



# City of Pompano Beach

100 West Atlantic Blvd.  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

## Detailed Minutes - Final

### City Commission

*Rex Hardin, Mayor*

*Andrea McGee, Vice Mayor*

*Alison Fournier, Commissioner*

*Barry Moss, Commissioner*

*Beverly Perkins, Commissioner*

*Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton, Commissioner*

*Gregory P. Harrison, City Manager*

*Mark Berman, City Attorney*

*Kervin Alfred, City Clerk*

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Monday, July 15, 2024

9:00 AM

Commission Chamber

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### Budget Workshop

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Rex Hardin, Mayor called the City Commission Budget Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** Commissioner Alison Fournier  
Commissioner Barry Moss  
Commissioner Beverly Perkins  
Commissioner Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton  
Vice Mayor Andrea McGee  
Mayor Rex Hardin

#### INVOCATION

Mayor Hardin offered the invocation.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGee, seconded by Commissioner Sigerson-Eaton, that the Agenda be APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. The motion carried by an unanimous voice vote.

**A. PRESENTATION****CITY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION - BUDGET OVERVIEW & SUMMARY FY 2024/2025****(Staff Contact: Erjeta Diamanti)**

Mayor Hardin introduced the item: a presentation of the Budget Overview & Summary for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025. Erjeta Diamanti, Budget Director, stepped forward to deliver the presentation.

Ms. Diamanti expresses gratitude to various city departments and individuals for their input and collaboration in preparing the FY 2025 Recommended Budget for the City. She acknowledged the guidance of the City Manager and extended thanks to Assistant City Manager Suzette Sibble, her dedicated support staff, and city departments. Ms. Diamanti also recognized the hard work and professionalism of all staff members and expressed appreciation for their continued efforts.

Ms. Diamanti announced that the presentation would concentrate on the general funds and aim to gain consensus on the operating millage rate, fire assessment fees, and the five-year capital improvement plan for the FY 2025-2029. The presentation will also delve into explaining variances from the FY 2024 adopted budget. Policy recommendations will take into account service levels, fire assessment fees, and millage rates, all of which will influence the service levels provided. Attached as **Exhibit 1**, is a copy of the presentation in its entirety that provides a more detailed breakdown of the FY 2025 recommended budget.

In summary, Ms. Diamanti stated the recommended Citywide Revenue Budget for FY 2025 is \$487.8M, which is a \$62M increase from the FY 2024 adopted budget of \$425.7M. This increase is attributed to variances across major categories as follows:

- Charges for services have increased by \$9M, primarily due to anticipated revenue collections for the new planning and zoning fee (\$4M) and increases in water and wastewater fees (\$4.2M).
- No significant changes have been noted in fines and forfeitures.
- Intergovernmental revenues have increased by \$3.3M, largely due to increased state and local revenue sharing.
- Licenses and permits have decreased by \$2.8M, mainly because of a decrease in building permit revenues, despite an increase in franchise fees.
- Miscellaneous revenues have seen a \$1.7M increase, attributed to updated fire revenues, interest earnings, and rental income.
- Other financing sources have decreased by \$5M due to a reduction in the fund balance allocated for various capital improvement projects.
- Other sources have surged by \$52M, primarily due to Utility 2024 debt proceeds of \$46.1M on for financing major utility improvement projects and a \$4.75M increase in the internal service charges allocation.

- Transfers decreased by \$8M primarily because of the increase in transfers from the general fund to the EMS Fund, which was \$1.3M. There was also a decrease in transfers from the building inspection funds to the building inspection capital fund. Additionally, there was a decrease in transfers from the general fund to the general capital improvement fund, which amounted to \$7.2M, as well as a decrease in utilities and stormwater transfers to the capital funds for capital improvement projects.
- Ad valorem revenues have increased by \$10M due to increased property valuations, while non-ad valorem revenue taxes have risen by \$1.1M, primarily from water utility tax and communication service tax.

The total City budget for FY 2025 is \$487.8M, maintaining a balanced budget. The breakdown of the budget includes:

- General Fund: \$222.9M
- General Capital Fund: \$11.6M
- Debt Service Funds: \$9.7M
- Special Revenue Funds: \$63.1M
- Enterprise Funds: \$142M
- Internal Service Funds: \$38M

Major fund category variances highlight a \$62M overall increase from FY 2024, driven by increases in salaries and benefits (\$7.3M), pension contributions (\$5M), internal service fees (\$5.5M), insurance premiums (\$1.7M), repair and maintenance costs (\$7.8M), and a \$33.8M hike in the capital budget due to the utility bond financing of capital improvement projects. A \$4.8M increase in debt service related to the utility bonds was noted, along with an \$8M decrease in transfers.

Special focus was placed on the internal service funds, totaling \$38M, which includes adjustments across various funds such as the central stores fund, central services fund, health insurance funds, enterprise funds, risk management, and vehicle services, each reflecting changes in salaries, benefits, insurance premiums, and operational costs.

The special revenue funds are proposed at \$63M, with notable allocations for the building inspection and building capital fund, driven by personnel services, fund transfers, and internal service charges. A new fund will be budgeted for FY 2025 to accommodate changes and allocations effectively.

Additionally, there are no proposed increases to the adopted fire assessment fees for FY 2025. Revenue estimates have been updated based on data from July 1st, reflecting no change in the general fund allocation to ocean rescue and a substantial portion of the EMS budget. A significant transfer to the EMS from the general fund was noted.

The City's revenue and expenditure estimates have been recalculated, taking into account a 10.36% increase in the July 1st valuation compared to the previous year, with the total valuation approximated at \$21B. This led to an estimated \$222.9M in expenditures and \$117M in non-ad valorem revenues, necessitating a \$105.5M balance through ad valorem taxes. These calculations result in a recommended millage rate of 5.2705 for FY

2025, consistent with the previous fiscal year's rate. The EMS millage rate remains at 0.5, while bond millage rates have been adjusted following the new valuation. Overall, there is a slight 0.8% decrease in the aggregate millage rate for the City.

Finally, Ms. Diamanti concluded her presentation by explaining the process for adopting the budget and related rates, which involves a preliminary adoption of fire assessment fees at the end of July, followed by two budget hearings in September. The final adoptions of millage rates, the budget, and the capital improvement plan will be completed at the final hearing.

Mayor Hardin sought public input on the presentation and invited the public to come forward.

Bessie Showers, director of the Summer Youth Employment Program, 1518 Northwest 17th Avenue, Pompano Beach, FL, expressed gratitude to city officials for their support and highlighted the program's impact in providing job opportunities for youth in Pompano Beach despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. She appealed for financial support to extend the program and emphasized its success and positive outcomes for participants. Ms. Showers indicated that there were two employees, a parent and a former participant, who were present to share their personal experiences and showcase the program's positive influence on their lives and the community. In closing, Ms. Showers emphasized the vital role of the program in keeping youth engaged and off the streets, making a significant difference in the community.

Todd Hardwick, the sales director of Max Marine Outlet, shared his positive experience with the Summer Youth Employment Training Program. Initially uncertain about the program's impact, he later learned that it had inspired a participant named Tom to join the military and become a mechanic. Todd believes that extending the program could potentially change more lives.

Mari Dmowski, 1270 South Cypress Road, Pompano Beach, FL, praised the youth program. She said her children also participated in it. Ms. Dmowski highlighted the thorough selection process, collaboration with local businesses, financial benefits for parents, and the program's impact on students and families. She suggested extending the program from 6 to 8 weeks.

Victoria Dmowski, a participant in the program, mentioned she has been in the youth program for two years. She worked at Innovation Charter School, organizing books and interacting with children, and later moved on to Max Marine Electronics. Her experiences there have sparked a new interest in marine-related fields, shifting her focus from wanting to be a veterinarian. Victoria finds the program beneficial for personal growth and independence, and she's grateful for the opportunity.

Gabrielle Wright, a participant in the program for two years, expressed her gratitude for her experience at Giant Steps Academy. She believes that the program is valuable for youth, as it teaches work ethic, self-control, leadership, and confidence. Gabrielle sees no negative aspects of the program and believes that her community needs more programs like this.

Da'Kayla Thomas, a former participant in the program, enthusiastically shared how Ms. Shower's youth program has positively impacted her life. She gained valuable skills such as time management and budgeting, which proved helpful when she landed her first job. Da'Kayla emphasized the program's benefits in keeping

youth engaged during the summer and away from potential negative influences. She believes the program provides a great experience for its members and helps keep children positively occupied during the summer.

Tynesha Fuller, 613 Northwest 16th Avenue, Pompano Beach, Florida, a monitor working with Ms. Showers, expressed her honor in working with the youth in Pompano Beach. She initially joined Ms. Showers' summer program at the age of 14 and now has the opportunity to mentor other young individuals, which she finds truly amazing. Tynesha emphasized the importance of providing job opportunities, teaching self-control and discipline, and promoting respect and productivity in the community. She also pleaded for increased support and mentioned the possibility of sponsorship to aid their efforts. Tynesha conveyed her gratitude and urged the Commission to provide as much assistance as possible.

Mayor Hardin sought further public input on the presentation and, receiving none, closed public input. He thanked Ms. Showers for her efforts and hard work in the community. After that, the Mayor recessed the workshop until 10:00 a.m. and would later reconvene in the fourth-floor conference room.

## **B. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDED FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FY 2025-2029**

**(Staff Contact: Erjeta Diamanti/Tammy Good)**

Erjeta Diamanti, Budget Director, began the presentation on the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Recommended Capital Improvement Plan; noted that the focus was primarily on the general capital plan; and provided printed snapshots for review. She stated that after careful consideration and prioritization, staff is proposing \$11.6M in capital improvement projects for Fiscal Year 2025; clarified that while the plan covers five years, funding is allocated for FY 2025, with projections for FY 2026 to 2029; mentioned \$1.9M in operating expenses allocated to this fund; outlined major categories including streets and bridges at \$4.5M, facilities at \$1.1M, and public safety funding projected for FY 2026.

Furthermore, Ms. Diamanti reported that \$2.1M is allocated to public works projects, \$2M to recreation for the first time, and funding for golf is projected for FY 2026; highlighted the major bridge rehabilitation as an umbrella project with annual funding for necessary repairs, noting that for FY 2025, \$425,000 is allocated specifically for the TerraMar Bridge repair, leaving the major bridge rehab fund at zero for the year; mentioned that road resurfacing, a citywide project, has seen its allocation increased from approximately \$800,000 to \$1M.

Finally, Ms. Diamanti listed additional allocations for FY 2025, including \$555,000 for city sidewalk improvements, \$500,000 for the FPL light fixtures conversion project, \$350,000 for citywide street improvements, \$1M for a traffic signal at MLK, and \$720,000 for the repair of the railroad crossing at Northwest 33rd Street; stated that \$4.5M is proposed for this category in FY 2025, with a total projection of \$17.8M through the subsequent years.

Mayor Hardin inquired about zero funding of some categories in the plan.

Ms. Diamanti discussed the implementation of wayfinding signage, noting that while no new funds are allocated, approximately \$849,000 remains in the current program; mentioned that existing funding will be utilized before allocating additional resources as needed throughout the year; prioritized the Hillsboro Inlet Bridge improvements and the 14th Causeway decorative enhancements, both of which have been postponed for another year due to other funding priorities. Lastly, Ms. Diamanti noted that repaving of North 26th Avenue Harbor Drive is funded for FY 2026 at \$1.1M.

Comr. Fournier questioned whether the \$1M annual road resurfacing budget is sufficient. She noted frequent resident concerns about the timing and consistency of road repaving and asked if the resurfacing process could be accelerated, particularly for older, deteriorating streets.

Robert McCaughan, Public Works Director, reported that the City aims for a 15-year street paving cycle but is currently on a 20-year cycle due to funding constraints. While most streets are holding up well, problematic micro paving issues are expected to be resolved by FY 2028. The \$1M annual budget may fall short of meeting the 15-year target, potentially necessitating future funding increases. Speed humps are funded separately through the Public Works operational account, with installation delays attributed to scheduling. Current budget allocations for the TerraMar Bridge are anticipated to be sufficient, pending final construction bids.

Comr. Fournier asked about moving the pedestrian signal on Cypress Road.

John Sfiropoulos, City Engineer, stated it would be incorporated into the transportation master plan, noting Phase 2 would likely begin in November.

Comr. Fournier inquired about future funding for McNab Bridge. City Manager Harrison noted an update was provided a few months ago and the situation remains the same.

Comr. Moss asked about micro paving. Mr. McCaughan explained the technique, which is akin to a thin layer of paving over the street. He stated they would no longer do it anymore but noted the cost for asphalt would be three times more costly.

Comr. Moss inquired about replacing the light fixtures in Cypress Bend and Palm Aire and funding. City Manager Harrison stated the status is they would be considered in 2025, and the funding is available.

Mayor Hardin asked about the Harbor Drive project and completion of micro paving. Mr. McCaughan said the plan through 2028 would be addressed with the exception of the streets between Federal Highway and Harbor Drive, which is why this project was put into the 2026 plan.

Mayor Hardin wondered whether increased funding of \$550,000 would make an impact. Mr. McCaughan replied yes. Discussion ensued about funding and city-wide sidewalk improvements. Mr. Sfiropoulos noted the funding was for Leisureville Phase 2 sidewalks.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton inquired about paving in her district. Mr. McCaughan stated he would need to look at the five-year plan. Comr. Sigerson-Eaton referred to an area in Cresthaven that needs to be prioritized for

paving.

Dr. Tammy Good, CIP Manager, mentioned there are many stormwater projects in the queue as well, which would include road repaving, namely on Harbor Drive.

Ed Phillips, 384 NW 19th Street, Pompano Beach, FL, raised concerns about increased road wear due to higher traffic from ongoing developments. He advocated for a revised paving schedule to better manage the anticipated traffic increase, stressing the importance of timely road maintenance.

Comr. Fournier asked where additional CIP funding would come from if the City Commission wanted to spend \$12M and not \$11.6M. She specifically added if there was a relation to the millage rate.

City Manager Harrison confirmed the City Commission have the authority to decide where the \$12M would come from. He also confirmed the possibility of funding major projects, noting it would require identifying appropriate sources and could impact the millage. He outlined financing options: either a general obligation bond, subject to voter approval to raise millage rates, or revenue bonds for utilities.

Ms. Diamanti explained the funding of capital projects, noting that most of the General Capital Fund's revenue comes from the general fund. She stated that projects could be financed by increasing the millage rate, which would then transfer additional funds to the General Capital Fund. She emphasized that capital projects are accounted for separately but are conjoined with the general fund for funding purposes. Ms. Diamanti noted they usually look to exhaust all funding sources available before utilizing the general fund to cover differences.

Suzette Sibble, Assistant City Manager, discussed working with Broward County on revising the surtax program to focus more on rehabilitation projects instead of construction. She noted the ongoing effort to negotiate a third amendment that would allocate more funds to rehab projects across cities, aiming to make the funding process less competitive and more responsive to city needs.

Mr. Phillips agreed with the traffic signal on MLK Boulevard and asked for further clarification. Mr. Sfiropoulos explained it is a project to turn it into a signalized intersection.

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Ms. Diamanti outlined facilities maintenance projects for fiscal years 2025-2029, including \$1.2M for Charlotte Burrie Civic Center enhancements in 2026, \$400K for a Civic Center addition, and future roofing projects for government buildings. Allocations include \$1.1M in 2025, \$4.2M in 2026, and \$1M in later years, totaling \$8.3M. She noted that the plan is updated annually to reflect changes.

Comr. Perkins asked about the Mitchell Moore roof. Ms. Diamanti stated it was included in the roofing funding for 2026.

Marlowe Moreland, Pompano Beach, FL, asked how much funding was for the Mitchell Moore Annex building. Dr. Good noted it was upwards of \$700,000 for interior renovations and exterior upgrades.

Vicente Thrower, Pompano Beach, FL, inquired about the weight room in McNair and Mitchell Moore centers. He said he will wait until Parks and Recreation is discussed.

Ms. Diamanti reviewed the safety category, highlighting two projects: the replacement of Fire Station 63, projected for FY 2026 at \$5M, and the Northwest BSO Substation at \$2.1M, also in 2026, totaling \$7.1M.

Comr. Fournier asked the Fire and Police Departments if there were any big capital projects. Fire Chief Steve Hudson stated Fire Station 63 was the last fire station to be knocked down and he does not have any additional capital projects in the pipeline. Major Elwood agreed.

Comr. Perkins asked about land for a substation in her district in the northwest area. Dr. Good stated they are still looking to identify a parcel. Comr. Perkins asked the City Manager to identify a location so they could move forward with the substation.

City Manager Harrison explained that the City Commission has never officially voted for a second substation in the northwest sector of the city and recommended further discussion at a regular meeting and not during the budget workshop. Discussion ensued regarding having two substations in the northwest community.

Jackie Moreland, Pompano Beach, FL, spoke about the Braggs Criswell substation and funding. She asked about a timeline to identify a location. Mayor Hardin explained CIP allocation. Ms. Moreland recommended budgeting for the project based on the need in the community.

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Marlowe Moreland spoke about the amount of crime in the area and need for the substation. She asked why funding was already allocated. Dr. Good explained the allocation would allow them to move forward with the design immediately once a location was identified. She added the \$1.2M was allocated to construct the building, if necessary.

Mr. Thrower recommended a few locations to consider.

Mr. Phillips noted it was interesting to keep putting funding towards the substation when a location was not identified.

Comr. Perkins expressed concern about hearing the Braggs Criswell substation was only a wish list. She asked the City Manager for movement on the project.

Ms. Diamanti reviewed various public works capital improvement projects, including the LEEP Grant Program for \$60,000, citywide seawall maintenance for \$300,000, athletic court resurfacing for \$30,000, city parking lot ADA compliance for \$90,000, and landscaping improvements for \$75,000. She mentioned a final payment to Broward County for nourishment at \$150,000 and the annual \$25,000 allocation for canal dredging. Future projects include citywide bus shelters at \$100,000, Hillsboro Marina seawall and dock replacement at \$800,000, and several projects for FY 2026, including Hillsboro Inlet discharge improvements, fencing of city amenities, restroom concessions at \$550,000, and the Palm Aire walking path reconstruction at \$680,000. The

total allocation for FY 2025 is \$2.1M, with a five-year total of \$11.5M.

Vice Mayor McGee asked about raising the seawalls. Dr. Good stated every time they do a repair or renovation, they raise the seawall and it was factored into the budget.

Comr. Fournier wondered if they should pause annual allocations if there are available balances, using the LEEP Program as an example. Ms. Diamanti noted that last year some projects were paused, and the City reviews available balances to reconsider if allocated funds will be spent within the current year, or if adjustments to the timing of fund allocations for FY 2025 are necessary.

Comr. Fournier inquired about canal dredging. Dr. Good explained that project timelines and spending rates can vary year to year. For canal dredging, the city is saving funds annually to reach a \$400,000 target, making the project cost-effective and more attractive to contractors.

Comr. Fournier asked about the athletic resurfacing. Dr. Good stated the \$30,000 allocated for athletic court resurfacing covers routine maintenance and restriping. She also noted that in 2026, decorative fencing will replace the old chain-link fence along Federal Highway at Community Park to reduce recurring costs and enhance security.

In response to Comr. Perkins' question, Ms. Diamanti stated that the anticipated improvements include enhancements at Community Park for the fields and basketball courts, as well as upgrades to the locker rooms at the Mitchell Moore Community Center and McNair Center.

Mayor Hardin suggested reallocating \$60,000 from the LEEP Program to road resurfacing. Discussion ensued about the recommendation.

Mr. Phillips asked about the GO Bond funding for the sports park. Mayor Hardin noted they are currently discussing Public Works.

Audrey Fesik, Pompano Beach, FL, inquired about the trash in the canals. Mayor Hardin stated it was part of the general maintenance budget.

Marlowe Moreland asked about locker rooms at Mitchell Moore. Dr. Good clarified that they are located off of the main gymnasium space.

Comr. Perkins asked about the locker room enhancement. Mark Beaudreau, Recreation Director, noted they were scheduled to be refurbished.

Ms. Diamanti reviewed the final two categories: Parks and Recreation, and Golf. For FY 2025, \$2M is allocated to the new skate park and Community Park. Other projects, including citywide park amenities, GO Bond Ultimate Sports Park, Wahoo Bay, Highlands Park building renovation, Apollo Park improvements, amphitheater additions, lighting replacement at Community Park, athletic field fencing replacement, and a new storage facility at the Youth Sports Complex, are planned for future years. The total five-year allocation for parks is \$12.8M. Additionally, \$1M is projected for building replacements at the golf course in FY 2026.

Vice Mayor McGee inquired about future plans for upgrades to the locker room and pro shop at the golf facility. Dr. Good stated some in-house design was done to renovate the space, utilizing leftover FY 2024 funding.

Vice Mayor McGee expressed concern about the skate park and liability and suggested a better facility or better utilization of funding. Mayor Hardin recalled the skate park being part of the GO Bond. City Attorney Berman stated it could be deleted or modified but typically it would be completed to maintain the credibility of the process. Vice Mayor McGee reiterated her concerns about liability. Discussion ensued about the skate park and funding. Mr. Beaudreau said the state statute was very clear about liability being the responsibility of the participants. He added the community has been begging for a skate park.

City Manager Harrison highlighted the community's strong support for the skate park, led by Mr. Beaudreau, and explained its prioritization as the only funded item in FY 2025.

Comr. Fournier raised concerns about deferring other projects to FY 2026, questioning if some should be addressed sooner to avoid future challenges. She reaffirmed her support for the skate park, noting its importance to the community.

Comr. Moss recounted attending a 2013 Parks and Recreation meeting with 150-200 attendees and raised concerns that many skate park advocates were not Pompano Beach residents. He questioned whether the skate park is being built for local residents or those from other areas and asked about the number of skate parks in the County. Mr. Beaudreau noted there are only a few, with the recent closure of Ramp 48 at Calvary Christian Academy.

Comr. Moss reiterated his question whether the skate park is being built for Pompano Beach residents or to attract people from other areas due to the limited number of skate parks in the County.

Comr. Fournier noted that, similar to economic development, bringing visitors to the City could have financial benefits.

Comr. Fournier asked about city-wide park amenities, specifically shade structures. Mr. Beaudreau said it was a recurring issue and Public Works maintains an account. Dr. Good added that they are doing a master plan for parks and recreation amenities, which could include allocation of funding for upgrades to meet programming needs. Comr. Fournier suggested pushing out some parks and recreation projects if they are awaiting a consultant's report.

Comr. Fournier inquired about additional funding for Wahoo Bay. Dr. Good mentioned some resiliency or sustainability grant opportunities.

Comr. Perkins asked about the Ultimate Sports Park timeline. Dr. Good said it is currently at 60-70% designed.

Comr. Perkins inquired about the new concession stand at Mitchell Moore and air conditioning in restrooms.

She noted the high utilization of the restrooms and air conditioning was needed. She said the new Senior Center needs a new parking option and an outdoor picnic area with a shelter. Additionally, she previously requested more parking and increased lighting at Hunter's Manor Park. Dr. Good stated the parking lot for the Senior Center was designed. She said they will also be installing outdoor fans at the picnic tables at the Senior Center. Dr. Good confirmed on-street parking would be added at the Hunter's Manor Park.

Mr. Beaudreau explained the Chiefs' banner is on the backside of the concession stand and they are also looking into the air conditioning for the bathrooms.

Comr. Perkins asked about the timeline for the PA system in the press box. Mr. Beaudreau confirmed it was currently being worked on.

Comr. Perkins requested to see the picnic shelter design at the Senior Center at a later time.

Comr. Moss pointed out there was nothing in the Parks and Recreation budget for District 5, which has the largest population in the City. He said he does not support the skate park and does not recall ever voting on the item.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton inquired about the press box at the baseball field in her district. Mr. Beaudreau noted it was being utilized by the park rangers. She requested to have a 1 on 1 meeting to review plans for District 2 parks.

Mayor Hardin clarified the City Commission approved the GO Bond items before it went to the voters, who then voted on the items.

Comr. Fournier asked about \$500,000 for the Youth Sports Complex and timeline. Dr. Good said they are preparing to relocate a tree and would be completed before impact on any Parks and Recreation events. Comr. Fournier said they need another batting cage at Kester as well. Mr. Beaudreau stated it would be discussed as part of the parks master plan.

Vice Mayor McGee suggested to move the skate park discussion to the parks and recreation master plan.

Mayor Hardin stated he was not a fan of the skate park, but pointed out it was part of the GO Bond, so it needs to be built to keep their commitment to the voters.

Discussion ensued about the skate park and GO Bond. Dr. Good explained the design and contracting process for the skate park.

**There was consensus to keep the skate park in the budget.**

Mr. Thrower said they need to keep their promises to the community. He asked about the weight room equipment that is needed. He thanked the City Commission for trying to accommodate the Senior Center wish list items.

Marlowe Moreland said they have spent more time discussing a skate park than actually discussing how to protect the community. She suggested \$2M was too much money for a skate park and is irresponsible giving the other community issues occurring right now.

Mr. Phillips noted there were bleachers on both sides at Highland Park. He acknowledged a lot of money comes from Comr. Moss' district with the casino. He expressed concern about the amount of funding for Wahoo Bay. He also suggested road repaving should be a priority.

Jackie Moreland expressed confusion about what items are a wish list and which projects were moving forward. She said some of the communities need to be made safer and spoke about the need for the Braggs Criswell substation. She agreed that \$2M for a skate park was too much.

Mayor Hardin asked if they could build a skate park for less. Dr. Good said it was possible, but it would not be as popular and would require more maintenance. She said \$2M would minimally deliver the skate park amenities and noted Delray Beach just spent \$8M.

Vice Mayor McGee asked about programming at the skate park. Mr. Beaudreau explained the intent would be to host tournaments and events and further described why the location was ideal.

Ms. Diamanti clarified that the plan was presented to two advisory boards and was approved unanimously. She said they still need to present to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, but it was scheduled for July 17th.

Comr. Perkins asked about the amount and timeline for the NW 6th Avenue beautification project. City Manager Harrison said he would follow up with further information.

Mayor Hardin reiterated there was a consensus to move \$60,000 from the LEEP Program to the road resurfacing fund.

Comr. Perkins also requested a specific list of the city-wide sidewalk improvements. City Manager Harrison acknowledged the request.

**There was consensus to proceed with the Capital Improvement Plan as amended, moving \$60,000 from the LEEP Program to the road resurfacing fund.**

*The Mayor recessed the workshop for lunch at approximately 12:15 p.m., and reconvened the workshop at 1:00 p.m.*

## **2. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDED OPERATING BUDGET FY 2025**

**(Staff Contact: Erjeta Diamanti)**

Erjeta Diamanti, Budget Director, reviewed key highlights from the FY 2025 budget proposal, totaling \$487.8M, with nearly half allocated to the general fund. She noted that the City's property valuation stands at

\$21B, reflecting a 10.36% increase from last year, based on the July 1 valuation used for budgeting purposes. Ms. Diamanti then addressed fire assessment fees, stating that no adjustments are proposed for FY 2025, keeping the residential rate at \$331 per unit. Despite unchanged rates, the City expects an additional \$167K in net revenues compared to FY 2024. She also reviewed the City's operating millage rate, set at 2.705, consistent with the previous year, and confirmed that the EMS millage rate remains capped at 0.5. Two debt service millage rates were reduced due to the increased property valuations, resulting in an overall 0.8% decrease in the City's portion of the millage rates. Ms. Diamanti concluded by opening the floor for discussion on the proposed EMS fees before proceeding to the operating millage rate.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton asked about conducting a study. Ms. Diamanti said the industry standard recommendation is to conduct the study every 3-5 years.

**There was consensus to accept the proposal for the fire assessment rates as presented.**

Ms. Diamanti reiterated that while there is a 0.8% decrease in the aggregate millage rate, the operating millage rate remains unchanged from the previous fiscal year at 5.2705, consistent with the proposal presented during the June budget workshop. She indicated there were no further updates.

Vice Mayor McGee proposed a discussion on potentially lowering the operating millage rate by 0.5%, from 5.2705 to 5.2443, in light of a 10% increase in property values and rising public safety costs. This reduction could save approximately \$500,000 in property taxes. She emphasized the importance of balancing property value increases with maintaining services and suggested monitoring the situation annually to determine if further reductions in the millage rate are feasible.

Vice Mayor McGee sought consensus on the proposed reduction.

Mayor Hardin asked about the impact of lowering the millage rate. Ms. Diamanti suggested reviewing one-time items in the FY 2025 budget, which could be funded through the fund balance, to offset the reduction in the millage rate.

City Manager Harrison expressed confidence in finding enough reductions within the budget to support the proposed decrease without affecting routine activities.

Vice Mayor McGee highlighted feedback from residents who are eager to see a return on their investments, especially given the 10% increase in property values and rising public safety costs.

Comr. Fournier proposed lowering the operating millage rate by 0.5%, saving approximately \$500,000 in property taxes, and monitoring property values annually to assess further reductions.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton emphasized the need to balance property value growth with providing tax relief to residents.

Comr. Moss noted that residents are generally satisfied with the City's services and improvements, and he expressed concern that lowering the millage rate might impact service delivery. He questioned the necessity of a

reduction, suggesting that it might be lowering taxes for the sake of it rather than addressing a significant need.

Discussion ensued about the potential impact on services and future projects.

City Manager Harrison expressed confidence in finding \$550,000 in operational savings over the next 12 months to support the proposed millage rate reduction. He emphasized that these savings could come from various sources, such as one-time costs, and assured that it would not compromise City operations. Further discussion ensued on potential impacts.

**There was consensus to lower the millage rate to 5.2443, though some Commissioners voiced concerns about the need for such cuts to be reflected in the budget planning process.**

Comr. Fournier expressed the importance of budget allocation and its impact on residents, particularly in District 3, where rising insurance and flood zone costs are significant concerns. She emphasized the need to support residents and asked about the transportation operating fund.

Ms. Diamanti explained that this fund, which covers the community shuttle program, is not a new expense but has been reimbursed by Broward County for over 15 years. The fund was previously combined with other expenses but is now accounted for separately to distinguish capital from operating expenses.

Comr. Fournier raised concerns about the increase in personnel costs for the fire department, despite the headcount remaining unchanged. She questioned whether the Lauderdale-by-the-Sea contract contributed to additional overtime costs, to which the City Manager clarified that it did not.

Comr. Fournier also asked for an update on the contract after a year of operation and discussed the need for additional deputies as mentioned in a previous meeting, noting that no new deputies were included in the current budget.

Discussion ensued about the addition of park rangers and full-time employees (FTE) in Cultural Arts.

Comr. Fournier expressed hesitation about hiring more FTEs due to the long-term costs associated with them.

Earl Bosworth, Assistant City Manager, explained that the new FTEs were necessary to meet the growing demands of the Cultural Arts department and to ensure the availability of sound technicians and content specialists for City events.

Mr. Bosworth reassured Comr. Fournier that the addition of new rangers was in response to the increased homeless activity in parks and the expansion of City facilities.

Comr. Fournier expressed concerns about ongoing issues at Kester Park, where homeless individuals frequently gather, and questioned whether the current approach was effective.

Mr. Beaudreau confirmed that additional rangers would provide better coverage, and the parks team would continue to collaborate with BSO to address these challenges, though proactive measures might be needed to

enhance effectiveness.

Mayor Hardin raised concerns about the effectiveness of law enforcement coordination in addressing repetitive issues at parks, particularly with homeless individuals.

Russell Ketchem, Director of Environmental Services, confirmed that there is coordination between park services and BSO, but acknowledged challenges in addressing recurring problems.

Mayor Hardin suggested more proactive patrols and collaboration to make parks less comfortable for illegal activities.

Major Ellwood stated there was a directed patrol at Kester Park during the past two weeks.

Vice Mayor McGee noted a need for better real-time communication and optimization of park ranger deployment, particularly regarding issues like unauthorized dogs on the beach. She proposed a workshop to address these challenges and improve overall effectiveness.

Comr. Fournier raised concerns about the growing costs of internal services, particularly vehicle services, and questioned whether a deep dive had been conducted to identify potential savings. She suggested reviewing the City's vehicle fleet and other internal services to ensure efficiency and cost-effectiveness, especially given the significant impact on the overall budget. She requested to see a list of opportunities for savings.

Comr. Moss responded, emphasizing the importance of long-term financial planning. He compared the City's budget management to that of community associations, warning against making cuts that might provide short-term relief but could lead to underfunding essential services in the future.

Comr. Moss stressed that while it might be tempting to reduce costs now, it is crucial to maintain adequate funding to ensure the City's continued growth and reputation as a well-run municipality. He cautioned against the potential risks of cutting too much, which could undermine the City's ability to meet its future needs and maintain its high standards.

Comr. Perkins expressed concerns about the effectiveness of park rangers in dealing with homelessness and questioned whether hiring additional rangers was the best solution. She suggested that hiring more police officers or homeless outreach personnel might be more effective. Comr. Perkins also inquired whether the BSO contract had been reviewed for potential cost savings, to which City Manager Harrison responded that a review was conducted, but no areas for cuts or adjustments were identified at this time.

City Manager Harrison confirmed that BSO was receiving a 4.15% increase in their contract for FY 2025, with a cap of 5%. He further explained that while BSO proposes their budget increase the City reviews and negotiates the figures based on the services provided, including headcount and operational costs. The contract ensures that any increase cannot exceed 5%, with BSO required to justify their proposed figures, which the City then reviews.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton emphasized the significant costs and liabilities that the city would face if it were to

operate independently from BSO. She highlighted the benefits of contracting with BSO, including access to specialized units like SWAT teams and CSI detectives, as well as the avoidance of vehicle maintenance responsibilities. Most importantly, she noted that BSO assumes the liability for potential lawsuits involving officers, which could save the City and its taxpayers from bearing the financial burden of such legal actions.

Mayor Hardin questioned how the proposed millage rate reduction might impact the budget in the future. City Manager Harrison reassured that the City strives to operate as efficiently as possible, and while they anticipate potential challenges, they will address them as they arise.

Vice Mayor McGee raised a concern about the newly proposed Talent Acquisition Specialist position, questioning if the role could be handled by external contractors instead. Bobby Bush, Human Resources Assistant Director, explained that the position was added to expedite the hiring process for high-level positions, with a current vacancy rate of about 7.5%, equivalent to roughly 70 open positions.

Mayor Hardin sought public input on the item.

Marlowe Moreland spoke about homelessness in the community, particularly in parks, and the need for a comprehensive solution beyond policing. She also questioned whether the City considers future development and inflation in budget planning and suggested exploring additional revenue sources, such as charging non-residents for using the new skate park.

Ms. Diamanti said the recommended budget was available online and an update would be provided 30 days following the approval of the budget.

Jackie Moreland said she would like to see more funding to address homelessness.

Mayor Hardin closed public input. The City Commission discussed the importance of maintaining a budget with a small cushion to avoid financial difficulties.

There was consensus to proceed with the budget with a \$500,000 reduction, setting the millage rate at 5.2443 mills.

## **C. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the Mayor adjourned the workshop at 2:25 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

*Kervin Alfred*

D1C913A8ED334CA...

Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

Signed by:

*Rex Hardin*

502CB780EB3F480...

Rex Hardin, Mayor

Signed by:



## Exhibit 1

# ***July Budget Workshop***

***July 15, 2024***





# *July Budget Workshop Presentation Outline*



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## Policy Recommendations

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FY 2025

Recommended Citywide Revenue Budget by Major Category

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FY 2025

Recommended Citywide Expense Budget by Major Fund

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FY 2025

Historical General Fund Budget and Variances by Department

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FY 2025

Historical General Fund Non-Ad Valorem Revenues

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FY 2025

Fire Assessment Fees

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FY 2025

Aggregate Millage Rate

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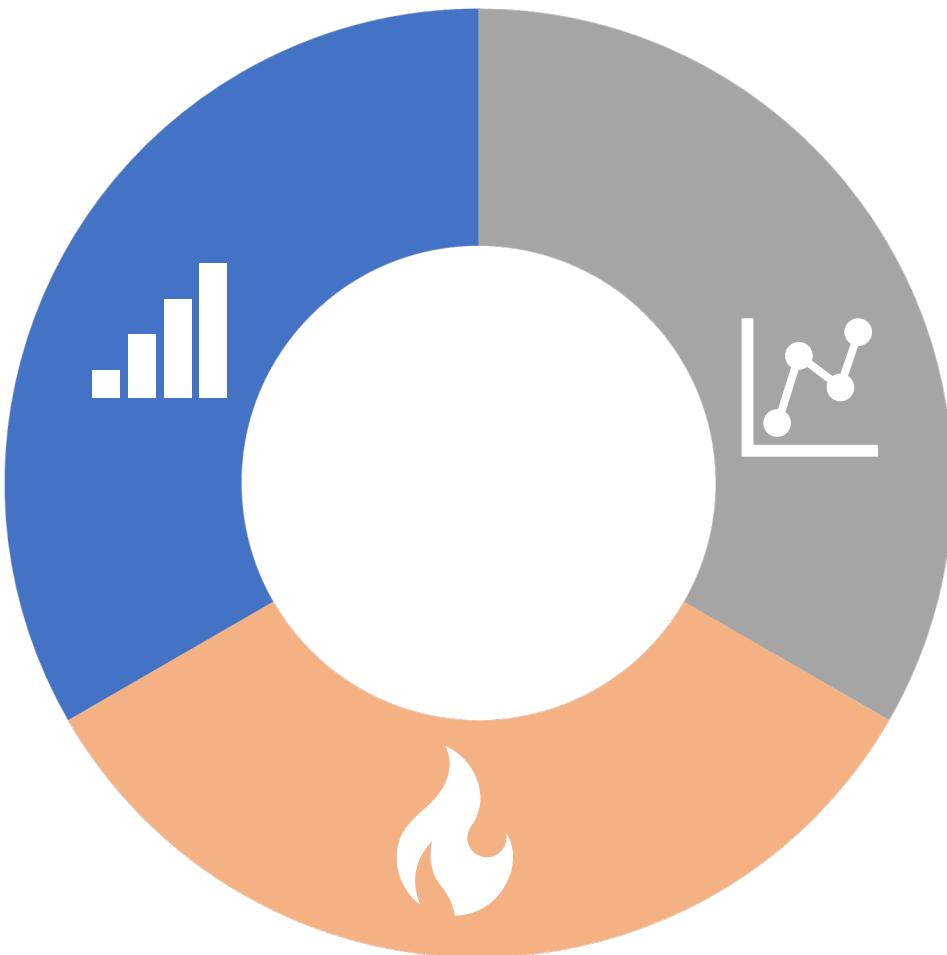
Next Steps in the Budget Process

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## Policy Recommendations

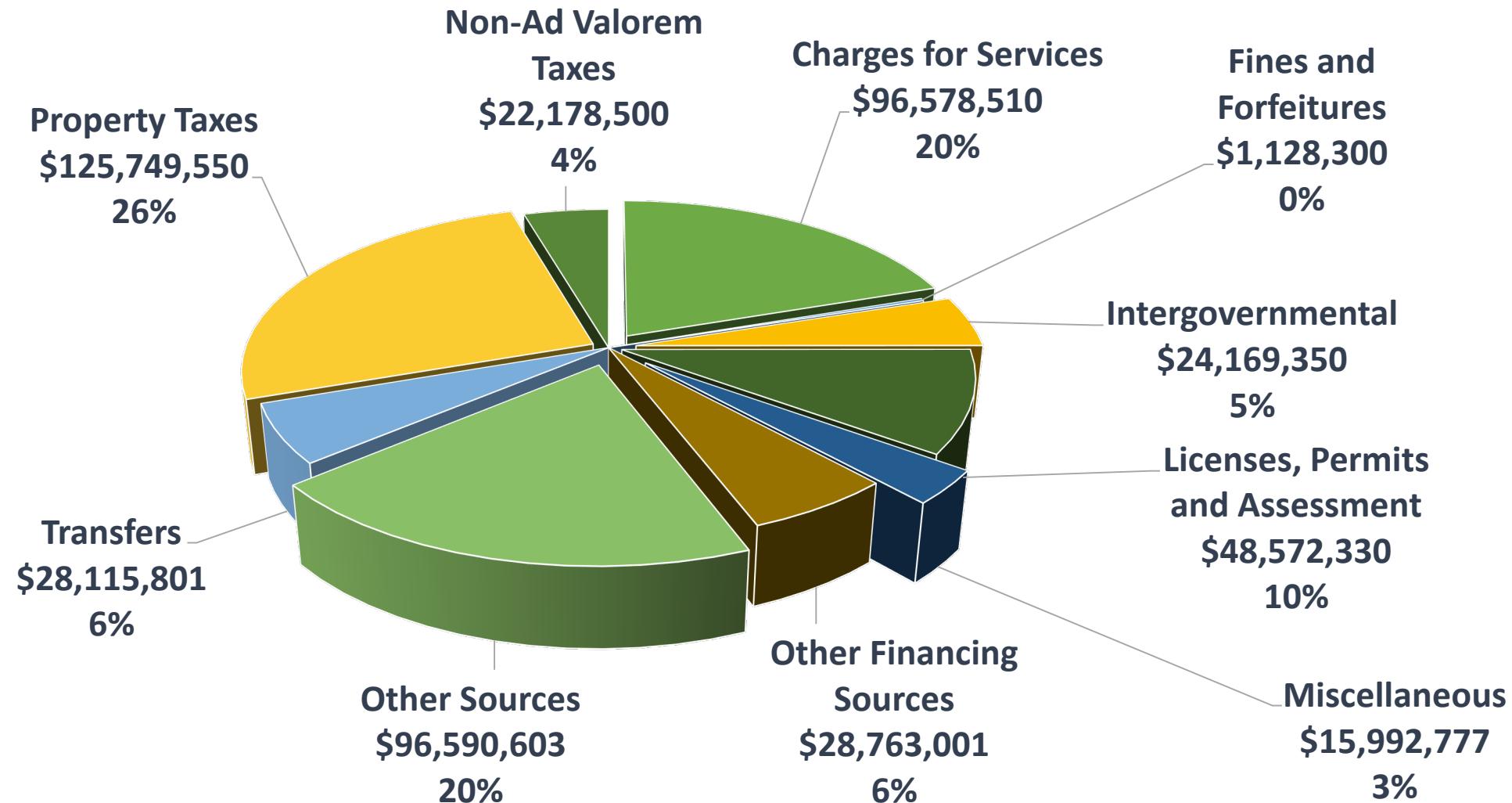


- Service Levels
- Fire Assessment Fees
- Millage Rates



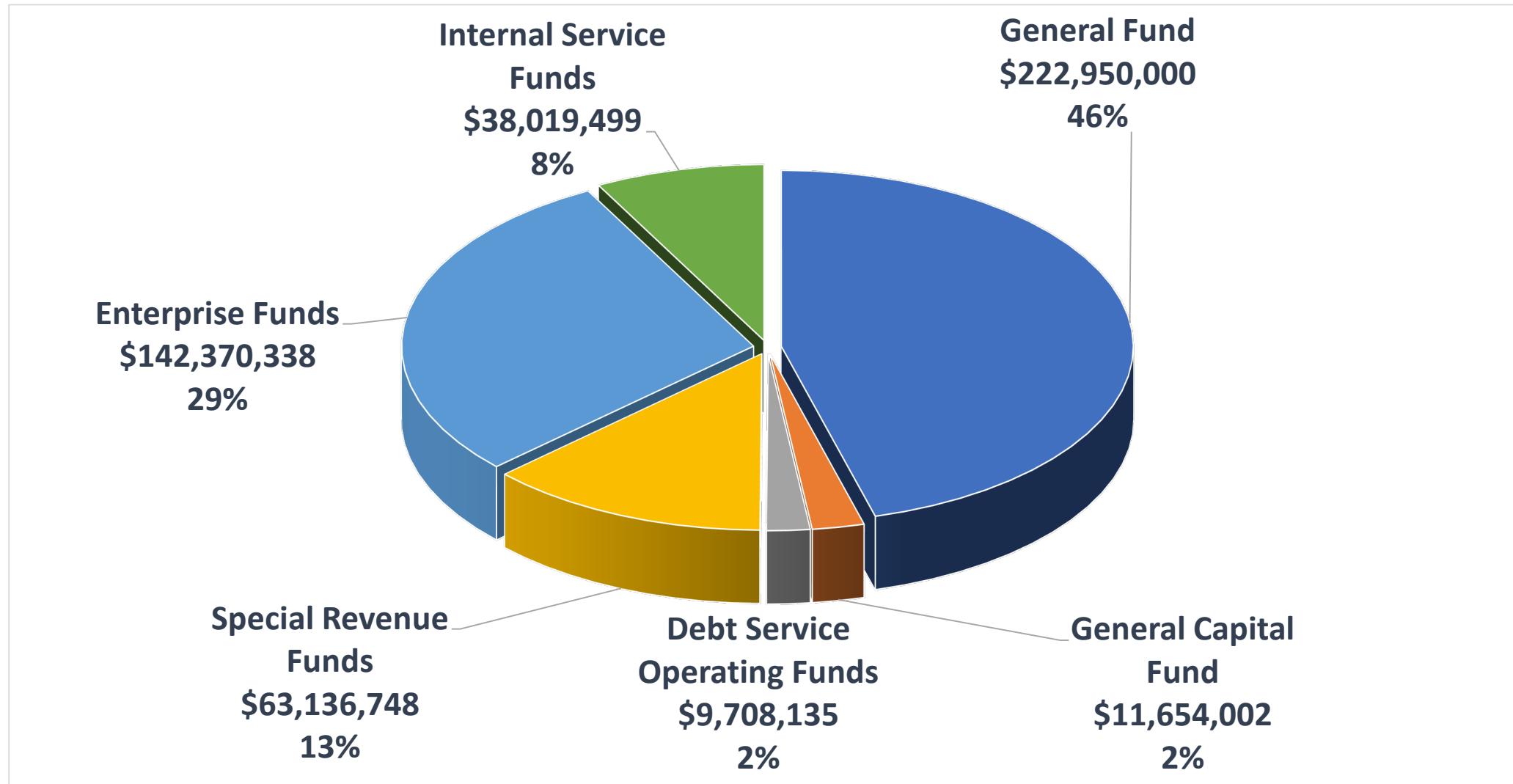


## FY 2025 Recommended Citywide Revenue Budget by Major Category \$487,838,722



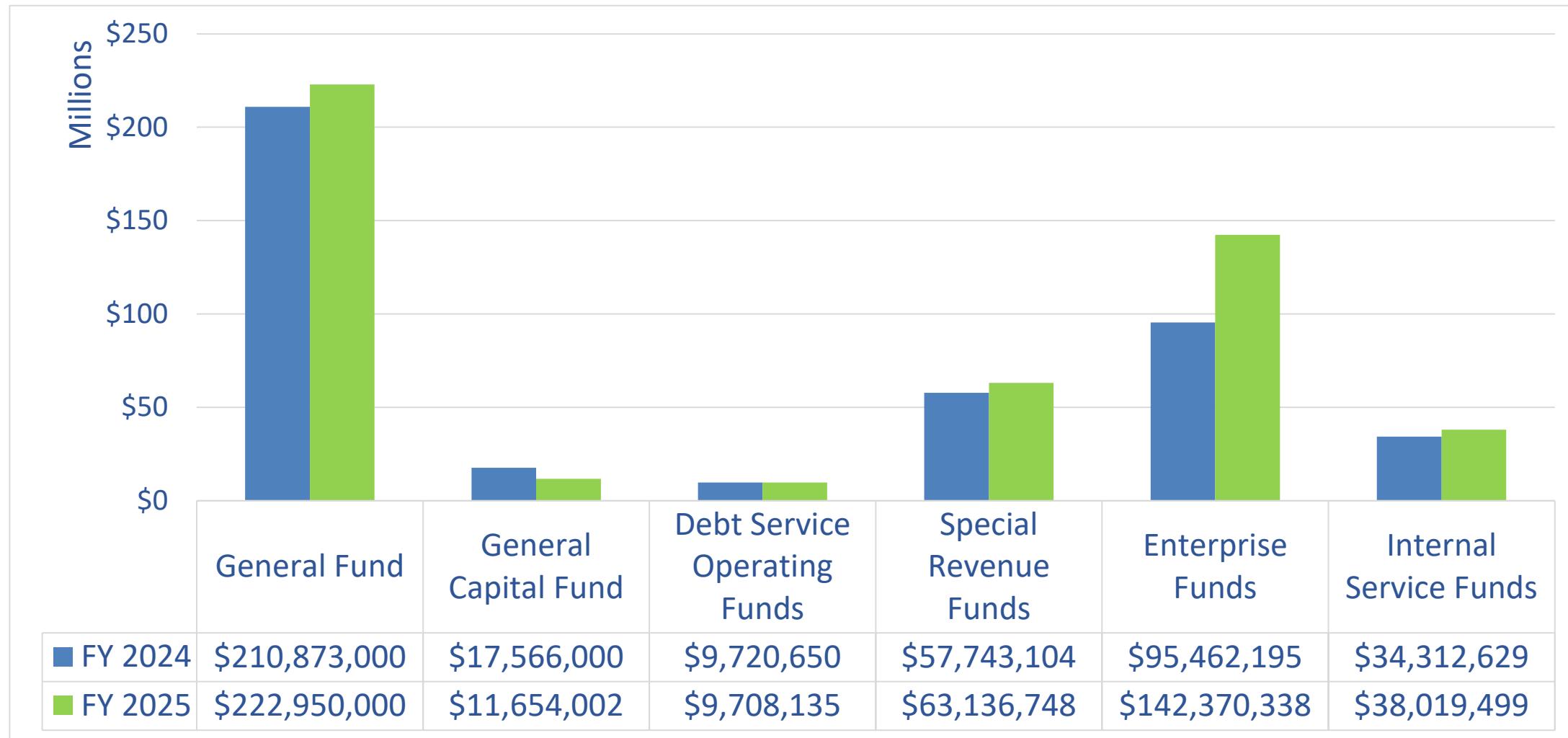


## FY 2025 Recommended Citywide Expense Budget by Major Fund \$487,838,722



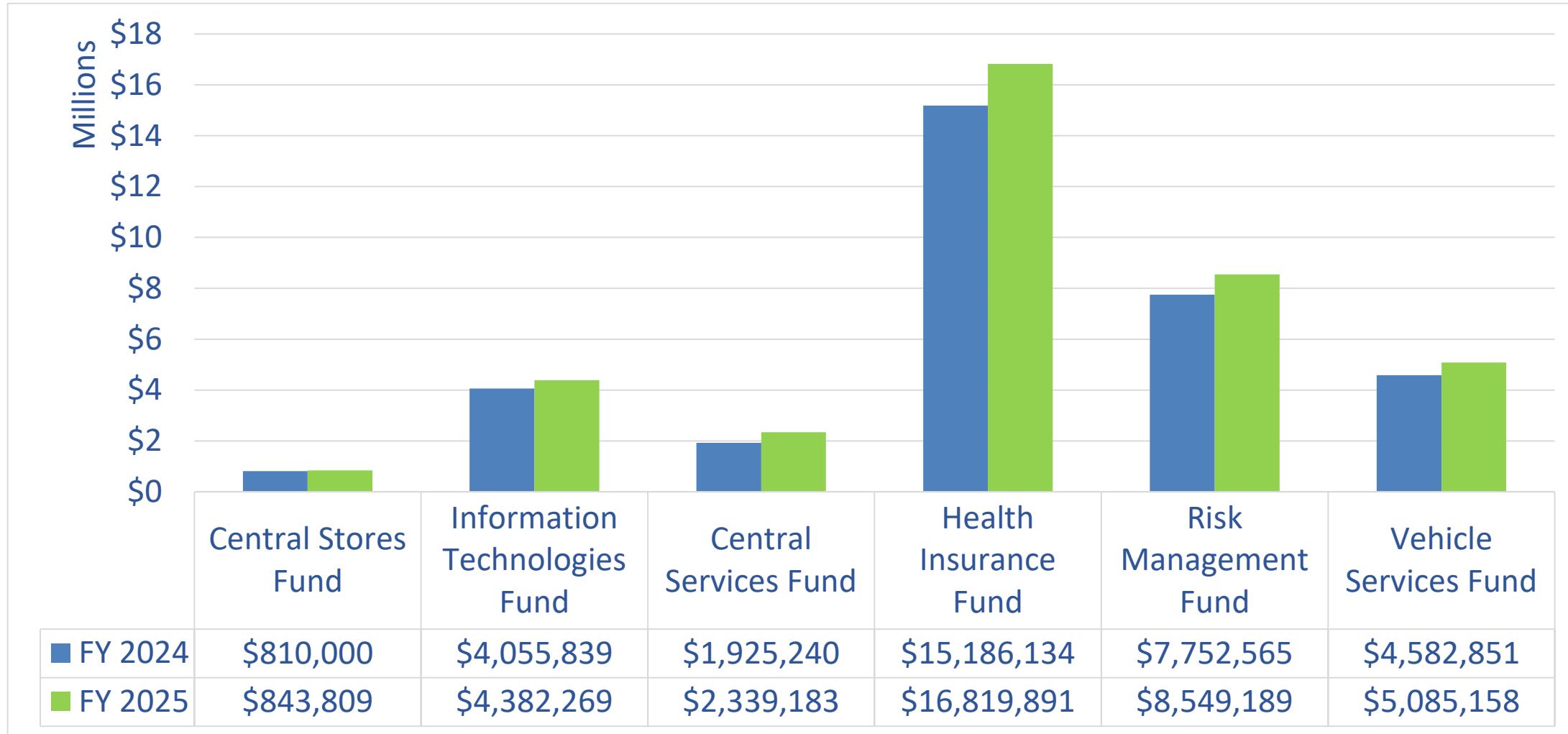


## FY 2025 Recommended Citywide Budget By Major Fund: \$487,838,722



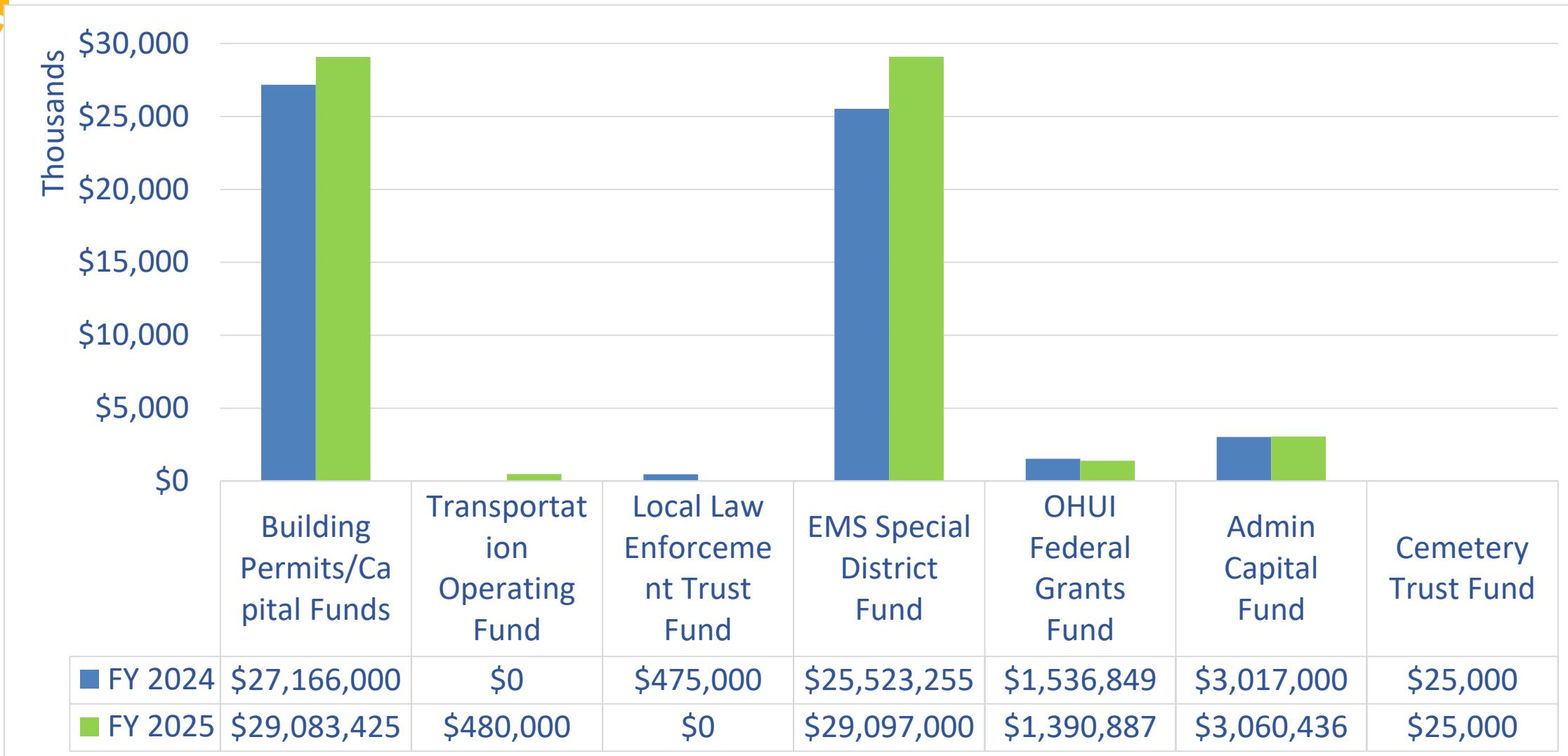


## FY 2025 Internal Service Funds Recommended Expense Budget: \$38,019,499



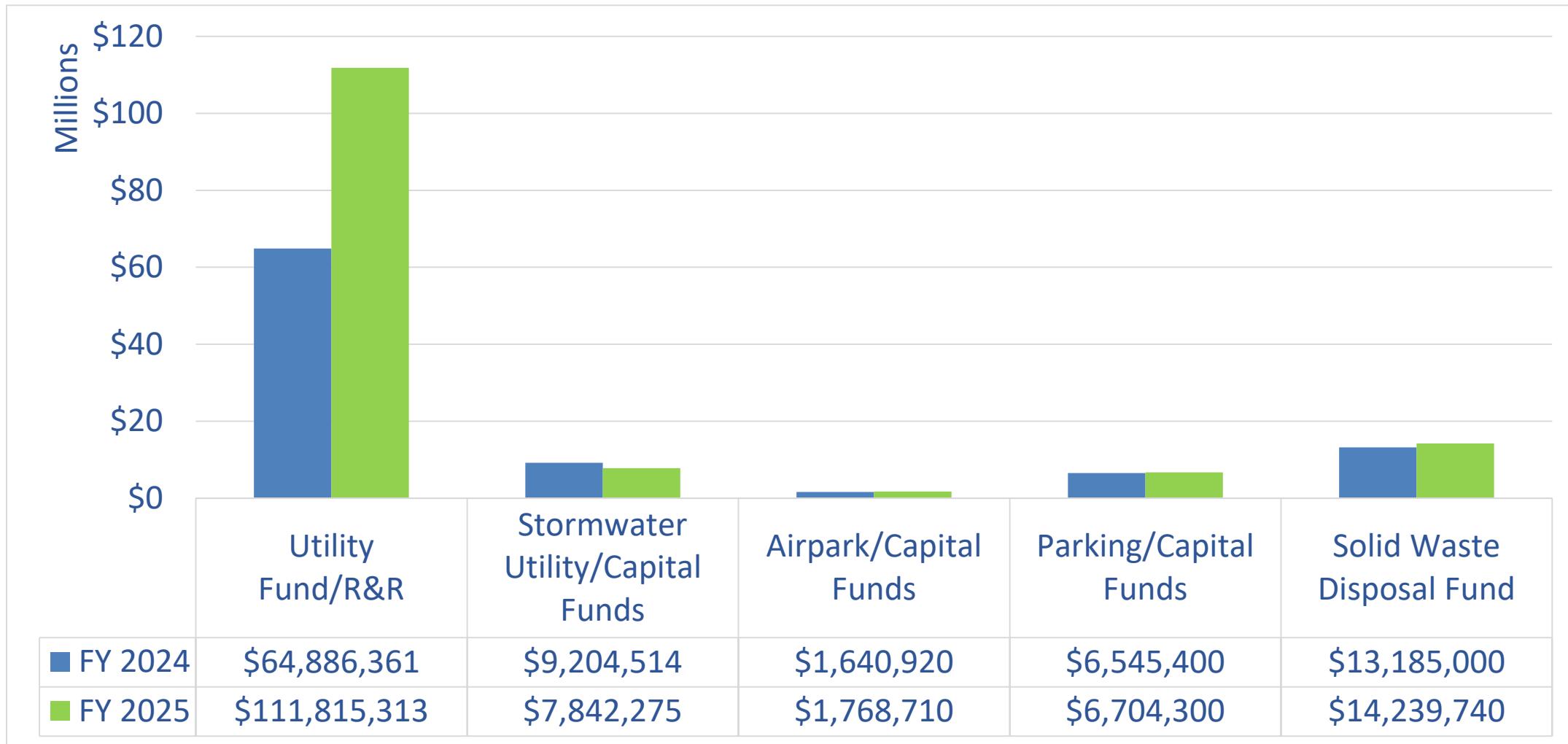


## FY 2025 Special Revenue Funds Recommended Expense Budget: \$63,136,748



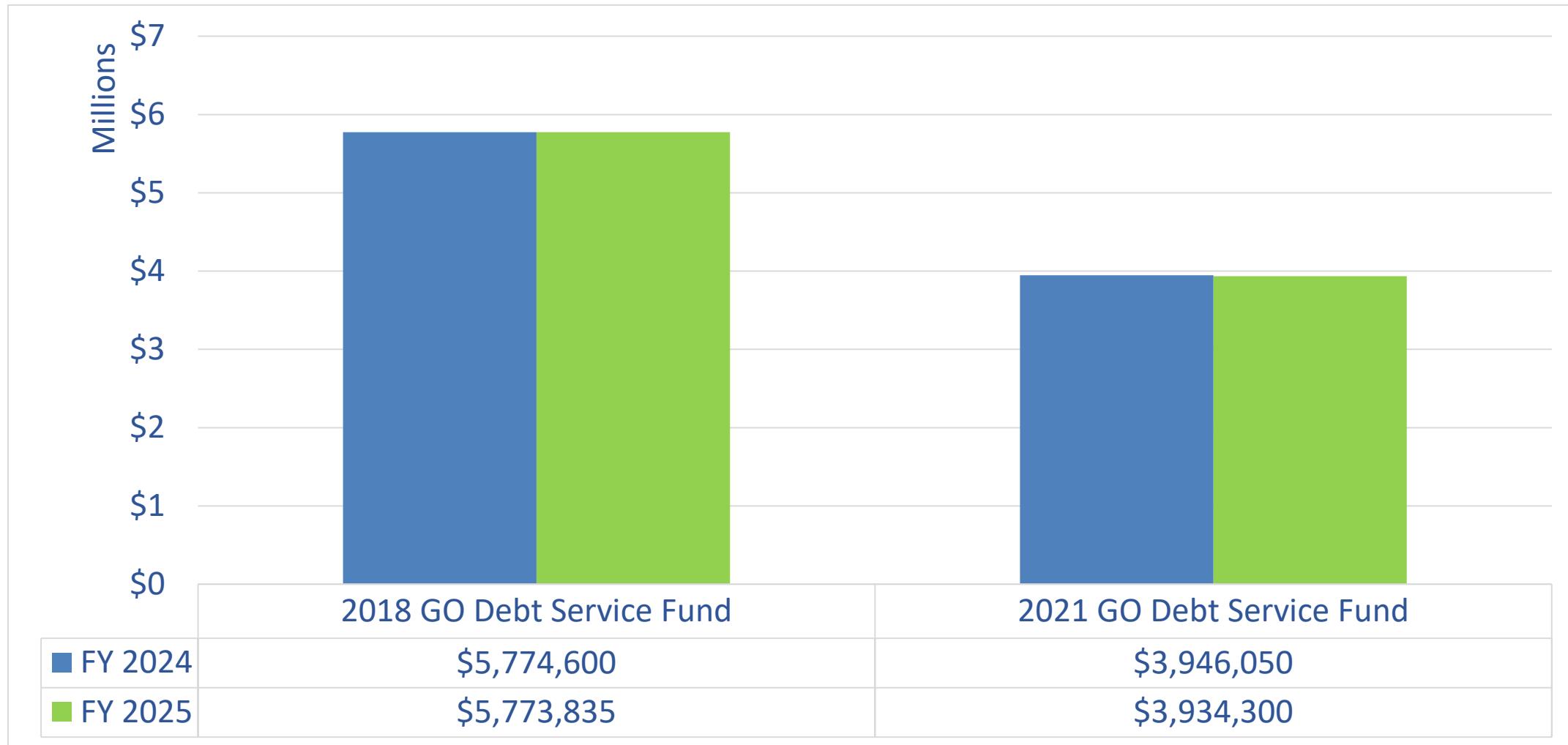


## FY 2025 Enterprise Funds Recommended Expense Budget: \$142,370,338



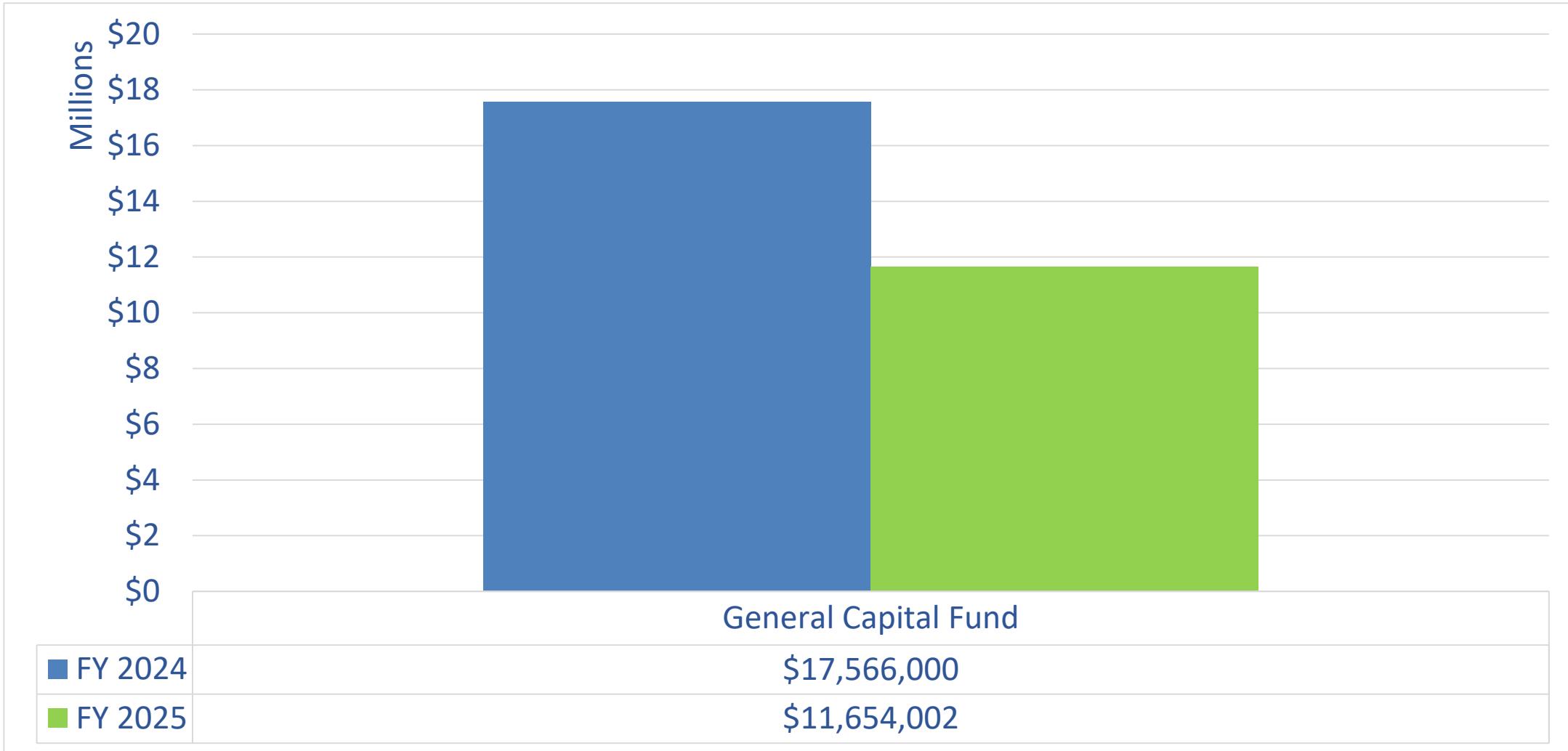


## FY 2025 Operating Debt Service Funds Recommended Expense Budget (Series 2018 & 2021): \$9,708,135



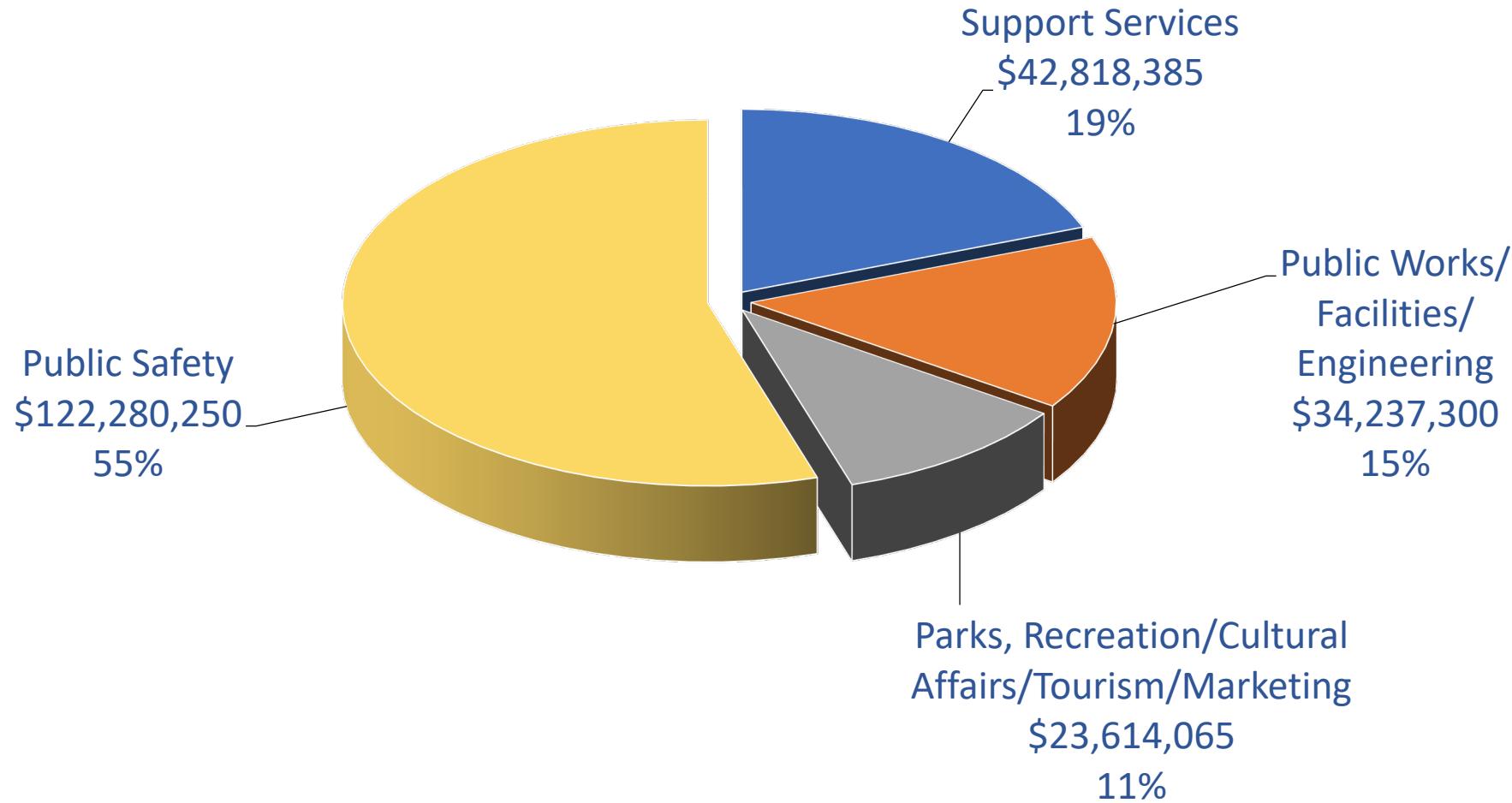


## FY 2025 General Capital Recommended Expense Budget: \$11,654,002





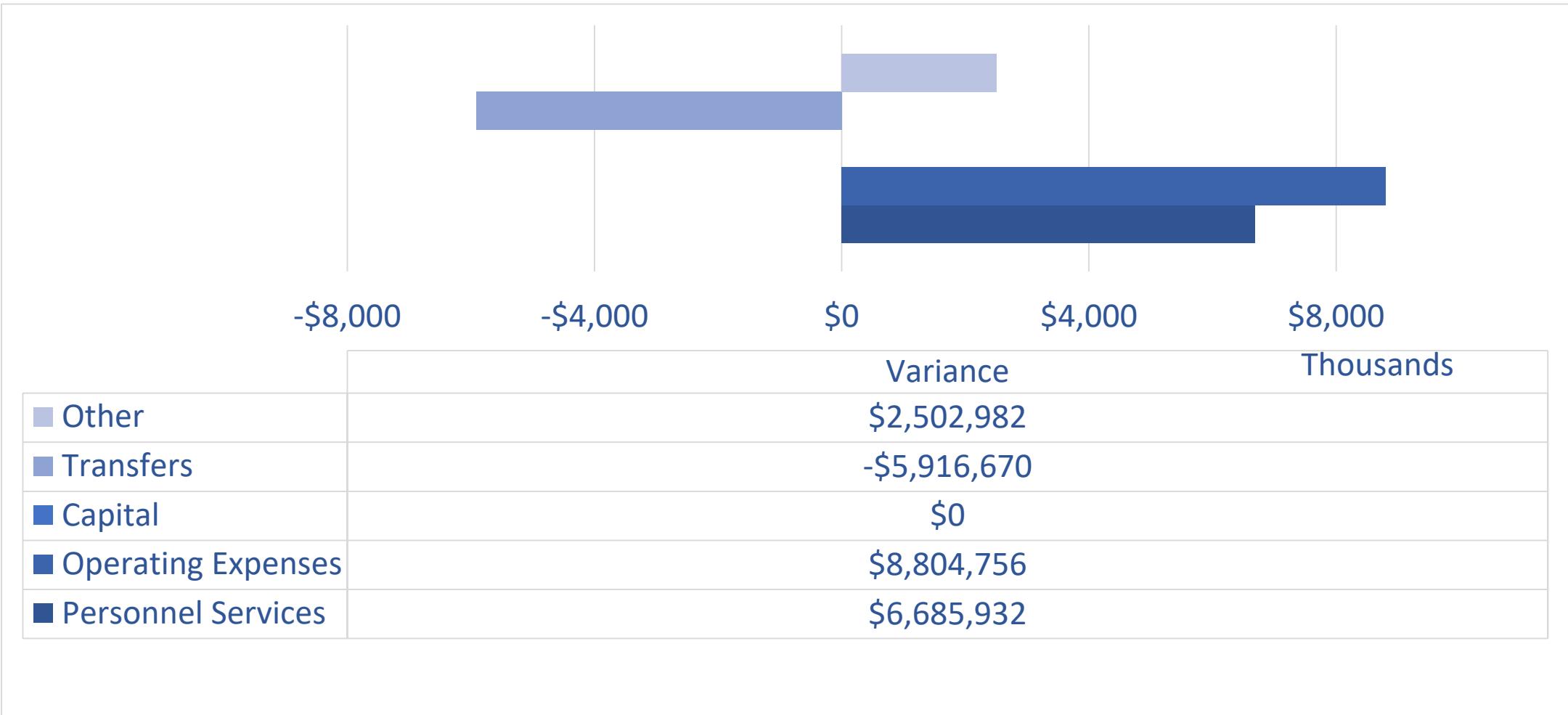
## FY 2025 Recommended General Fund Budget: \$222,950,000





## FY 2025 Variances – General Fund Expenditures

+\$12.1M





## General Fund Expenditure Variances By Department



**General Government:** The \$973K increase in General Government is primarily due to the annual adjustments for salaries, fringe benefits, and pension contributions totaling (\$515K), considering the net effect of two positions (five new full-time positions and three deletions), operating expenses (\$458K) for programming and maintenance.



**Finance:** The \$239K increase for the Finance Department is primarily due to annual salary and benefit adjustments.



**Development Services:** The FY 2025 recommended budget for the Development Services Department does not have any major variances.



## General Fund Expenditure Variances By Department



**Code Compliance:** The \$403K increase in code compliance services is due to the annual adjustment of salaries and benefits of \$220K and internal service charges of \$100K.

**Police Services:** The \$3M increase in police services is primarily due to the annual consideration for police services provided by the Broward County Sheriff's Office Contract (\$2.2M), which includes all sixteen School Resource Officers and the increased pension contributions (\$475K). \$341K is budgeted for the ShotSpotter program.



**Fire:** The \$4.9M increase in the Fire Department is mainly due to the increase in personnel costs, including salaries and benefits (\$3.4M) and internal service charges (\$841K).



## General Fund Expenditure Variances By Department



**Public Works:** The \$1.2M increase for the Public Works Department is primarily due to the annual adjustments of salaries, fringe benefits, pension contributions (\$360K), internal service charges (\$481K), and maintenance of facilities (\$310K).



**Engineering:** The \$163K increase for the Engineering Department is primarily due to the annual adjustments of salaries, fringe benefits, and pension contributions.



**Facilities Maintenance:** The \$3.2M increase for the Facilities Maintenance Department is primarily due to cost increases in utility charges (\$2.5M) and FDOT Lighting maintenance paid by a FDOT grant (\$240K).

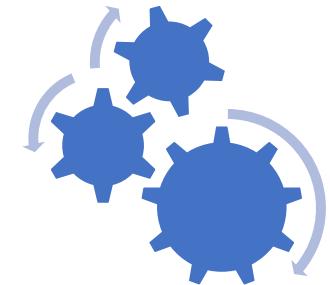


## General Fund Expenditure Variances By Department



**Parks and Recreation:** The \$840K increase for the Parks and Recreation Department is mainly due to the annual adjustments of salaries, fringe benefits, and pension contributions (\$500K), which include the addition of two full-time Park Ranger positions (\$102K) and programs and maintenance of parks and other facilities (\$400K).

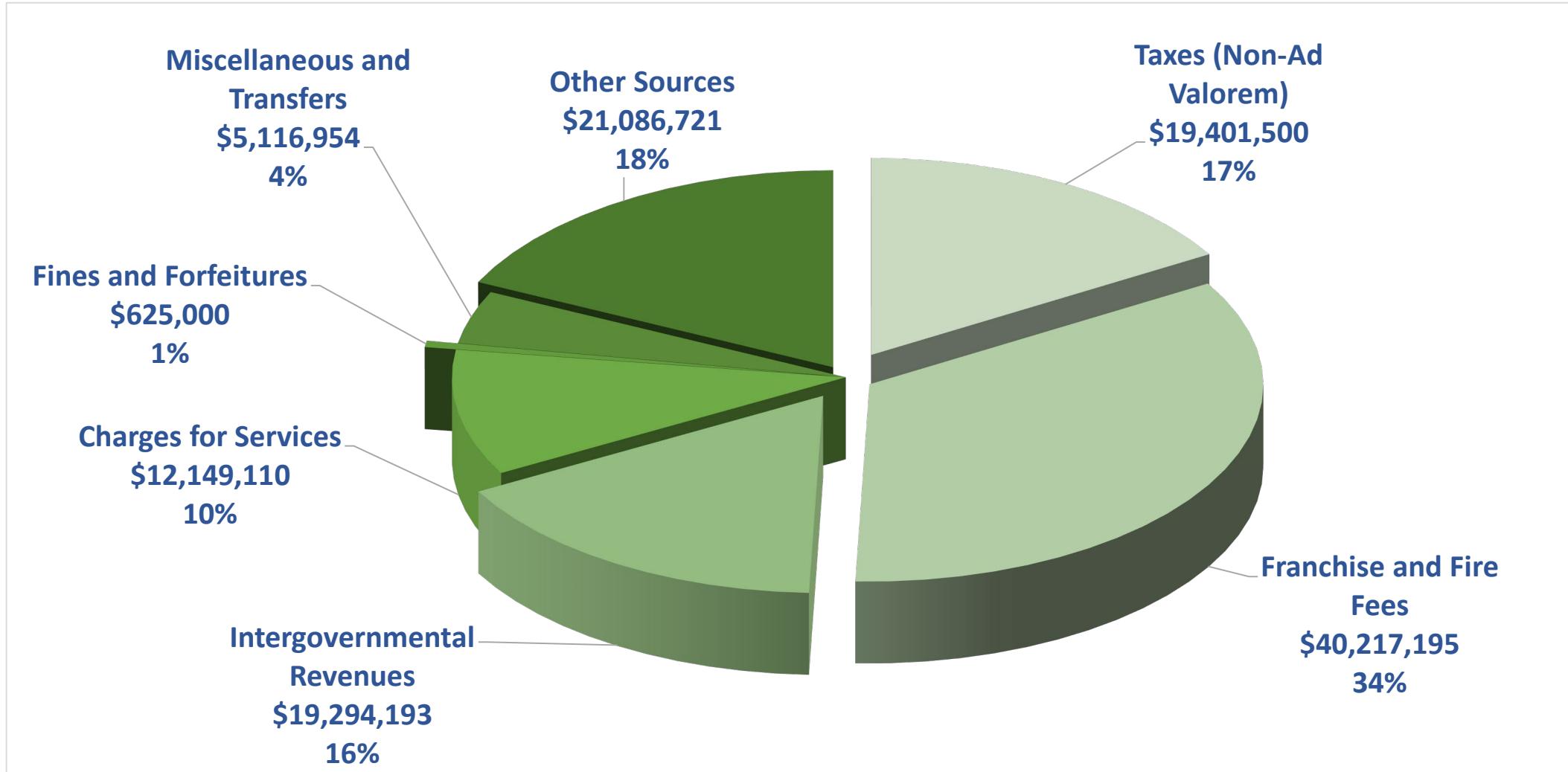
**Non-Departmental:** The -\$3.3M decrease in Non-Departmental is mostly due to the decrease in transfers to the General Capital Fund (-\$7.2M), increase in transfers to the EMS Fund (\$1.3M), Tax Increment Financing for the CRAs allocation (\$1.4M), and debt service for capital replacement plan (\$824K).



**Housing and Social Services:** The \$290K increase is due to the annual adjustments of salaries and benefits.



## FY 2025 Non-Ad Valorem Revenues: \$117,433,376





## FY 2025 General Fund Non-Ad Valorem Revenues - Variances (Thousands)

+\$2.2M





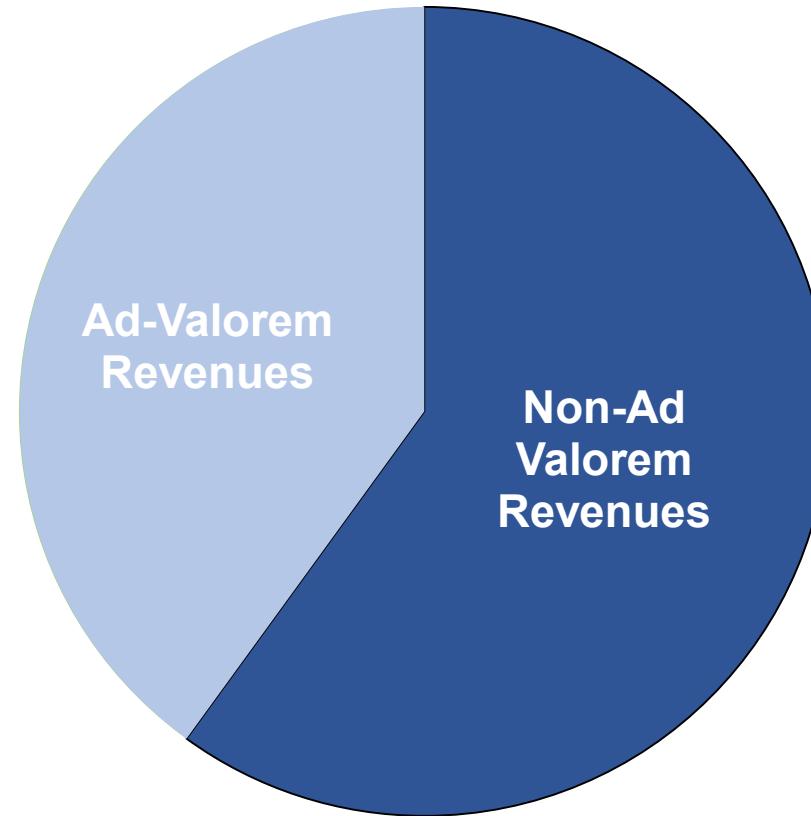
## FY 2025 Proposed Fire Assessment Fees

Fire Assessment Fees	Adopted FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Variance
Residential (per unit)	\$331	\$331	\$0
<b>Rates Per Square Foot</b>			
Commercial	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0
Industrial	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0
Institutional	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0
<b>Estimated Revenue</b>			
Estimated Gross Revenue	\$30,355,533	\$30,531,400	\$175,867
Discounts	-\$1,517,776	-\$1,526,570	-\$8,794
<b>Total Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$28,837,575</b>	<b>\$29,004,830</b>	<b>\$167,073</b>





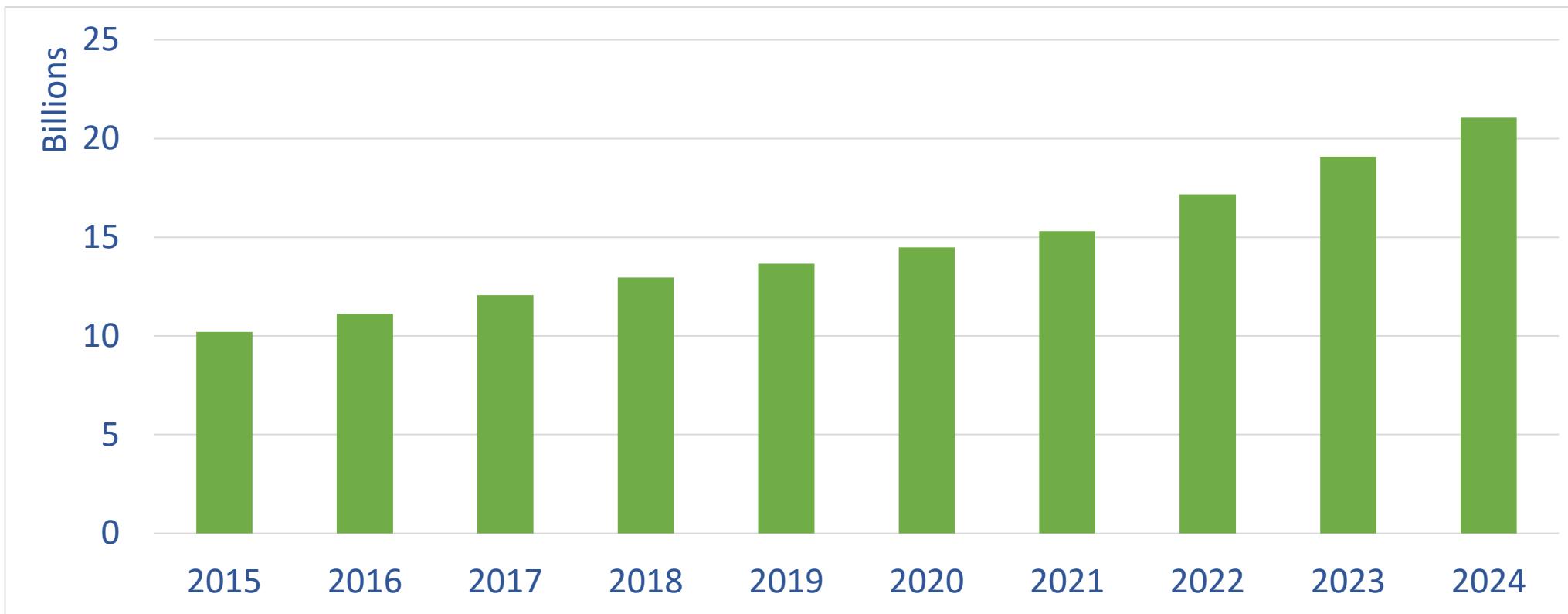
## FY 2025 Estimated Millage Requirement and Ad-Valorem Revenues





## 2015-2024 Tax Roll - Pompano Beach Property Valuation (billions)

+1.98B +10.36%





## FY 2025 Recommended Ad-Valorem Revenues and Operating Millage Rate

FY 25 Estimated Expenditures \$222,950,000

FY 25 Estimated Revenues (Non-Ad Valorem) \$117,433,376

\$105,516,624

\$105,516,624 (net ad-valorem) /20,020,230 (net mill)

= 5.2705 FY 2025 Recommended Operating Millage Rate





## Millage Rates

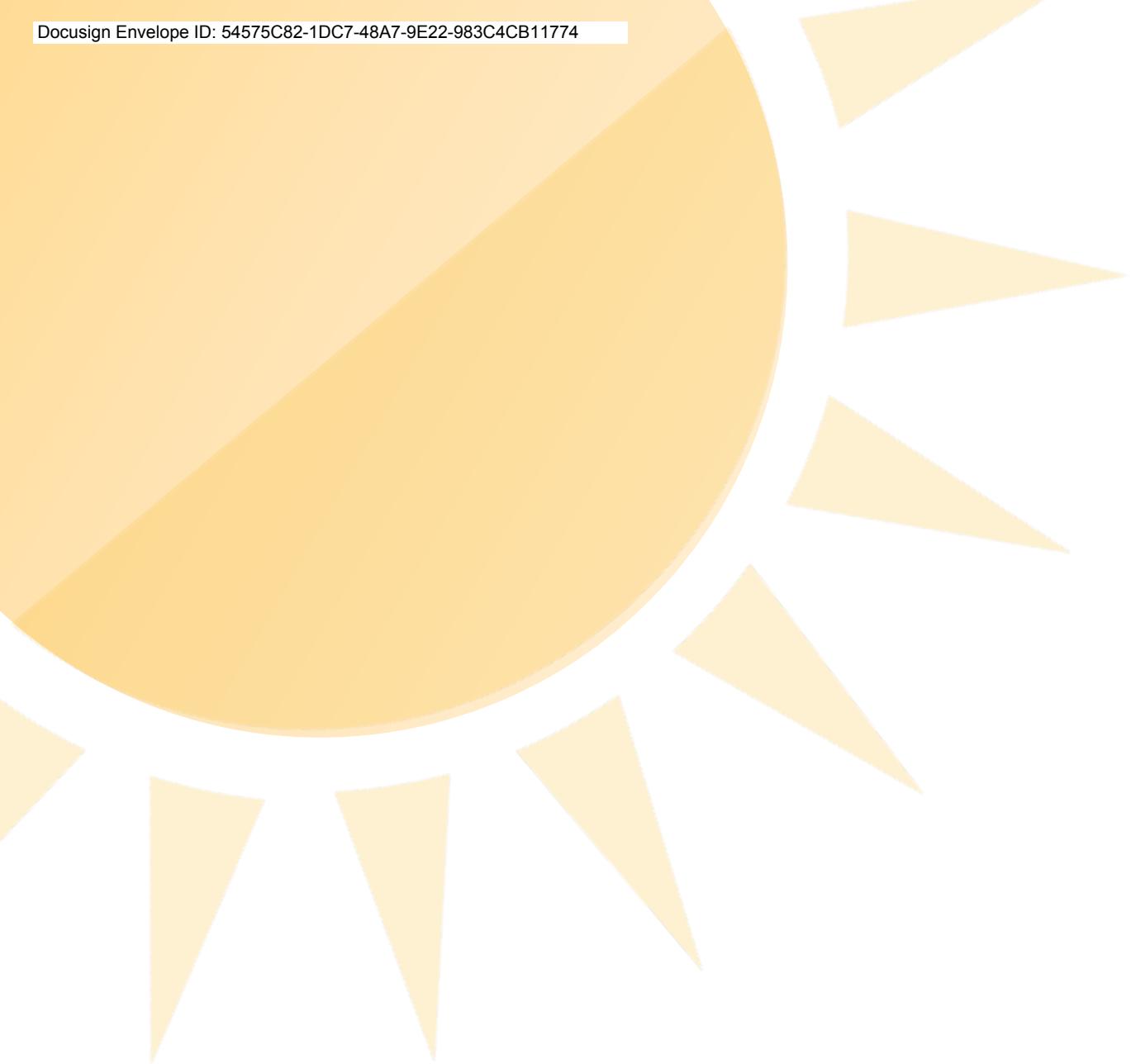
Millage Rates	Adopted FY 2024	Recommended FY 2025	Variance	% Change
General Operating	5.2705	5.2705	0.0000	0%
EMS	0.5000	0.5000	0.0000	0%
G.O. Bond 2018 Series	0.3183	0.2884	-0.0299	-9.4%
G.O. Bond 2021 Series	0.2175	0.1965	-0.0210	-9.7%
<b>Aggregate Millage Decrease</b>	<b>6.3063</b>	<b>6.2554</b>	<b>-0.0509</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>





## Next Steps in the Budget Process





City of Pompano Beach



