

TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON



FY26 REVIEW AND FY27 FORECAST

Presented by Town Manager Liz Hartsgrove

Assistant Town Manager Chris Rembold and Town Accountant Allison Crespo

February 3, 2026

AGENDA



Overview of Budget Model



Financial Policy Review



FY26 Review

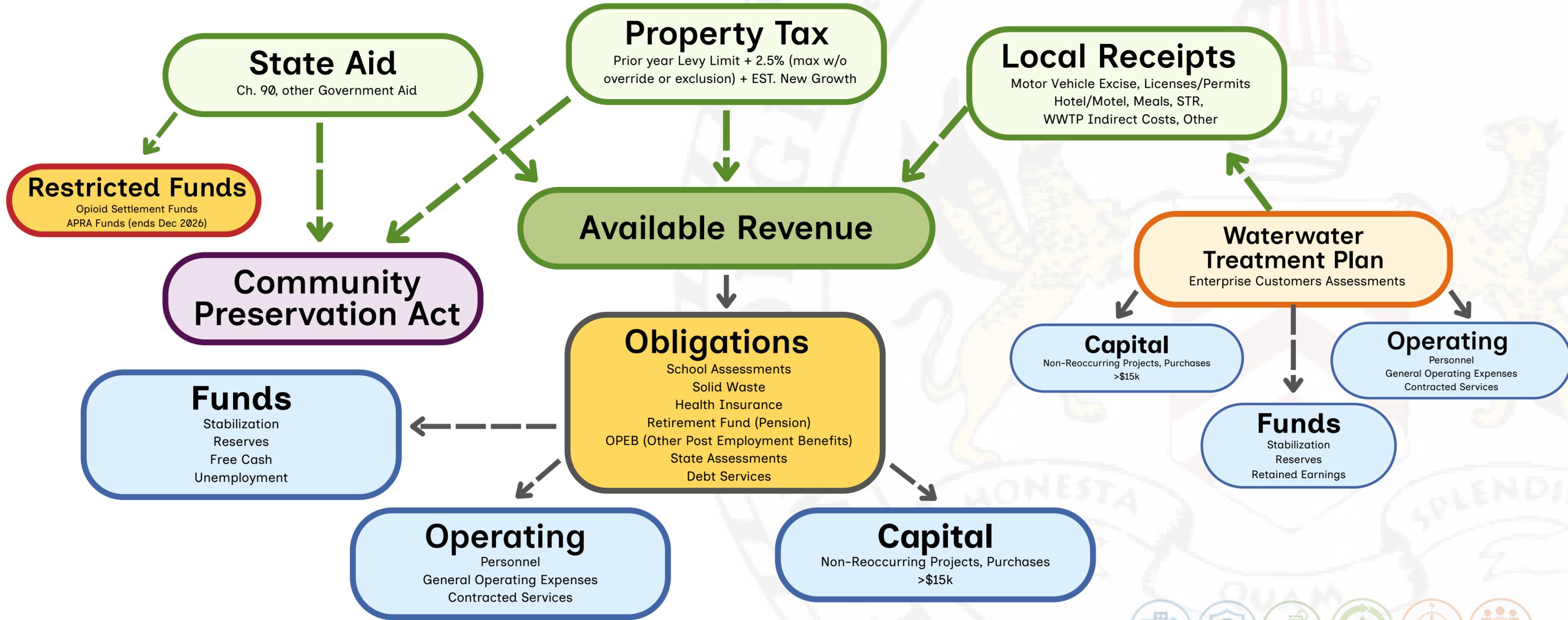


FY27 Forecast





BUDGET MODEL





BUDGETING FORMATS

1. Policy Budgeting →

Primary Driver

- Aligns with Select Board's Strategic Priorities
- Ties decisions directly to Financial Policy
- Asks why a request matters, not just the costs

2. Performance Budgeting →

Measuring

- Objectives and Service impacts
- Workload drivers
- Outcomes and performance indicators

3. Program Budgeting →

Layering Framework

- Community impact areas
- Services and functions
- Not just departments or accounts.

4. Line-Item Budgeting →

Fiscal Control

- Tracks spending
- Provides transparency and legal compliance
- Ensures within approved appropriations.

5. Zero-Based Budgeting →

Justification

- Challenges Every Dollar
- Eliminates Automatic Growth
- Resets Spending Priorities





MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to providing quality services to the entire community through good planning and cost-effective measures.





FINANCIAL POLICY REVIEW



The Town of Great Barrington will manage municipal Finances wisely. This will include planning for adequate funding to:

- Provide and maintain public services and facilities at a level that will ensure public well-being and safety;
- Comply with all State and local by-laws, rules and regulations; and
- Meet the strategic priorities of the Town.





STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF THE TOWN

FP's Strategic Priorities

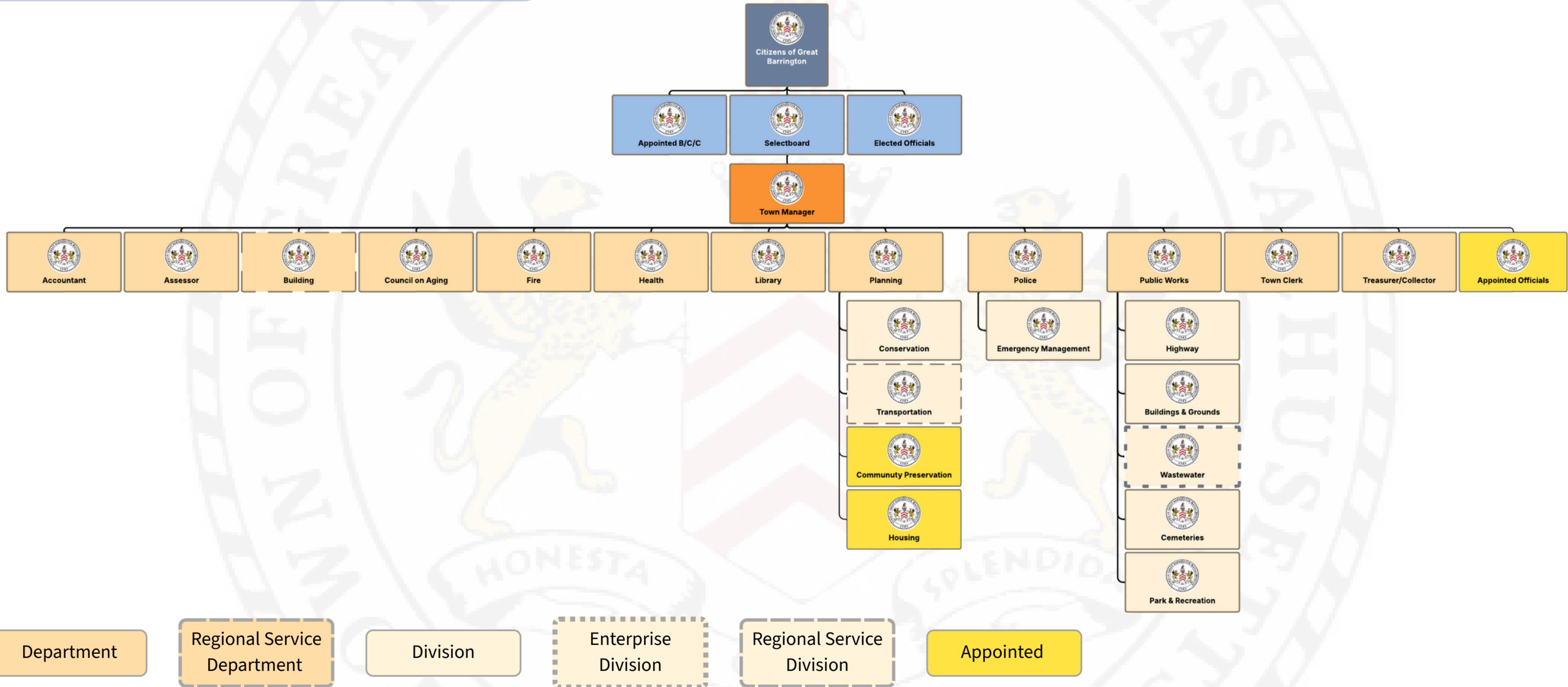
- Ensure Public Safety
- Ensure Public Health
- Maintain a strong local economy
- Strive for a high quality of life
- Seek environmental sustainability
- Ensure the fiscal stability of the Town
- Maintain public infrastructure
- Support affordable housing
- Follow Great Barrington's Master Plan

Selectboard Strategic Priorities





ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





CORE FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES



Services cannot exceed available revenue

Spend only what we can sustainably support



Revenue projections must be realistic

Plan for both today and the future



All funding sources must be identified

Protect taxpayers from volatility



Maintain structural balance

Keep the budget sustainable year over year



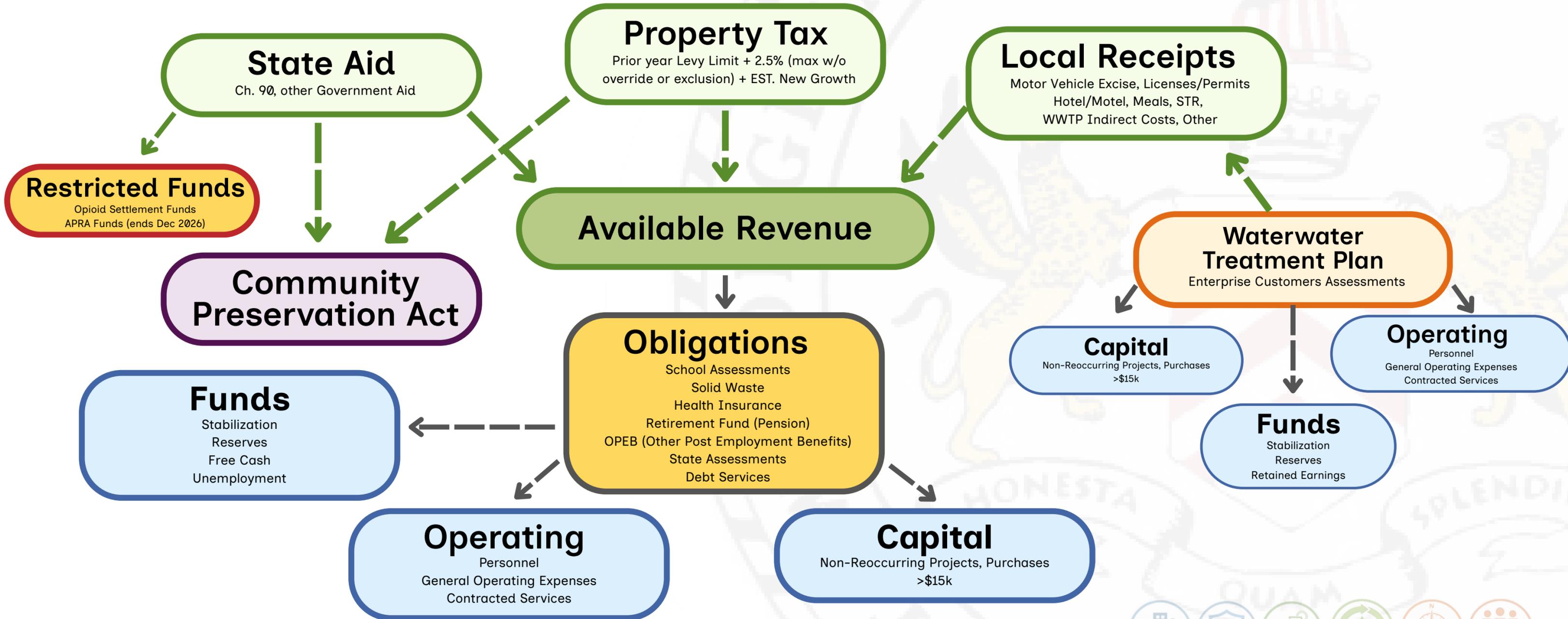
Responsible debt management

Use debt strategically, not casually





FY26 BUDGET REVIEW





APPROPRIATED FUNDS



General Fund



Wastewater Enterprise Fund



Community Preservation Act Fund





CERTIFIED FREE CASH

\$11,245,266

Free Cash Calculation - Fiscal Year 2026	
Begin:	
Unreserved Undesignated Fund Balance	11,648,277.00
Subtract:	
Personal Property Tax Receivable	96,913.00
Real Estate Tax Receivable	550,038.00
Other Receivables in Deferred Revenue	
	0.00
Total	0.00
Other Other Receivables, Overdrawn Accounts, Deficits	
Cash Variance	11,935.00
GF WH: State Tax	94.00
GF WH: Union Dues	833.00
GF WH: Union Dues - Police	390.00
GF WH: Union Dues - Library	155.00
SRF: FY24 Bulletproof Vest Program	498.00
SRF: FY25-27 Green Communities Grant	40,328.00
Refunds	2,739.00
Total	56,972.00
Free Cash Voted from Town Meeting Not Recorded	0.00
Add:	
Circuit Breaker, Other Closed Accounts, Adjustments:	
	0.00
Total	0.00
Deferred Revenue (Credit Balance+, Debit Balance-)	300,912.00
Free Cash Calculation for 2025	11,245,266.00

Free cash represents funds remaining from the operations of the previous fiscal year which are certified by the Department of Revenue’s Director of Accounts as available for appropriation. Remaining funds include unexpended free cash from the previous year, receipts in excess of estimates shown on the tax recapitulation sheet and unspent amounts in budget line-items. Unpaid property taxes and certain deficits reduce the amount of remaining funds which can be certified as free cash.



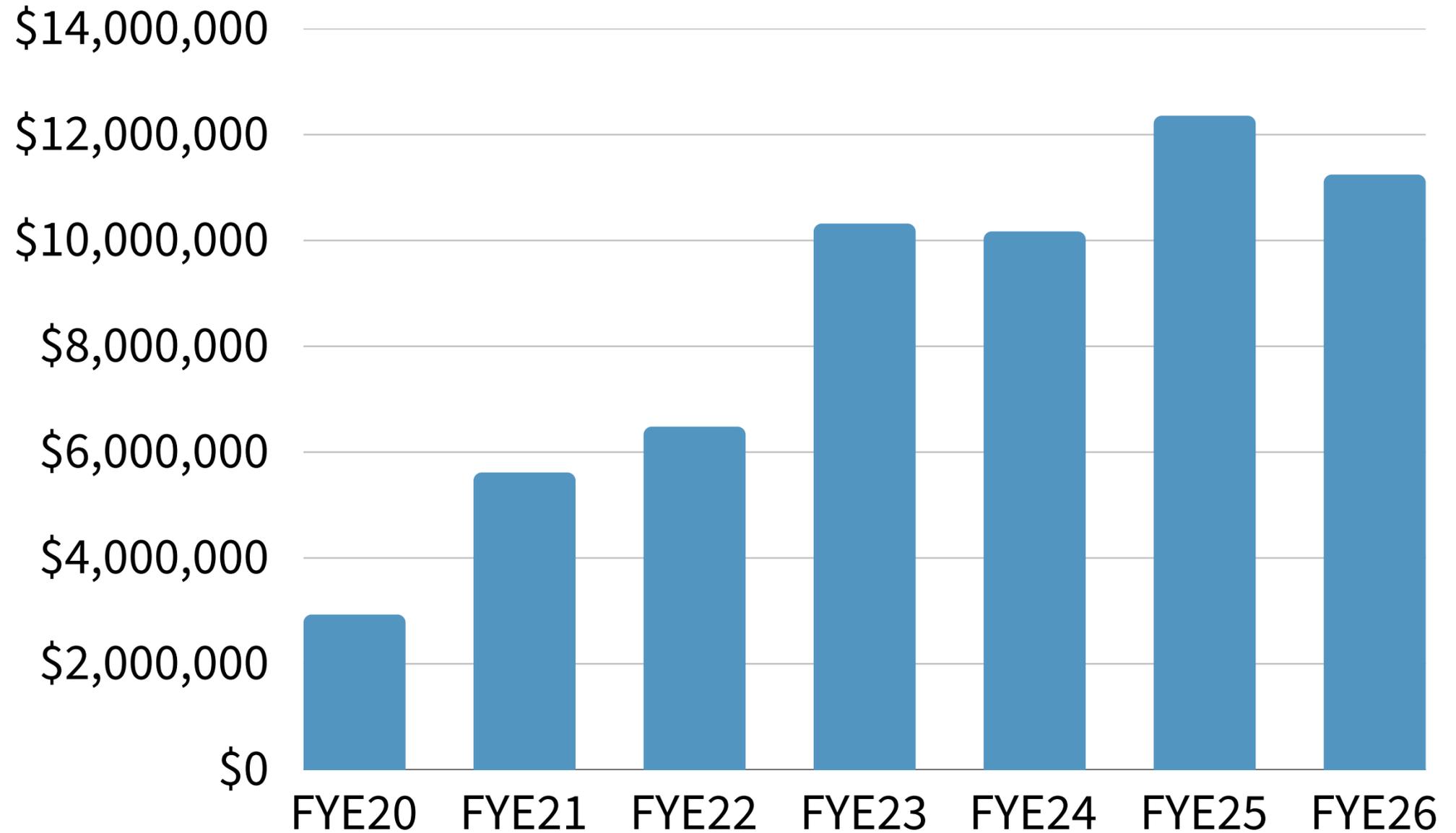


S&P Free Cash Best Practices

- Use Free Cash for capital and reserves, not routine operations
- Do not rely on it to balance the operating budget
- Maintain a portion unallocated for flexibility
- Use it to protect the bond rating
- Treat it as one-time and non-recurring

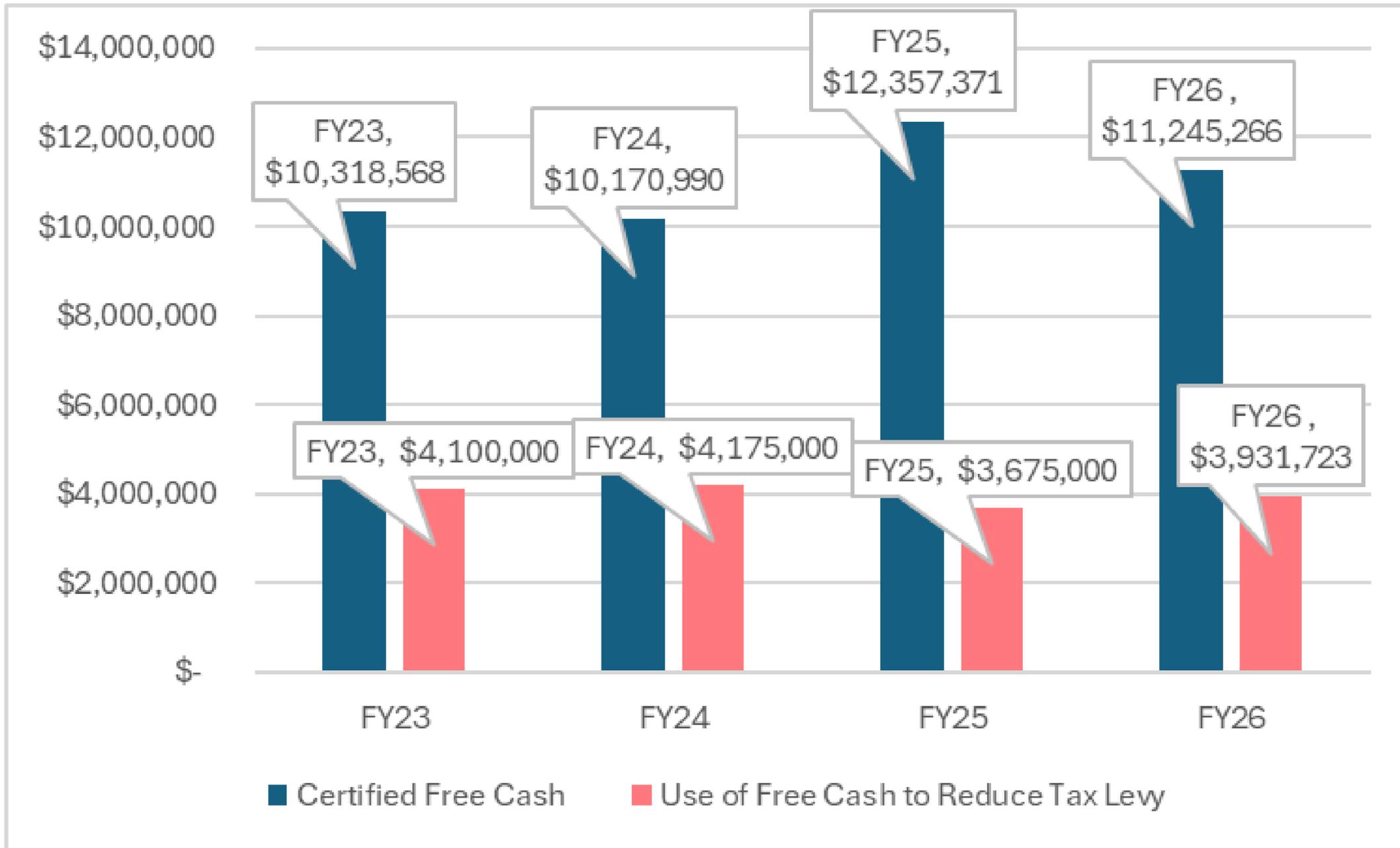
FREE CASH - CERTIFICATION HISTORY

General Fund





FREE CASH SPENDING BEHAVIOR



Retained Free Cash

One Time Cost -
Cannabis Community
Impact Fund

\$5,063,227.86



Offset Operating

4yr Average = \$3.9M

- Spending tomorrow's reserves on today's tax rate
- Masking the true cost of services
- Increases long-term tax volatility
- Weakening bond profile





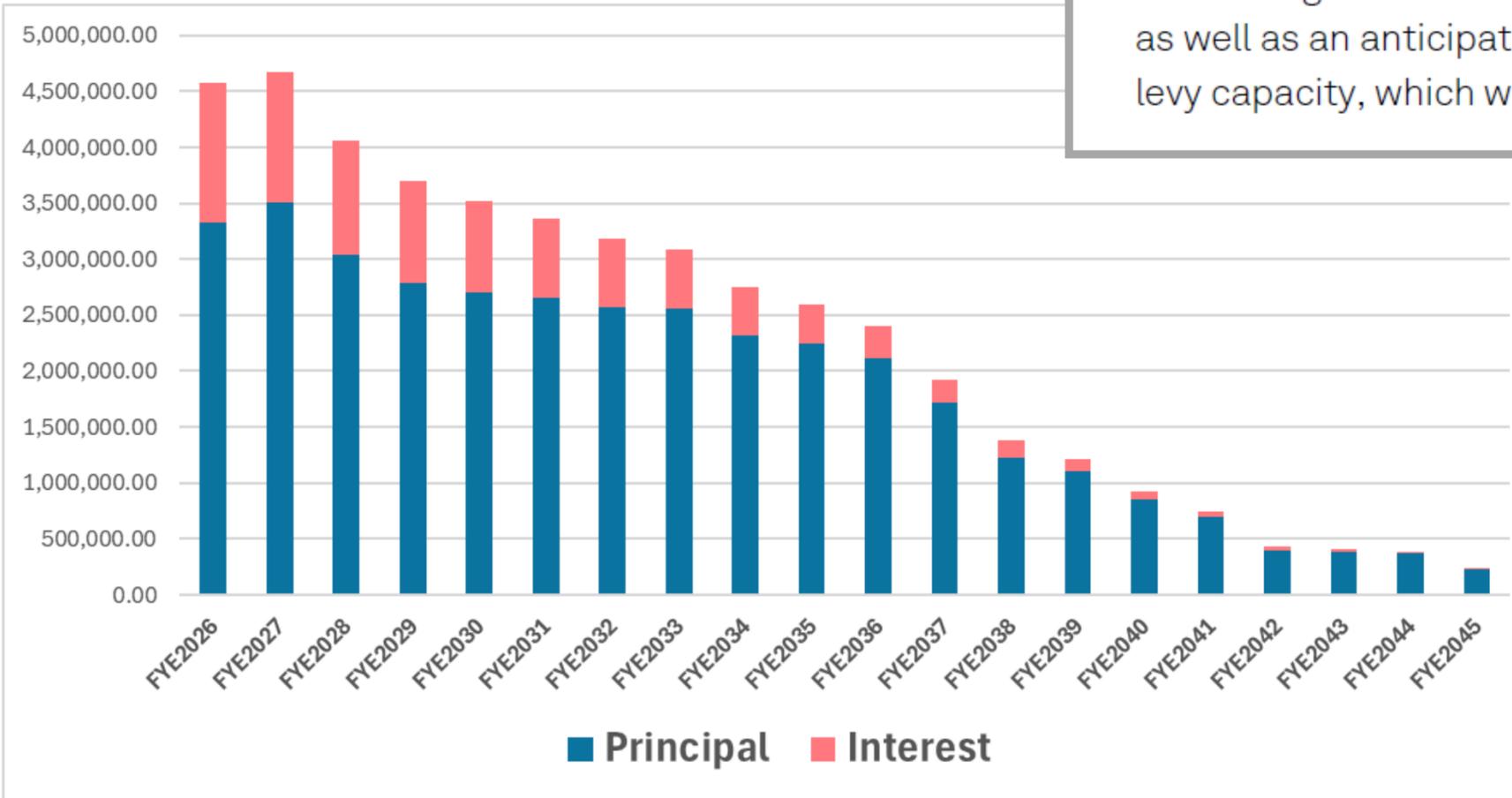
June 2025 Standard & Poors Report

S&P Debt Standards

5-7% of Operating revenues range healthy benchmark for municipal debt service.

- S&P Global Ratings lowered its long-term rating on [Great Barrington, Mass.](#)' outstanding general obligation (GO) debt to 'AA+' from 'AAA'.
- At the same time, we assigned our 'AA+' long-term rating to the town's \$5.565 million series 2025 GO municipal purpose loan bonds.
- The outlook is stable.
- The downgrade reflects Great Barrington's weakened economic metrics relative to the nation, as well as an anticipated decrease in the town's reserve position and exhaustion of its unused levy capacity, which we believe will increase operating pressure.

Aggregated Debt Schedule



FY26 General Fund Debt Service

(P&I)

\$3,186,186.97

FY26 Operating Revenues

\$35,367,714

Based on Total Revenue

= 9.01%

Town's Operating Expenses

\$16,692,744

Based on Town Operating

= 19.08%





AUTHORIZATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

Authorized Capital

31 Projects Authorized

Authorized (Borrow, Appropriate)	\$18,550,300.00
Bonded	\$10,191,930.00
Not Yet Funded	\$8,358,370.00

Bonded Projects with Deficits (Open PO or over spent)	\$728,620.82
Enterprise Capital needed for Pump Station Upgrades	\$1,182,000.00
Required Bonding	\$1,910,620.82

Outstanding Obligations

Must be included in FY27

Outstanding Obligations	Amount
Prior Year Unpaid Bills (FY25)	-\$50,000.00
Unauthorized, unappropriated Projects***	-\$800,000.00
Total Est. Outstanding Bills	-\$850,000.00

*** Estimated \$, as results from Procurement Audit will assist with determining financial scope of liability





1. FY26 reliance on Free Cash to offset General Operating = \$3.9M or 22%
2. BHRSD Assessment increasing above 7% for FY27
3. Health Insurance increasing above 8% for FY27
4. General Liability increasing above 3% for FY27
5. SBAmbulance Service proposing 125% increase for FY27 subsidy
6. Required borrowing for FY27, increasing % ratio to General Operating
7. FY27-FY32 Capital Improvement Plan ranges \$2.5M - \$5.6M/yr
8. Deferred Projects and maintenance costs increase each delayed year
9. Inconsistent expenses (Snow & Ice, HWW Legal, Overtime)
10. Minimal excess levy capacity = Minimal room for emergencies including Snow & Ice deficit





FY27 BUDGET FORECAST

BUDGET BUILDING EXPECTATIONS

All operating budgets must be level-funded as the starting point.

Increases are only allowed for:

- Existing contractual obligations
- Mandated rate changes
- Previously approved commitments

The Capital Improvement Plan is a strategic roadmap, not a wish list.



Town of Great Barrington Town Manager's Office

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Great Barrington, MA 01230
lhartsgrove@townofgbma.gov

Liz Hartsgrove
Town Manager
Chris Rembold
Assistant Town Manager

FY27 Budget Submission Guidance and Expectations

To: All Department Heads
 From: Liz Hartsgrove, Town Manager
 Date: December 5, 2025
 Attachments:

- ❖ FY27 Budget Action Calendar, dated December 5, 2025
- ❖ Draft FY27 Budget Policy
- ❖ FY26-27 Select Board Strategic Priorities Plan
- ❖ Organizational Commitments

The Town of Great Barrington enters the FY27 budget development process with a continued commitment to fiscal stewardship, service excellence, and community value.

The Financial Policy, soon to be adopted by the Select Board and Finance Committee on December 15th, provides a disciplined framework through which we will evaluate needs, allocate resources, and plan strategically for long-term sustainability. It reinforces our shared priorities of maintaining essential services, supporting infrastructure and public facilities, investing in organizational capacity, and keeping the tax levy within statutory and affordability limits. These expectations mirror our organizational mission and staff-developed commitments around professionalism, accountability, respect, communication, consistency, and customer-focused service delivery.

Aligned with these principles, the Select Board's FY26–27 priorities of *Infrastructure & Assets, Public Health & Safety, Housing, Sustainability & Environment, Economic Development, and Municipal Service Delivery* must be clearly visible in every departmental request.

Departments are expected to submit their materials in alignment with milestone deadlines established in the FY27 Budget Action Calendar, including:

REQUIRED TASK	FINAL DATE OF SUBMISSION
Proposed FY27 Position Changes	January 7, 2026
Operating Budgets and Narratives	January 9, 2026
FY27-31 Capital Project Requests	January 15, 2026
Fee Proposals*	January 15, 2026

*Guidance on Fee Proposal Submissions coming soon.

These steps are critical in allowing adequate time for internal analysis, prioritization discussions, joint budget presentations in February and March, warrant article preparation in March and April, and hearing preparation ahead of Town Meeting.





COMMUNITY PRESERVATION

CPA REVENUE AND EXPENSES								
	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.
	REVENUES			EXPENSES				
FY	CPA Local	CPA State	Total	Debt Service	Administrative	Projects Awarded	Total expenses	Running Balance
22	\$566,336.00	\$409,878.00	\$976,214.00		\$9,625.00	\$652,959.00	\$662,584.00	\$810,099.66
23	\$617,000.00	\$370,156.00	\$987,156.00		\$8,162.00	\$917,000.00	\$925,162.00	\$872,093.66
24	\$668,449.00	\$216,338.00	\$884,787.00	\$62,000.00	\$10,200.00	\$1,192,400.00	\$1,264,600.00	\$492,280.66
25	\$731,000.00	\$200,005.00	\$931,005.00	\$70,100.00	\$8,140.00	\$800,000.00	\$878,240.00	\$545,045.66
26	<i>\$625,000.00</i>	\$201,627.00	<i>\$826,627.00</i>	\$55,300.00	<i>\$8,000.00</i>	\$905,800.00	\$969,100.00	\$402,572.66
27	<i>\$625,000.00</i>	<i>\$95,000.00</i>	<i>\$720,000.00</i>	\$53,550.00	<i>\$8,000.00</i>			
				Estimated amount for FY27 projects = H+C, -D.-E.				<i>\$1,061,022.66</i>
	<i>Blue italics =</i>	<i>estimates</i>						





COMMUNITY PRESERVATION

Category	Project Title	Town Property	Applicant	Request	CPC Recommend
Historic	UU Mtg House of South Berkshire Preservation	No	UUMSB	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00
	Preserving the Historic Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church – Phase 1B Basement	No	The Du Bois Freedom Center	\$250,000.00	\$200,000.00
	Monument Mills Office/HQ Rehab.	No	1100 Main Street, LLC	\$400,000.00	
	Historic Document Preservation and Digitization	Yes	Town Clerk	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
	Mason Library Painting	Yes	Public Works	\$265,000.00	
	Elmwood Cemetery Monument restting	Yes	Public Works	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
	Water St & Mahawie Cemetery Preservation	Yes	Public Works	\$155,000.00	
	Brown Mausoleum Roof	Yes	Public Works	\$91,000.00	\$91,000.00
	Ramsdell Library Rennovation*	Yes	Library	\$1,500,000.00	Paused
Open Space/Rec	Old Maid's Park Design & Engineering	Yes	Planning Dept.	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
	Housatonic Playground	Yes	Public Works	\$165,000.00	\$165,000.00
	Skatepark Sail Shades	Yes	Public Works	\$101,000.00	
Housing	Affordable Housing Trust	No	AHT	\$675,000.00	\$325,000.00
GRAND TOTAL				\$3,814,000.00	\$993,000.00





WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE

	(a) FY 2026	(b) FY 2027	
	Actual Revenues	Estimated Revenues	Percent Change
1. Enterprise revenues and available funds			
a. User charges	3,559,295.00	3,877,561.00	8.94
Other departmental revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investment income	30,449.00	30,000.00	-1.47
Total revenues	3,589,744.00	3,907,561.00	
Retained earnings appropriated from July 1, 2025 Certification		465,000.00	**
Retained earnings appropriated from July 1, 2026 Certification		0.00	**
Other enterprise available funds <input type="text"/>		0.00	
Total revenues and available funds	3,589,744.00	4,372,561.00	(To Recap Pg 2, Part III B, line 3)

* Written documentation should be uploaded to support increases of estimated vs actual revenues

** Retained earnings must be certified by the Director of Accounts prior to appropriation

2. Total costs appropriated			
a. Costs appropriated in the enterprise fund			
Salaries, wages and expenses	1,688,703.00		
Capital Outlay	989,649.00		
Other <input type="text"/>	1,694,209.00		
Total costs appropriated in the enterprise fund		4,372,561.00	2a

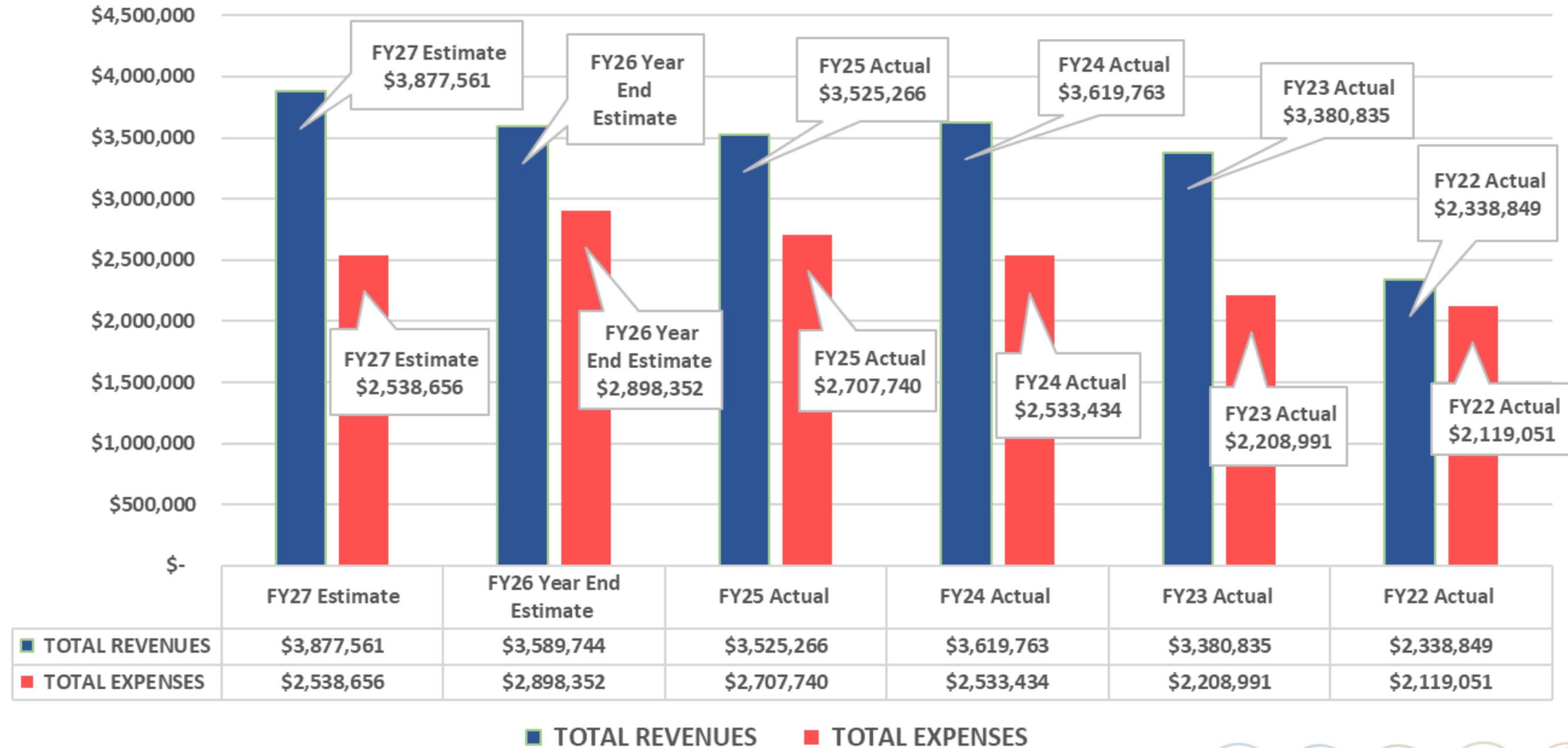
Retained Earnings Certified	Date Certified	Amount Certified
FY 2025 Retained Earnings (as of 06/30/2024)	3/5/2025	6,428,838
FY 2026 Retained Earnings (as of 06/30/2025)	1/29/2026	6,067,855





WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE

WASTEWATER REVENUES VS EXPENSES 5 YEAR COMPARISON





WASTEWATER ENTERPRISE

Proposed Capital

	Project Title	FY2027
WWTP	Sewer Infrastructure Work	\$100,000.00
	Sludge Loadout Upgrade	\$145,000.00
	TOTAL WASTEWATER	\$245,000.00





TOWN MANAGER'S BUDGET OBJECTIVES

STRATEGY-ALIGNED BUDGETING Align funding with the Town's Financial Policy and Selectboard priorities.

SERVICE ENHANCEMENT GRANTS Fund \$150k one-time improvement projects outside the capital threshold.

CONTROL PERSONNEL COSTS Limit personnel growth to 2%–2.5% to protect affordability.

WORKFORCE INCENTIVES Offer benefit alternatives (e.g., health opt-out stipends) to reduce insurance costs.

CAPITAL WITHIN MEANS Prioritize projects funded with Non-borrowed funding sources.

DEDICATED ROADS AND BRIDGES FUNDING Establish \$2M+/- from recurring funds

DEDICATED NON-ROAD CAPITAL FUNDING Commit \$1M+/- annually for non-road capital.

BUILD STABILIZATION CAPACITY Dedicate 5% of Free Cash annually to Stabilization

STRENGTHEN RESERVE FUND Increase annual Reserve Fund to \$200,000





FY27 PERSONNEL CHANGES

Restructuring

- ✓ 1. Human Resources duties reassigned between offices of Town Manager and Treasurer Departments
 - Elevating TM/SB Administrative Assistant to Executive Assistant
 - Creating Compensation & Benefits Coordinator in Treasurers Office
- ✓ 2. Removing IT Support from Assistant Accountant Position
- ✓ 3. Assigning IT Support to Office Assistant position in Town Manager Department
- ⌚ 4. Establishing “South County Connector” Transportation as Enterprise Account





DEPT. CAPITAL REQUESTS

	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	TOTAL CIP
Police	\$272,201.44	\$150,163.10	\$157,826.88	\$ -	\$ -	\$580,191.42
Fire	\$125,800.00	\$54,385.18	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$180,185.18
DPW Facilities	\$3,700,000.00	\$280,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$3,980,000.00
DPW Highway	\$11,025,451.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$11,025,451.00
Emergency Mgmt	\$169,842.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$169,842.00
Informational Technology	\$133,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$133,000.00
Town Clerk	\$75,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$75,000.00
Health	\$33,300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$33,300.00
Council On Aging	\$53,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$53,000.00
Parks & Rec	\$174,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$174,000.00
Planning	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	-	-	-	\$400,000.00
Transportation	\$36,410.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$36,410.00
TOTAL GENERAL	\$15,998,004.44	\$684,548.28	\$157,826.88	\$ -	\$ -	\$16,840,379.60
Wastewater	\$245,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$245,000.00
Community Preservation	\$993,000.00					\$993,000.00
Grand Total DH CIP	\$17,272,414.44	\$684,548.28	\$157,826.88	\$ -	\$ -	\$18,114,789.60





TOWN MANAGER CAPITAL RECOMMENDATIONS

	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	TOTAL CIP
Police	\$133,201.44	\$150,163.10	\$157,826.88	\$140,000.00	\$ -	\$581,191.42
Fire	\$125,800.00	\$54,385.18	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$180,185.18
DPW Facilities	\$150,000.00	\$280,000.00	\$ -	\$2,500,000.00	\$1,050,000.00	\$3,980,000.00
DPW Highway	\$3,959,500.00	\$1,559,793.00	\$2,734,206.00	\$1,447,084.00	\$1,874,868.00	\$11,575,451.00
Emergency Mgmt	\$129,842.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$42,000.00	\$171,842.00
Informational	\$133,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$133,000.00
Town Clerk	\$50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$50,000.00
Health	\$35,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$35,000.00
Council On Aging	\$53,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$53,000.00
Parks & Rec	\$25,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$151,000.00	\$ -	\$176,000.00
Planning	\$50,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$ -	\$200,000.00	\$ -	\$450,000.00
Transportation	\$18,205.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$18,205.00
TOTAL GENERAL	\$4,862,548.44	\$2,244,341.28	\$2,892,032.88	\$4,438,084.00	\$2,966,868.00	\$17,403,874.60
Wastewater	\$245,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$245,000.00
Community Preservation	\$993,000.00					\$993,000.00
Grand Total DH CIP	\$6,100,548.44	\$2,244,341.28	\$2,892,032.88	\$4,438,084.00	\$2,966,868.00	\$18,641,874.60





PROPOSED GENERAL CAPITAL

Dept	Project Title	FY2027	Source
Police	Cruiser Replacement (1-2/yr)	\$85,000.00	Free Cash
	Body Camera	\$48,201.44	Free Cash
	TOTAL POLICE	\$133,201.44	
Fire	Plymovent System (Facilities)	\$80,000.00	Free Cash
	Back up set of Turnout Gear	\$45,800.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL FIRE	\$125,800.00	
Facilities	Town Building Water Infiltration Testing	\$150,000.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL FACILITIES	\$150,000.00	
Highway	Bridge Street Bridge Rehab	\$426,000.00	Free Cash
	Shaw Bridge Rehab	\$1,603,000.00	Free Cash
	Crosswalk Install & Replace, 5 Locations	\$171,000.00	C.S.
	Brush Hill Road Culvert	\$777,500.00	Grant
	Roadway Improvements (2 of 6)	\$410,000.00	Chapter 90
	Roadwork Engineering (4 projects)	\$550,000.00	Chapter 90 & C.S
	Manhole Installation Pearl St.	\$22,000.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL DPW - Highway	\$3,959,500.00	
Emerg. Mgmt	Trailer Mounted 75KW Generator	\$75,000.00	Free Cash
	Message Board Purchase	\$54,842.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL EMERGENCY MGMT	\$129,842.00	

Dept	Project Title	FY2027	Source
IT	Online Permitting Software	\$90,000.00	Free Cash
	Upgrade Assessors Software	\$43,000.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL IT	\$133,000.00	
Clerk	Archival Storage Feasibility Study	\$50,000.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL TOWN CLERK	\$50,000.00	
Health	Inspector Vehicle	\$35,000.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL HEALTH	\$35,000.00	
COA	COA Van	\$53,000.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL COA	\$53,000.00	
Parks & Rec	Bird Mgmt - Lake Mansfield	\$25,000.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL PARKS & REC	\$25,000.00	
Planning	Master Plan	\$50,000.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL PLANNING	\$50,000.00	
Transit	Accessible Electric Vehicles	\$18,205.00	Free Cash
	TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	\$18,205.00	

Total General Capital **\$4,862,548.44**

(without borrowing)





PROPOSED SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

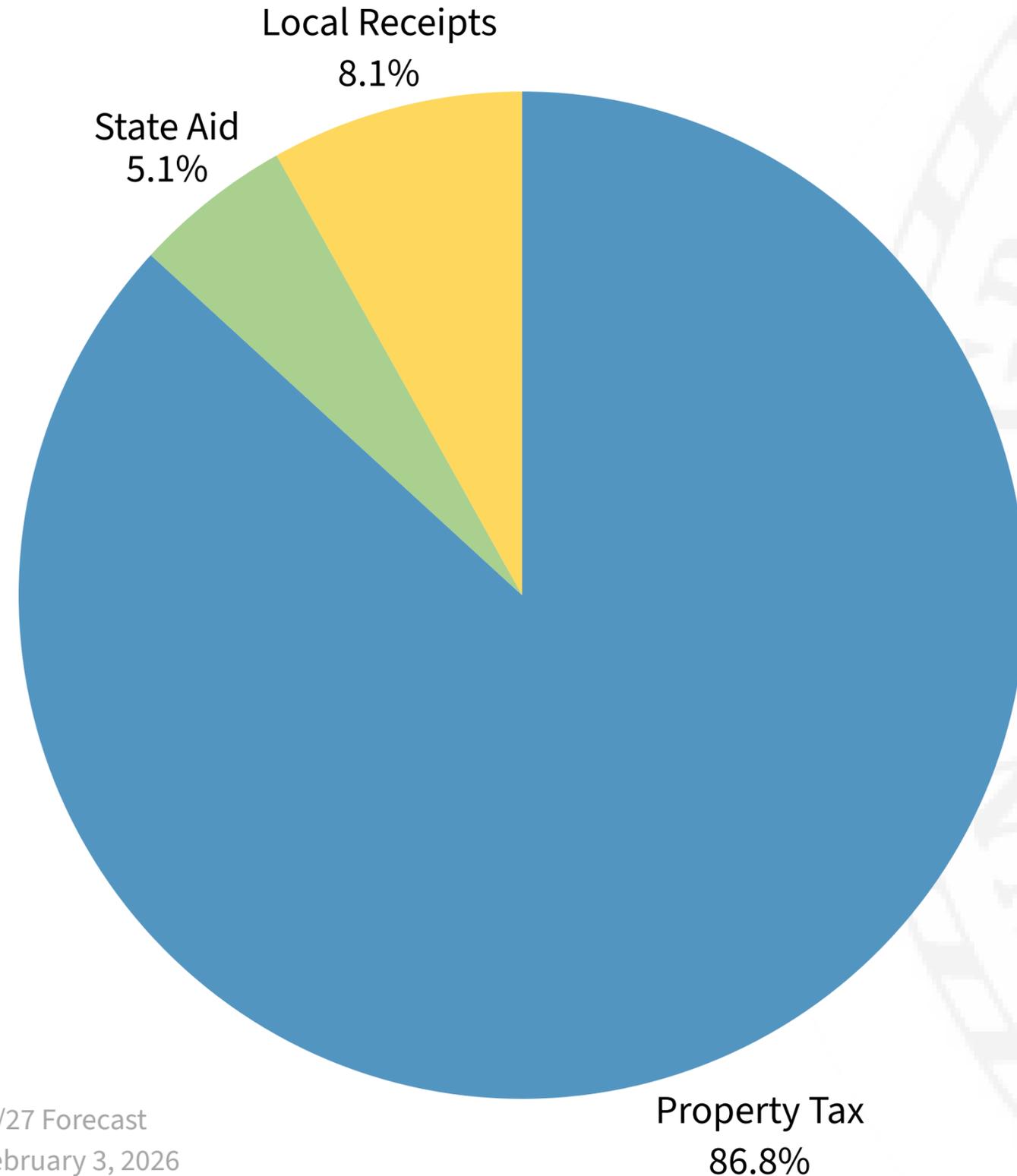
Health/Water Quality Intern	\$25,000.00
Human Service Grants to local non-profits	\$53,000.00
Arts & Culture	\$30,000.00
Employee Prof. Dev.	\$30,000.00
Fire Department Washer & Dryer	\$2,000.00
Computer Replacement Program	\$10,000.00
Total Service Enhancement Grants	\$150,000.00

- Identified in Budget Mtgs
- Does not qualify as Capital either in cost or life expectancy
- Non-Reoccurring, One Time Expenses
- Paid from Free Cash





ESTIMATED GENERAL REVENUES



\$36,564,003

Property Tax	\$31,736,345
State Aid	\$1,862,408
Local Receipts	\$2,965,250





GENERAL FUND - CALCULATING LEVY

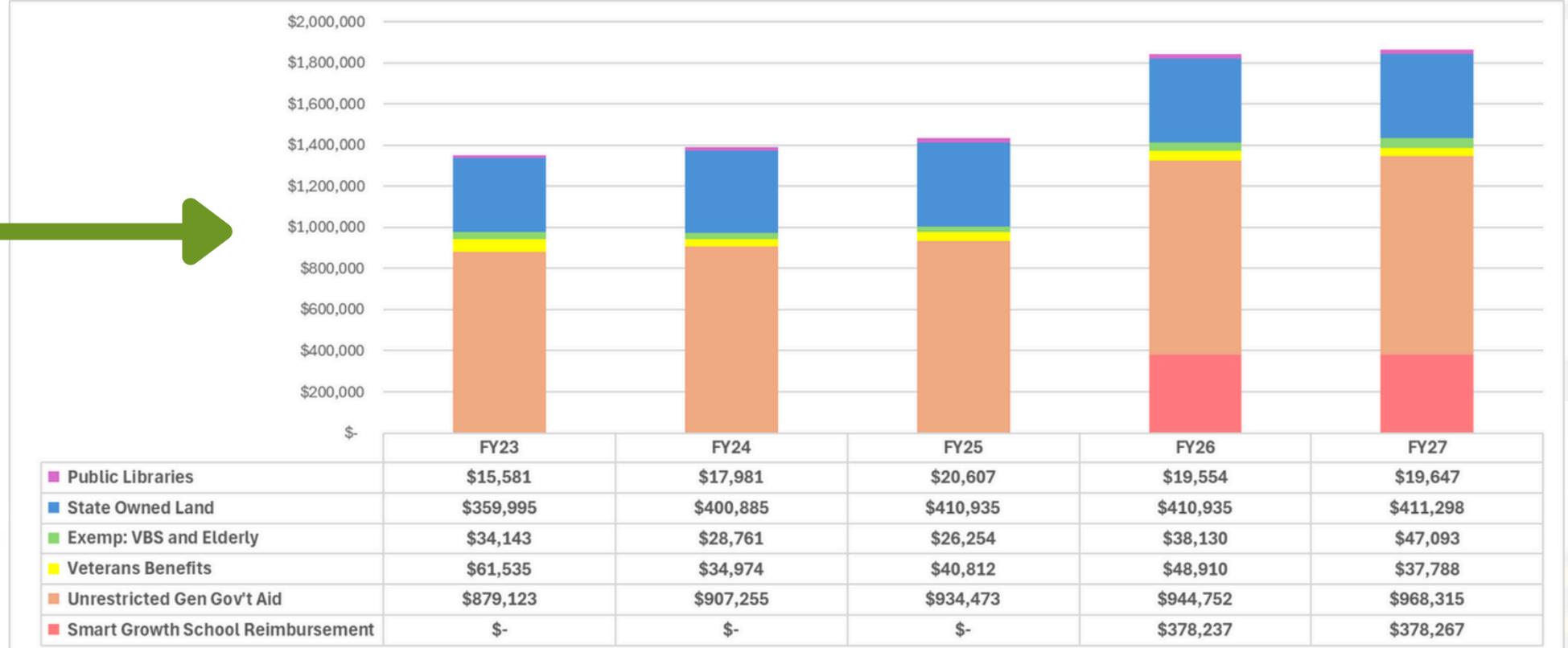
FY2027		
A. Levy	FY26 Levy Limit	\$29,742,776
	2.5% Increase	\$743,569
	Est. New Growth	\$100,000
	FY27 LEVY LIMIT	\$30,586,345
	Debt Exclusions	\$1,150,000
	MAX FY27 Levy Limit	\$31,736,345





GENERAL FUND - REVENUE

Cherry Sheet/State Aid
\$1,862,408



	FY27
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	\$822,000.00
ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX	\$750,000.00
MEALS TAX	\$215,000.00
PENALTY & INT. ON TAXES	\$135,000.00
PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$10,000.00
FEES	\$199,200.00
RENTALS	\$125,000.00
OTHER DEPT REVENUE	\$65,500.00
LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$431,550.00
FINES & FOREFEITURES	\$37,000.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$175,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,965,250.00

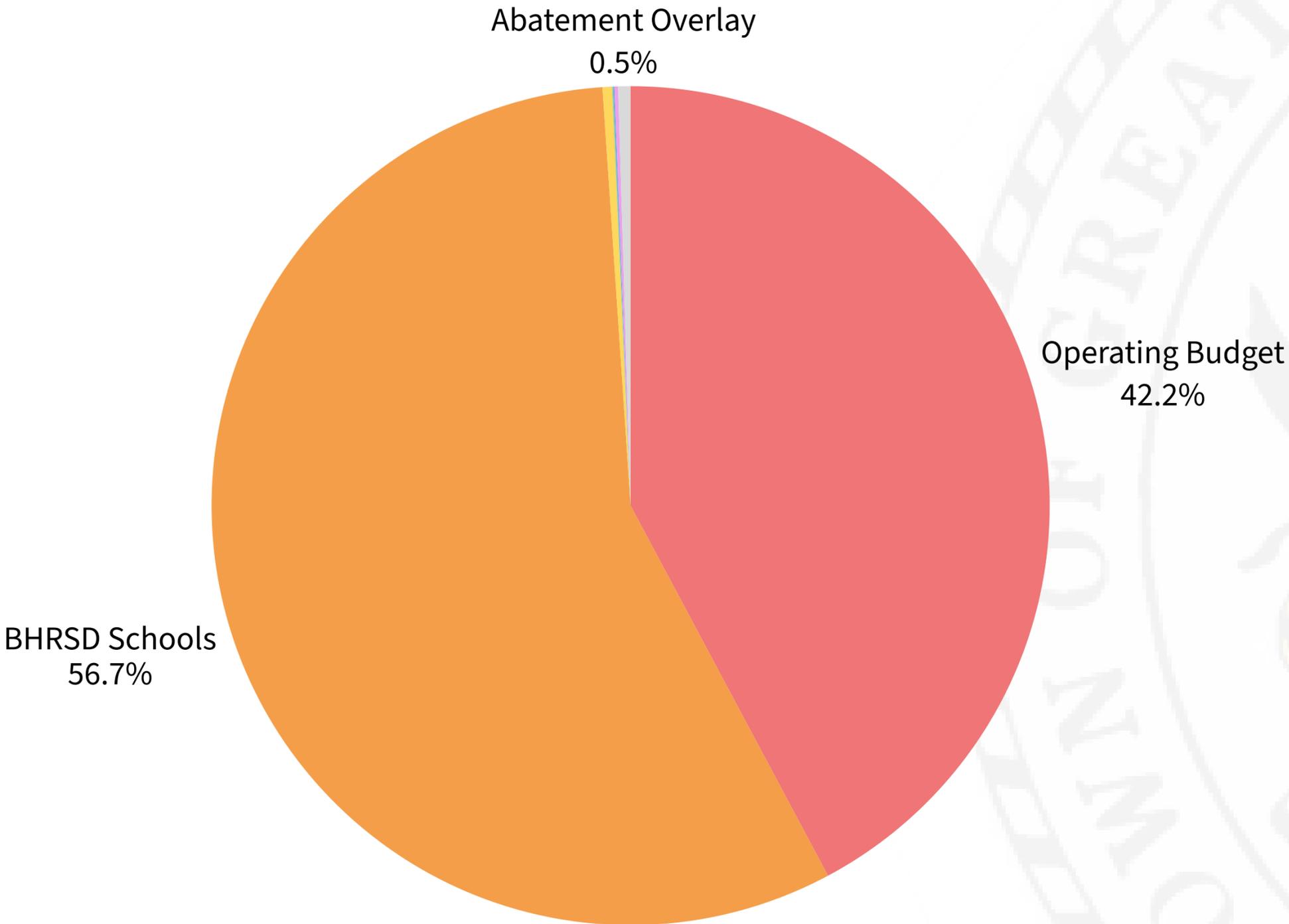
Est. Local Receipts
\$2,965,250





ESTIMATED GENERAL EXPENSES

\$42,066,570



Operating Budget	\$17,673,695
BHRSD Schools	\$23,764,216
Voc School	\$150,000
State Offsets (Library)	\$19,647
Snow & Ice Deficit	\$200,000
State Assessments	\$59,607
Abatements/Exemption Overlays	\$200,000





FY27 GENERAL BUDGET

A. Levy	FY 26 Levy Limit	\$29,742,776
	2.5% Increase	\$743,569
	New Growth	\$100,000
	FY27 LEVY LIMIT	\$30,586,345
	Debt Exclusions	\$1,150,000
	MAX Levy Limit	\$31,736,345
B. Revenues	Cherry Sheet/State Aid	\$1,862,408
	Local Receipts (Est.)	\$2,965,250
	Total	\$4,827,658
C. Expenses	Operating Budget	\$17,673,695
	BHRSD Schools	\$23,764,216
	Voc School	\$150,000
	State Offsets (Library)	\$19,647
	Snow & Ice Defict	\$200,000
	State Assessments	\$59,607
	Abatements/Exemption Overalys	\$200,000
	Total Expenses	\$42,066,570
	C.Expenses - B. Revenues = Amount to be Raised	\$37,238,912
	A. Levy Limit	\$31,736,345
	GRAND TOTAL DEFICT	\$ (5,502,566)

Achieves most of Financial Policy

General Operating Increase

6.23%

- Does not rely on Free Cash for reoccurring costs
- \$200,000 in Reserves
- 5% Free Cash to Stabilization or OPEB
- Reflects anticipated benefits increases (Insurance, etc)
- No reduction to workforce.
- Applies 2% Cost of Living (COLA) for all town employees and meets Contractual Obligations
- New Borrowing restricted to obligated \$728,620.82
- Free Cash for:
 - FY27 Capital without Borrowing = \$3.5M
 - Outstanding Obligations = \$850,000
 - SBAmbulance Subsidy = \$289,681
 - Abatements, Exemptions Overlay = \$225,000

\$ (5,502,566)





FY27 GENERAL BUDGET

A. Levy	FY 26 Levy Limit	\$29,742,776
	2.5% Increase	\$743,569
	New Growth	\$100,000
	FY27 LEVY LIMIT	\$30,586,345
	Debt Exclusions	\$1,150,000
	MAX Levy Limit	\$31,736,345
B. Revenues	Cherry Sheet/State Aid	\$1,862,408
	Local Receipts (Est.)	\$2,965,250
	Total	\$4,827,658
C. Expenses	Operating Budget	\$17,047,695
	BHRSD Schools	\$23,764,216
	Voc School	\$150,000
	State Offsets (Library)	\$19,647
	Snow & Ice Deficit	\$200,000
	State Assessments	\$59,607
	Abatements/Exemption Overalys	\$200,000
	Total Expenses	\$41,441,165
	C.Expenses - B. Revenues = Amount to be Raised	\$36,613,507
	A. Levy Limit	\$31,736,345
	GRAND TOTAL DEFICIT	\$ (4,877,162)

Minimally achieves Financial Policy

General Operating Increase

2.45%

- Does not rely on Free Cash for reoccurring costs
- \$150,000 in Reserves
- Reflects anticipated benefits increases (Insurance, etc)
- No reduction to workforce.
- Applies 0% Cost of Living (COLA) for all town employees
- Does not meet contractual obligations
- New Borrowing restricted to obligated \$728,620.82
- Includes in Free Cash
 - FY27 Capital without Borrowing = \$3.5M
 - Outstanding Obligations = \$850,000
 - SBAmbulance Subsidy = \$289,681
 - Abatements, Exemptions Overlay = \$200,000
 - Celebrations = \$15,000
 - VFW & American Legion Leases = \$53,000
 - HWW Legal Fees = \$50,000

\$ (4,877,162)





FY27 GENERAL BUDGET

A. Levy	FY 26 Levy Limit	\$29,742,776
	2.5% Increase	\$743,569
	New Growth	\$100,000
	FY27 LEVY LIMIT	\$30,586,345
	Debt Exclusions	\$1,150,000
	MAX Levy Limit	\$31,736,345
B. Revenues	Cherry Sheet/State Aid	\$1,862,408
	Local Receipts (Est.)	\$2,965,250
	Offset from Free Cash	\$4,669,577
	Total	\$9,497,235
C. Expenses	Operating Budget	\$17,047,695
	BHRSD Schools	\$23,764,216
	Voc School	\$150,000
	State Offsets (Library)	\$19,647
	Snow & Ice Deficit	\$200,000
	State Assessments	\$59,607
	Abatements/Exemption Overalys	\$200,000
	Total Expenses	\$41,441,165
	C.Expenses - B. Revenues = Amount to be Raised	\$31,943,930
	A. Levy Limit	\$31,736,345
	GRAND TOTAL DEFICIT	\$ (207,585)

Does not meet Financial Policy

General Operating Increase

2.45%

- Offset Operating Deficit with Free Cash = \$4,669,577
- \$150,000 in Reserves
- Reflects anticipated benefits increases (Insurance, etc)
- No reduction to workforce.
- Applies 0% Cost of Living (COLA) for all town employees
- Does not meet contractual obligations
- New Borrowing restricted to obligated \$728,620.82
- Also includes in Free Cash
 - Outstanding Obligations = \$850,000
 - SBAmbulance Subsidy = \$289,681
 - Abatements, Exemptions Overlay = \$200,000
- Does NOT include
 - Celebrations = \$15,000
 - VFW & American Legion Leases = \$53,000
 - HWW Legal Fees = \$50,000

\$ (207,585) or 1.22%





IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Date	Action Item
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026	Citizen Petition Deadline. (No less than 30 calendar days - §41-15 Town By-laws)
Friday, Feb. 13, 2026	Town Manager submits proposed FY27 Budget to Select Board and Finance Cmte.
February 24-25, 2026	1st Round Budget Presentations – Joint with Select Board and Finance Cmte. (Operating)
March 3-4, 2026	2nd Round Budget Presentations – Joint with Select Board and Finance Cmte. (Capital)
Monday, Mar. 23, 2026	1st Round Town Meeting Warrant Article Presentations incld. CPC Rec. Articles
Tuesday, April 14, 2026	Joint Budget Public Hearing, and cont. Town Meeting Warrant Article Presentations. **Finalize the Warrant**





Q&A

