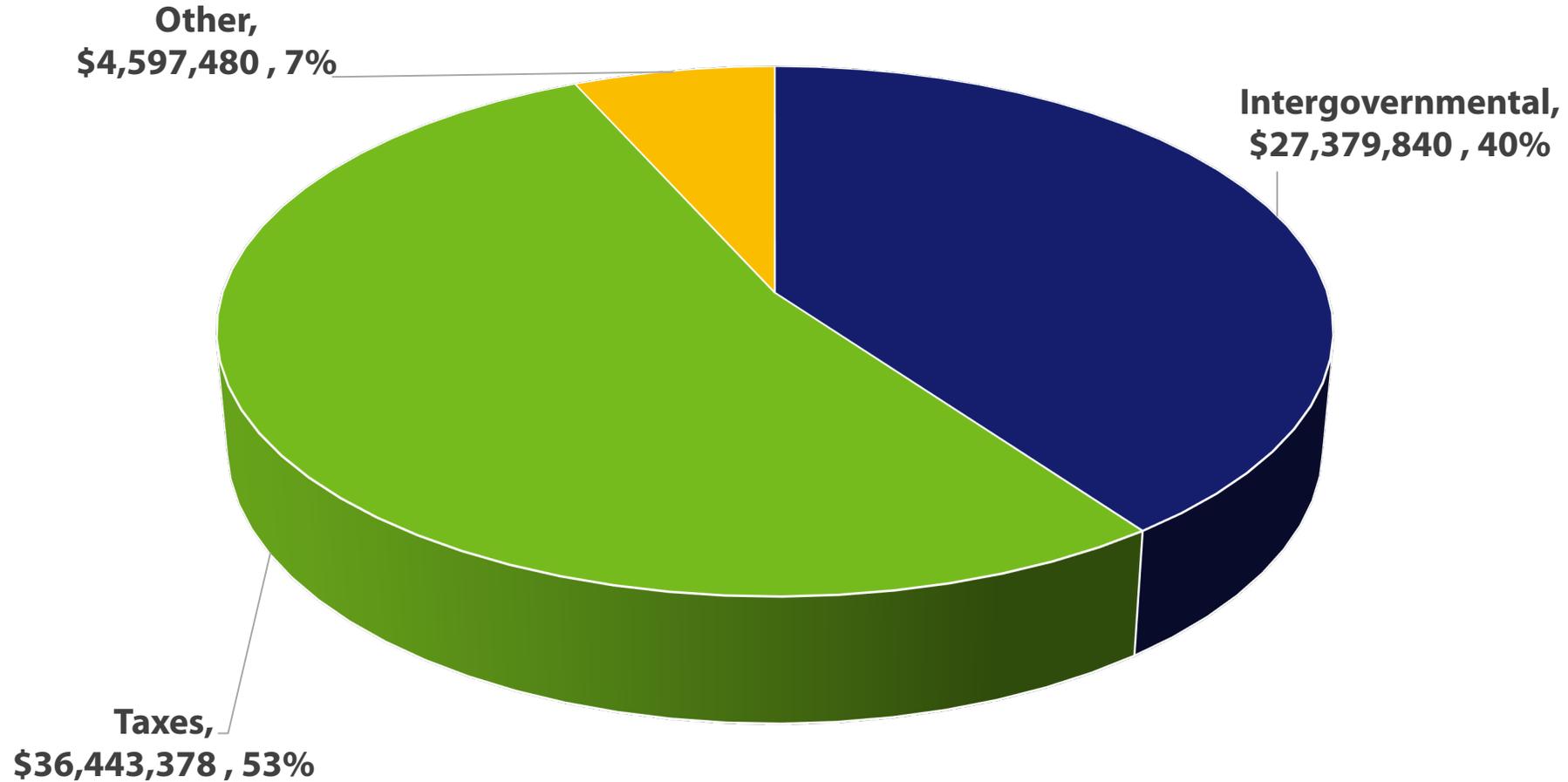


PROPOSED FY 2025/2026 BUDGET - REVENUES



GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Total \$68,420,698





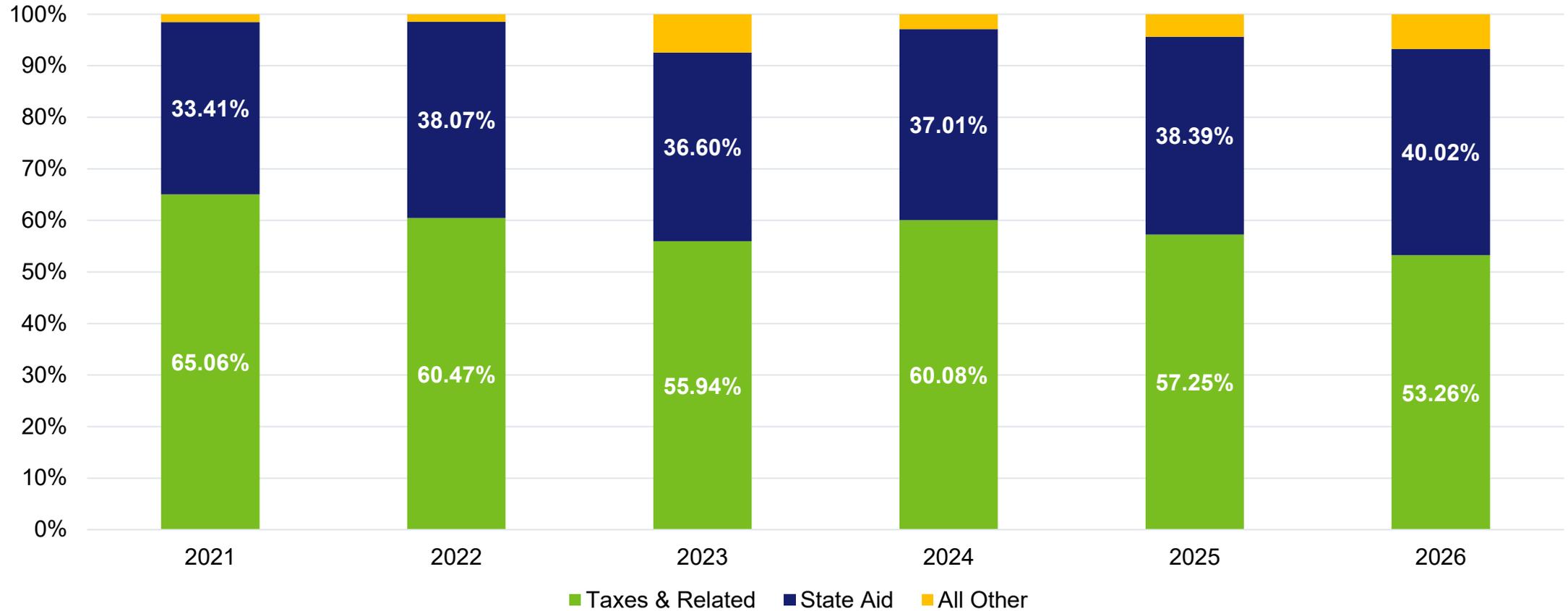
REVENUES

	FY 24/25 Adopted	FY 25/26 Proposed	Increase/Decrease	
			Amount	Percentage
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Taxes	\$ 37,418,167	\$ 36,443,378	\$ (974,789)	(2.6%)
Intergovernmental	25,093,400	27,379,840	2,286,440	9.1%
Other Revenues	2,847,515	4,332,480	1,484,965	52.1%
Appropriation of Fund Balance	550,000	265,000	(285,000)	(51.8%)
Total Revenues	\$ 65,909,082	\$ 68,420,698	\$ 2,511,616	3.8%



GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Five-Year Revenue Distribution Trend





REVENUES – PRELIMINARY GRAND LIST

	10/1/2023	10/1/2024	Change	% Change
Real Estate	\$ 985,941,754	\$ 1,543,256,550	\$ 557,314,796	56.53%
Pers. Property	\$ 112,251,797	\$ 132,257,340	\$ 20,005,543	17.82%
MV*	\$ 106,251,720	\$ 102,384,520	(\$ 3,867,200)	(3.64%)
Totals	\$1,204,445,271	\$1,777,898,410	\$573,453,139	47.61%

*The MV grand list has been updated from the original certified grand list to reflect the change in depreciation schedules adopted by the Council on March 14, 2025.

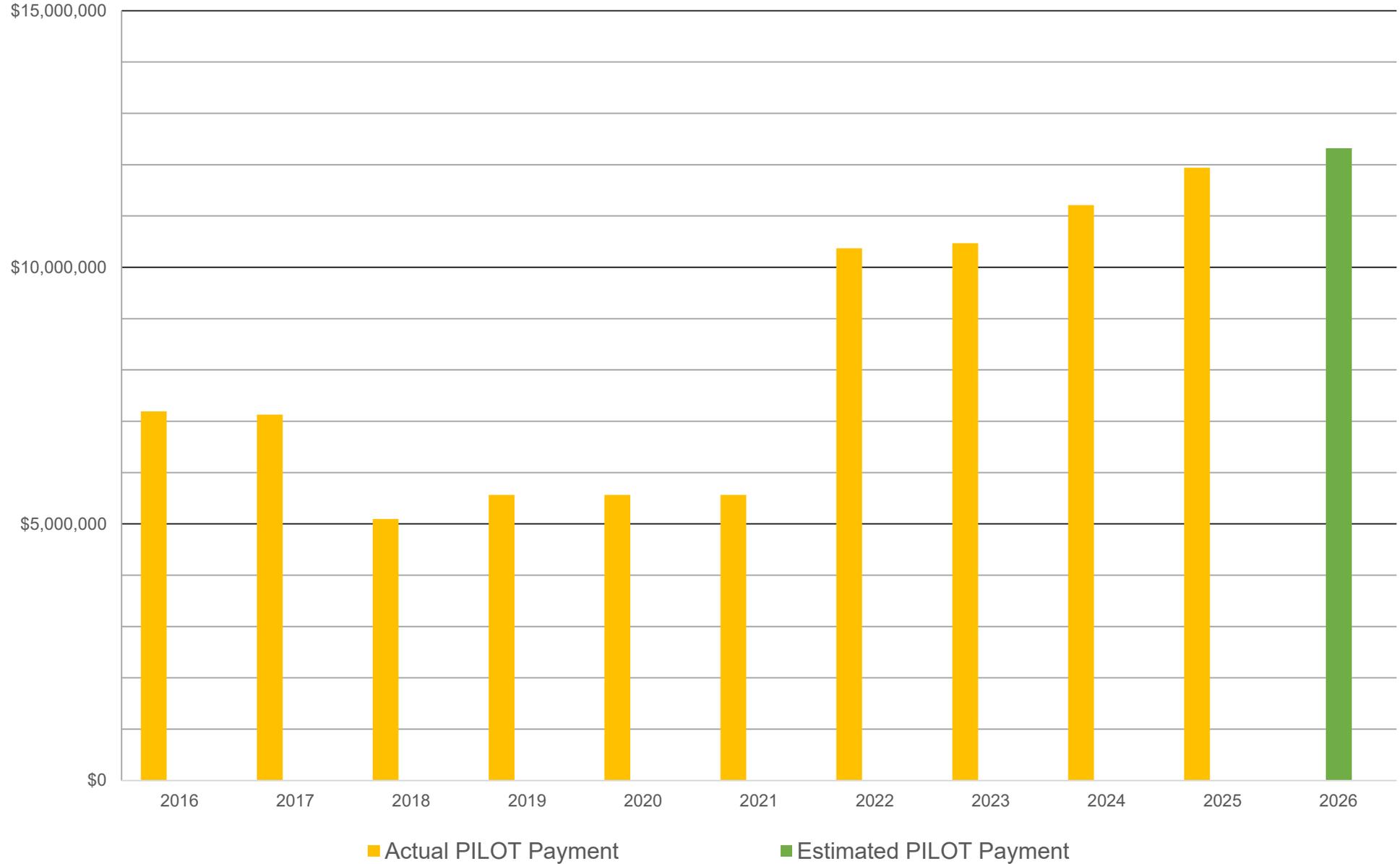


REVENUE OUTLOOK - INTERGOVERNMENTAL

- The Governor's proposed biennial state budget for FY2026 and FY2027 include noteworthy increases in Mansfield's allocation of state aid relative to what the Town budgeted in certain categories in FY2025.
 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) – \$12,319,342 (\$379K or 3.2% increase)
 - Supplemental Revenue Sharing – \$3,291,730
 - Pequot Grant – \$179,151
 - Town Aid Road – \$417,525
 - Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) – \$313,778
 - Municipal Grants-in-Aid – \$6,841
 - Education Cost Sharing (ECS) – \$11,693,596 (\$1.9M or 19% above FY25 budget)
 - **TOTAL → \$28,221,964 (\$2.3M or 8.8% above budgeted FY25 levels)**



Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) - State-Owned Property



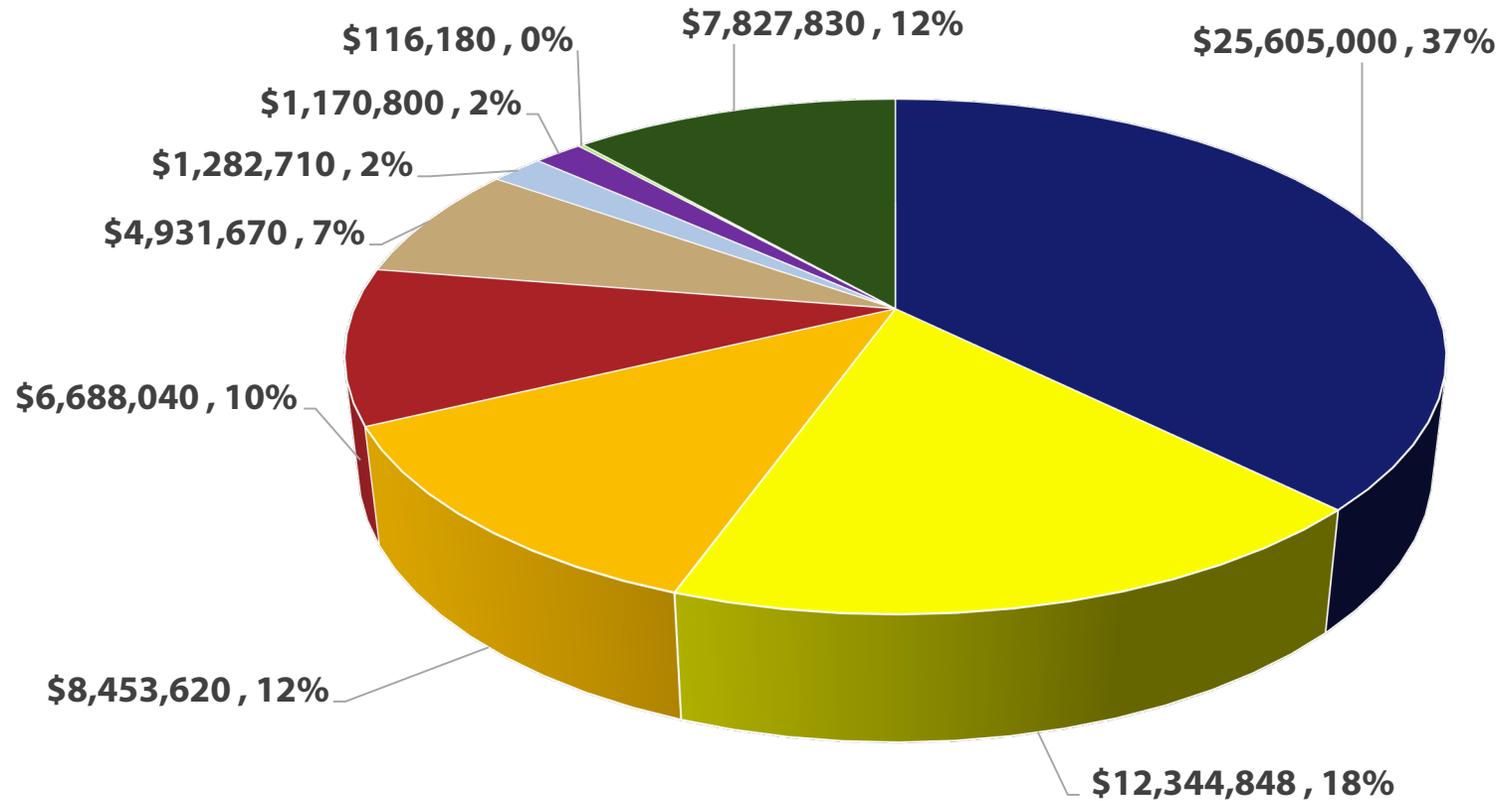


PROPOSED FY 2025/2026 BUDGET - EXPENDITURES



GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Total \$68,420,698



- Mansfield Schools
- Region 19
- General Gov't.
- Public Safety
- Public Works
- Health & Welfare
- Culture & Recreation
- Contingency
- Other Uses



AREAS OF INCREASED EXPENDITURE

- Contracted Salary & Benefits (Existing Personnel) \$ 509,691
- Service Improvements (Proposed Additional Personnel) \$ 438,270
- Debt Service \$ 100,000
- Energy Costs \$ 60,800
- Building Maintenance and Contracted Services \$ 68,410
- Shared Finance/IT Services \$ 34,030
- GF Transfer to Capital (Continue pay-as-you-go) \$ 50,000
- GF Transfer for Parks & Recreation \$ 57,020



EXPENDITURE BUDGET – WITH SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

General Fund	FY 2024/25	FY 2024/25	\$ Change	% Change
<i>Municipal Operating</i>	\$22,739,114	\$23,970,850	\$1,231,736	5.4%
<i>Capital Contribution</i>	\$4,550,000	\$4,600,000	\$50,000	1.1%
<i>Debt Contribution</i>	\$1,800,000	\$1,900,000	\$100,000	5.6%
Total General Gov.	\$29,089,114	\$30,470,850	\$1,381,736	4.8%
Mansfield Public Schools	\$24,801,880	\$25,605,000	\$803,120	3.2%
Region 19	\$12,018,088	\$12,344,848	\$326,760	2.7%
General Fund Total	\$65,909,082	\$68,420,698	\$2,511,616	3.8%



BUDGET DRIVERS - SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

- **Fire/EMS:** Two (2) additional FT Firefighter/EMTs (\$232,770) to be hired July 1, 2025
- **Building:** Upgrade one (1) Housing Inspector position from PT to FT (\$20,740)
 - Increase needed based on expected development throughout Town
- **Public Works:** One (1) FT Laborer in the Grounds Division to be hired March 1, 2026 (\$22,515) for additional trail maintenance
- **Planning:** One (1) FT Community Planner to be hired January 1, 2026 (\$64,800)
- **Human Services:** One (1) FT Prevention Worker to be hired September 1, 2025 (\$63,200) and one (1) PT Food Service Assistant effective January 1, 2026 (\$10,325)
 - Food Service Assistant has been previously funded through ARPA
- **Library:** One (1) PT Library Assistant (\$23,920) to be hired July 1, 2025

TOTAL COST OF PROPOSED SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS → \$438,270



EXPENDITURE BUDGET – WITHOUT SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

General Fund	FY 2024/25	FY 2024/25	\$ Change	% Change
<i>Municipal Operating</i>	\$22,739,114	\$23,970,850 \$23,532,580	\$1,231,736 \$793,466	5.4% 3.5%
<i>Capital Contribution</i>	\$4,550,000	\$4,600,000	\$50,000	1.1%
<i>Debt Contribution</i>	\$1,800,000	\$1,900,000	\$100,000	5.6%
Total General Gov.	\$29,089,114	\$30,470,850 \$30,032,580	\$1,381,736 \$943,466	4.8% 3.2%
MPS	\$24,801,880	\$25,605,000	\$803,120	3.2%
Region 19	\$12,018,088	\$12,344,848	\$326,760	2.7%
General Fund Total	\$65,909,082	\$68,420,698 \$67,982,428	\$2,511,616 \$2,073,346	3.8% 3.1%

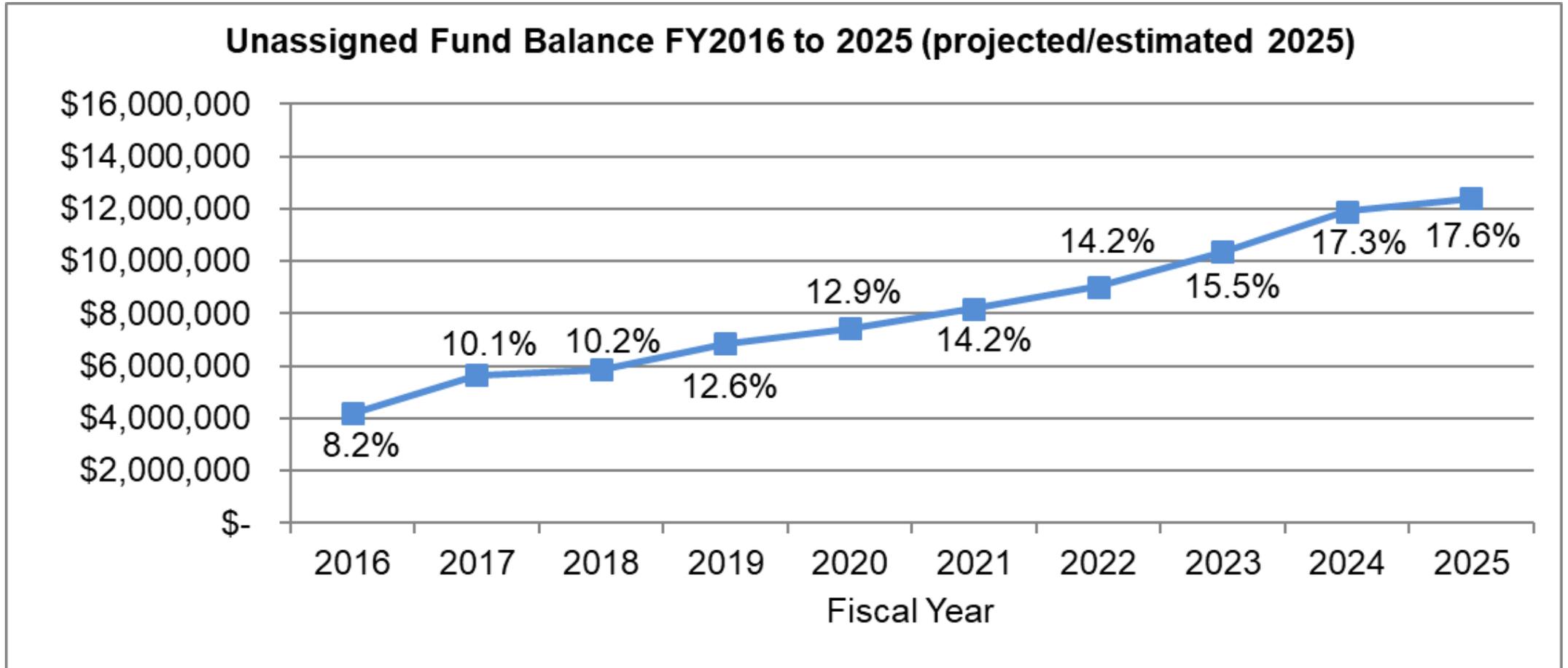


MBOE EXPENDITURE TRENDS

- **Net Change in Mansfield Public Schools Budget - \$803,120 or 3.2%**
 - Salary \$395,020
 - ❖ Staffing shifts resulting in net increase of 0.25 FTE certified staff
 - ❖ Contractual increase
 - Benefits \$119,320
 - ❖ Increase in MERS of 10.3%
 - Operating Expenses \$288,780
 - ❖ Outplacement tuition increase \$164,000
 - ❖ Transportation increase \$167,590
 - ❖ Energy increase \$41,000



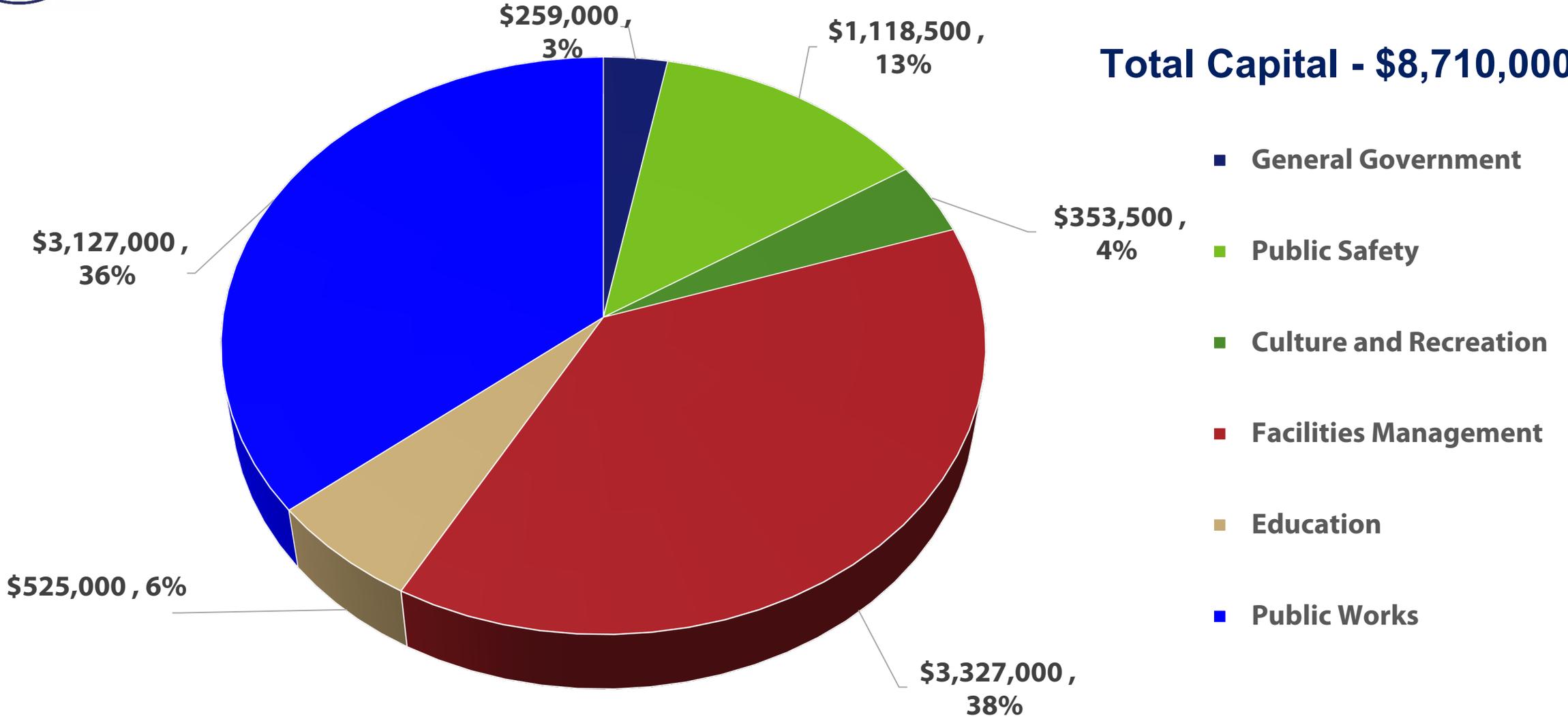
GENERAL FUND - FUND BALANCE (Policy Target = 17%)





INVESTMENTS IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Total Capital - \$8,710,000





CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND SOURCES

Sources of Funding	Amount	% of Total
Capital Nonrecurring Fund	\$5,266,300	36.5%
<i>General Fund Contribution</i>	<i>\$4,600,000</i>	
<i>Ambulance User Fees</i>	<i>\$487,149</i>	
<i>Pequot/Mohegan Grant</i>	<i>\$179,151</i>	
<i>Use of CNR Fund Balance*</i>	<i>\$-</i>	
Grants (LoCIP & Town Aid Road)	\$413,700	2.9%
Management Services Fund	\$40,000	0.3%
Capital Lease (ambulance)	\$490,000	3.4%
General Obligation Bond (Anticipated)	\$2,500,000	56.9%
Total Revenues	\$8,710,000	

* Estimated remaining CNR fund balance (after proposed use in FY2025/26 = \$823,679)



CAPITAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Department/Functional Area	Amount	% of Total
Public Works	\$3,127,000	36%
Facilities Management (Town & Schools)	\$3,327,000	38%
General Government (Including IT)	\$259,000	3%
Public Safety	\$1,118,500	13%
Culture & Recreation	\$353,500	4%
Education Technology	\$525,000	6%
Total Expenditures	\$8,710,000	



BUDGET DRIVERS – GF TRANSFER TO PARKS & REC.

- COVID-19 precipitated changes in general public fitness and leisure habits that contributed to the Parks & Recreation Fund experiencing some prominent budget shortfalls in recent years.
- The aim is to realize annual surpluses by implementing new strategies and actions contained in the MP&R Master Plan and Financial Sustainability Strategy.
- The Town Council has expressed support for increasing the General Fund (GF) annual subsidy to the Parks & Recreation Fund to promote accessibility.
- Increased financial support from the GF (7.49% or \$57,020) in FY 2024/25 aligns with recommendations contained in the MP&R Master Plan and Financial Sustainability Strategy.





BUDGET DRIVERS – DEBT SERVICE

- The Town's General Fund debt service obligations increased substantially (~\$600K) starting in FY 2022/2023 as we began to pay on the debt issued for the new MES and MMS roof/PV project (~\$15 million bonded; 20-yr payback)
- The budget reflects an increase of \$100,000 in debt service obligation.
- Had the Town not previously transferred additional funds to debt service using FY2023 surplus, the required FY 2025/26 debt service would be \$2,350,000 or \$450,000 above what is included in the Town Manager's proposed budget.





BUDGET DRIVERS – DEBT SERVICE (CONT'D)

- The proposed budget includes the issuance of a general obligation bond for **\$2,500,000 to replace the existing undersized/outdated animal control/shelter facility** (would require Nov. 2025 bond referendum).
 - Due to recent state regulatory changes, a new shelter must be operational by **January 1, 2029**.
- Need to plan for additional bonding in the future (i.e., FY2026/27) pending the outcome of municipal facilities planning relative to the **Senior Center and Municipal Services Campus** (Town Hall and Community Center).





PROJECTED FY 2025/26 MILL RATE - BREAKDOWN



IMPACT ON TAXPAYER – SUMMARY

SAMPLE TAX IMPACT – MEDIAN HOME¹

	Value	Taxes
10/1/23 ¹ Median Home Value	\$155,700	
FY2025 Taxes	30.52 mills	\$4,752
10/1/24 ² Median Home Value	\$251,800	
Proposed Taxes	20.10 mills	\$5,062
Annual Increase		\$310
Monthly Increase		\$26

	MILL RATE
FY 2025 Adopted	30.52 mills
FY 2026 Proposed	20.10 mills
Difference (Decrease) vs. FY 2025	(10.42 mill)
Percent Change (Decrease)	(34.1%)

¹Median home price, 100% FMV value is \$222,429. \$155,700 reflects 70% or the assessed value.

²Median home price, 100% FMV value is \$359,714. \$251,800 reflects 70% or the assessed value.



WHERE DO YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?

	Amount	%
Education	\$2,808	55.5%
General Government (Incl. employee benefits)	\$ 634	12.5%
Other Financing Uses (includes capital)	\$ 579	11.4%
Public Safety	\$ 495	9.8%
Public Works	\$ 365	7.2%
Health & Welfare and Culture & Recreation	\$ 181	3.6%
Total	\$5,062	



FY 2025/26 BUDGET SUMMARY (RECAP)

- Provides funding to sustain service levels in all municipal operations, and **enhanced service in multiple areas**
 - Fire/EMS, Planning, Public Works, Library, Human Services, and Building & Housing
- Significant YOY increase in the Grand List due to growth and increased property values resulting from revaluation (46.94%)
- Assumes relatively stable state aid (modest overall increase) based on Governor's proposed biennial state budget for FY 2026 and FY 2027
- Projects a **decreased tax rate** of 10.42 mills (34.1%)
 - Mill rate of 30.52 would decrease to 20.10
- Meets contractual/non-discretionary obligations
- Continues pay-as-you-go capital plan (growing investment)
- Preserves a healthy/desired fund balance in the GF