

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

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:00 AM

City Manager's Large Conference Room - 4th
Floor

Budget Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Rex Hardin, Mayor called the City Commission meeting to order at 10:00 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

Note: Comr. Perkins arrived at the workshop at 10:10 a.m.

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 a unanimous voice vote.

A. REGULAR AGENDA

1. [24-245](#) Preliminary discussion on policy recommendations for inclusion in the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2025.
(Fiscal Impact: N/A)

(Staff Contact: Erjeta Diamanti)

Mayor Hardin introduced the item on the regular agenda, a preliminary discussion on policy recommendations for inclusion in the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget. He then turned the floor over to Erjeta Diamanti, Budget Director.

Ms. Diamanti welcomed everyone to the workshop and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain input from the City Commission for policy recommendations that would shape the upcoming budget for FY 2025. The annual budget process includes several key milestones, such as preliminary forecasts and budget kick-off meetings that occurred in January and February, budget submittal/analysis in March and April, a budget workshop and individual meetings with the City Commission in May and June, as well as a budget workshop and adoption of the preliminary fire assessment in July. In August, the TRIM notice will be mailed out, followed by two budget hearings, adoption of millage rates and budgets, final adoption of the fire assessment resolution, and adoption of the Five-Year CIP in September, before the current fiscal year ends.

Ms. Diamanti gave a presentation in which she discussed Policy Recommendations, FY 2024 Adopted General Fund Services, General Fund Services Expenditure Categories, New and Improved Facilities, Grants Awarded, 2024 Legislative Bills, and Historical Data. Attached as Exhibit 1 is a copy of the presentation in its entirety that provides a more detailed breakdown of the presentation.

Following Ms. Diamanti's presentation, Mayor Hardin moved to Commission discussion on the budget.

Comr. Fournier raised significant concerns about the potential risks and burdens to the City in relation to HB 1365 (Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping). Assistant City Manager Earl Bosworth provided reassurance that the City's existing ordinance is currently unlikely to be affected by HB 1365. However, he did highlight other bills from the 2024 Florida Legislative Session that could potentially have financial implications, underlining the need for careful consideration and planning.

Comr. Fournier emphasized the importance of maintaining current service levels, considering the community's satisfaction with existing services. Resident priorities were highlighted, including the allocation of funds towards road paving, public safety, and drainage, with specific projects such as Cypress Road and park enhancements being mentioned. Additionally, she proposed reducing the operating millage rate by 1% for every 5% increase in taxable value. She also explored the possibility of reducing residential parking rates and offsetting potential revenue loss by increasing revenue from parking tickets.

Other priorities discussed included homeless outreach, adequate staffing and programming for the Senior Activity Center, funding for new park improvements, and concerns about unknown risks and the importance of maintaining sufficient reserves for unexpected expenses.

Assistant City Manager Suzette Sibble explained that the City's current reserve policy allocates 17% and 35% of the General Fund and Utilities Fund budgeted expenditures, respectively, for unanticipated expenses.

Furthermore, Comr. Fournier discussed specific capital improvement projects, such as proposals for Cypress Park, plans to enhance walkability on SW 6th Street from Cypress to Dixie, and the consideration of reinstating a lane in the plans for the expansion of Atlantic Blvd, westbound. Comr. Fournier emphasized the need to carefully consider the various priorities and potential impacts on the City's budget and services.

Vice Mayor McGee addressed the challenges faced by the residents, such as increased property insurance premiums and significant special assessments on condos. Additionally, the Vice Mayor emphasized the importance of addressing population growth to enhance transit transportation services. She proposed maintaining the budget without any increase, covering expenses with revenue from new construction, and seeking sponsorships for events and naming rights opportunities. With regard to capital improvement projects such as road paving and park revitalization, the Vice Mayor emphasized the need to prioritize these projects in order to lessen the burden on residents. Lastly, she suggested initiatives including the expansion of a dedicated space for dogs on the west side of A1A due to restrictions on the east side, as well as the resurfacing and repaving of Harbor Drive and the areas behind Publix and the Maya developments.

Comr. Perkins has requested a detailed breakdown of the budget before the scheduled one-on-one meetings in June. She also suggested focusing on staffing and programming at the Senior Activity Center in terms of funding allocation. Furthermore, she and city staff discussed specific capital improvement projects, such as installing impact windows at the Blanche Ely Museum and roof replacement. Additional enhancements discussed were expanding the parking lot and installing new lighting behind the Hunters Manor new development. Comr. Perkins also requested a road resurfacing plan, with an interest in expanding the program. Finally, she mentioned the need for signage designating Mitchell Moore Park as "Chief's Park" and proposed to convert a storage room into a film review room for football players at the park, providing a comprehensive overview of her priorities and potential impact on the City's budget and services.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton highlighted several key issues in District 2, including the need to address code violations and improve the quality of life. With 40% of single-family homes in the district being rentals, property maintenance poses a significant challenge. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of allocating an adequate budget for code compliance services while seeking cost-saving measures. Additionally, there is a need for increased resources for the Public Works department due to a noted increase in workload. The Commissioner opposes tax increases but suggests a thorough budget review to identify areas for cuts without compromising essential services. Proposed projects include expanding the City's transportation plan, optimizing traffic light timing, and assuming responsibility for traffic engineering from the County. Above that, the Commissioner suggested multiple capital improvement projects, such as emphasizing landscaping, road resurfacing, and sidewalk enhancements, especially along NE 3rd Avenue and other tourist areas. City staff noted there is a plan to repave the Spring Fling parking lot and make additional improvements to the sidewalks.

Comr. Moss noted that District 5 has minimal demands, mainly because 75% of the area consists of private properties. He suggested exploring a potential partnership with the State or seeking grants for improvements to NW 31st Avenue, a major road in the district. Additionally, the Commissioner noted there is an interest in converting vacant land at the end of 31st Avenue and Atlantic Blvd into a park, with the available budget for creating a pathway around the property. Finally, Comr. Moss mentioned there are proposed improvements to NW 31st Avenue, including the removal of the median and the addition of an extra lane on Powerline and Palm Aire Drive West, as well as additional improvements to Racetrack Road. He noted that coordination is required for planned Cordish Group's improvements with the County.

Mayor Hardin emphasized the importance of Circuit ride coverage, aiming to provide service to the entire City. He also suggested exploring relocating the Sand and Spurs stables to a 12-acre property in District 5 to save

on rent imposed by the FAA. Lastly, he mentioned a capital improvement project to install a fence at Lyons Park.

Additionally, there was a discussion about a mobile home grant application totaling \$10 million, with the City Commission requesting relevant information from the City Manager.

INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. NO ACTION TAKEN AT THIS WORKSHOP.

B. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Rex Hardin, Mayor

Kervin Alfred, City Clerk



APRIL BUDGET WORKSHOP

April 4, 2024





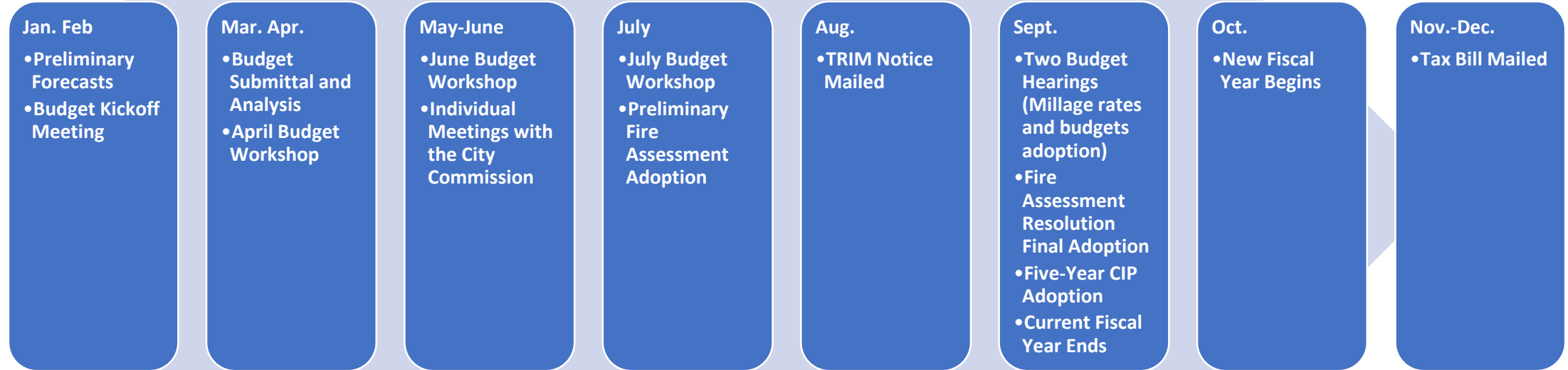
April Budget Workshop Objective

To gather input from the City Commission regarding policy recommendations to be incorporated in the forthcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2025.





Annual Budget Process Timeline



New budget cycle starts

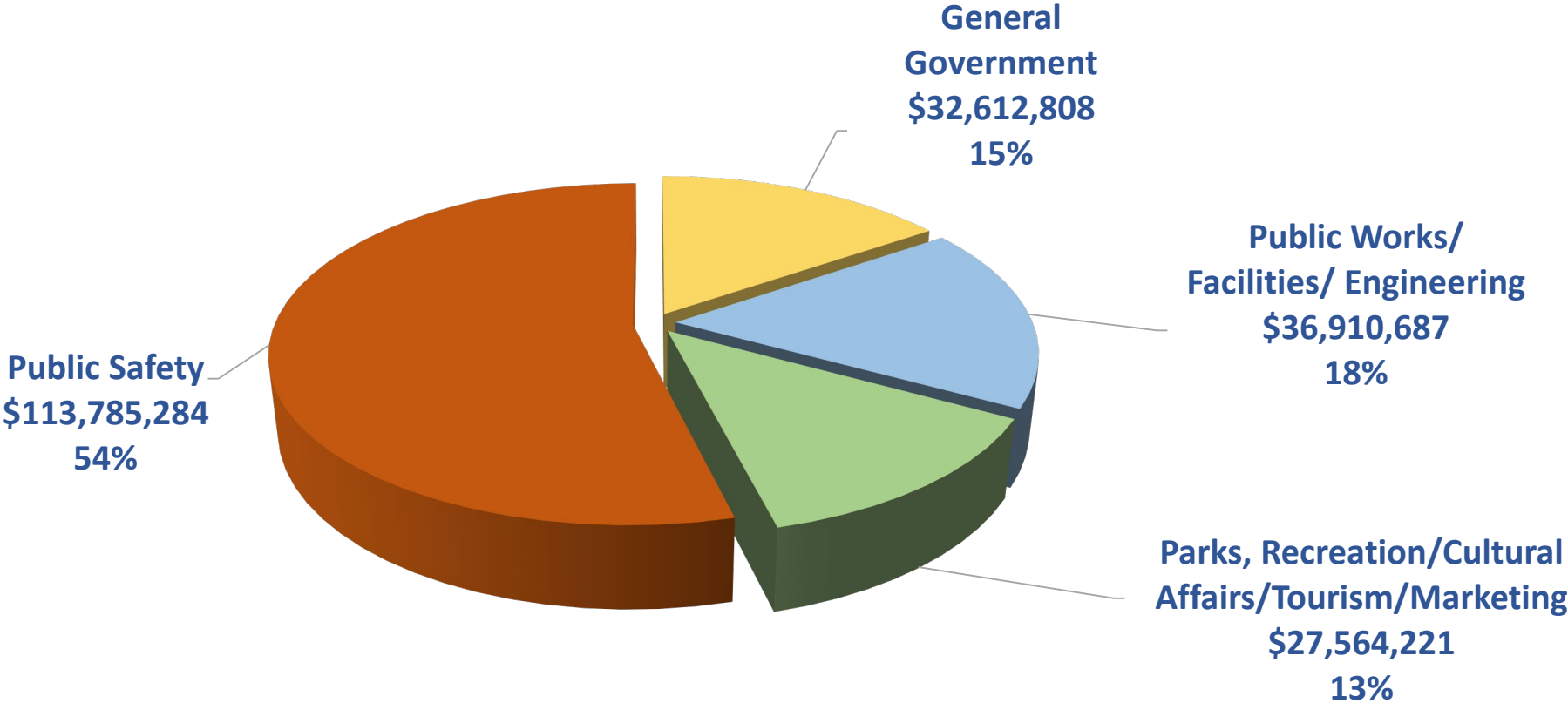


Policy Recommendation: Maintain Service Levels



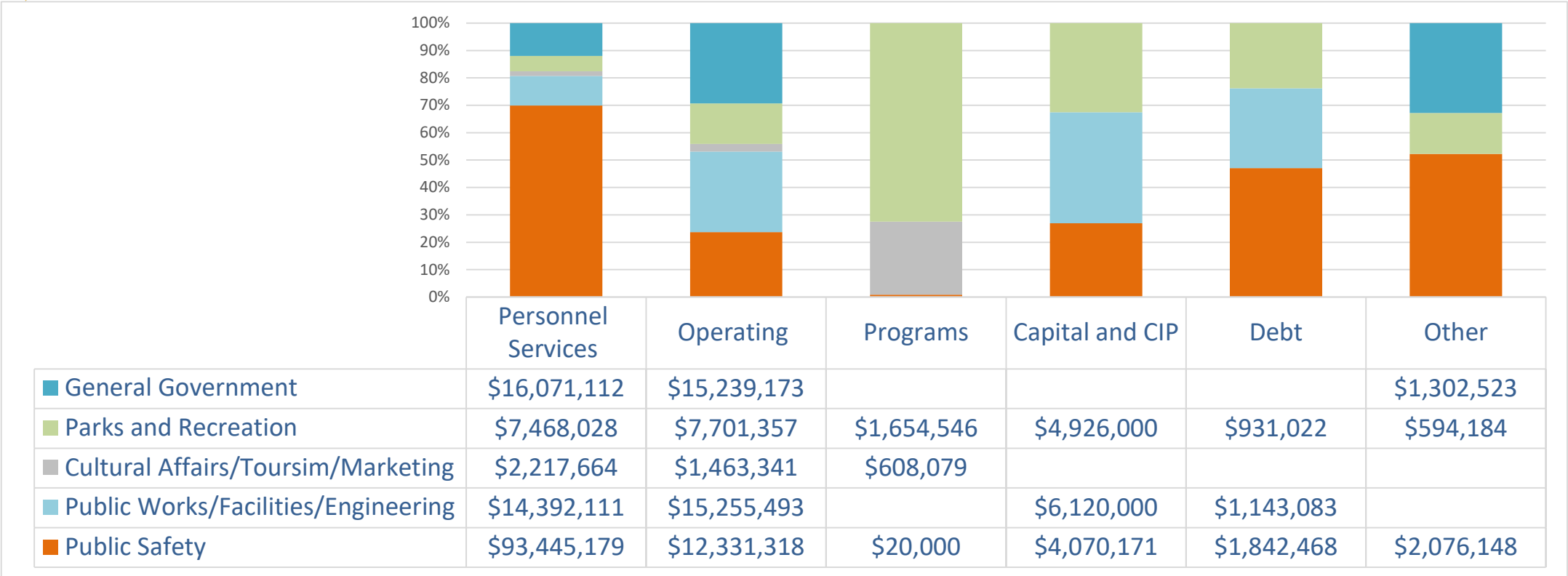


FY 2024 Adopted General Fund Services: \$210,873,000





General Fund Services Breakdown by Major Expenditure Category: \$210,873,000

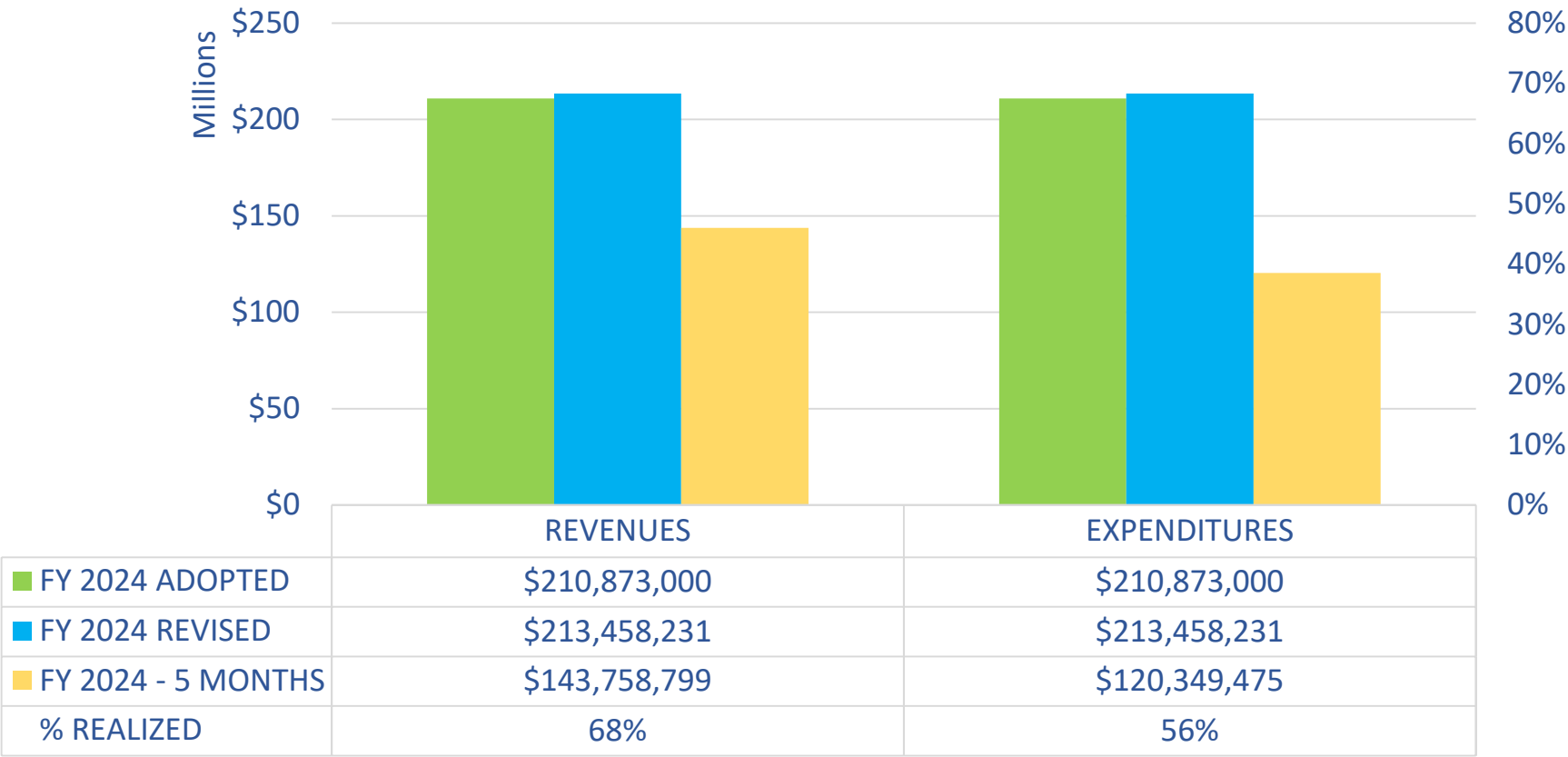


Grand Total \$133,594,094 \$51,990,682 \$2,282,625 \$15,116,171 \$3,916,573 \$3,972,855



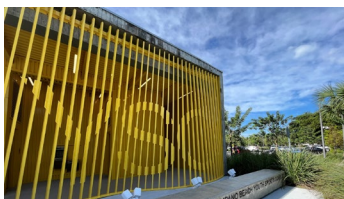


General Fund Revenues and Expenditures





New and Improved Facilities Highlights



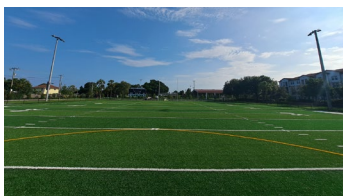
- Youth Sports Complex



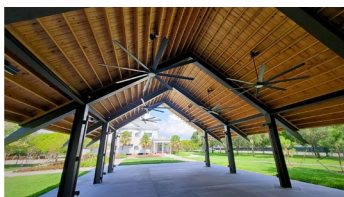
- McNair Park



- Senior Activity Center



- North Pompano Park



- Centennial Park Pavilion



- Kester Park



- Fire Station 61 & Fire Station 114



- Orange Bowl Field at Mitchell Moore Park



- Palm Aire Bridges



- Pines Golf Course





Grants Total Awarded in 5-Years 2019-2024: \$99.5Million

Grant	Award (In Millions)
ARPA	\$25.7
CARES ACT	\$7.6
SURTAX	\$30.0
STATE APPROPRIATIONS	\$2.1
CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS	\$1.4
CDBG	\$10.0
AIRPARK	\$5.4
CRA	\$2.0
CULTURAL AFFAIRS	\$0.9
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	\$0.4
EMERGENCY	\$0.4
PARKING/TRANSIT	\$0.8
PARKS AND RECREATION	\$2.4
POLICE SERVICES	\$0.3
UTILITIES	\$10.1
GRAND TOTAL	\$99.5





2024 Passed Legislative Bills Summary

Bill No	Title	Brief Description
CS/HJR 7017	Annual Inflation Adjustment to Homestead Exemption	The fiscal impact is not available at this time. Also, for 2024 the DOR certified the increase in the CPI at 3% for the SOH homesteaded properties.
CS/HB 151	FRS Retirement Benefits	<p>\$840K in FY 2024 and minor changes for FY 2025, impact is unknown at this time.</p> <p>Effective date: July 1, 2024, except as otherwise expressly provided in the bill.</p>
SB 1628	Local Government Actions	<p>Provides that if a bond issue referendum is required and the bond is over \$500M the referendum must be held at a general election.</p> <p>Effective date: October 1, 2024.</p>
CS/HB 7073	Taxation	<p>This is the House comprehensive tax package and addresses several different areas of taxation. The bill contains various provisions concerning sales taxes and exemptions, the state corporate income taxes, ad valorem taxes, and various other tax provisions affecting county, municipal, and state revenues.</p> <p>Effective date: July 1, 2024, except as otherwise expressly provided in the bill.</p>





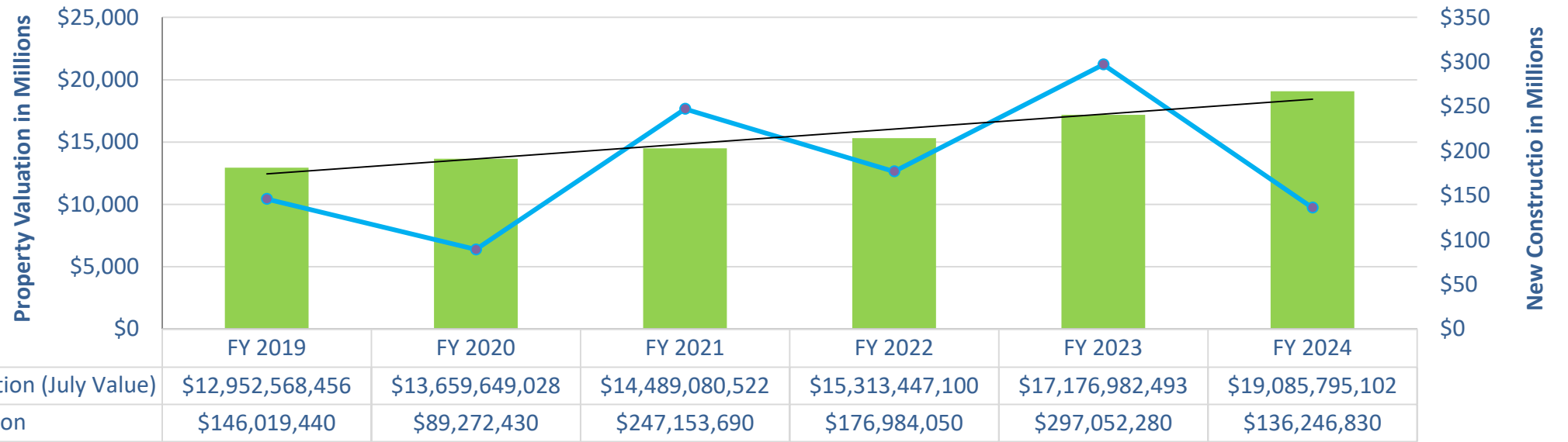
Reoccurring Legislative Threats

Bill No	Title	Brief Description
HJR 7015	Additional Homestead Exemption	<p>Proposes amendment to State Constitution to increase the maximum amount of the homestead exemption for all levies other than school district levies from maximum amount of \$25,000 to maximum amount of \$50,000 for homestead properties with assessed value greater than \$50,000.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact \$2.8M (Failed, 2024)</p>
HB 1195 & SB 1322	Millage rate approval by governing body	<p>Restricts specific increases in millage rates unless approved by a two-thirds vote of a governing body of a county, municipality, or independent special district unless circumstances allow for it.</p> <p>(Failed, 2024)</p>
SB 104 & HB 47	Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates	<p>How municipalities can charge their customers based on location within and outside the municipality's boundaries</p> <p>Fiscal Impact \$1.3M (Failed, 2024)</p>
	Business Tax Receipt and Communication Service Tax	<p>Approximate Fiscal Impact \$2M (Prior Years)</p>





Historical Data - Property Valuation vs. New Construction

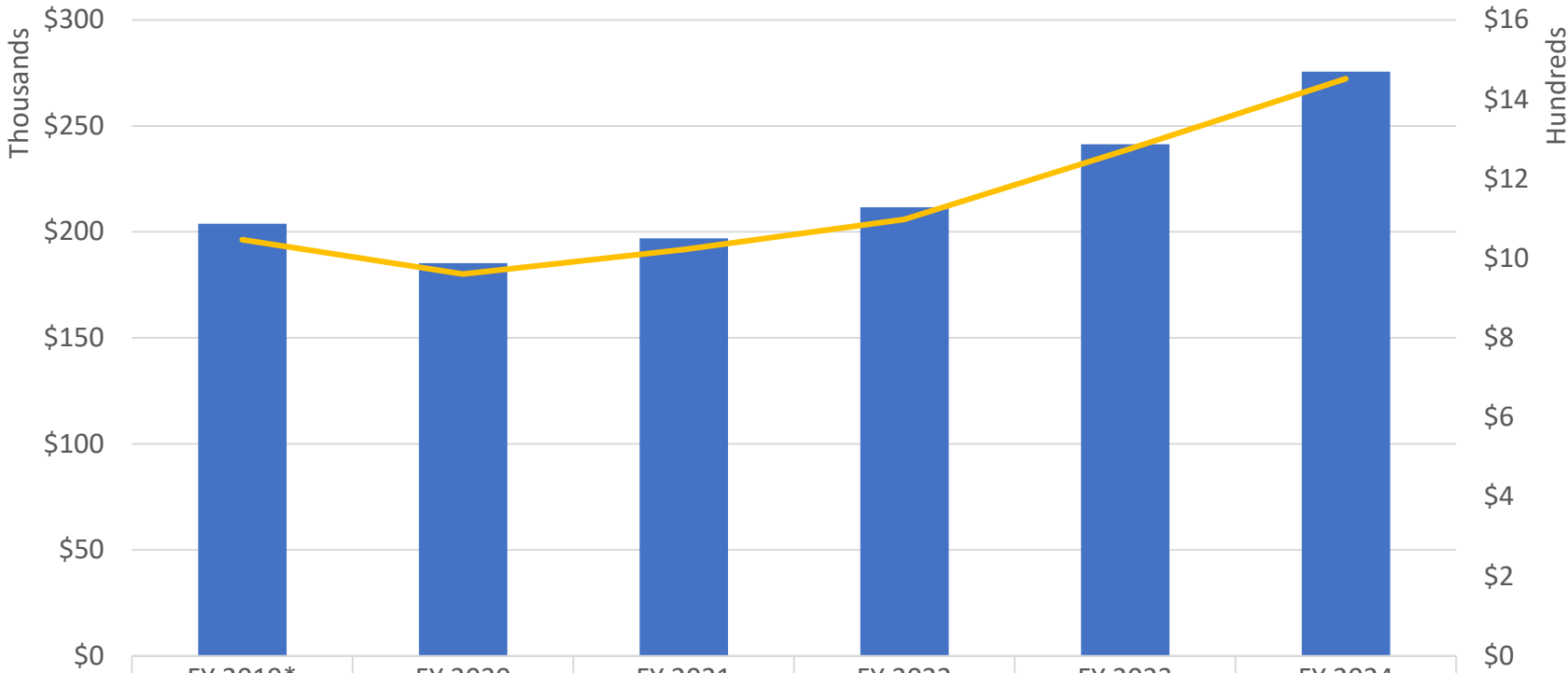
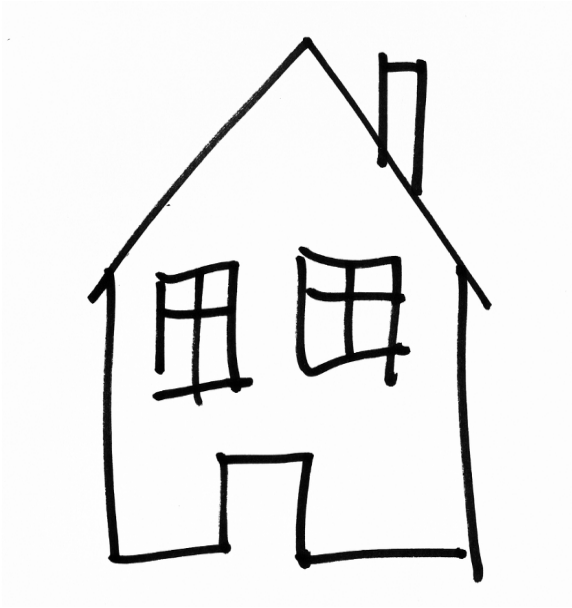


Total Net Actual Property Taxes**	\$63,679,473	\$67,661,081	\$72,378,576	\$76,574,840	\$86,620,904	\$96,014,909
Total Net New Construction - Property Taxes**	\$712,865	\$440,189	\$1,218,677	\$872,681	\$1,487,489	\$682,562





Historical Data - Single Family Average Taxable Value vs. Property Taxes



■ Average Taxable Value of Single Family Home
— Property Taxes on Single Family Home (COPB portion GF)

Fiscal Year	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Operating Millage Rate	5.1361	5.1875	5.1875	5.1875	5.2705	5.2705





