

**CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK**  
**WORK SESSION AGENDA**  
**Monday, February 9, 2026**  
**7:00 p.m.**

This shall serve as notice that a work session of the City Council will be held on **Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Council Chambers, 245 Washington Street, Watertown, New York.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan and 2026 Action Plan

Presenters:

- Michael Lumbis, Planning and Community Development Director
- Geoffrey Urda, Senior Planner

2. 2026 Budget Kick Off

Presenters:

- Eric Wagenaar, City Manager
- Jim Mills, Comptroller
- Geoffrey Urda, Senior Planner
- Erica LeClerc, Human Resources Manager
- Kim Johnston, City Assessor

3. City Manager's Update

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

To discuss the employment history of a particular individual.



# City of Watertown NEW YORK



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

2026-2030 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND 2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN  
OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION 2-9-2026



## PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Overview of Program

Eligible and Ineligible Activities

Previous Projects

2026 Schedule

Community Needs

Consolidated Plan Goals

2026 Annual Action Plan





# Community Development Block Grant Program

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program supports community development activities to build stronger and more resilient communities.

Activities may address needs such as infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, public services, demolition, homeowner assistance, etc.

The CDBG Entitlement Program provides grants to develop viable urban communities for low- and moderate-income persons.

Past allocations:

2021: \$943,790

2022: \$905,080

2023: \$913,462

2024: \$882,736

2025: \$860,088





# CDBG Program Requirements

5-Year Consolidated  
Plan

Annual Action Plan

Consolidated Annual  
Performance and  
Evaluation Report  
(CAPER)

Administer the  
Program According to  
Federal Regulations

Spend the Money in a  
Timely Manner





# CDBG National Objectives

- **All CDBG Funds must:**
  - Benefit low and moderate income (LMI) persons, or
  - Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or
  - Meet a need having a particular urgency.





## CDBG Eligible Activities

- Public Facilities and Improvements:
  - Infrastructure improvements, including, but not limited to streets, curbs, sidewalks, water and sewer lines.
  - Neighborhood facilities, including, but not limited to recreational facilities, parks and playgrounds.
  - Facilities for Persons with Special Needs such as homeless or domestic violence shelters, nursing homes, or group homes for the disabled.





## CDBG Eligible Activities

- Housing:
  - Homeownership Assistance
  - Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation
  - Rental Rehabilitation
  - Housing Services (i.e., Counseling, Energy Audits)





# CDBG Eligible Activities

- Other Real Property Activities:
  - Acquisition
  - Demolition
  - Tax Foreclosed Housing
  - Historic Preservation
  - Renovation of Closed Buildings
  - Handicapped Accessibility
  - Energy Efficiency





# CDBG Eligible Activities

- **\*Public Services, including but not limited to:**
  - Job Training and Employment Services
  - Health Services
  - Substance Abuse Services
  - Child Care
  - Fair Housing Education
  - Education Programs
  - Services for Senior Citizens or Homeless Persons

(\*Limited to 15% of annual grant)





# CDBG Eligible Activities

- Planning and Administration\*
  - Planning
    - Comprehensive Plans
    - Community Development Plans
    - Other Plans and Studies (Small area and neighborhood plans)
  - Administration
    - General Management, Oversight and Coordination of CDBG program activities
    - Fair Housing Activities

(\*Limited to 20% of the annual grant amount)





# CDBG - INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

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Any Activity not Specifically Authorized by the Regulations

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Buildings for the General Conduct of Government

---

General Government Expenses

---

Financing for Political Activities

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Purchase of Equipment

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Purchase of Personal Property

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Operating and Maintenance Expenses

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New Housing Construction (Except Under Very Limited Circumstances)

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Income Payments

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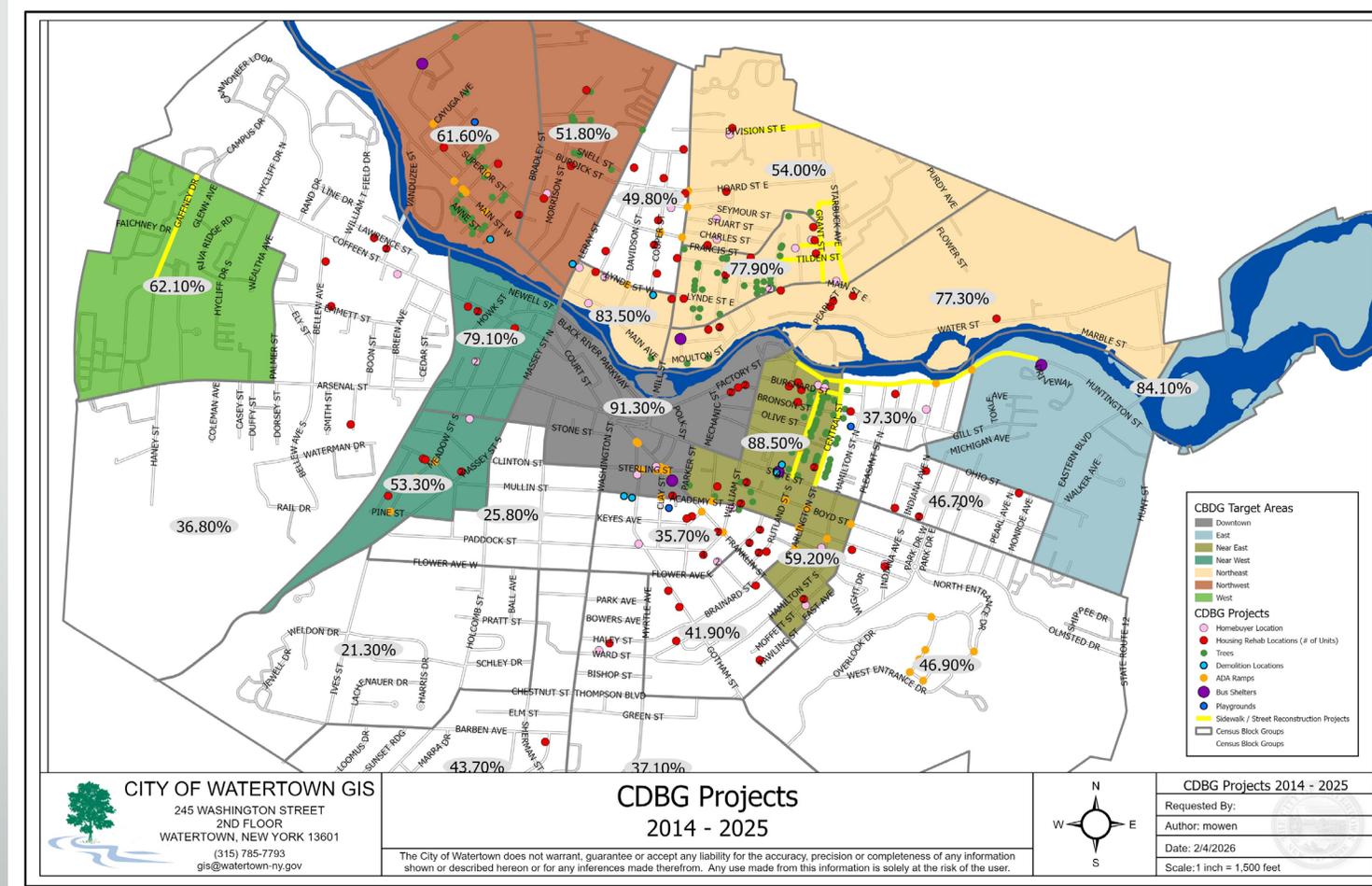
- Where can the City spend the funds?
  - Public facilities and improvements (infrastructure):
    - Limited to CDBG Target Areas (areas where at least 51% of the residents are considered low-to-moderate income)
  - Housing rehabilitation and homeownership assistance:
    - Can be spent anywhere in the City. Applicant must income qualify.
  - Public Services:
    - Beneficiaries must either be presumed to be low-to-moderate income (homeless) or income qualify as part of a program.







# PREVIOUS PROJECTS



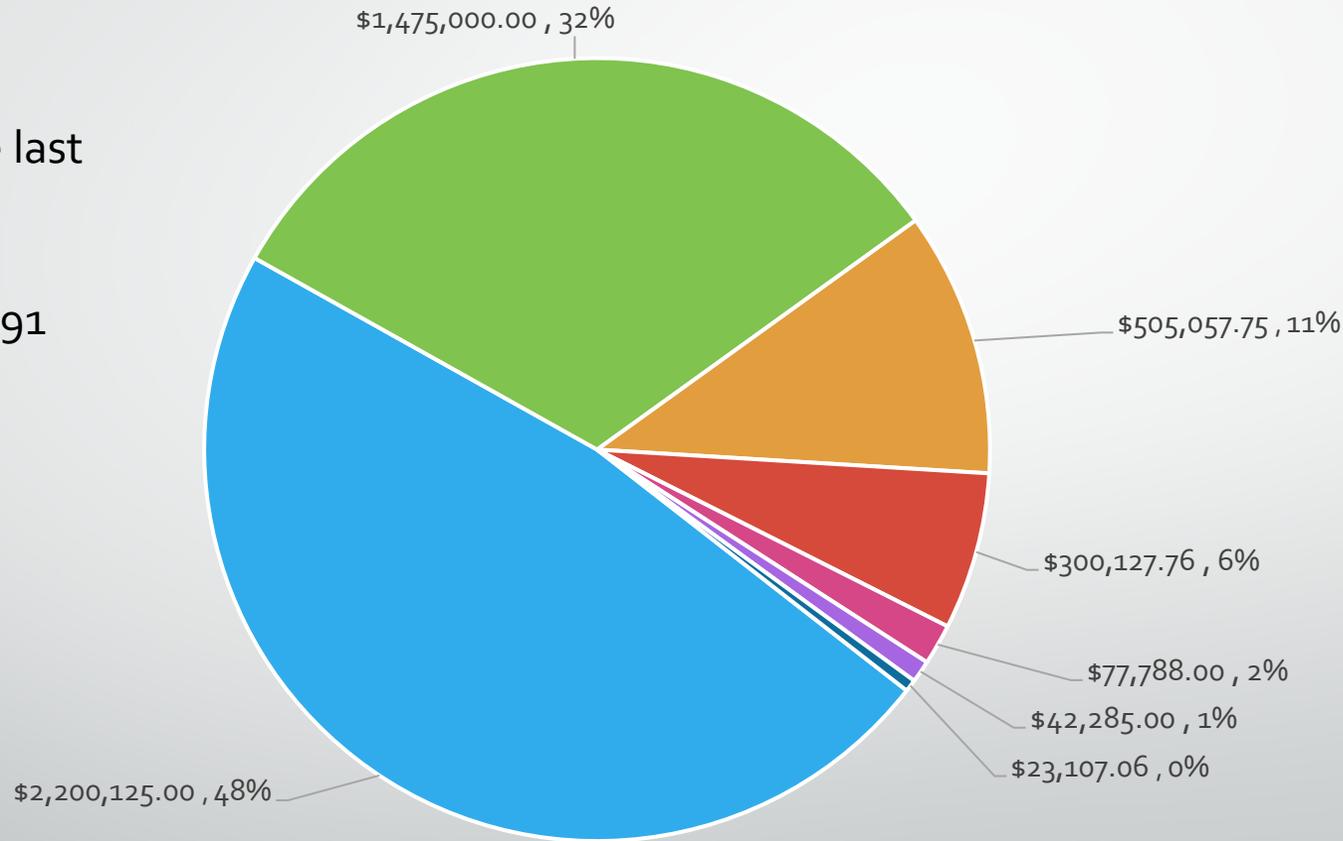


# PREVIOUS PROJECTS

How have we programmed funding for the last five years?

Total: \$4,623,491

CDBG 2021 - 2025



- Critical Infrastructure Projects 48%
- Housing Programs 32%
- Other Infrastructure Projects 11%
- Program Administration 6%
- Homeless Assistance 2%
- Public Services Support 1%
- Fair Housing <1%





- Owner Occupied Housing Rehab
- Rental Rehab
- Homebuyer



## PREVIOUS PROJECTS





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# PREVIOUS PROJECTS



All Roads Lead to Watertown





## Infrastructure Projects

- **Sidewalks**
  - Gaffney Drive (2015)
  - Huntington Street (2016-2020)
  - Rutland St. North (2020)
  - Tilden Street (2021)
  - Starbuck Ave. 600-700 Blocks (2021)
  - Grant Street (2021)
  - Division St. East 200 Block (2025-2026)
- **Street Reconstruction**
  - Grant, Seward, & Henry Street Reconstruction (2023-2024)
  - Burlington Street (2025)
- **Utilities**
  - Huntington St. Water Main Replacement (In design) (2026)





# PREVIOUS PROJECTS

## Public Infrastructure

- ADA Accessible Sidewalk Ramps
- Bus Shelters
- Demolitions





## 2026 OVERVIEW

- Submit a Consolidated Plan for 2026-2030 and an Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2026 that identifies specific projects no later than May 15.
- Submit a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) by September 28.
- Continue to implement projects and programs and close out grants from prior years.





## CDBG – CONSOLIDATED PLAN & ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SCHEDULE - 2026

- January 8: Advantage Watertown presentation.
- February 9: City Council work session presentation. ← We are here.
- February 9 to March 20: Community outreach and meetings with partner agencies and groups.
- February 24: Public meeting at Hilltop Apartments, 7:00 p.m.
- March 2: City Council public hearing.
- March 3 to March 20: Finalize the draft plan.
- March 21 to April 21: 30-day public comment period.
- May 4: Final plan approved by City Council.
- May 15: Submit approved plan to HUD.





# COMMUNITY NEEDS

- High Priority Needs
  - Public Infrastructure Improvements
  - Decent Affordable Housing
  - Homeownership Opportunities
  - Blight Elimination
- Lower Priority Needs
  - Support of Public Services
  - Fair Housing Education
  - Homeless Prevention
  - Quality of Life Improvements
  - Economic Development





## CDBG PROGRAM GOALS

- Neighborhood Stabilization and Revitalization – Improve neighborhoods through the construction of public infrastructure improvements and the elimination of blighting influences.
- Affordable Housing Rehabilitation – Rehabilitation of owner occupied and rental properties for LMI persons.
- Homeownership assistance – Provide home ownership assistance to LMI families to increase the number of owner-occupied households in the City.
- Environment and Quality of Life Enrichment – Improve environmental conditions by addressing environmental equity and environmental justice issues by making improvements such as parks, playgrounds, trails, rain gardens and other green infrastructure, eliminating CSOs and by tree planting in underserved areas.





## CDBG PROGRAM GOALS

- Fair Housing Education – Reduce barriers to fair housing by increasing knowledge in the community about fair housing rights.
- Homeless Assistance – Support the PNHC through support of the Point-In-Time count of the homeless and other long-term planning to address homelessness in the community.
- Public Services Support – Support agencies that are working to address social issues in the community.
- Economic Development – Support the efforts of the WLDC and JCED by partnering on various initiatives.
- Planning and Administration – Conduct planning studies as needed to develop neighborhood revitalization strategies and administer the CDBG program.





## PROPOSED ALLOCATION/PROJECTS - 2026

- Infrastructure Project (s)  
Sidewalks, streets, utilities -  
\$400,000
- Homebuyer Program -  
\$320,000
- Demolition Project - \$75,000
- WCSD Food 4 Families  
(Backpack Program) - \$8,500
- WUM Food Pantry - \$8,500
- Program Administration -  
\$50,000
- **Estimated Total: \$862,000**





- Discussion and Recommendations for 2026





# City of Watertown NEW YORK



## 2026 Budget Kick Off

FEBRUARY 9, 2026 WORK SESSION



What drives our budget?

*What is in our control, what is not?*

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What does it take to  
maintain effort from  
2025/2026

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Planning for 2026

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Property Taxes

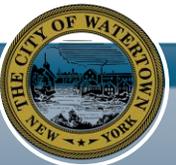
- ✓ *Community Overview*
- ✓ *Strategic Planning & Considerations*
- ✓ *Property Tax Trends & Planning*
- ✓ *Budget Outlook*
  - ✓ *Budget Drivers – External Factors*
  - ✓ *Budget Drivers – Internal Factors*





# Community Overview

## Section 1 of 5





## City Infrastructure

**100+ miles**  
of accepted City  
Streets

**2.3 Billion**  
gallons of water  
filtered annually

**561 Acres**  
public parks &  
playgrounds

**177 miles**  
of sanitary, combined  
and storm sewers

**3.9 Billion**  
gallons of wastewater  
processed yearly

**125+ miles**  
of water lines

**4,607**  
catch basins and  
**3,749**  
manholes

**8,872**  
tax parcels

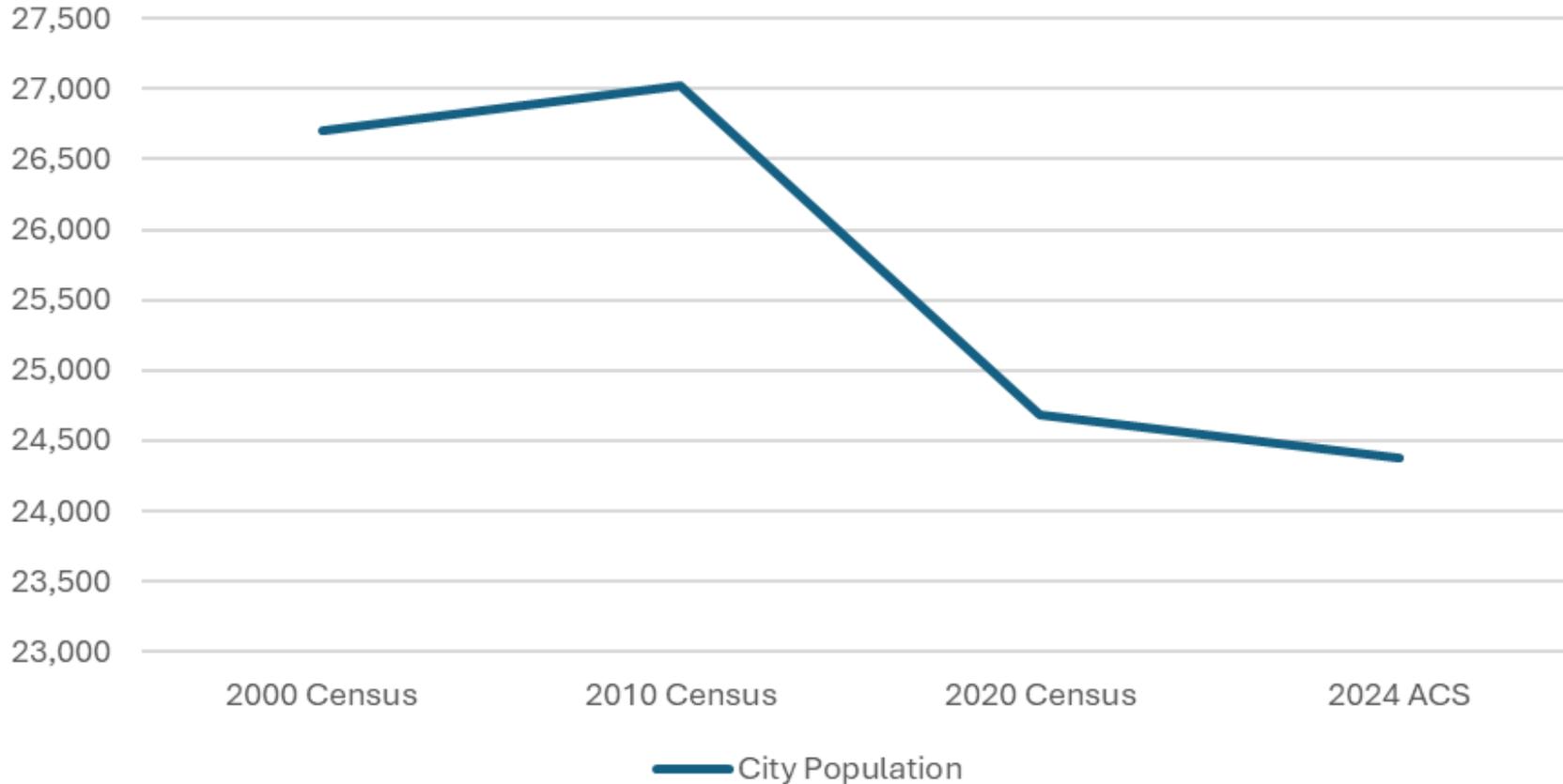
**875**  
fire hydrants and  
**2,000+**  
water valves





## Population Overview- 2000 to Present

City Population



### Jefferson County

2010:	116,229
2020:	116,721
2024 (est.):	115,040

### Fort Drum Military

2010:	19,447
2020:	14,998
2024:	13,480





## Population Overview- Unique Circumstances

**24,375**  
City Residents

**11,867**  
Households

**\$51,753**  
Median Household  
Income

-----  
Jefferson County  
Median: \$66,301

**20.1%**  
Poverty Rate

(6% higher than NYS)

**19.4%**  
Disability Rate

(7% higher than NYS)

Housing Tenure:  
40.9% Own  
59.1% Rent

(NYS: 54.3% Own / 45.7% Rent)

44.0% of housing units  
built before 1939

(14% higher than NYS)

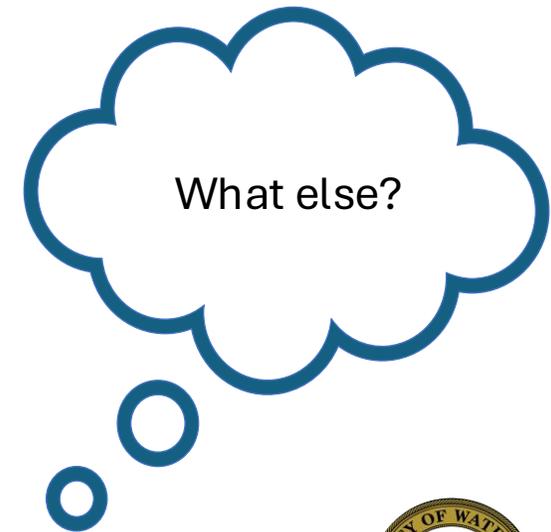
Data Source: 2020–2024 Five-Year American Community Survey (ACS) Estimates





## Community Needs based on Existing Conditions

- **Housing**
  - Aging and deteriorating inventory
  - Rental/mortgage cost burden to income level
  - Shelter options for unhoused persons
- **Critical Infrastructure**
  - Aging Water and Sewer (overwhelming need to repair and replace)
  - Electric, roads, other (constant maintenance required)
  - City Facilities
- **Public Transportation**
- **Access to Groceries**
  - Lack of Downtown options
- **Childcare**
  - Lack of availability overall





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# Strategic Planning & Considerations

## Section 2 of 5

All Roads Lead to Watertown





## Operational Environment– Budget Development

Budgeting is based on:

- The cost of doing business, and the services Council approves
- Working to adjust to cost of living, property values, and increased economic indicators
- Right-sizing fleet
- Risk Management

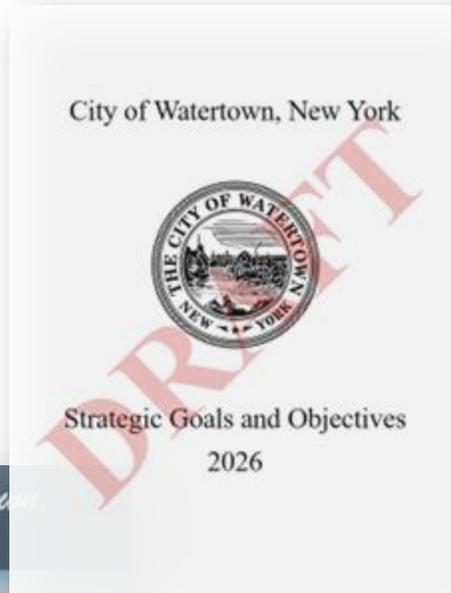
How we'll get there:

- Be strategic, goal-oriented and inclusive
- Be transparent, professional, and adaptable
- Collaboration and focused
- Continue to leverage grants
  - Local match
- Priority-based decision making
- Capital projects





# Building Goals and Priorities - A Work in Progress



- The City's budget should finance the level of customer service that our citizens expect.
- Internal and external communication must be clear, effective, and consistent.
- Partnerships need to be maximized to allow the City and other regional entities to realize collaborative projects and services that are not independently achievable.
- Infrastructure projects should be prioritized to provide the highest possible return on investment.

- Fee Schedules should cover costs
- Staffing Levels (sustaining Police staffing levels)
- Equipment/Facilities (maintenance and replacement schedule)
- Customer service emphasis (tools and training)
- **Street Prioritization Matrix**

These and more objectives will be in an upcoming Strategic Plan that will guide internal operations





# Comprehensive Plan Current Vision Statement

## Watertown's Vision

As part of the planning process, the public and stakeholders were engaged in a variety of ways to solicit their input on the future of the City. Building on this input, and existing documents and data, the Steering Committee prepared a vision statement summarizing what Watertown aspires to be and that serves as the basis for the Comprehensive Plan:

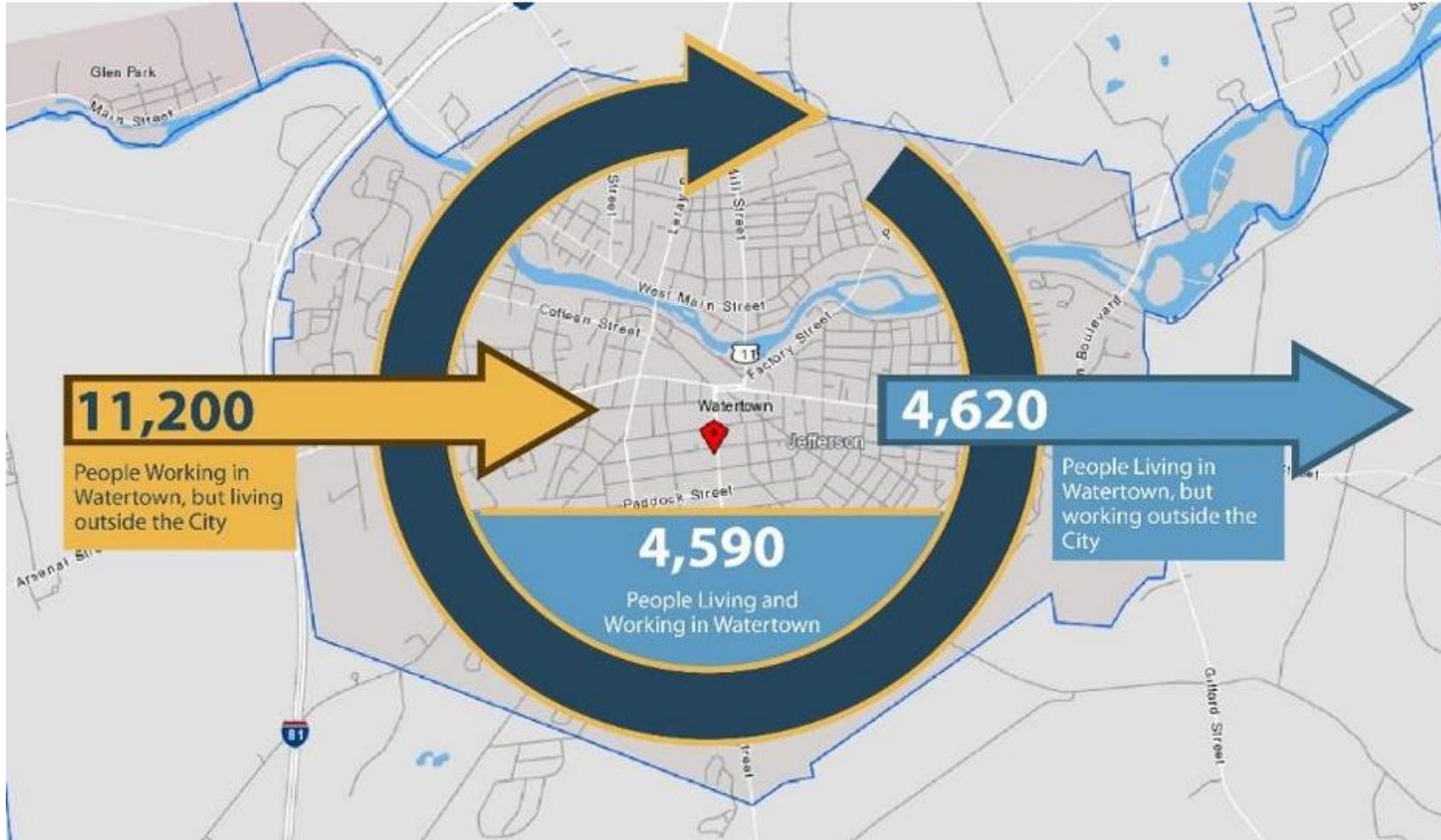
Anchored by its historic downtown and strong community, Watertown is the heart of Jefferson County, serving as a hub of commerce, healthcare, and education; a base for stable and competitive employment opportunities; and an incubator of innovation and entrepreneurship. Watertown is an international destination offering the best of active urban living in the North Country with a rich tapestry of arts, culture, and recreational opportunities for all seasons. The City's greatest strength lies in its residents, lifelong and new, who cultivate a vibrant community life, and take pride in their safe, walkable, family-friendly neighborhoods.

**Watertown is the North Country's City - Inspired and Powered by People**





## Workforce Commuting Patterns



- The influx of workers places demand on City services. However, it also increases daytime spending in the City, and that is decreasing.
- Average Annual Daily Trips (AADT) on Arsenal St. between I-81 and Bellevue Ave. decreased from **29,337** AADT in 2009 to **21,700** AADT in 2024.
- PD Calls in 2009 – 30,315
- PD Calls in 2024 – 28,005
- Fire Calls in 2009 – 3,224
- Fire Calls in 2024 – 5,604

Source: U.S. Census Bureau OnTheMap, 2015 data.





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# Property Tax Trends & Planning

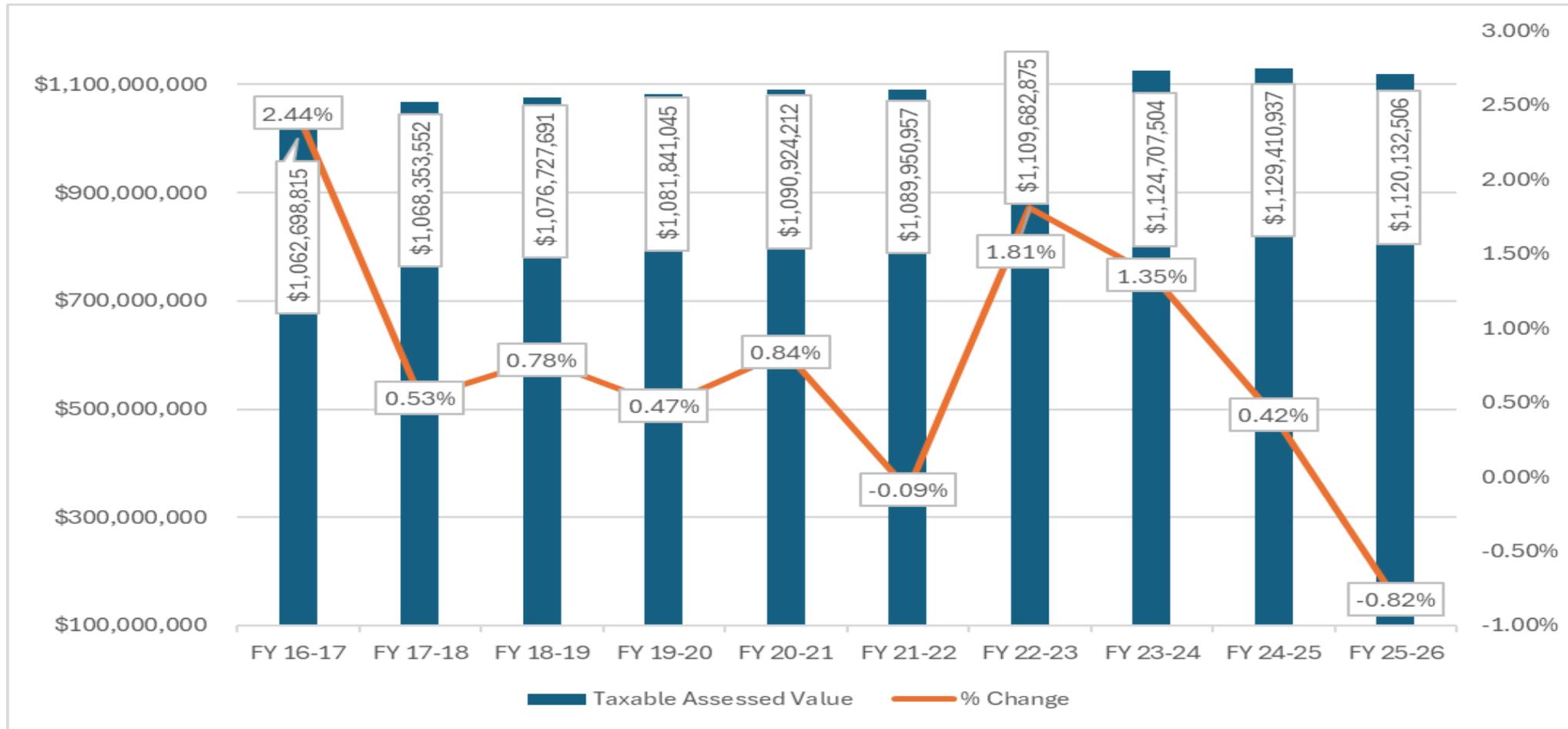
## Section 3 of 5

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## Taxable Assessed Property Values





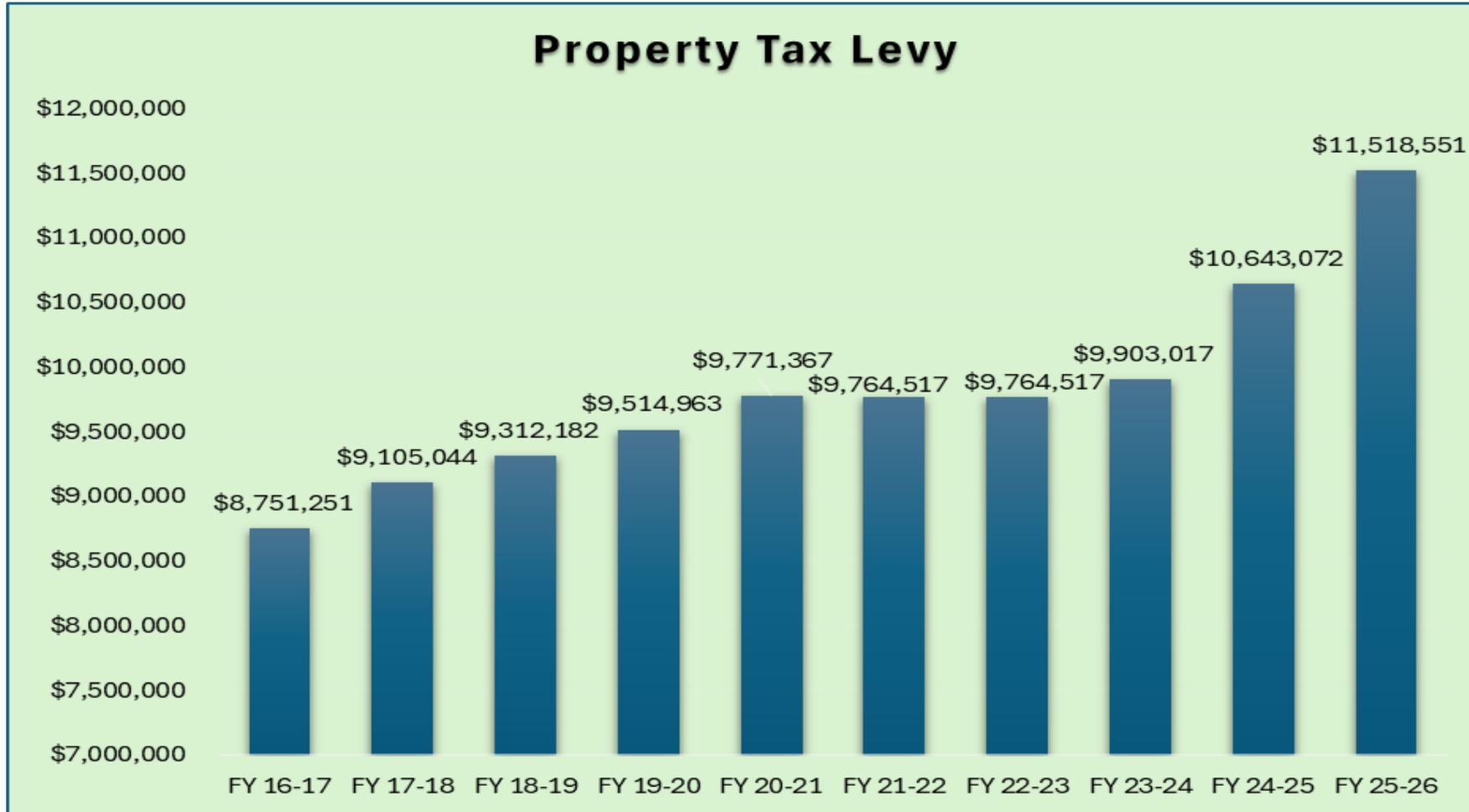
# City Property Tax Rates

2025 Full Value Property Tax Rate (Levy per \$1,000 Full Value)					
City of New York City	\$ 25.73	City of Rensselaer	\$ 11.34	City of Salamanca	\$ 8.07
City of Elmira	\$ 18.49	City of Corning	\$ 10.84	City of North Tonawanda	\$ 7.76
City of Jamestown	\$ 18.13	City of Troy	\$ 10.62	City of Watertown	\$ 7.54
City of Fulton	\$ 17.13	City of Lockport	\$ 10.42	City of Amsterdam	\$ 7.45
City of Dunkirk	\$ 16.91	City of Oswego	\$ 10.38	City of Peekskill	\$ 7.32
City of Binghamton	\$ 16.88	City of Watervliet	\$ 10.26	City of Kingston	\$ 6.63
City of Ogdensburg	\$ 15.69	City of Port Jervis	\$ 10.20	City of Canandaigua	\$ 6.46
City of Little Falls	\$ 14.53	City of Auburn	\$ 10.02	City of Cohoes	\$ 6.33
City of Gloversville	\$ 13.51	City of Johnstown	\$ 9.99	City of Yonkers	\$ 6.33
City of Utica	\$ 13.25	City of Mount Vernon	\$ 9.98	City of Beacon	\$ 6.24
City of Lackawanna	\$ 13.12	City of Glens Falls	\$ 9.94	City of Long Beach	\$ 6.21
City of Olean	\$ 13.05	City of Middletown	\$ 9.28	City of White Plains	\$ 5.86
City of Hornell	\$ 12.85	City of Plattsburgh	\$ 9.26	City of Rochester	\$ 5.84
City of Niagara Falls	\$ 12.85	City of Schenectady	\$ 9.19	City of Glen Cove	\$ 5.82
City of Geneva	\$ 12.72	City of Batavia	\$ 8.79	City of Hudson	\$ 5.40
City of Ithaca (2024)	\$ 12.32	City of Mechanicville	\$ 8.74	City of Buffalo	\$ 5.36
City of Newburgh	\$ 12.29	City of Oneonta	\$ 8.62	City of New Rochelle	\$ 5.12
City of Tonawanda	\$ 12.03	City of Albany	\$ 8.59	City of Sherrill	\$ 3.75
City of Cortland	\$ 11.98	City of Rome	\$ 8.53	City of Saratoga Springs	\$ 3.24
City of Norwich	\$ 11.97	City of Oneida	\$ 8.35	City of Rye	\$ 2.70
City of Poughkeepsie	\$ 11.81	City of Syracuse	\$ 8.08		
<b>Source: NYS Office of the State Comptroller</b>					



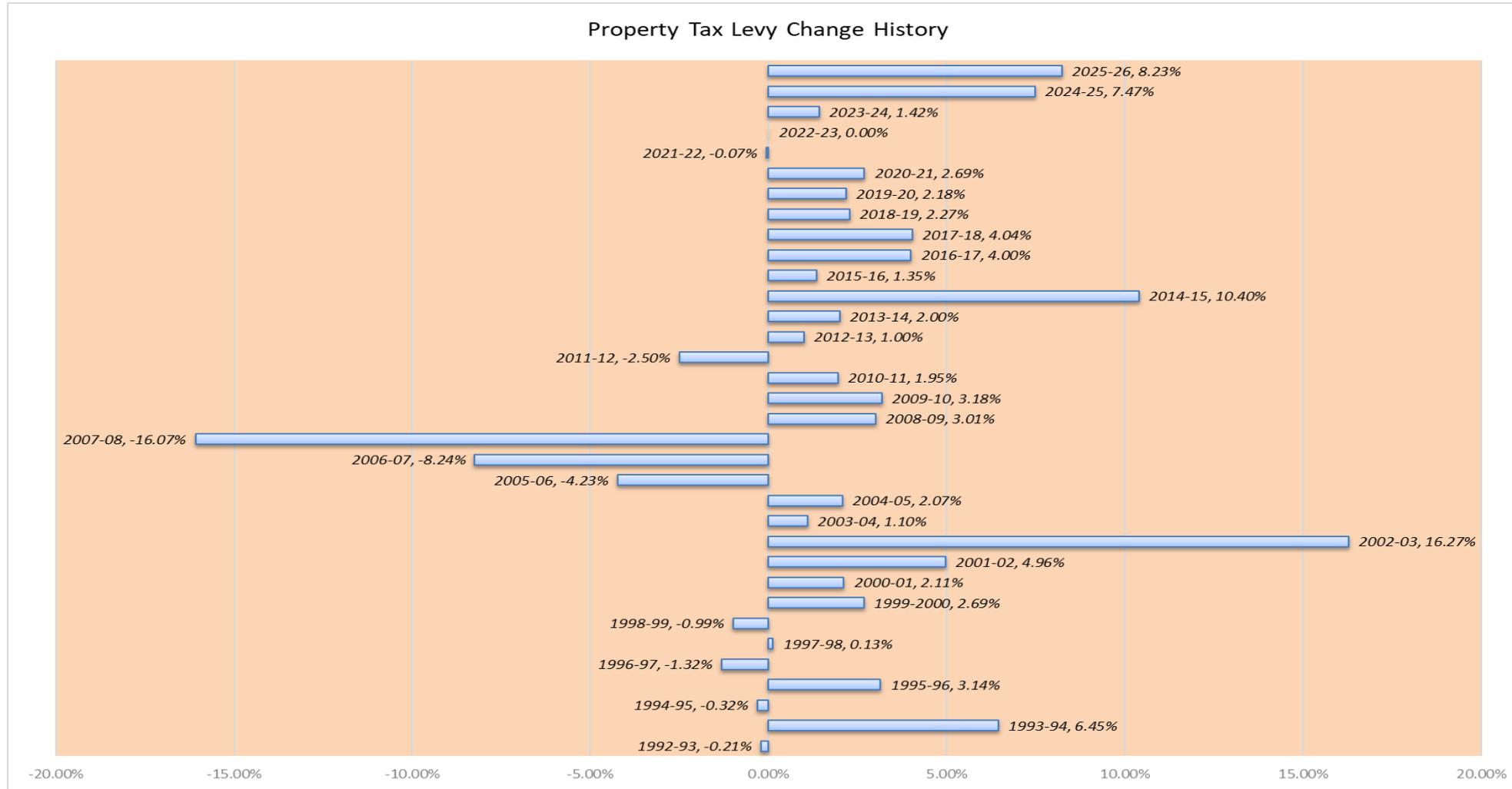


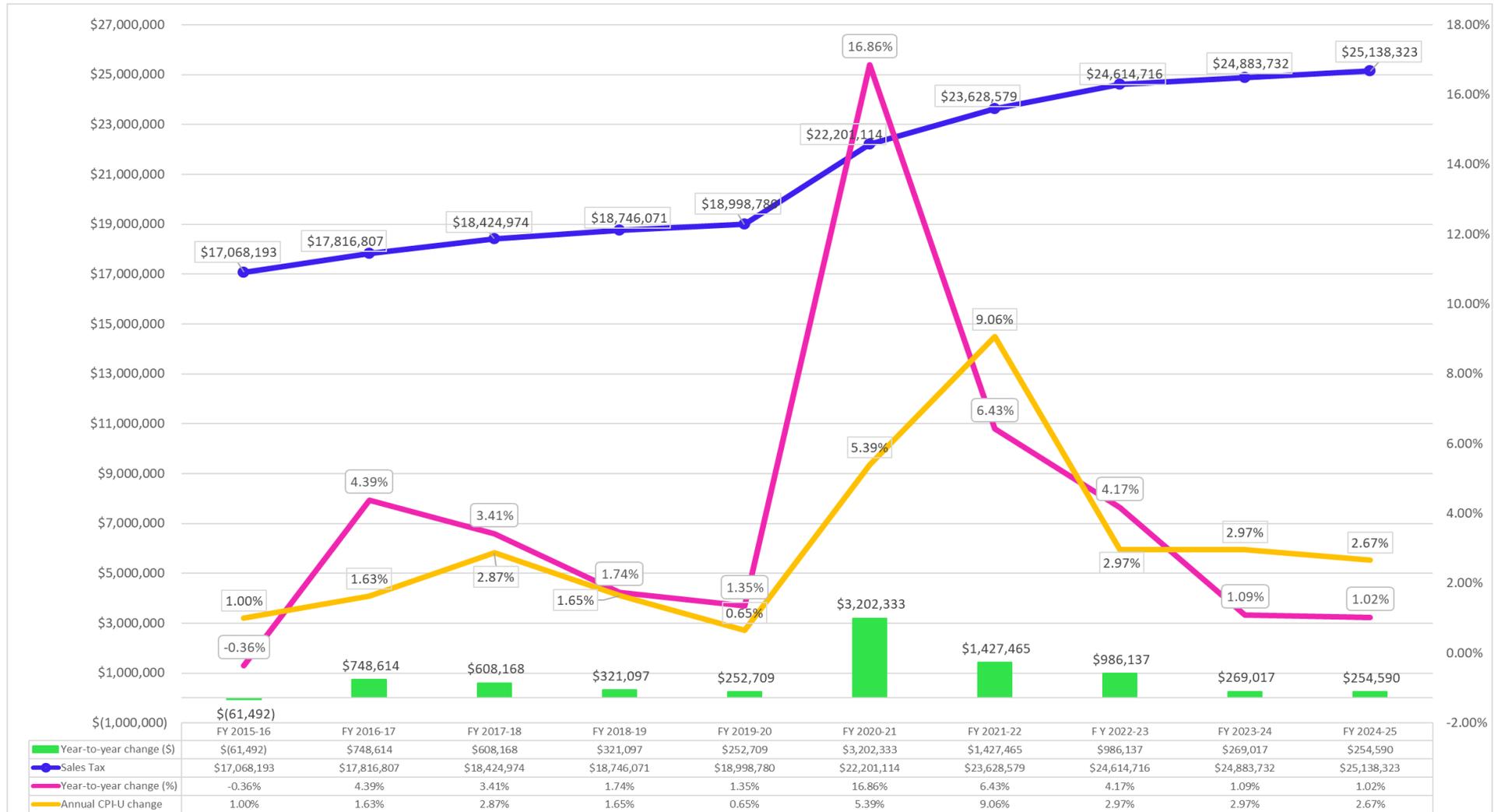
# Property Tax Levy History





# Historic Property Tax Levy Changes







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# Budget Outlook

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# Budget Drivers – External Factors

## Section 4 of 5

All Roads Lead to Watertown





## NYS Established Limits

- Property Tax Cap
  - Limits property tax levy increase to lesser of two-percent or inflation plus % for tax base growth and allowance for significant retirement system contribution increases
  - FY 2026-27 property tax cap projected to allow for a 3.50% or \$400k levy increase without a tax cap over-ride law adoption
- Constitutional Tax Limit
  - Limits amount raised by property taxes to 2% of five-year average full valuation less certain exclusions for debt and capital asset purchases not funded with debt
  - FY 2025-26 calculation showed City using 28% of limit with \$19M of allowable property tax levy capacity
- Constitutional Debt Limit
  - Limits amount of debt a municipality can incur to 7% of the five-year average full valuation less water, sewer and hydro debt
  - FY 2025-26 calculation shows the City using 18% of its limit allowing for an additional \$74M of debt that could be legally issued





## Governor Hochul's SFY 2026-27 Executive Budget

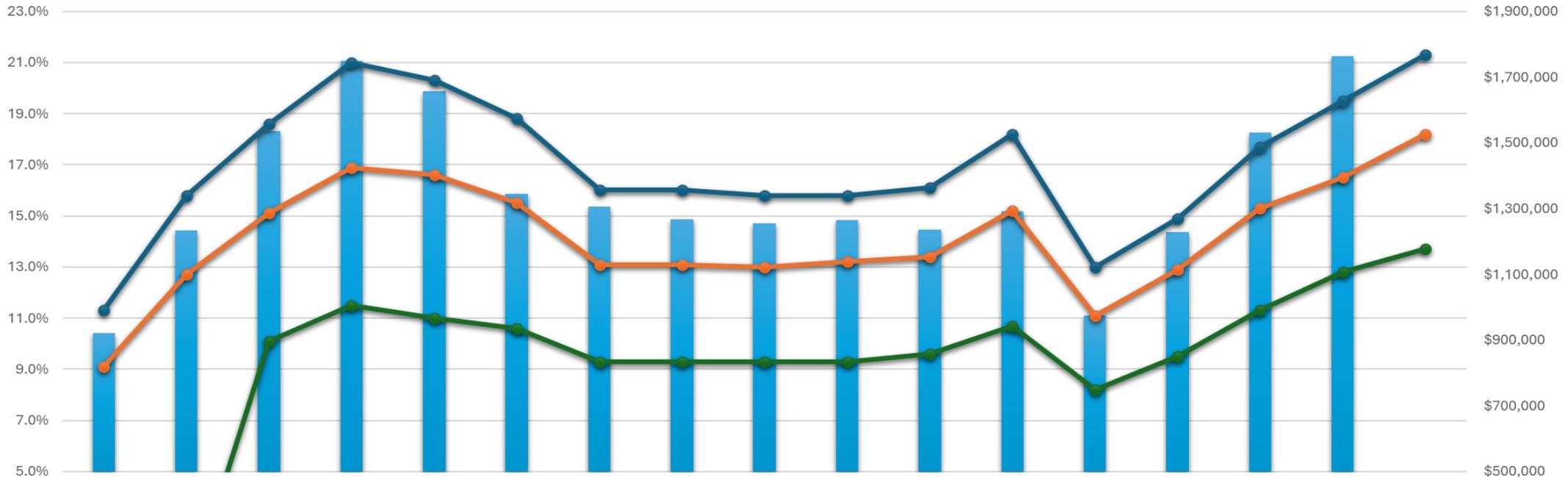
- Maintained AIM at current level (\$4,703,208)
- Maintained Temporary Municipal Assistance at current level (\$546,143)
- Maintained current funding levels for Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) (\$855,767) as well as the Touring Routes (\$3,044,929), Extreme Winter Recovery (\$129,270), PAVE-NY (\$200,059) and Pave our Potholes (\$133,372) programs.





# Cost Driver – Contribution to NYS Retirement System

Employees Retirement System Rates and Contribution



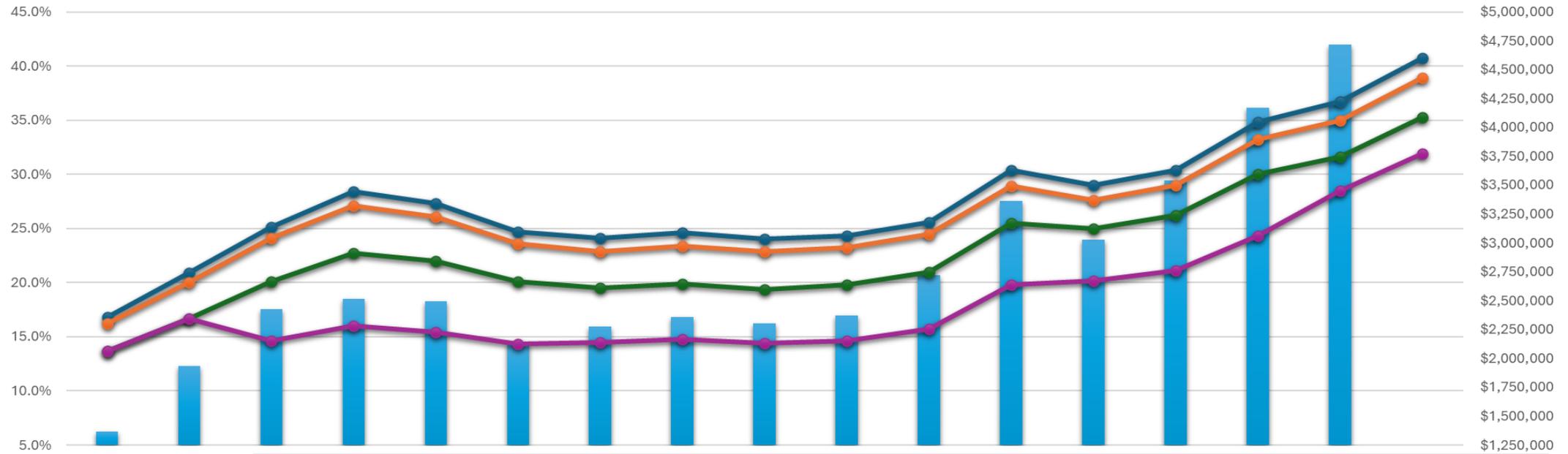
	2/1/11	2/1/12	2/1/13	2/1/14	2/1/15	2/1/16	2/1/17	2/1/18	2/1/19	2/1/20	2/1/21	2/1/22	2/1/23	2/1/24	2/1/25	2/1/26	2/1/27
City Contribution	\$921,798	\$1,232,403	\$1,535,739	\$1,748,158	\$1,657,173	\$1,343,922	\$1,305,395	\$1,268,232	\$1,255,657	\$1,265,209	\$1,234,669	\$1,290,972	\$973,660	\$1,228,610	\$1,531,098	\$1,763,794	
Tier 4 (32%)	11.3%	15.8%	18.6%	21.0%	20.3%	18.8%	16.0%	16.0%	15.8%	15.8%	16.1%	18.2%	13.0%	14.9%	17.7%	19.5%	21.3%
Tier 5 (7%)	9.1%	12.7%	15.1%	16.9%	16.6%	15.5%	13.1%	13.1%	13.0%	13.2%	13.4%	15.2%	11.1%	12.9%	15.3%	16.5%	18.2%
Tier 6 (61%)	0.0%	0.0%	10.1%	11.5%	11.0%	10.6%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.6%	10.7%	8.2%	9.5%	11.3%	12.8%	13.7%





# Cost Driver – Contribution to NYS Retirement System

Police and Fire Retirement System Rates and Contribution



	2/1/11	2/1/12	2/1/13	2/1/14	2/1/15	2/1/16	2/1/17	2/1/18	2/1/19	2/1/20	2/1/21	2/1/22	2/1/23	2/1/24	2/1/25	2/1/26	2/1/27
City Contribution	\$1,367,396	\$1,936,189	\$2,423,515	\$2,516,571	\$2,494,595	\$2,136,795	\$2,276,464	\$2,354,924	\$2,305,182	\$2,370,618	\$2,720,057	\$3,361,570	\$3,029,538	\$3,538,425	\$4,168,452	\$4,713,463	
Tier 2 (57%)	16.8%	20.9%	25.1%	28.4%	27.3%	24.7%	24.1%	24.6%	24.0%	24.3%	25.6%	30.4%	29.0%	30.4%	34.8%	36.7%	40.7%
Tier 5 (non-contributory) (6%)	16.2%	20.0%	24.1%	27.1%	26.1%	23.6%	22.9%	23.4%	22.9%	23.2%	24.5%	28.9%	27.6%	29.0%	33.2%	35.0%	38.9%
Tier 5 (contributory) (3%)	13.7%	16.7%	20.1%	22.7%	22.0%	20.1%	19.5%	19.9%	19.4%	19.8%	21.0%	25.5%	25.0%	26.2%	30.0%	31.6%	35.3%
Tier 6 (contributory) (34%)	13.7%	16.7%	14.6%	16.0%	15.4%	14.3%	14.5%	14.8%	14.4%	14.6%	15.7%	19.8%	20.2%	21.1%	24.3%	28.5%	31.9%





# Budget Drivers – Internal Factors

## Section 5 of 5





## Largest Cost Drivers

### Personnel

- Largest portion of the City's budget goes toward staffing our services
- Labor costs have increased to maintain competitiveness in local labor market
- NYS Retirement system contributions continue to significantly increase
- City share of employee health insurance costs estimated to increase 2-3%

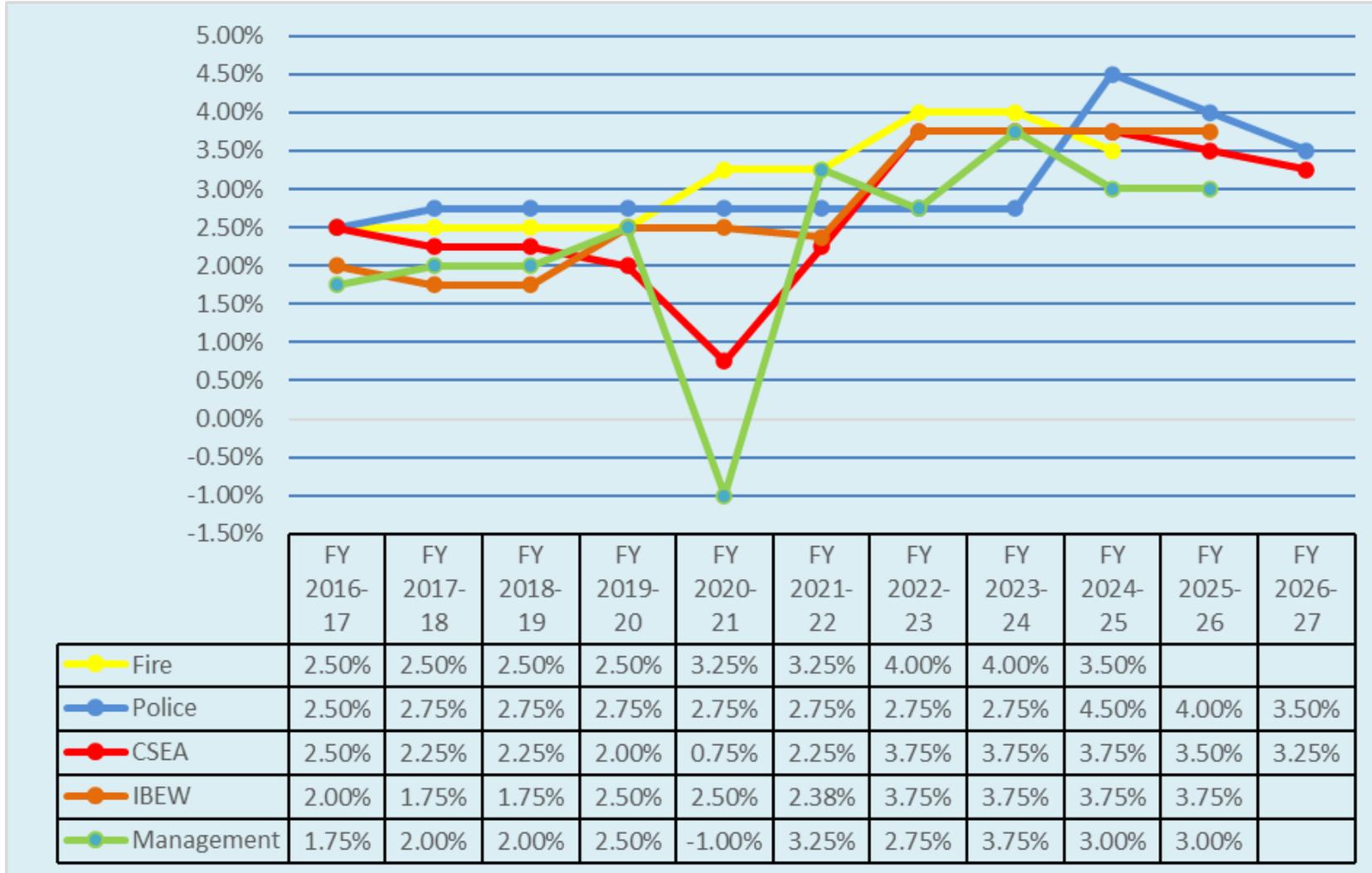
### Debt Service

- Debt service begins on the City Court/City Hall renovation project (+\$625k - \$55k interest subsidy from NYS)
- Debt service begins on the purchase of (3) refuse/recycling trucks (+\$135k)
- Debt service being retired (\$295k)



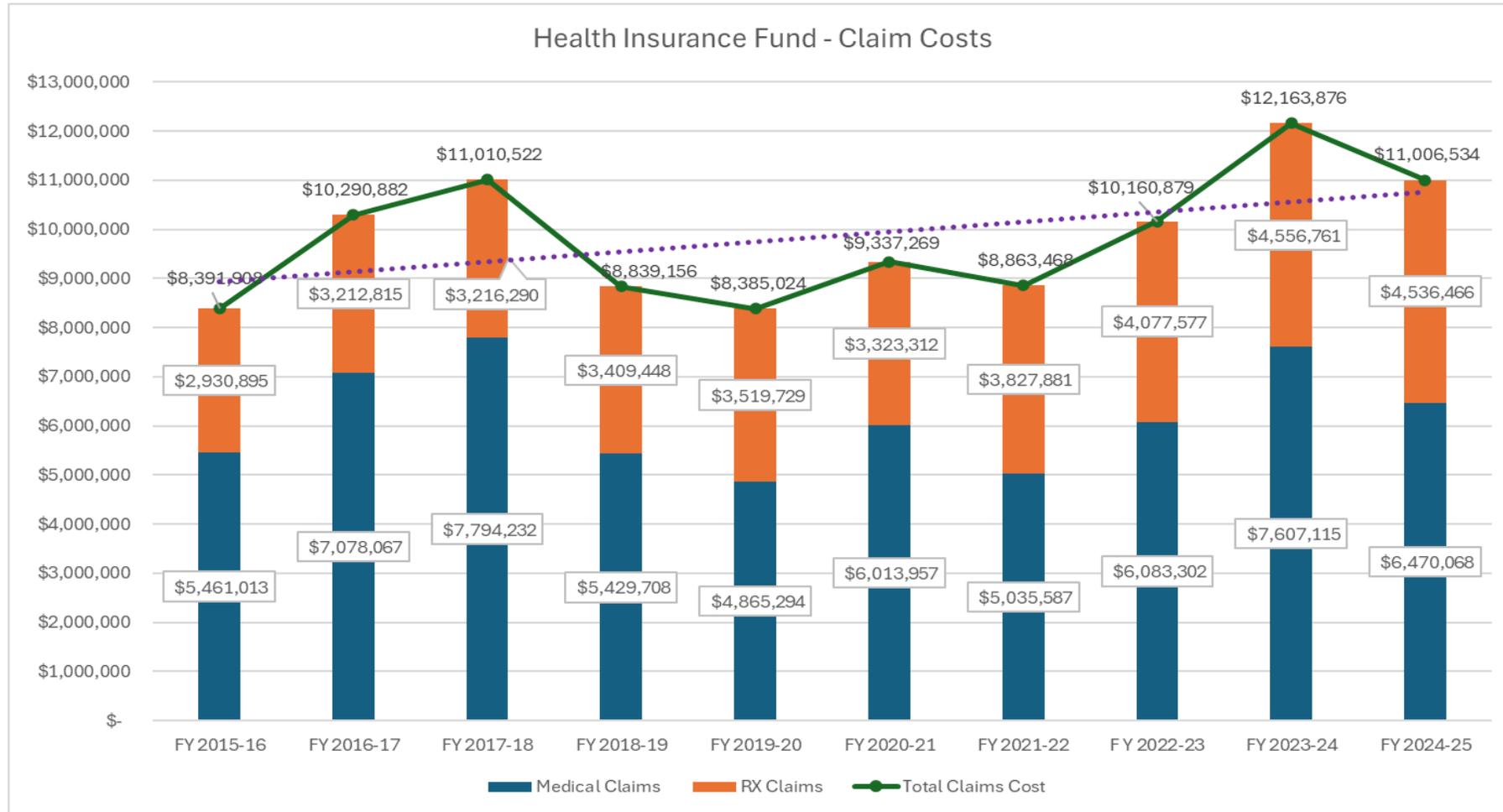


# Wage Increase History





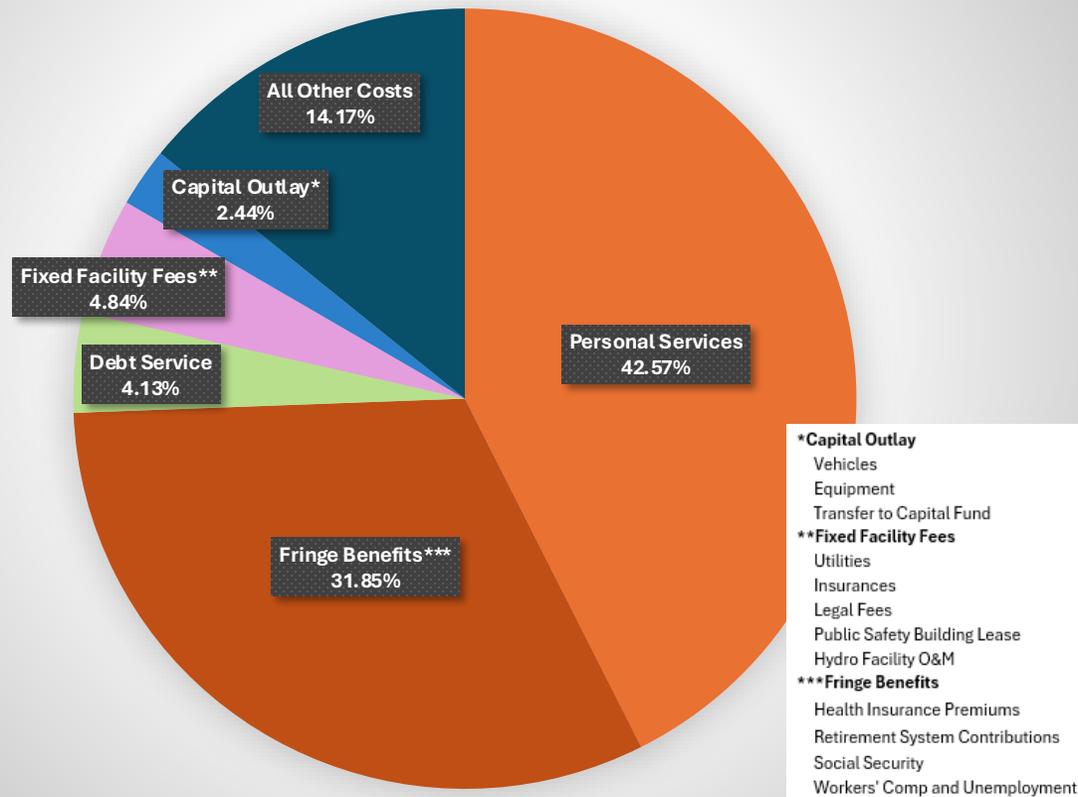
# Cost Driver – Health Insurance Plan





# 2025-26 General Fund Expenditure Budget

## General Fund Expenditures – “Must” Funds and All Other Costs



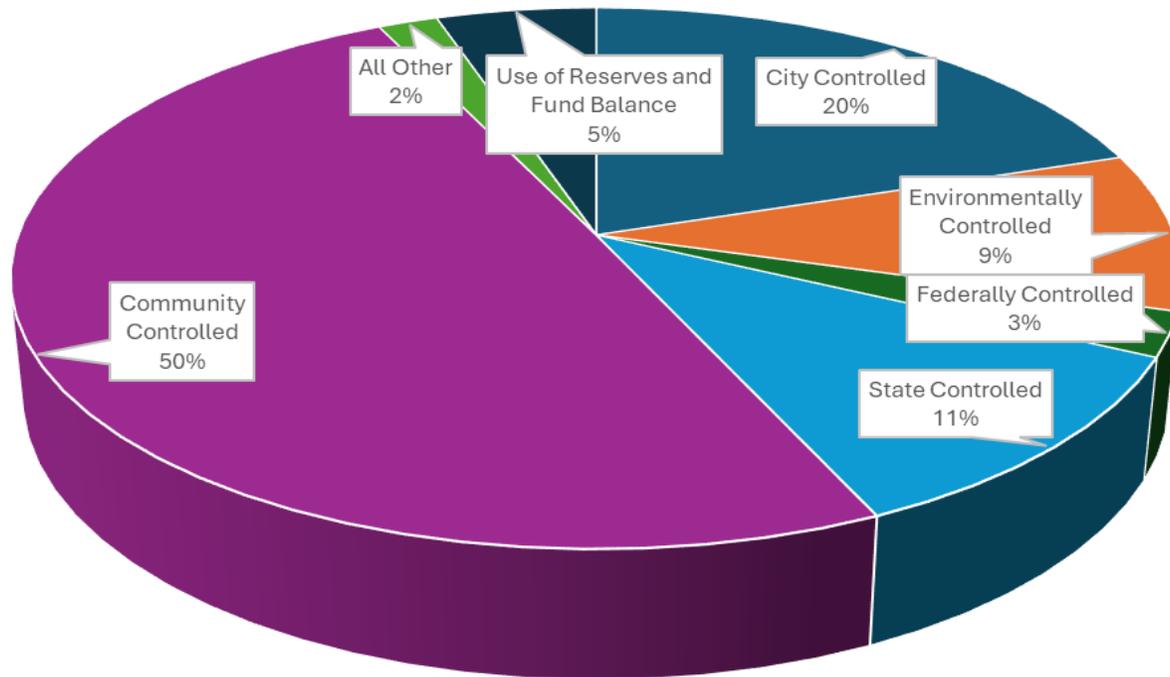
### "Must" Funds

Personal Services	\$ 24,836,228	42.57%
Health Insurance Premiums	9,601,183	
Retirement System Contributions	6,624,411	
Social Security	1,899,960	
W/Comp and Unemployment	454,300	31.85%
Debt Service	2,410,702	
Utilities	1,087,254	
Insurances	460,660	
Legal Fees	545,000	
Public Safety Building Lease	210,000	
Hydro Facility O&M	521,977	
<b>Must Funds Total</b>	<b>\$ 48,651,675</b>	<b>83.39%</b>
Capital Outlay - Vehicles, Equipment and Transfer to Capital Fund	1,420,900	2.44%
All Other Costs	8,269,468	14.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 58,342,043</b>	

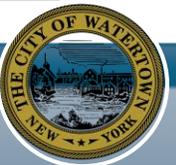




- General Fund Revenues by Control



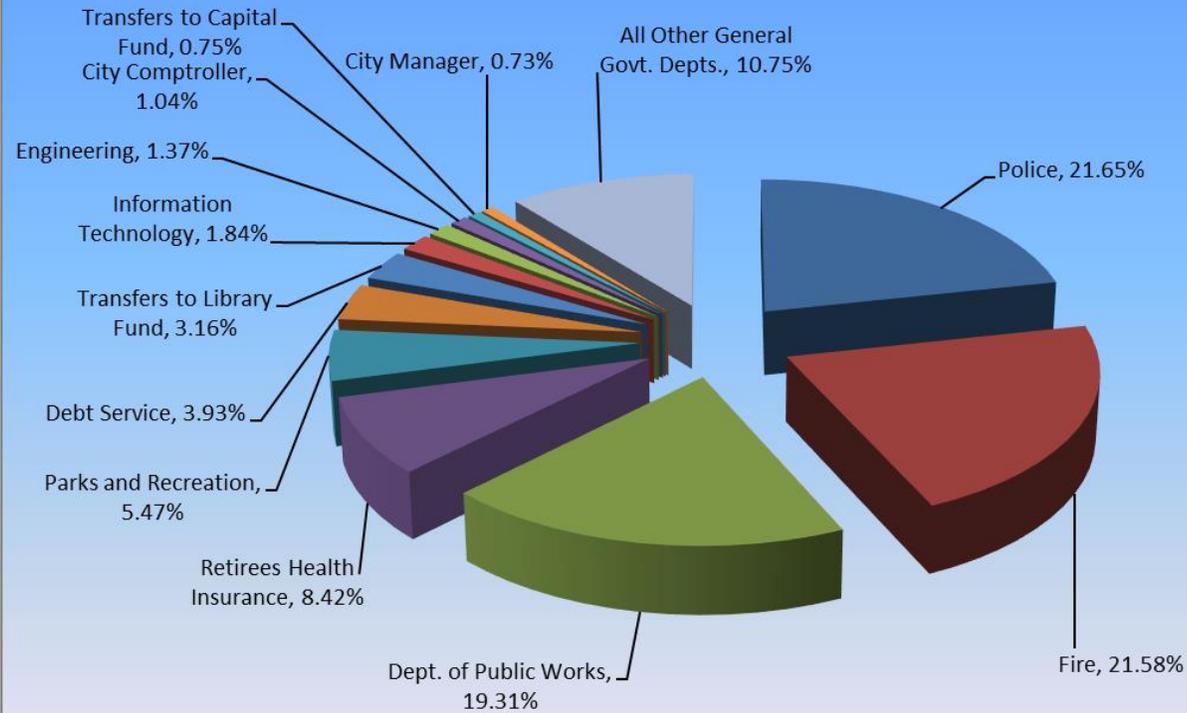
<b>City Controlled</b>			
Property Taxes	\$	11,519,593	
PILOTS		152,275	\$ 11,671,868 20.01%
<b>Environmentally Controlled</b>			
Sale of Excess Hydro-electricity	\$	5,525,000	9.47%
<b>Community Controlled</b>			
Sales Tax	\$	24,555,000	
Refuse Fees		1,245,000	
Parks and Recreation Charges		1,075,325	
Code Enforcement Fees and Demolitions		400,000	
Mortgage Tax		386,000	
Utilities Gross Receipts		383,000	
Franchise Fees		263,000	
Miscellaneous Permits and Licenses		182,025	
Property Tax Late Fees		150,000	
Clerk Fees		135,000	
Bus Fares		130,000	
Court Fines		110,000	\$ 29,014,350 49.73%
<b>Federally Controlled</b>			
Transportation Administration (Bus)	\$	905,140	
Interest Earnings		641,000	\$ 1,546,140 2.65%
<b>State Controlled</b>			
Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM)	\$	5,249,351	
Bus State Operating and Assistance (STOA)		445,000	
Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs)		355,200	
Operating Grants (Public Safety and Planning related)		332,500	
Other - Court Maintenance and w/Comp		77,000	\$ 6,459,051 11.07%
<b>All Other</b>			
All Other Sources	\$	1,121,175	1.92%
<b>Use of Reserves and Fund Balance</b>			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$	3,000,000	
Reserves (specific purpose)		4,459	3,004,459 5.15%
	\$	58,342,043	100.00%



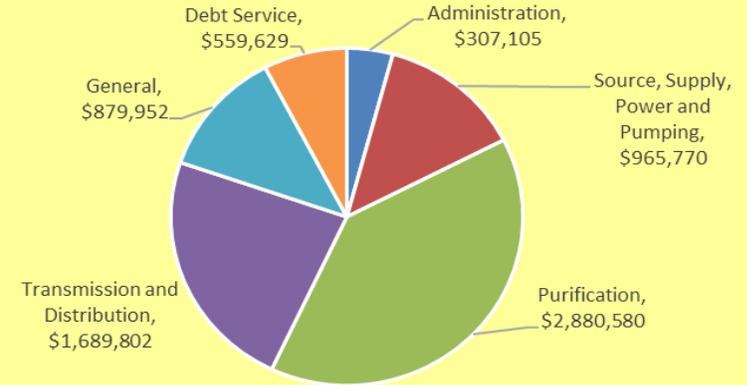


# 2025-26 Expenditure Budgets

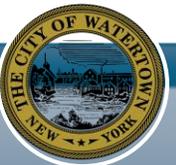
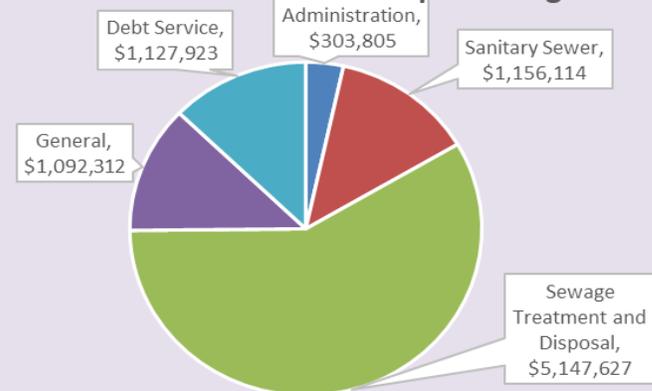
## FY 2025-26 General Fund Adopted Budget



## FY 2025-26 Water Fund Adopted Budget



## FY 2025-26 Sewer Fund Adopted Budget





## General Fund Overview 2025-26 and 2026-27

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>						
	FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget	% of Total	FY 2026-27 Initial Budget Forecast	% of Total	Increase / (Decrease)	Increase / (Decrease) %
Personal Services	\$23,638,325	40.52%	\$25,536,927	40.14%	\$ 1,898,602	8.03%
Retirement System	6,351,638	10.89%	7,581,682	11.92%	1,230,044	19.37%
Health Insurance	9,258,102	15.87%	9,555,643	15.02%	297,541	3.21%
Social Security	1,808,321	3.10%	1,953,561	3.07%	145,240	8.03%
Workers Compensation	446,500	0.77%	455,500	0.72%	9,000	2.02%
All Other Fringe Benefits	9,750	0.02%	29,750	0.05%	20,000	205.13%
Equipment	982,900	1.68%	1,085,800	1.71%	102,900	10.47%
Operating Expenses	11,178,482	19.16%	11,953,439	18.79%	774,957	6.93%
Transfer to Library Fund	1,842,590	3.16%	1,912,243	3.01%	69,653	3.78%
Transfer to Capital Fund	438,000	0.75%	701,200	1.10%	263,200	60.09%
Transfer to Reserve Funds	96,500	0.17%	96,500	0.15%	-	0.00%
Debt Service	2,290,935	3.93%	2,761,093	4.34%	470,158	20.52%
	<u>\$58,342,043</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$63,623,338</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$ 5,281,295</u>	<u>9.05%</u>





# Budget Timeline

30 Jan 2026	Departmental operating and capital budget submissions
9 Feb 2026	Budget Kick Off
9 Feb – 20 Feb 2026	Internal departmental budget review meetings held with City Manager and City Comptroller
23 Feb – 19 Mar 2026	Continue budget review meetings
20 Mar 2026	Provide Proposed Budget to Council
23 Mar 2026	Release Proposed Budget
23 Mar – 29 May 2026	City Council timeframe to conduct budget review meetings
20 Apr 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposed local law to override tax cap first appears on City Council agenda; date gets set for public hearing</li> <li>2. Public hearings on operating and capital budgets get set for 4 May</li> </ol>
4 May 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public hearing held on proposed local law to override tax cap and then City Council votes on local law later in the meeting</li> <li>2. Public hearings held on operating and capital budgets</li> </ol>
1 Jun 2026	Deadline for budget adoption is at its last regular or special meeting in May (Council typically adjourns its May meeting to 6:30 pm on the night of its first regular June meeting)





# DISCUSSION

