

City of Waco

FY 2027 Operating and Capital Budget

City Council Work Session
August 4, 2026



Ryan Holt – City Manager
Blu Kostelich – ACM/CFO
Collin Boothe – Managing Director, Finance

AGENDA

1. FY 2027 Budget Development
2. FY 2027 Operating Budget
3. Certified Values & Tax Rate
4. Personnel Items
5. Major Funds Summary
6. Capital Program



Investments In Waco...*For Wacoans*

\$638,906,122 total capital investment over the last 5 years





FY 2027 Budget Development

FOR WACOANS

at the heart of everything we do

RISK EXPOSURE → **MITIGATION COVERAGE**

! Economic Risks

- Consumer discretionary spending is weakening
- Taxable appraised values continue slower growth trajectory
- Persistent inflation impacting both revenues and expenses

! Operational Risks

- Persistent inflation impacting both revenues and expenses
- Infrastructure maintenance and replacement needs continue
- Hiring remains competitive even as unemployment rises

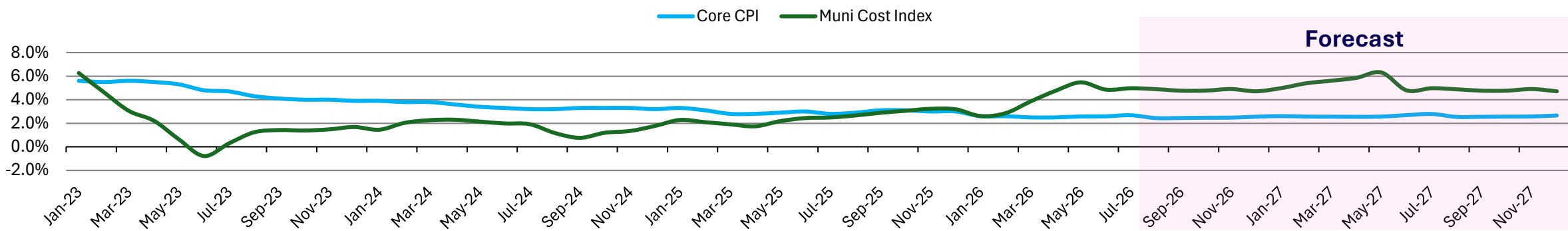
✓ Mitigation Strategies

- Maintaining healthy fund balance
- Conservative but realistic revenue projections
- Comprehensive spending controls
- Deliberate capital planning processes

Municipal Inflation

Inflation & Consumer Prices

- CPI for June 2026 fell by 0.4% year-over-year, with Core CPI flat at 0.0% due to a temporary reduction in fuel prices
- Municipal Cost Index (MCI) rose to 4.9%, with FY27 projected to increase to 5.2%



Waco Inflationary Impact

Fire Pumper \$1,407,584 per apparatus 5-Yr: ↑121% AGR: ↑24%	Police PIU Vehicle \$72,717 per upfitted PPV 5-Yr: ↑36% AGR: ↑7%	IT Software \$3,318,885 total budget 5-Yr: ↑78% AGR: ↑16%	General Insurance \$2,718,234 total budget 5-Yr: ↑246% AGR: ↑49%
Water Chemicals \$11,471 combined per ton 5-Yr: ↑120% AGR: ↑24%	Health Insurance \$11,991 per employee 5-Yr: ↑56% AGR: ↑11%	Utility Pipe \$227 average per type 5-Yr: ↑41% AGR: ↑8%	Public Safety Radios \$6,464 per vehicle radio 5-Yr: ↑60% AGR: ↑12%

City of Waco's FY 2027 Budget Overview

Total FY 2027 Budget
\$733.3 M

↓ 3.9% vs FY26

Financial Overview

- \$29.6 million decrease from FY26 (-3.9%)
- Maintains 75.50-cents per \$100 tax rate
- General Fund decrease of \$2.6 million from FY26 (-1.2%)

Strategic Investments

- \$10.2 million in compensation and benefits
- \$8.4 million increase in Public Safety
- \$112.5 million infrastructure-focused Capital Program

Long-Term Commitment Funding

- Civil Service Employee Compensation: +4.0%
- Non-Civil Service Employee Compensation: +3.0%
- TMRS: funded liability at 85%; City contribution 18.08%
- Health Insurance: City @ +12% (\$2.2M); Employees @ +7% (\$270k)

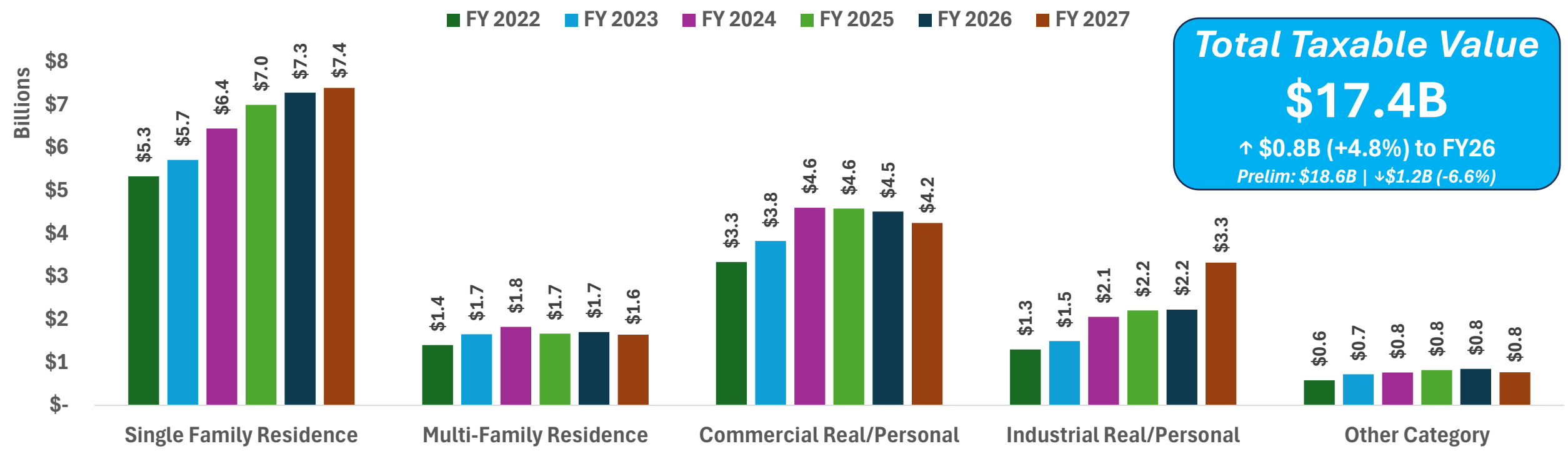
FY 2027 BUDGET BY FUND

	(Expense)	Revenue	\$ Surplus / (Deficit)
General Fund	\$(213.3)	\$213.3	
Water / Wastewater	\$(169.4)	\$172.6	+\$3.2
Debt Service	\$(98.5)	\$99.0	+\$0.5
Internal Services	\$(80.6)	\$80.9	+\$0.3
Special Revenue	\$(62.1)	\$63.8	+\$1.8
Solid Waste	\$(39.4)	\$39.4	
Other Capital	\$(23.2)	\$21.9	-\$1.4
Other Funds	\$(17.8)	\$17.9	+\$0.1
Transit	\$(13.0)	\$13.0	
Drainage	\$(7.6)	\$8.7	+\$1.1
Zoo	\$(8.6)	\$8.6	



Property Tax Certified Values & Proposed Tax Rate

Certified Taxable Property Values



Single-Family

\$7.4B

Prelim: \$7.6B | ↓\$0.2B

5-Yr: 5.3%

FY27: 1.5%

Multi-Family

\$1.6B

Prelim: \$1.9B | ↓\$0.3B

5-Yr: -0.1%

FY27: -3.5%

Commercial

\$4.2B

Prelim: \$5.0B | ↓\$0.8B

5-Yr: 2.1%

FY27: -5.9%

Industrial

\$3.3B

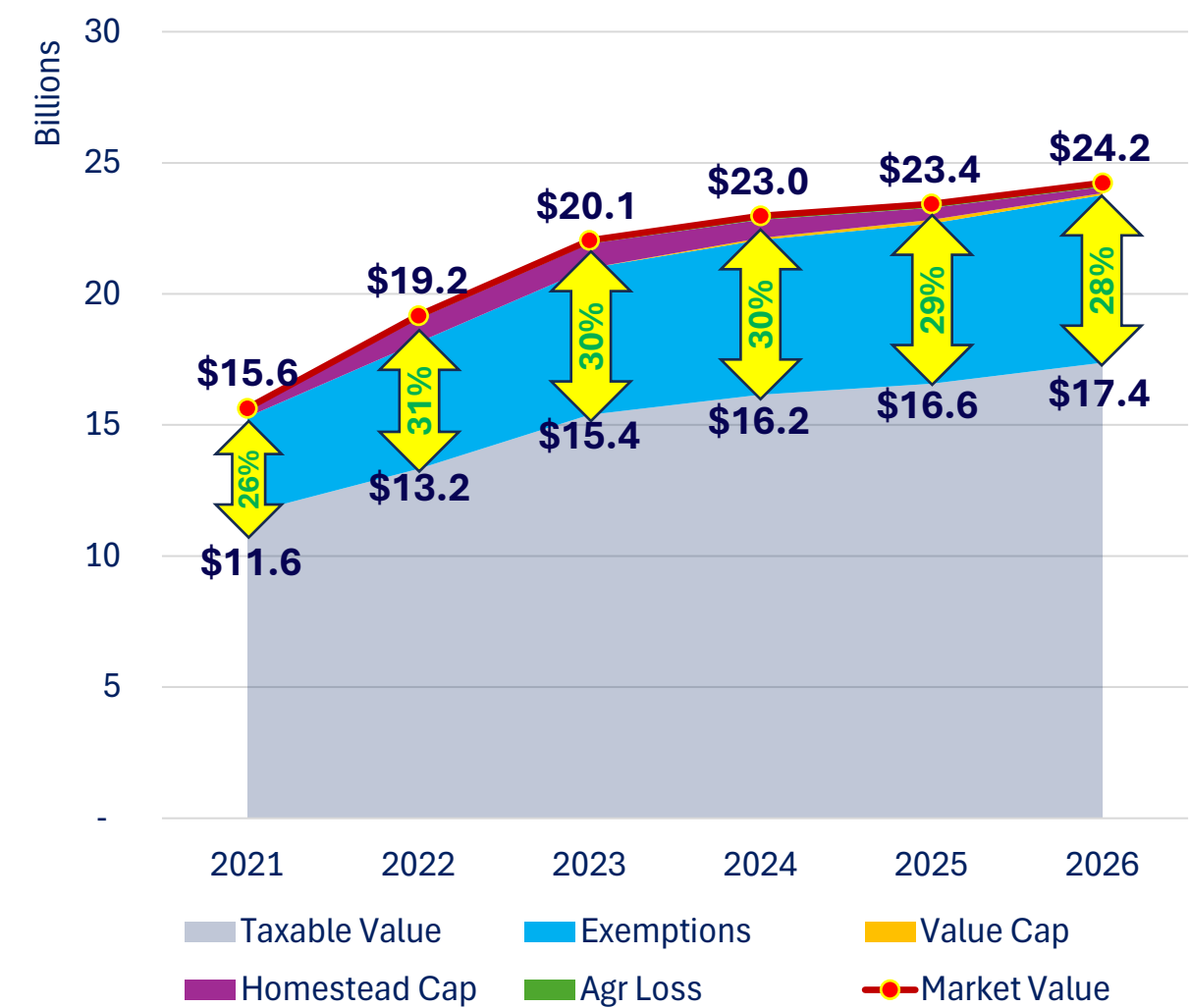
Prelim: \$4.0B | ↓\$0.7B

5-Yr: 17.3%

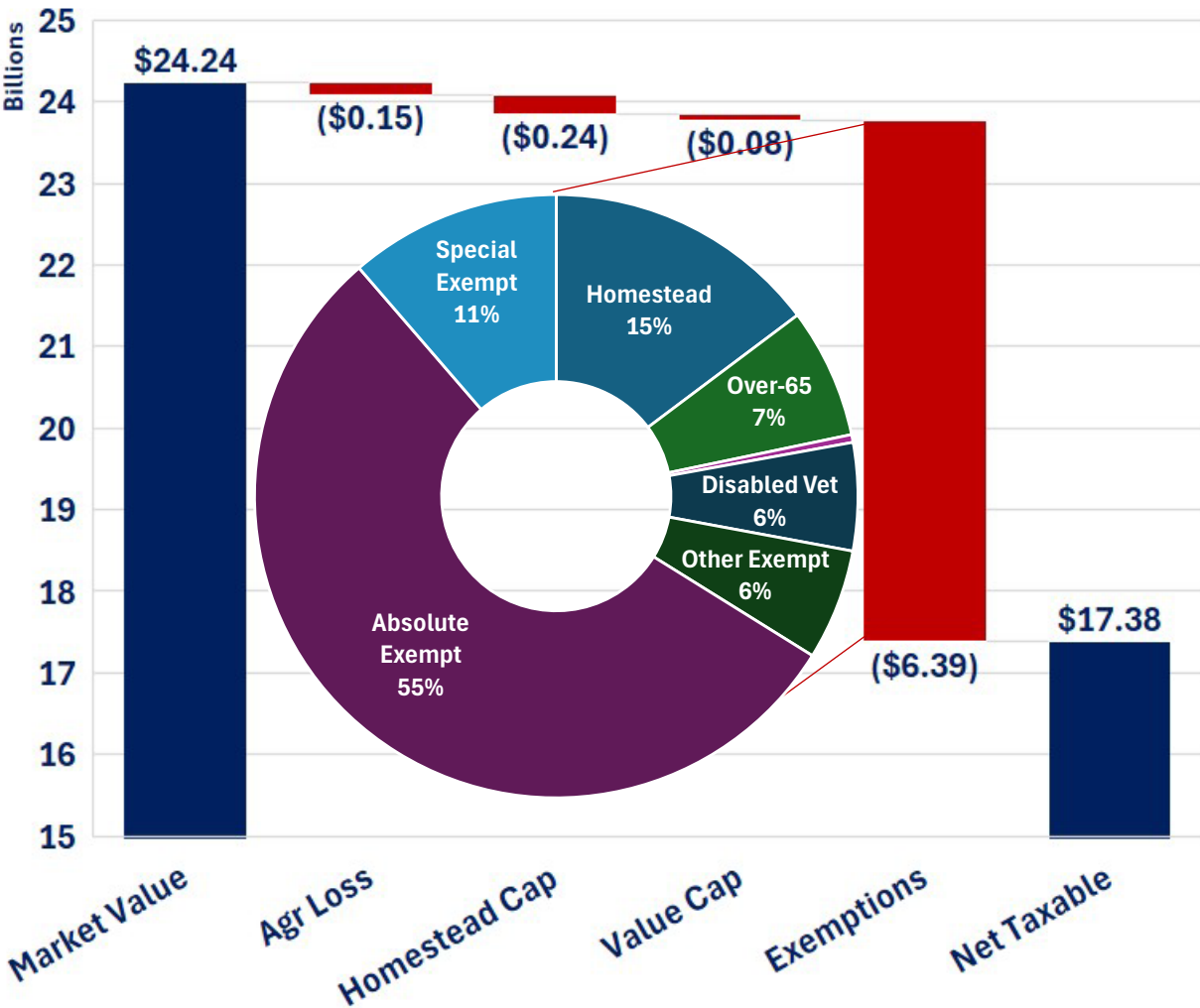
FY27: 48.9%

\$24.2B Market → \$17.4B Taxable Value

Gap Trend: Market vs Taxable

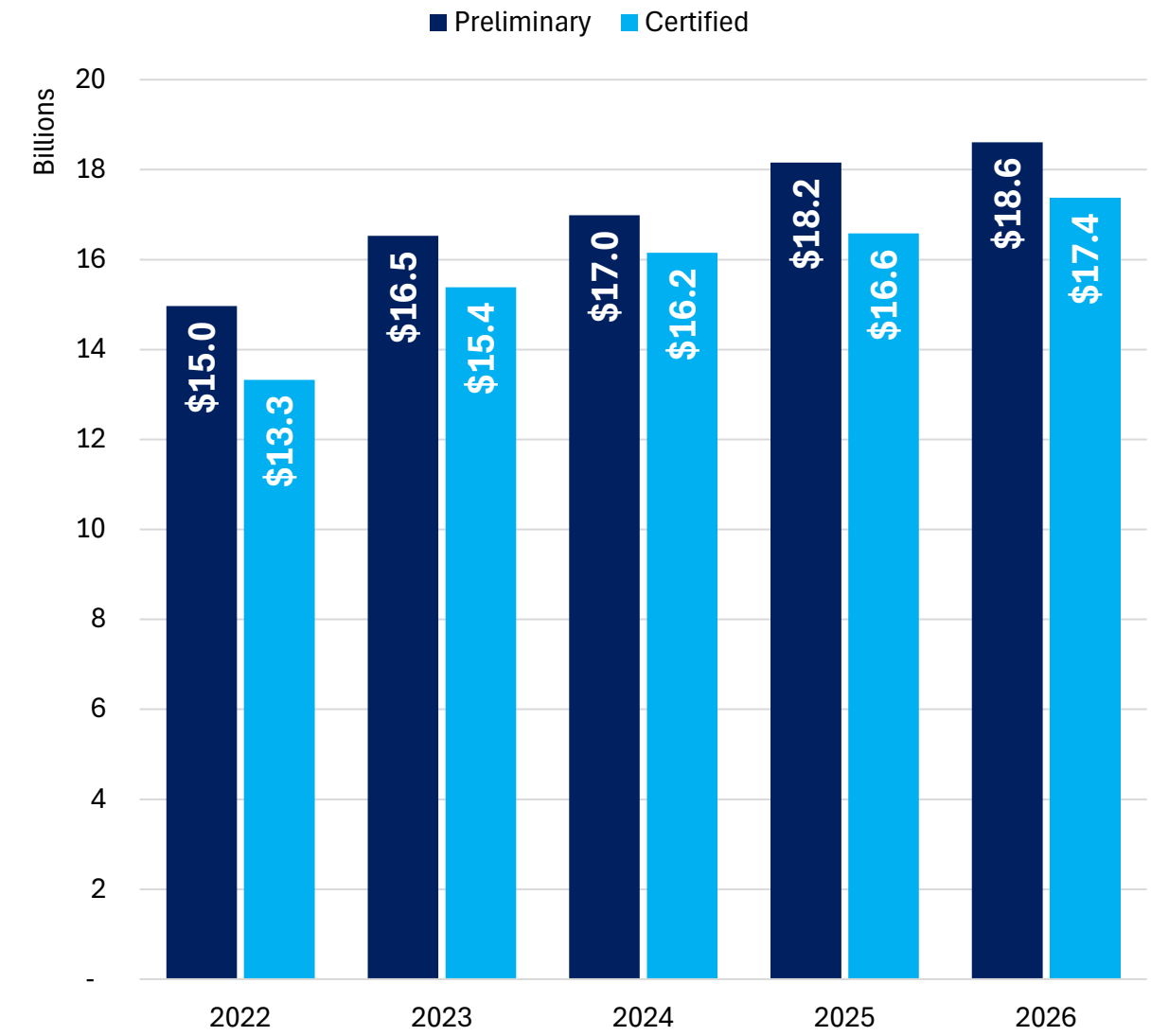


FY 2027 Value Reduction Breakdown



Property Values

Certified Taxable Value



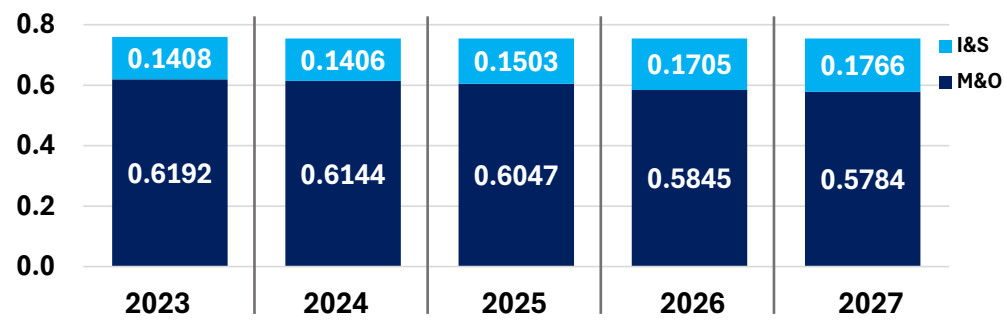
General Fund Revenue Impact

(\$ in Millions)		Tax Rate	Total Levy	\$ vs FY26
FY 2026 Gen Fund Revenue		0.755000	\$ 89.7	
MCAD Preliminary Values (\$18.6B)				
Current Tax Rate		0.755000	\$ 99.4	\$ 9.7
Voter-Approval Tax Rate		0.796926	106.4	16.7
Certified Values (\$17.4B)				
Current Tax Rate		0.755000	\$ 89.7	\$ -
Voter-Approval Tax Rate		0.853198	105.0	15.3

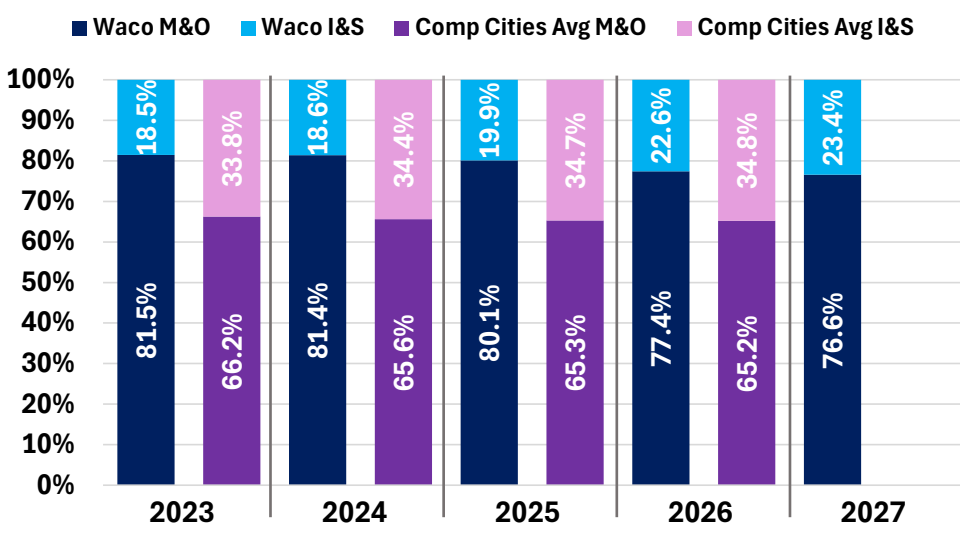
FY 2027 Proposed Tax Rate

\$0.755000 per \$100 valuation | unchanged for 5th year | lowest rate in 20 years | 0.61¢ shift from M&O to I&S

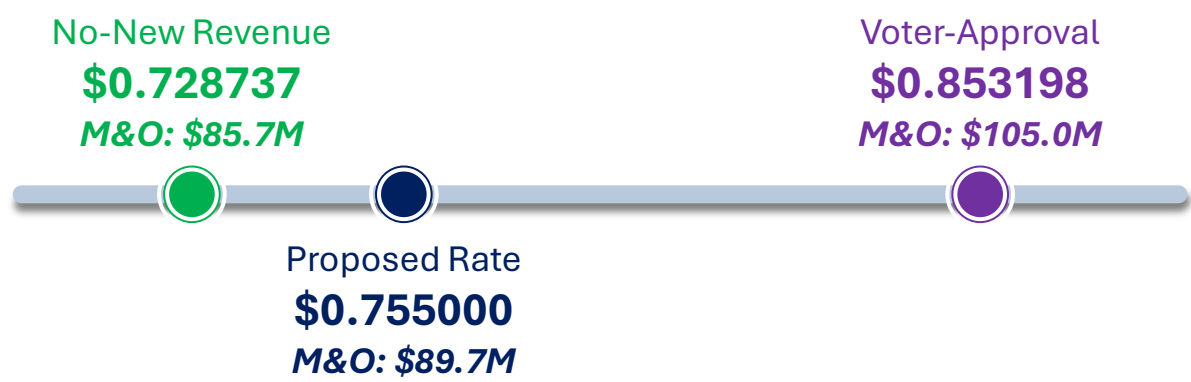
Total Rate Holds Flat, Mix Shifts – FY23 – FY27



Peer Tax Rate Split Comparison



FY27 Proposed Tax Rate vs. Certified Benchmarks



Historical Tax Rate Split with Levies

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Adopted Tax Rate	\$ 0.755000	\$ 0.755000	\$ 0.755000	\$ 0.755000
M&O Tax Rate	0.614409	0.604652	0.584500	0.578371
I&S Tax Rate	0.140591	0.150348	0.170500	0.176629
Anticipated M&O Levy	\$ 88,997,214	\$ 91,218,511	\$ 89,723,930	\$ 89,743,807
Anticipated I&S Levy	20,364,623	22,681,676	26,706,814	27,966,229
Value of 1-Cent Tax Rate	\$ 1,448,501	\$ 1,508,612	\$ 1,573,601	\$ 1,590,891



Personnel Budgeting

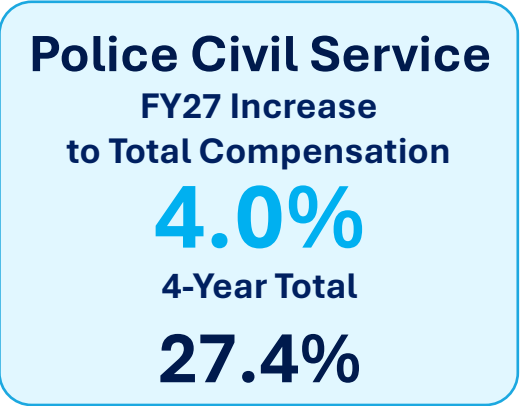
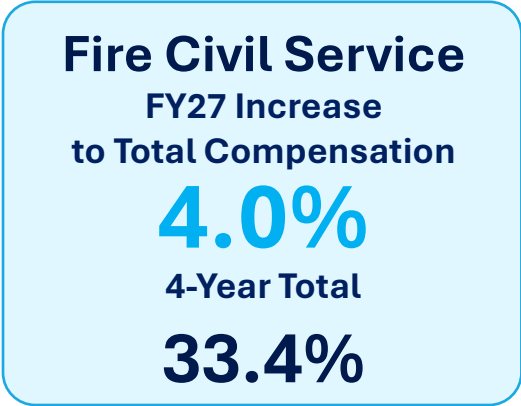
Employee Compensation

Four-Year Compensation Growth – Civil Service & Non-Civil Service



Civil Service Compensation

The FY27 budget reflects our priority of community safety through significant compensation investments for sworn Fire and Police employees.



Non-Civil Service Compensation

With ongoing economic conditions at the local, state, and national levels, the City is proposing a 3.0% general salary increase as part of its continued investment in our workforce.



Employee Health Insurance

FY27 Proposed Budget includes a funding increase of 12% for the City and 7% for Employees



\$17.5898 hourly / \$36,586.78 annual + 3.0% GSI = \$18.1174 hourly / \$37,684.39 annual

City of Waco

Contribution per Employee

FY 2025-26

\$11,023

FY 2026-27

\$11,992



Employee Only
with Wellness Incentive

+ Wage increase (3.0% GSI) + \$1,097.60

- Health premium increase - \$33.36
\$39.52 → \$42.30 / month

= Net annual pay increase \$1,064.24



Employee + Family
with Wellness Incentive

+ Wage increase (3.0% GSI) + \$1,097.60

- Health premium increase - \$487.44
\$580.10 → \$620.72 / month

= Net annual pay increase \$610.16

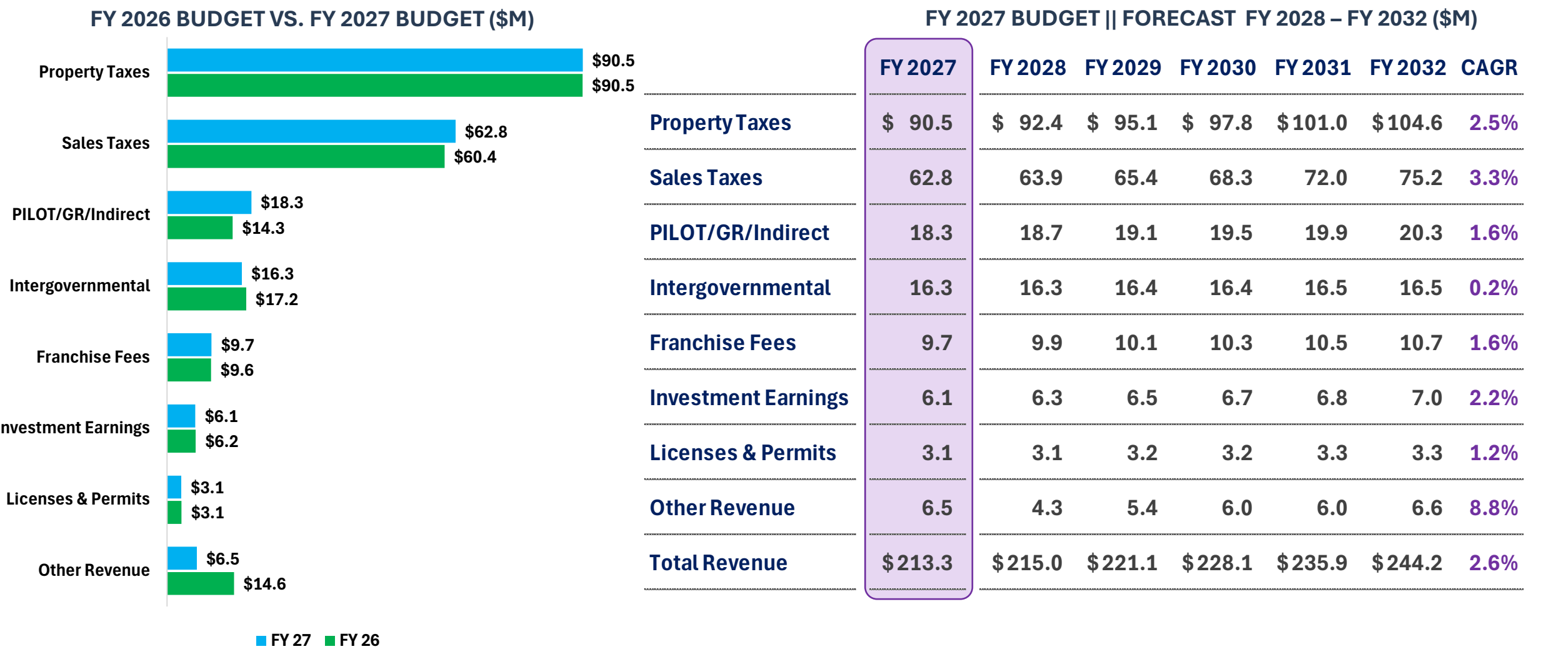


Major Funds Budget Highlights

General Fund Budget

Revenues → \$213,307,657 | ↓ \$2,593,328 (-1.2%) vs FY 2026

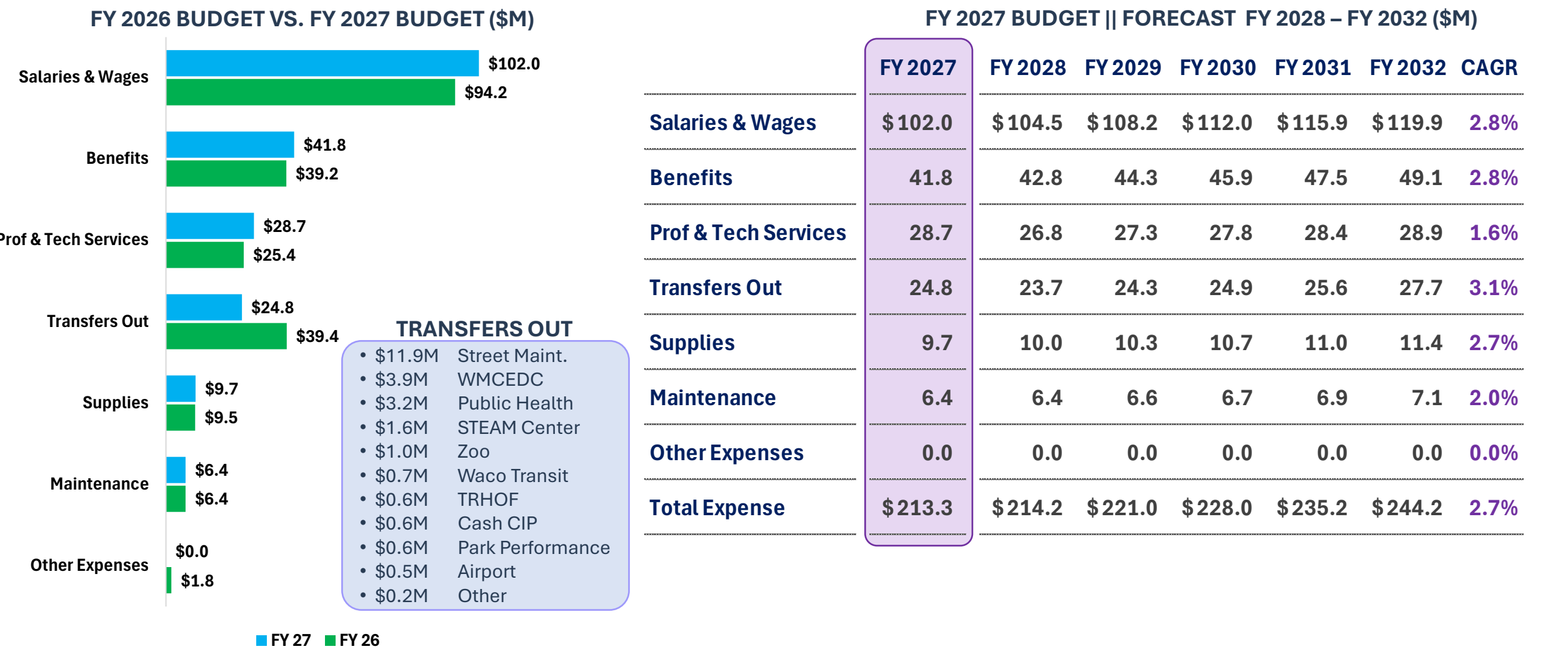
Property Tax and Sales Tax represent 72% of all General Fund revenue



General Fund Budget

Expenses → \$213,307,657 | ↓ \$2,593,326 (-1.2%) vs FY 2026

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits account for nearly 68¢ of every dollar spent – the cost of delivering services





**Fire &
Police
57%**

**Streets &
Public
Works
10%**

**General
Govt
9%**

**Culture &
Recreation
7%**

**Health & Safety
5%**

**Housing &
Development
4%**

**Economic
Development
3%**

**Admin
Services
3%**

**Outside
Agencies
2%**

Where Does My Tax Dollar Go?

The investment in Public Safety is more than the total amount the City collects from all property taxes (General Fund and Debt Service) combined

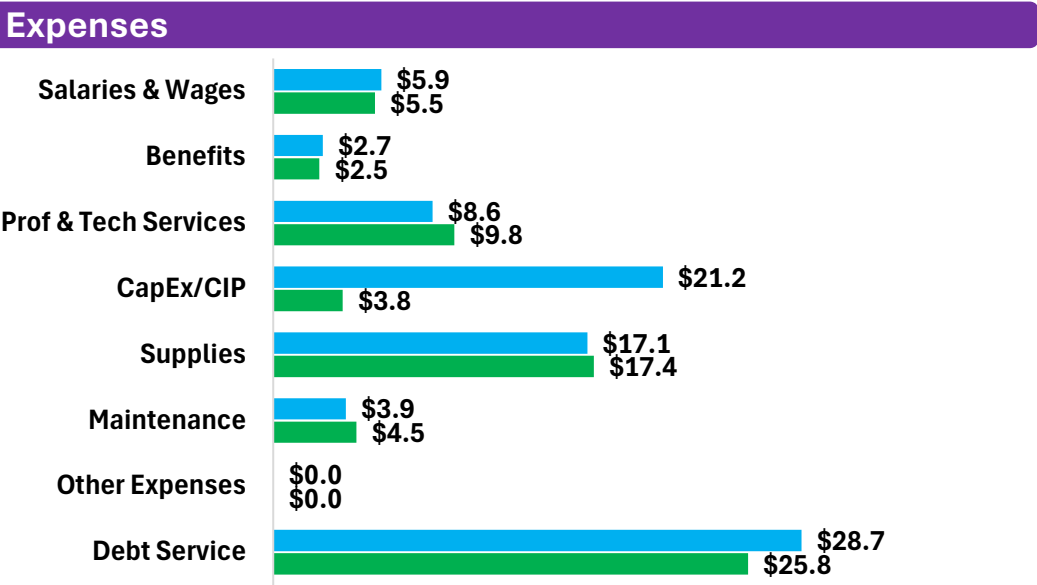
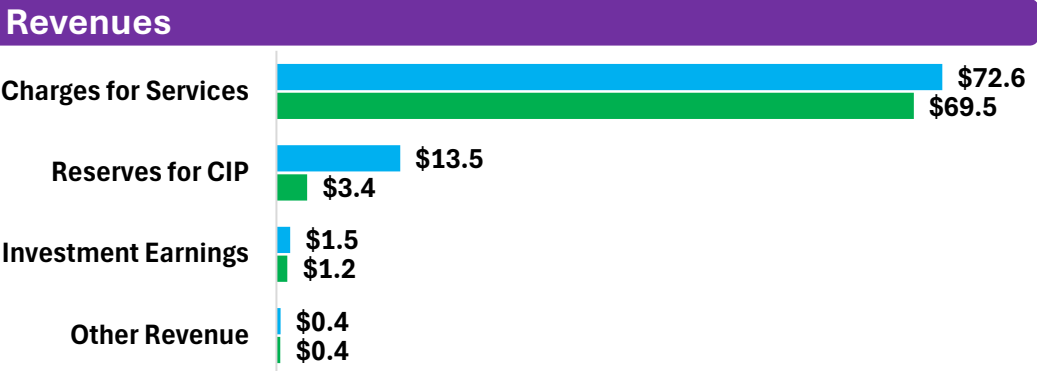


Water

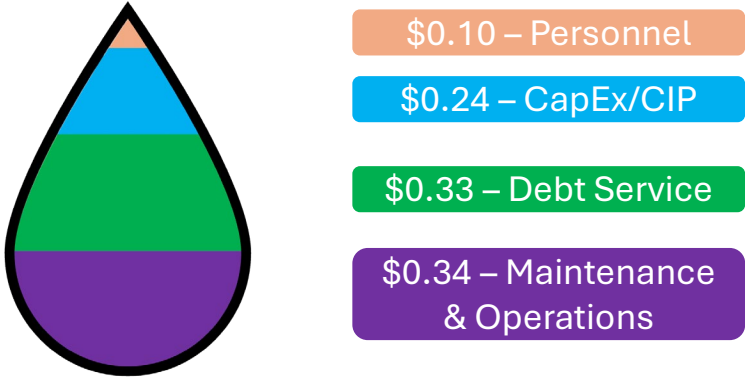
FY27 vs FY26: Revenues → \$88.1M (↑ \$13.6M) || Expenses → \$88.1M (↑ \$18.7M)

93% of the \$18.7M increase in spending is related to capital expenditures

FY 2026 BUDGET VS. FY 2027 BUDGET (\$M)



What Does \$1.00 of My Water Bill Pay For?



FY 2027 BUDGET || FORECAST FY 2028 – FY 2032 (\$M)

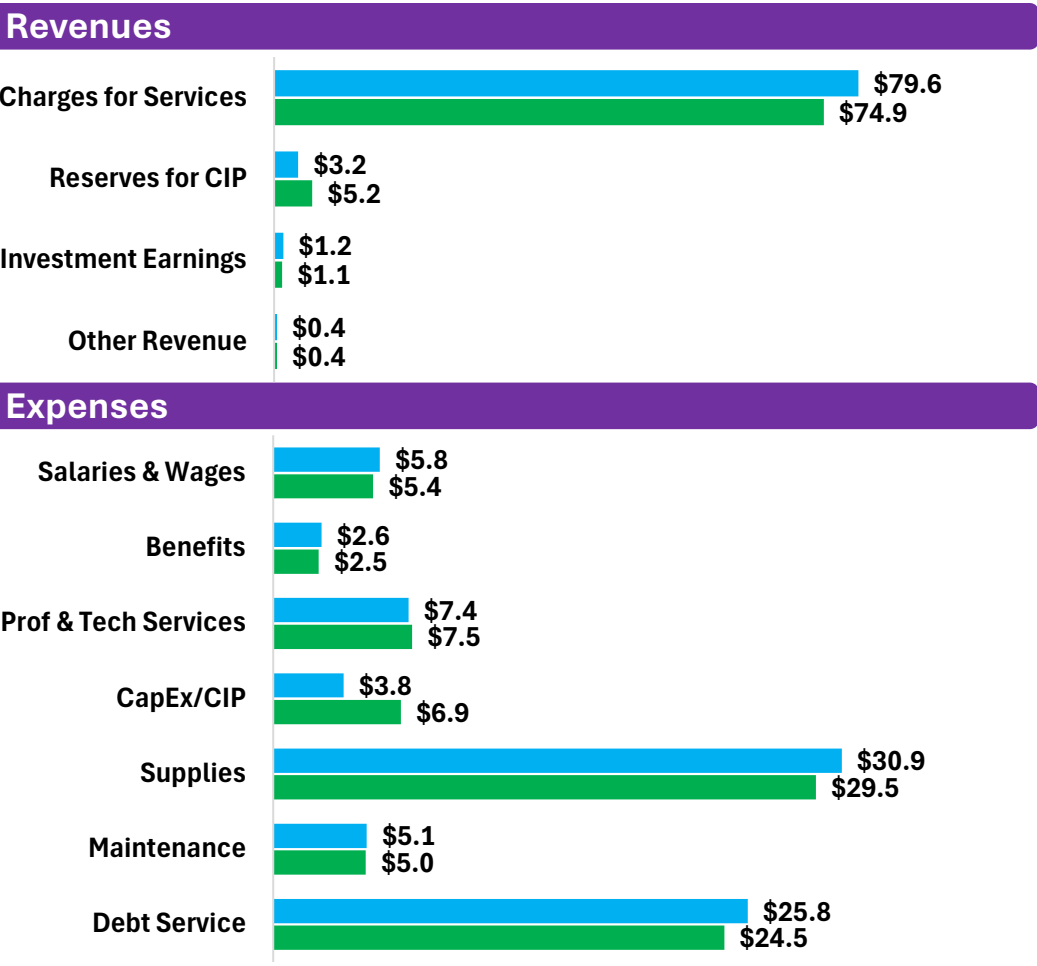
	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	CAGR
Other Revenues	\$ 2.0	\$ 9.7	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.5	\$ 10.8	2.1%
Water Sales Revenue	72.6	67.0	69.6	71.5	73.5	75.9	2.5%
Transfer from Surplus	13.5	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Water Fund Revenue	\$ 88.1	\$ 76.8	\$ 79.6	\$ 81.7	\$ 84.0	\$ 86.6	2.5%
Combined Operating Expenses	\$ 23.2	\$ 25.5	\$ 26.2	\$ 26.9	\$ 27.7	\$ 28.4	2.2%
G&A (PILOT, Franchise, Indirect)	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.4	16.9	17.4	2.3%
Capital Outlay	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.3%
CIP Projects Funded w/Cash	21.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0%
Debt Service	28.7	29.4	31.0	31.6	33.8	36.7	4.5%
Total Expenditures	\$ 88.1	\$ 72.1	\$ 74.9	\$ 76.7	\$ 80.1	\$ 84.3	3.2%

Wastewater-WMARSS

FY27 vs FY26: Revenues → \$84.5M (↑ \$2.9M) || Expenses → \$81.3M (↔\$0.0M)

90% of every wastewater dollar is spent directly on system improvements

FY 2026 BUDGET VS. FY 2027 BUDGET (\$M)



What Does \$1.00 of My Wastewater Bill Pay For?



- \$0.05 – CapEx/CIP
- \$0.10 – Personnel
- \$0.32 – Debt Service
- \$0.53 – Maintenance & Operations

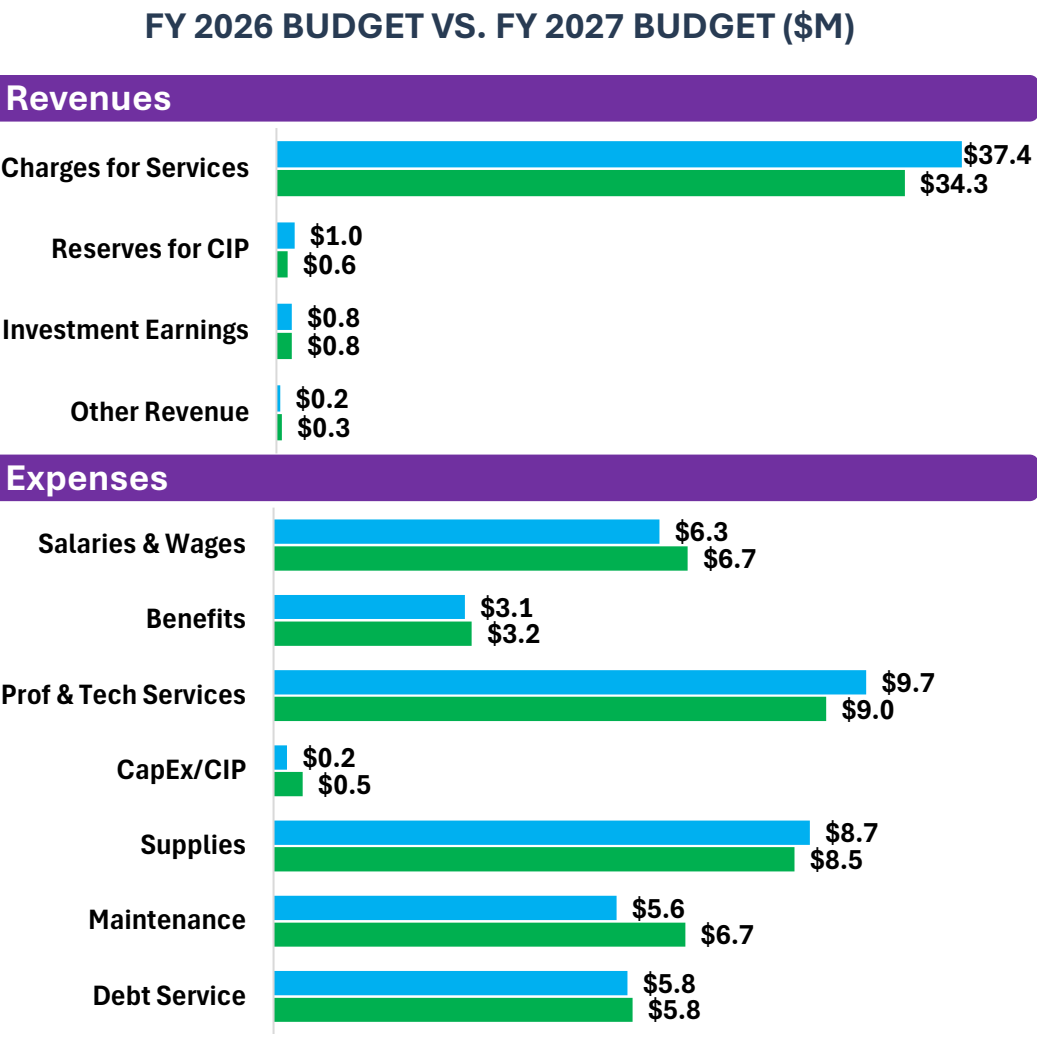
FY 2027 BUDGET || FORECAST FY 2028 – FY 2032 (\$M)

	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	CAGR
Other Revenues	\$ 4.9	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.1	\$ 2.1	\$ 2.1	1.0%
Wastewater Sales Revenue	79.6	83.3	87.2	91.6	97.2	99.9	3.7%
Transfer from Surplus		1.0	0.6	0.4	-	-	-100.0%
Total Revenue	\$ 84.5	\$ 86.3	\$ 89.8	\$ 94.0	\$ 99.3	\$ 102.0	3.4%
Combined Operating Expenses	\$ 43.1	\$ 44.8	\$ 46.7	\$ 48.8	\$ 50.8	\$ 52.0	3.0%
G&A (PILOT, Franchise, Indirect)	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.3	10.5	10.7	1.6%
Capital Outlay	9.9	10.7	11.8	13.0	14.1	14.4	6.0%
CIP Projects Funded w/Cash	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0%
Debt Service	19.5	19.9	20.3	20.9	22.6	23.9	3.7%
Total Expenditures	\$ 83.1	\$ 86.3	\$ 89.8	\$ 94.0	\$ 99.1	\$ 102.0	3.4%

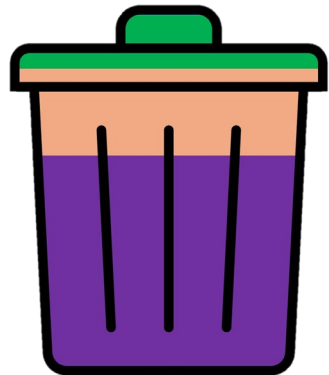
Solid Waste

FY27 vs FY26: Revenues → \$39.4M (↑ \$3.4M) || Expenses → \$39.4M (↓ \$1.1M)

76% of every solid waste dollar is spent directly on system improvements



What Does \$1.00 of My Solid Waste Bill Pay For?



- \$0.01 – CapEx/CIP
- \$0.15 – Debt Service
- \$0.24 – Personnel
- \$0.61 – Maintenance & Operations

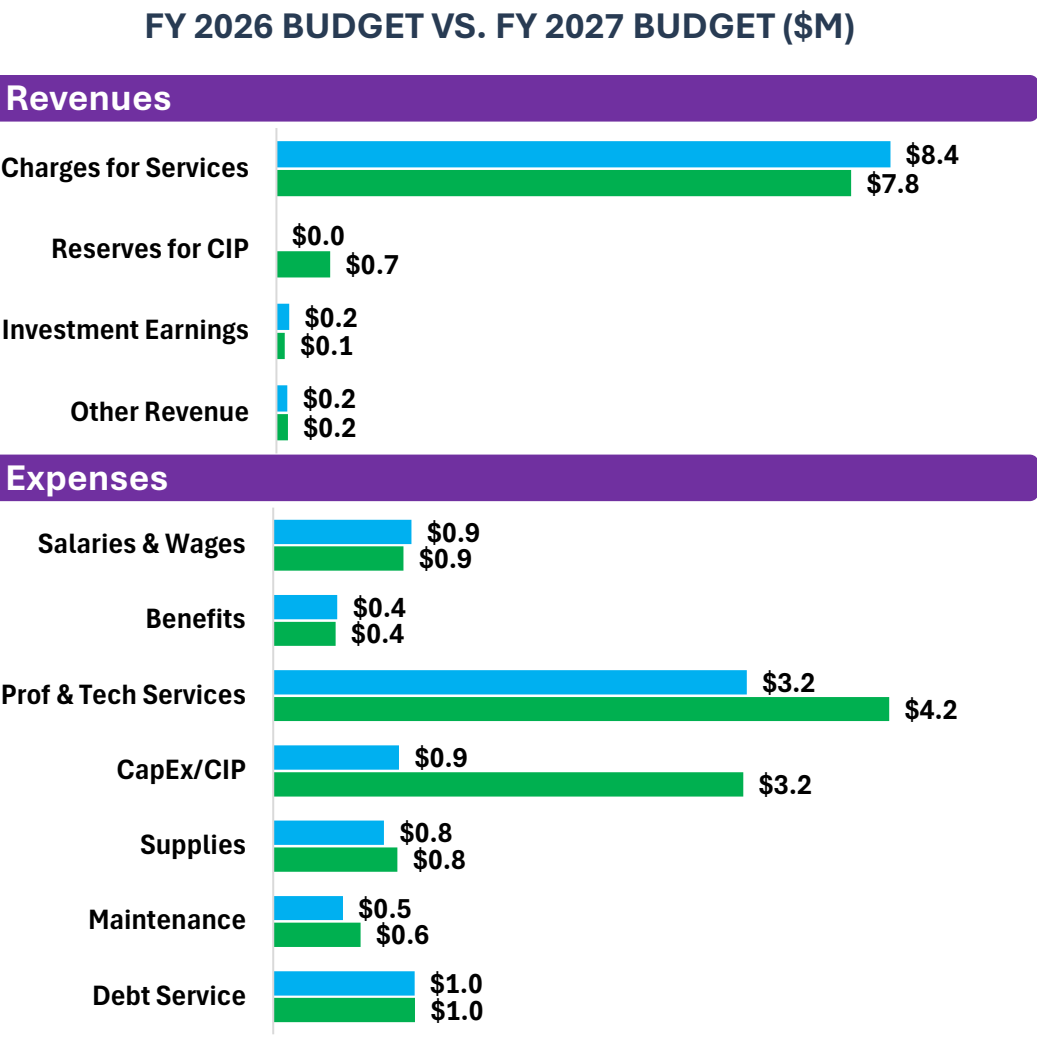
FY 2027 BUDGET || FORECAST FY 2028 – FY 2032 (\$M)

	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	CAGR
Other Revenues	\$ 1.0	\$ 2.5	\$ 2.5	\$ 2.4	\$ 2.4	\$ 2.4	-0.9%
Solid Waste Fee	37.4	38.5	39.9	41.4	43.0	44.2	2.8%
Transfer from Surplus	1.0	-	0.3	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$ 39.4	\$ 41.0	\$ 42.7	\$ 43.8	\$ 45.3	\$ 46.6	2.6%
General Administrative	\$ 9.4	\$ 9.7	\$ 9.9	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.5	\$ 10.7	2.2%
Maintenance & Operations	24.2	24.8	25.4	26.1	26.8	27.4	2.0%
Debt Service	5.8	6.4	7.3	6.6	7.6	8.0	4.3%
Total Expenditures	\$ 39.4	\$ 40.9	\$ 42.7	\$ 42.9	\$ 44.8	\$ 46.1	2.4%

Drainage

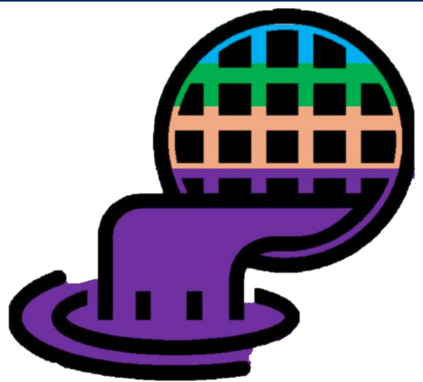
FY27 vs FY26: Revenues → \$8.7M (↓ \$0.1M) || Expenses → \$7.6M (↓ \$3.4M)

Reduction in expenses related to one-time capital projects in FY26



FY 27 FY 26

What Does \$1.00 of My Drainage Bill Pay For?



- \$0.11 – CapEx/CIP
- \$0.13 – Debt Service
- \$0.18 – Personnel
- \$0.58 – Maintenance & Operations

FY 2027 BUDGET || FORECAST FY 2028 – FY 2032 (\$M)

	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032	CAGR
Other Revenues	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	2.7%
Drainage Fee	8.4	8.9	9.5	10.0	10.2	10.7	3.6%
Transfer from Surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$ 8.7	\$ 9.0	\$ 9.6	\$ 10.1	\$ 10.3	\$ 10.8	3.6%
General Administrative	\$ 1.2	\$ 1.2	\$ 1.3	\$ 1.3	\$ 1.4	\$ 1.4	2.5%
Maintenance & Operations	4.5	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.4	3.7%
Capital Outlay	0.9	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.9	1.9	6.5%
Debt Service	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0%
Total Expenditures	\$ 7.6	\$ 9.0	\$ 9.6	\$ 10.1	\$ 10.3	\$ 10.8	3.6%

Proposed Utility Rate Changes

WATER RATE PLAN

Residential Water Minimum Charge	2026	2027	Annual Increase	2028	Annual Increase	2029	Annual Increase	2030	Annual Increase
3/4" or less	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$ -	\$16.50	\$ -	\$16.94	\$ 0.44	\$17.11	\$ 0.17
1"	27.50	27.50	-	27.50	-	28.23	0.73	28.51	0.28
1.5"	55.00	55.00	-	55.00	-	56.46	1.46	57.02	0.56
2"	88.00	88.00	-	88.00	-	90.33	2.33	91.24	0.91
3"	165.00	165.00	-	165.00	-	169.37	4.37	171.07	1.70
Volumetric Rate (per 1,000 gallons)									
0-3,000	\$ 3.47	\$ 3.65	\$ 0.18	\$ 3.72	\$ 0.07	\$ 3.85	\$ 0.13	\$3.93	\$ 0.08
3,001-8,000	4.36	4.76	0.40	4.81	0.05	4.98	0.17	5.08	0.10
8,001-15,000	6.95	7.30	0.35	7.43	0.13	7.71	0.28	7.86	0.15
15,001 - 25,000	9.03	9.50	0.47	9.66	0.16	10.02	0.36	10.22	0.20
25,000 +	12.16	12.78	0.62	13.00	0.22	13.49	0.49	13.76	0.27

WASTEWATER RATE PLAN

Residential Sewer Minimum Charge	2026	2027	Annual Increase	2028	Annual Increase	2029	Annual Increase	2030	Annual Increase
Minimum Charge	\$26.98	\$27.04	\$ 0.06	\$28.24	\$ 1.20	\$30.44	\$ 2.20	\$31.84	\$ 1.40
Volumetric Rate (per 1,000 gallons)									
All Volumes	6.97	7.49	0.52	7.81	0.32	7.92	0.11	8.19	0.27

SOLID WASTE RATE PLAN

Residential Solid Waste Collection	2026	2027	Annual Increase	2028	Annual Increase	2029	Annual Increase	2030	Annual Increase
Monthly Rate	\$ 21.93	\$ 22.34	0.41	\$ 23.09	\$ 0.75	\$23.84	\$0.75	\$24.59	0.03
Additional Cart Fee	10.97	11.18	0.21	11.43	0.25	\$11.68	0.25	\$11.93	0.02

DRAINAGE RATE PLAN

Residential Drainage Fee	2026	2027	Annual Increase	2028	Annual Increase	2029	Annual Increase	2030	Annual Increase
Monthly Rate	\$ 5.55	\$ 5.75	\$ 0.20	\$ 6.00	\$ 0.25	\$6.25	\$0.25	\$6.50	\$0.25

STREET MAINTENANCE FEE

Residential Street Maintenance Fee	2026	2027	Annual Increase	2028	Annual Increase	2029	Annual Increase	2030	Annual Increase
Monthly Rate	\$ 4.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 5.50	\$ 0.50	\$6.00	\$0.50	\$6.50	\$0.50

Household Impact

With all these changes, what is the impact on the average household?

FY 2026	
Water	\$584.52
Wastewater	\$741.96
Solid Waste	\$263.16
Drainage	\$66.60
Street Maintenance	\$48.00
Property Tax Bill	\$1,508.27
Total Annual Bill	\$3,212.51

+\$30.48
+\$31.92
+\$4.92
+\$2.40
+\$12.00
-\$73.75
+ \$7.97

FY 2027	
Water	\$615.00
Wastewater	\$773.88
Solid Waste	\$268.08
Drainage	\$69.00
Street Maintenance	\$60.00
Property Tax Bill	\$1,434.52
Total Annual Bill	\$3,220.48

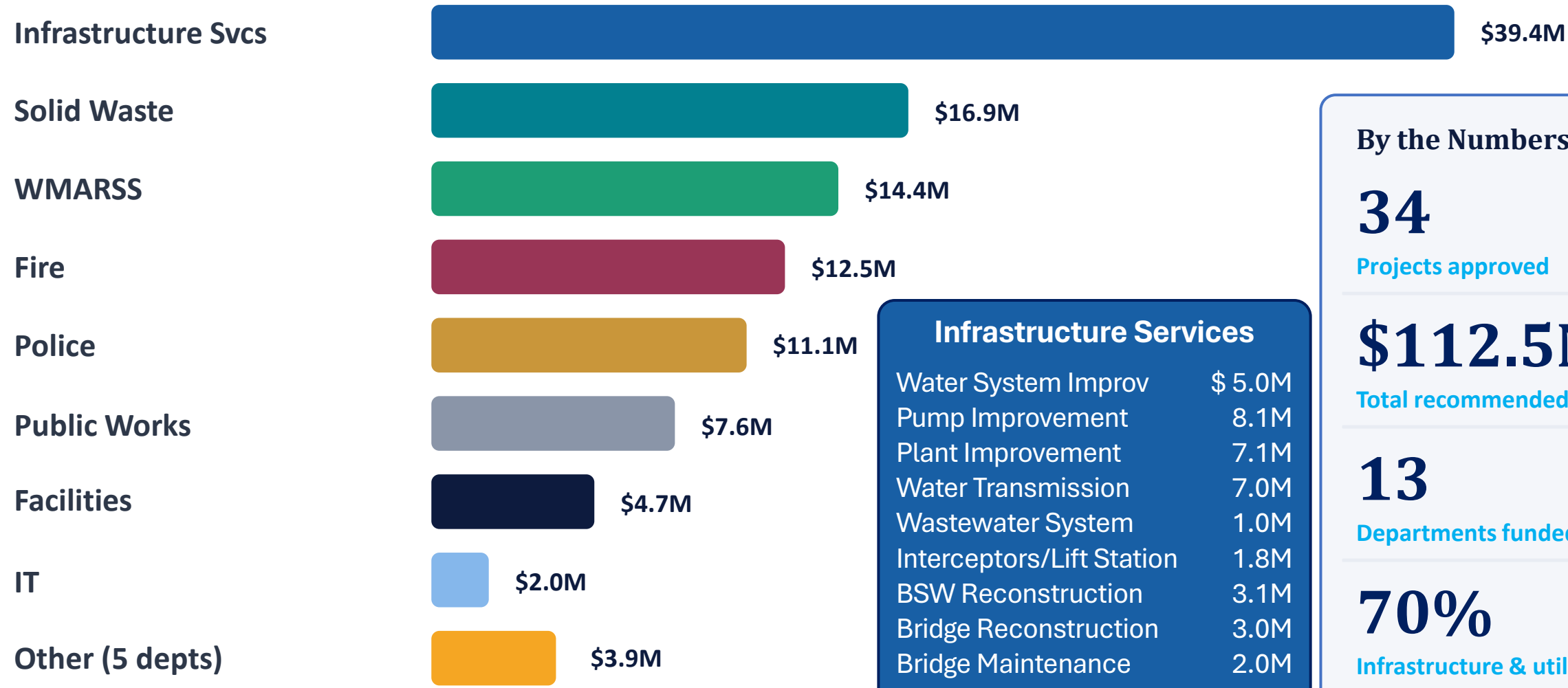
Net change: + \$7.97/year → \$0.02/day



FY 2027 Capital Improvement Program

Recommended Capital Allocations

FY 2027 Approved Investments by Department



Infrastructure Services	
Water System Improv	\$ 5.0M
Pump Improvement	8.1M
Plant Improvement	7.1M
Water Transmission	7.0M
Wastewater System	1.0M
Interceptors/Lift Station	1.8M
BSW Reconstruction	3.1M
Bridge Reconstruction	3.0M
Bridge Maintenance	2.0M
Drainage Repairs	1.3M

By the Numbers

34

Projects approved

\$112.5M

Total recommended

13

Departments funded

70%

Infrastructure & utilities

Where the Money Comes From

FY 2027 Recommended Funding: \$112.5M by Source



Self-Supporting Debt
\$30.5M (27.1%)

Existing Cash
\$11.3M (10.0%)

Other Funds (Special Revenue Funds)
\$29.5M (26.2%)

New Cash
\$4.7M (4.1%)

Reserves over Policy (Water)
\$18.6M (16.6%)

Tax Note
\$2.5M (2.3%)

CO Debt
\$15.4M (13.7%)

FY 2027 Capital Investments
57% Cash-Funded
\$64.0M Cash versus \$48.5M Debt

Deliberate Pause on New Street Debt

Streets Strategy: Finish What We've Started

CURRENT STREETS PORTFOLIO

90

open project codes
(Public Works & Infrastructure
Services)

\$99.9M

currently funded across
those 90 open projects

+\$14.7M

added in FY27 with
no new debt issued

\$114.6M

*total available for streets
in FY27*

Where the Additional \$14.7M Comes From



New Cash — \$7.0M



Interest Earnings — \$7.7M

✓ Zero new debt issuance for streets in FY27

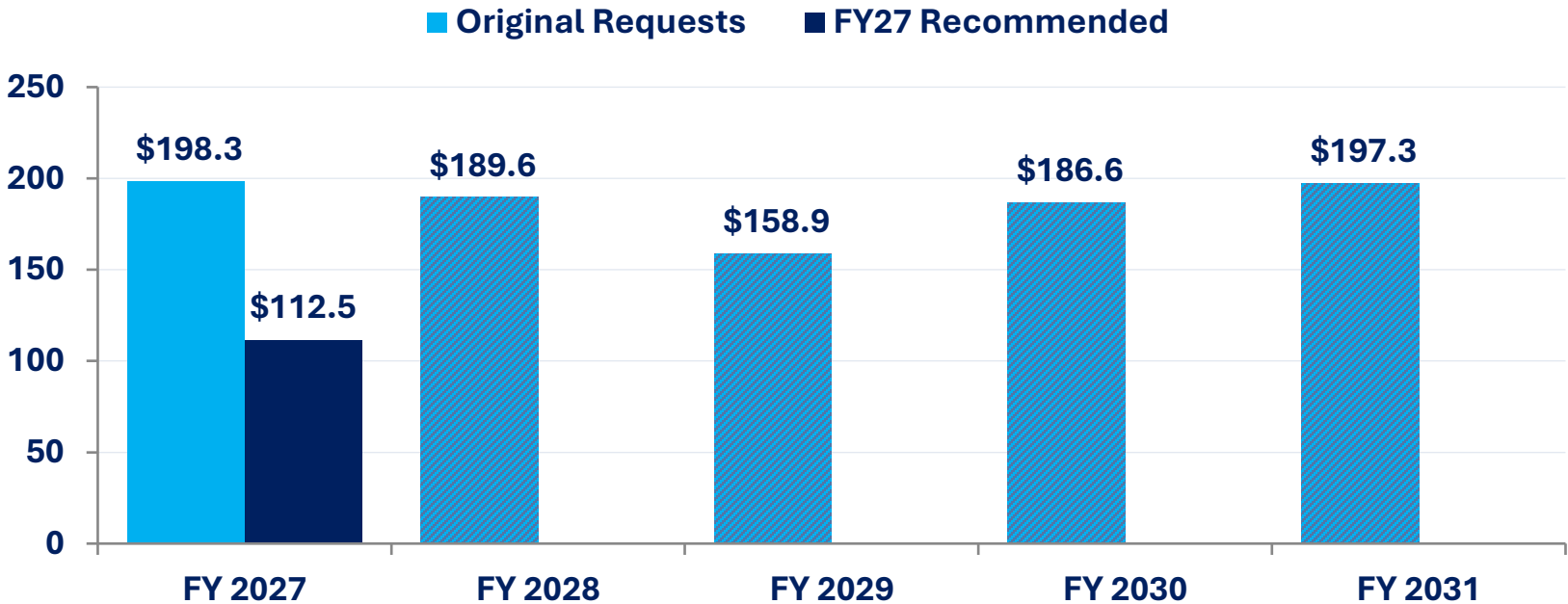
The City is intentionally pausing new street debt to focus existing and incremental funding on completing the 90 projects already underway.

Looking Ahead

If FY27 progress gets us caught up on this backlog, staff will bring a CIP budget amendment back to Council to consider additional street funding.

Looking Ahead

Multi-Year Planning: Original Requests FY 2028–FY 2031



\$730M in requests over the next 4 years
Departments have identified \$730M in needs FY28 to FY31. This sets the context for ongoing fiscal planning.

FY27 reduces total dollars allocated by 44%
The CMO recommendation cuts FY27 to \$112M, setting a precedent for disciplined review in each future year.

Future years will require the same rigor
FY28 to FY30 requests will undergo the same closure/reallocation process to minimize new debt.

	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
New Debt	\$48.5M	\$47.2M	\$61.2M	\$62.8M	\$61.6M
Debt Roll-off	\$49.4M	\$52.1M	\$53.9M	\$55.1M	\$55.9M

FY 2027 Budget: The Four Things to Remember



**\$733.3M total budget,
down 3.9%**

General Fund down 1.2% to \$213.3M
despite significant input cost inflation
citywide



**75.5-cent tax rate, flat for
the 5th year**

Lowest rate in 20 years; well below
the \$0.853198 voter-approval ceiling



**Discipline funds
investment**

Capital requests cut 44% to \$112.5M
with zero new street debt; proposed
new debt is less than existing debt
roll-off



**+\$7.97/year for the
typical home**

About \$0.02/day with utility rate
increases nearly offset by a lower
property tax bill



FOR WACOANS
at the heart of everything we do

Thank You

Please contact Blu Kostelich (bluk@wacotx.gov) or Collin Boothe (cboothe@wacotx.gov) for any questions.